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# The Sacred Privilege & Duty of Fearing God

We live in a fallen world of manifold fears and trepidations. There are many phobias or irrational fears that people have, and many have struggled with it emotionally and



**mentally.** I once read a list of about 50 of them and that includes claustrophobia (fear of confined places), phobophobia (fear of fear), acrophobia (fear of height), aquaphobia (fear of water), necrophobia (fear of the dead), brontophobia (fear of thunder), xenophobia (fear of strangers), ailurophobia (fear of flowers), and many others. Psychiatrists and counsellors are seeing more cases of these obsessive fears and phobias in Singapore in our mental clinics for the mental health concerns of people. But the Bible says God has not given us a spirit of fear (2Tim 1:7) but that we are to fear God in a healthy manner which is a prudent thing to do. Solomon says in Psa 111:10, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."* 

**Far from being negative and limiting, the fear of God is healthy and clean** (Psa 19:9). It is the very basis of a proper relationship with God. Joshua told the people in Jos 24:14, "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD." Solomon advised in Pro 8:13, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." This fear is not in the ungodly. Romans 3:18 says, "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Frequently in the Bible, the fear of the Lord is contrasted with worship of idols. From Deuteronomy 6:13–14, *"Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you."* The people were to fear God as they served Him rather than other gods. The author of Hebrews says, in Heb 12:28–29, *"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."* The fear

of God affects our worship and stewardship of God. Samuel says in 1 Samuel 12:24, "Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you."

The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him (Psa 147:11). Solomon assured us



that it will be well with those who fear God (Eccl 8:12). Cornelius feared God which is a synonymous with regeneration at that time, and with his whole family, and he was saved by grace (Acts 10:1); and the Hebrew midwives who feared God rather than Pharaoh and refused to kill the newborn baby boys experienced God's blessings themselves (Exod 1:15–21). The fear of God helps us to do what is right before Him.

# **Result of Fearing God**

Those who fear God will flee from sin and grow in holiness and righteousness. 2 Cor 7:1 says, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." There is a desire to please, obey and honour God, and for growth in sanctification which is the joy of a God-fearing man. Those who fear God are humble and they have no problem with submission to spiritual leadership. Eph 5:21 says, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." A lot of problems is caused by pride and a lack of fear for God and for the Word of God.

Those who fear God will live their lives carefully and respectably. 1 Pet 1:17 says, "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." Solomon concludes his book of prudent advice to us in Ecclesiastes 12:13–14, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

# Those who fear God are conscious of their accountability to God and so they order their lives befitting of their calling and walk worthily before the Lord.

In 1Kgs 18:3,4,12, Obadiah feared the Lord greatly and therefore he did the right thing and took the risk and hid the prophets of God and provided food for a hundred of them

in two caves. His fear of God led them to serve God with courage and strength, and God rewarded him.

Those who fear God are to be patient too and they are to wait upon the Lord for His timing. David feared God and did not take Saul's life into his hands (1 Sam 24:4–6). We are to walk daily in the fear of God (Col 3:22) and recognising that God



alone is sovereign over all things. The believer's fear of God is not a negative morbid phobia but a practical and reverential one before the Almighty God, that affects our behaviour and conduct before Him and others.

### Conclusion

In a world of manifold irrational fears, let us prayerfully learn to cultivate the fear of God and grow in this vital aspect of Christian living. Learn to be like Abraham, Job, Cornelius and the saints of God who had a fear of God and hence served Him faithfully and reverentially. The people, during the time of the judges, did what was right in their eyes because they had no fear for God. We must learn to grow in the fear of the Lord.

Psa 128:1 says, "Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways" and Isa 50:10 says, "Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God." What are your darkest fears today? The knowledge of God's Word and His character and the constant awareness of His presence and



power will help us to overcome fear in the Lord and live a God honouring practice of the reverential fear of God.

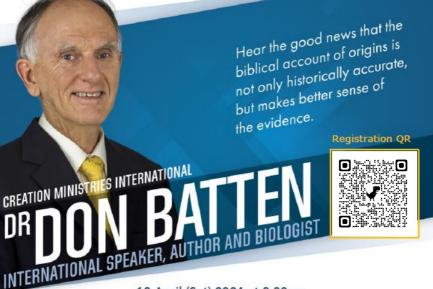
Jack Sin







Have Wheels will Serve! Thank God for Bro Micheal's heart to serve the Lord in simple yet special ways!



13 April (Sat) 2024 at 3:30pm Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church 160 Paya Lebar Road. Orion@Paya Lebar. #04-06. \$409022

# NOAH'S GLOBAL FLOOD THE GENESIS EVENT THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

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# SPEAKER'S BIODATA

DR DON BATTEN received both his B.Sc.Agr. (First Class Honours) and his Ph.D. from the University of Sydney. He worked for 20 years as a research horticulturalist with the NSW Department of Agriculture. His research included environmental adaptation of tropical/subtropical fruits such as mango, lychee and custard apple (Annona), floral biology, floral induction, breeding, environmental physiology (especially water requirements, effects of water deficits), plant taxonomy, and mineral nutrition. His research on floral induction of lychee and mango overturned long-held ideas which had been an impediment to the scientific understanding of these plants, as well as causing economic loss due to inappropriate management of these crops. He conducted a number of research projects that were externally funded, publishing his results in science journals.

DR DON BATTEN

Don joined the ministry in Brisbane, Australia in 1994 and has spoken around the world on the creation issue, showing the errors in the evolutionary ideas he was taught. He is co-author of The Creation Answers Book, One Blood, Answers to the 4 Big Questions, 15 Reasons to Take Genesis as History, and author of various booklets, including What about carbon dating? and What about arguments for evolution? Don is one of the three rotating editors of Creation magazine, and has written many articles for Creation as well as the in-depth Journal of Creation. Dr Batten was the CEO and Managing Director of CMI-Australia from 2015 to 2022. He is now Senior Scientist, focusing on research, writing, and speaking.

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# Pray for Myanmar

Pray for the Widows Ministry of Mercy Church in Nay Pyi Taw that Sya Soe and La Puii have been serving in these last few years. This was the farewell meeting on Sun 25 Feb. In view of the political and military concerns there, the family has to move to Yangon. Pray for their travel and resettlement in Yangon.





Pray for the graduands of Biblical Institute of Theology in Yangon as they go to serve in the respective churches and missions in a politically unstable situation.



# With Grateful Thanks from Hyderabad, India

Dear Pastor Jack Sin, SHBPC, Singapore

Once again, greetings in Jesus' Matchless Name. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your sincere dedication and tireless efforts in writing reports about the work



being done here at CALM Church in India during your recent visit. Your commitment to informing all your prayer partners and friends about our church and its mission has truly made a significant impact.



With immense joy and gratitude I want to thank you, that through your reports, God worked in the heart of Bro. Robert, who generously sent us 40 charging lights to support our ministry. Your diligent work in spreading awareness about CALM Church and its needs has not only brought tangible blessings like these but has also strengthened our faith in God's provision and guidance.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for continuing to share about the work and the needs of CALM Church India. Your unwavering support and prayers mean more to us than words can express. Your love for our church and your dedication to God's work

are truly inspiring, and we are immensely grateful for your partnership in spreading the message of God's love and grace.

May God continue to bless you abundantly for your selfless service and may He grant you renewed strength and wisdom as you continue to labor in His vineyard.

With deepest gratitude and warmest regards, *Pastor John Caleb. CALM Church, India.* 

# **Memory Verse**

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

### Announcements

- 1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
- Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "The Lamb of God & Challenges to the People of God (Heb 10:11-25)", continuing the quarterly series on "The Majesty & Supremacy of the Son of God (Book of Hebrews)".
- Next Sunday, Pastor will preach "Examples of Faith Tested & Tried (Heb 11:1-16)".
- 4. Sunday School classes will resume next Sunday.
- Outreach to All Saints Home (Poh Huat Road) is held this afternoon. We will leave church at 1pm to reach by 1.30pm. There will be a short briefing after service for those who have registered.
- Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Kingdoms, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
- 7. Creation Ministries International Special Talk by Dr Don Batten will be held on Sat 13 Apr 2024 at 3.30pm. See pages 4&5 for the details.
- Annual Church Camp will be held on June 11-14, 2024, at Lotus Desaru Beach Resort on the theme "*Biblical Pathway for Church Growth & Health*". Rev David Khobal, Principal of Myanmar Theological Seminary, will be our Camp Speaker. Contact Dn Yue Kay (hp:97450311) or Dn Paul (hp:97314733) for more details and registration by 30 April 2024.
- 9. Pray for our brethren in their:
  - Kin Hoong's continuing medical investigations,
  - Anthony's daily radiotherapy treatment that started on 20 Feb for a month.
- Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551].
- 11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - Cheque payable to Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - Fund transfer to Church UOB Account 392-308-825-1
  - PayNow to Church UEN: T19SS0116FSOV

Kindly indicate **"Church Building Fund"** if you would like to designate towards this cause.