

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tiloke822@gmail.com

GOD'S ASSESSMENT OF A NATION

We are, if we love our nation, burdened for it and for other nations too. What is a nation? Families living under the same government and sharing a common language and a similar outlook. Those who love God are burdened when they see their beloved nation falling away from the laws given to us all by God. When we take the Bible as our guide in life, we know that God looks upon nations and holds them responsible for the way they live, worship and behave.



The Bible makes it very clear that God's eye is always on the way a nation is living and behaving. A nation is blessed when it is obedient to God's Word in the Bible. But the reverse is also true, as these texts tell us:

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 33:12)

*"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people"
(Prov. 14:34)*

"The eyes of the Lord are upon the sinful kingdom to destroy it from off the face of the earth" (Amos 9:8).

These solemn words should have a deep effect upon us all. We are, by such texts of God's Word, reminded that our duty, as members of our nation, is to live in the way that God has commanded and to be careful to keep a good conscience. There are texts of the Bible to reinforce this call to duty. One such text is:

“It had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Peter 2:21).

Our Lord Jesus Christ puts it in these very serious words: *“It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city” (Matt. 10:15).*

The point which Christ makes is clearly this. If a nation has in the past been blessed with true religion it will, if now it backslides into sinful and irreligious behavior, be worthy of greater judgment than ungodly nations which never had good religious teaching.

That is surely a relevant warning for nations such as ours, which have had good teaching and sound preaching from the Bible. The lesson clearly is this. If we, as a nation, have been highly blessed by God in the past, God expects and requires that we now, as a nation, obey His laws and respect His religious ordinances.

God’s Moral Law is given to us in the Ten Commandments, which require pure religion and strict obedience to His revealed will: no idolatry, no neglect of the Sabbath Day, no murder, no adultery, no disrespect for parents, no stealing, etc. Above all, God requires us to love Him and to love and obey His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ says: *“If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).* *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law” (Matt. 5:17).*

Sinners are saved by faith in Christ. But the evidence of a person’s faith is seen in how they keep God’s Ten Commandments. This is why James tells us: *“Faith, if it hath not works, is dead” (James 2:17).* Faith in Christ is all we need to be justified and saved. But the way in which true faith is recognized is by the way we live. True believers respect God’s Moral Law because their faith is genuine.



When society ignores God's Moral Law and lives without respect for the Moral Law, it has taken a very foolish and dangerous step. A text relevant at such a point is: "*Be sure your sin will find you out*" (Num. 32:23).

A doctrine which any nation needs to be reminded of when it ignores God's Moral Law is the doctrine which we have in Romans chapter 1: reprobation. The argument is extremely important and highly relevant in our modern world. It is, briefly, this. When any nation ignores God and seeks to live in guilty defiance of His Moral Law God will, if men do not repent, give them over to their vile corruption and, in due time, pour out His wrath upon them. When God reprobates a nation, He gives them over to do what they wish, irrespective of God's Word, and He will allow them to become worse and worse. Their Moral state now goes down to that of Sodom and Gomorrah.

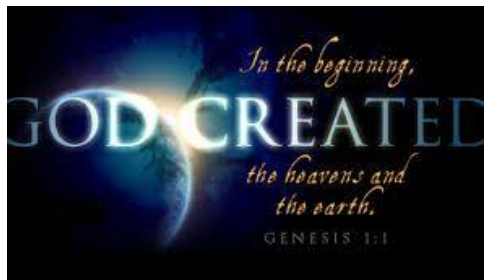
A society which is punished by God's reprobation ends up in a most shameful condition: "*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity...*" (Rom. 1:29). There are over twenty words here used by the Apostle Paul to tell us how evil reprobated nations may become.

The desire we should have for our modern nations is that, by the mercy of God, we may be kept from backsliding in this terrible way. To protect us as a nation we need to go back to the Bible and to repent of sin and plead with God to give us the new birth (John 3) which will keep us from ending up like a swamp of dirty water.

Are there any theories or influences on God's people which we should shun and refuse to accept? I believe there are two such influences:

- (1) The Theory of Evolution
- (2) The Higher Critical teaching

The Bible makes it very clear everywhere, from beginning to end, that this universe is created by God. The theory of Evolution is a way to remove God from His position as sovereign and supreme Lord over our world. It is a theory which makes it very easy for man



to remove God from his mind. But God has forbidden this sinful way of thinking. We are commanded to love God with our MIND as well as in

all other ways. Our mind therefore must be trained to regard God alone as our Creator, whom we should love and serve all the days of our life.

The Higher Critical theory teaches that the Bible is not God's infallible and inspired book. But this new theory is a serious contradiction of what God tells us about the Bible. The Bible is "*given by inspiration of God*" (2 Tim. 3:16). "*Scripture cannot be broken*" (John 10:35). "*Holy men of God spake as they were moved*" (2 Peter 1:21).



A very important text which people today need to take to heart is this: "*If any man shall add unto these things [the Bible], God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book*" (Rev. 22:18). Again God says: "*If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy [the Bible], God shall take away his part out of the book of life*" (Rev. 22:19).

Let us pray that God will bring our needy nations back to genuine faith in God's Word, the Bible.

Rev Maurice Roberts
Free Church of Scotland Continuing

The Focus and Foundation of Revival

Deuteronomy 31: 1 – 20

Speaker: Rev Dr Jack Sin

Date: 10 January 2021

3 Salient Points

A) The Courage to Obey (v1 – 8)

Verse 6 reads: “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Why talk about Courage at this point? Are we fearful to be identified as a Christian, scared to take a stand and speak up for God? Are we living in a time of great fear just like in the days of Moses when he gathered all the people to give his swan song before they entered into the promised land where in lived their enemies? Thus, we need to pray for wisdom to speak up for our God.

Let us glean from the example of Peter and John. They were fishermen and followers of Jesus Christ. They lived in times of great danger and challenge for their faith. Their basis for boldness to make a stand for Jesus Christ is, firstly, from the last 6 words in Acts 4v13. It reads: “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, **that they had been with Jesus.**” Boldness comes when we commune with Jesus Christ. It does not come from our own ingenuity or self-wisdom. Secondly, they were filled with the Spirit of the Living God (Acts 4v29 – 31). God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1 v 7). He requires us to serve Him with boldness. “For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 3 v 13).

Start the year 2021 with boldness as a courageous witness for God, wherever we are stationed in this life. We must do what God wants us to do.

B) The Consultation of the Word (v 9 – 12)

4 categories of people were mentioned in v12. They are the men, women, children and strangers (i.e. your domestic help)

What about the children? Do they know God? What do they not know? It's about time for them to know God and His word if they do not know the Lord.

VERBS to take note of in Deut 31:12–13:

1. **HEAR** - with a view to understand the Word of God, the Word of Life. Note Deut 5:1 where we are to hear and understand the moral law and then to practice it. It is an active listening. We need to do that every Sunday in church with the sermon.
2. **LEARN** - To be ready, receptive to acquire knowledge, desire to learn as a life-long learning process.
 - To learn doctrines as every Christian is to be a theologian (A theologian is a person interested in the Word of God) Isaiah 29 v 24,
 - Amos 8 v 11 – 12 mentioned the famine for the Word of the Lord. Do we consult the Word of God? Or are we just being superficial about it?
3. **FEAR** - Someone to fear? (God, reverentially). We have many phobias in life that affect us in different ways, but do we really respect and revere God or not? 2 Tim 1:7 says God has not given us a spirit of fear but power, love and a sound mind. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and it gives us victory in our lives for Him.
4. **DO** - Paul stressed the importance of Being a practitioner of the Word of God (2Tm 2:15). Do the 'RIGHT' things in life and not just the 'LIKE' things. Don't be a hearer of the word only, but a sincere and serious doer of the word also.

C) The Commitment to God (v 13 – 20)

- Is God with you? Or is He Not with you? (v 17) They wrote it in a song by Moses and were committed to the Lord as a witness.
- Do you forget about God in good times and only remember Him in bad times?
- Is there any commitment made unto God to read and share His Word, learn sound biblical truth, have a burden for the saving of souls, evangelise, testify to the goodness of God, pray for one another in the church ?

Conclusion

Is there a personal awakening of your life as you read the word and hear his word preached?

Choose to Live Life with a godly gumption for the Lord.

Above all, be fully committed to God in the new year.

Han Kin Kheng

Can a Christian participate in a *Lo Hei* dish during a Chinese New Year dinner?

That is an interesting and relevant question.

Lo Hei is a special Chinese New Year (CNY) dish that was started apparently by the 4 heavenly kings who are master chefs in Malaysia and Singapore (from Lai Wah, Dragon Phoenix and Sin Leong Restaurants) and it was introduced here in the 1960s by the Lai Wah restaurant. Over the years, it has become a popular and delightful raw fish dish among diners in most restaurants and hotels especially during CNY here in Singapore, Malaysia and in Hong Kong. The original dish comprised plum sauce, rice vinegar, kam quat paste and sesame oil. Today, it has evolved to apparently 27 different condiments in this present CNY dish.

It is a specially concocted dish during CNY season where the dining guests are supposed to stand up to toss the ingredients of the *Lo Hei Yu Sheng* (捞起魚生) as high as possible with a view for prosperity and a sense of well-being.

In some dinners as the dish is served, someone is tasked to proclaim some pleasant Chinese Proverbs verbally as the ingredients are added, each signifying a desire for a good new year with different well wishes.

While as Christians, our aspirations for the new year is not a covetous desire for financial prosperity, we can have our own *Lo Hei* in a meaningful manner as a family while enjoying the delectable and creative raw fish dish quietly minus the vociferous rave and rant for wealth and financial gain.

In any case, with the COVID19 situation, please do not shout prosperity (and put on your mask too as required) for you may startle or distress your neighbours who are 1 metre apart in today's context and one may get or may spread something else in return that may not be too prosperous physically.

If you choose to read a passage of scripture or pray for the covenant mercies of God for your family or the nation or the diners at the beginning of the meal, that will be in good order and meaningful.

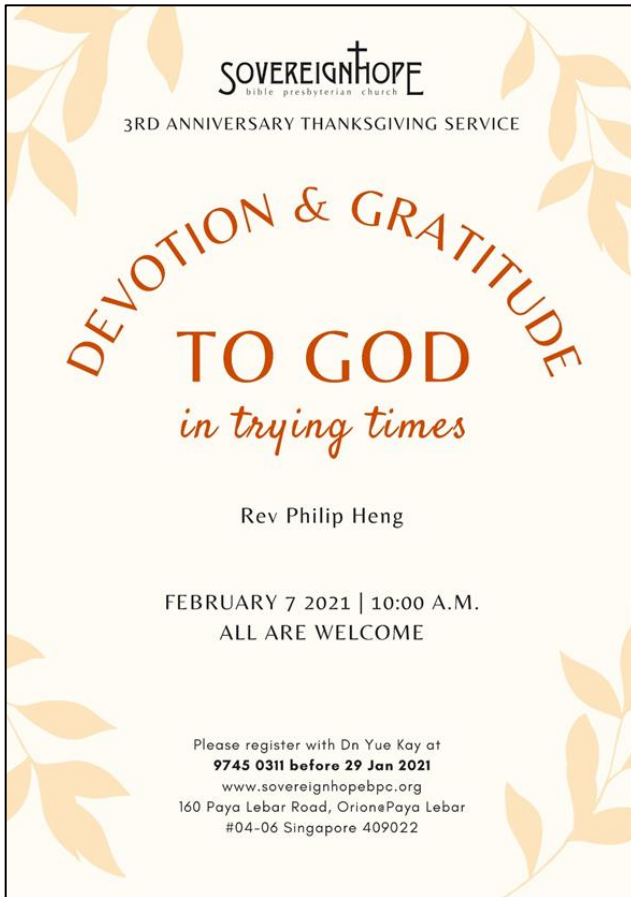


I am not an authority on the historical and cultural development of *Lo Hei* and this is just a humble submission to your question. I hope this helps you in your understanding of it.

Every blessing from the Lord for a Christocentric New Year by His Sovereign Grace and Strength.

Psa 65:11 "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness."

Jack Sin



Memory Verse

2 Chron 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Koh Hock Heng speaks today on **“Prayer, Repentance, Humility & Revival” (2 Chron 7: 1-14)**, the 2021 Jan – Mar sermon series on **“An Appraisal & Understanding of Biblical Revivals”**.
3. Pastor Jack is the Lord’s messenger this morning at Emmanuel BP Church worship service. He will be back for the Shorter Catechism Class.
4. Bro Joseph Wee speaks next Sunday on **“A Jewish King’s Triumph over the Foes” (Isa 37:14-36)**.
5. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - “Rules for Walking in Fellowship by John Owen” – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Leviticus – Dr Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom.
8. **Sun 7 Feb 2021** will be our 3rd Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service. Rev Philip Heng will exhort us on **“Devotion & Gratitude to God in Trying Times”**. **Please register with Dn Yue Kay at 9745-0311 by 29 Jan 2021.**
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
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**

AN APPRAISAL AND
UNDERSTANDING OF
BIBLICAL REVIVALS

JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

JANUARY

3RD
PSALM 85:6-11
The Call and Theology of Revival

10TH
DEUTERONOMY 31:6-20
The Focus and Foundation of Revival

17TH
1 KINGS 18:20-40
The Battle for the Revival of Hearts

24TH
2 CHRONICLES 7:1-14
Repentance, Humility and Revival

31ST
ISAIAH 37:14-36
A Jewish King's Triumph over the Foes

FEBRUARY

7TH 3RD ANNIVERSARY
1 CHRONICLES 16:8-20
Devotion and Gratitude to God in
Trying Times

14TH
2 KINGS 22:1-20
A Jewish King and the Covenant of Revival

21ST
EZEKIEL 37:1-14
The Valley of Dry Bones Revived

28TH
NEHEMIAH 8 :1-20
The Word of God and Revival

MARCH

7TH
HOSEA 14:1-9
Healing of Backsliding and Revival

14TH
ACTS 2:1-11, 39-47
The Holy Spirit and Revival

21ST
ACTS 6:1-9
The Church Priorities and Revival

28TH
ACTS 8:5-24
The Danger of False Revivals/Conversions

Pastor Jack Sin +65 91160948
sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com
www.sovereignhopebpc.org
160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar
#04-06 Singapore 409022