# **PSALM 24 FAST 1 June – 10 July 2024**

2024 is a significant "hinge" year upon which the door of history swings. It is a Sovereign Appointed Time of God when many of God's prophetic promises are coming into prophetic fulfilment! 2024 is also the Hebrew year of 5784 where the LORD is opening a door for us to enter into our destinies as individuals, as a nation and as a generation! We are entering into a Revelation 4:1 *kairos* season.

"After these things I looked, and behold, A DOOR standing open in heaven..." (Rev. 4:1).

Truly we are in a season of open doors where the LORD is inviting us to enter into the destiny that He has pre-ordained for us in such a time as this!

However, how the door of history swings will depend on how God's people respond to Him in this critical hour. As we witness a great convergence and expectancy across the global Body of Christ to contend for and see the breaking in of God's glory in our time and generation, we are also witnessing the escalating rage of spiritual darkness to resist the move of the Spirit.

Thus, more than ever, now is the time to posture and position ourselves at the place of fasting and prayer (Joel 2:12–17) so that we will be ready to receive the greatest outpouring of the Spirit (Acts 2) in this Isaiah 60:1–3 moment.

#### The Psalm 2 Crisis demands a Joel 2 Response for an Acts 2 Revival!

If this is truly a "hinge moment", as a people of light and understanding, we want to contend for the door of history to swing towards the light and glory of God invading our nation and this generation.

Lou Engle said, "There are moments in history when a door for massive change opens, and great revolutions for good and evil spring up in the vacuum created by these openings. In these divine moments, key men and women and even entire generations risk everything to become the hinge of history, the pivotal point that determines which way the door will swing."

The destiny of a nation and the future of a generation are in the hands of intercessors. This is the moment to write new history with God. This is the moment to arise as history makers. This is the moment for a commensurate response as exhorted by the prophet Joel in Joel 2:12–17!

#### THE CALL TO A 40-DAY JOEL 2 SACRED ASSEMBLY

We are calling for a 40-day Joel 2 Sacred Assembly to contend for the fulfilment of God's promises for our nation, this generation and the fullness of Israel.

The fast will be from 1 June to 10 July 2024.

#### **FAST DETAILS**

- Dates: 1 June 2024 10 July 2024
- Details of Fast:

1 to 16 June — Liquid Fast 17 to 19 June — Esther Fast (liquid for those not doing) 20 June to 10 July — Daniel Fast

#### **How to Engage**

- 1. Engage in prayer personally for at least 1 hour a day for the fulfilment of God's promises.
- 2. Gather in a Joel 2 Sacred Assembly for corporate prayer with 2 or more (Matt. 18:20) at least *once or twice a week*.

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUMBER OF DAYS

40 is the number of Transition or New Beginnings. Just as Joshua and the nation of Israel crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land after 40 years in the wilderness, we are "crossing over" into God's promises and glory for our nation, our generation and the nation of Israel.

Click here for resources on fasting

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<sup>\*</sup> We have synced the daily prayer focuses in this Fasting Guide to coincide with our weekly prayer sessions for Israel on Thursday evenings.

# PSALM 24 — Enthrone Jesus as King over our lives, the corporate Body of Christ, and Singapore

In this Sovereign Appointed Time and season of open doors, God is inviting His people to ascend to the hill of the Lord and to enter into the destiny that He has for this generation. A key Scripture for this hour is Psalm 24.

The psalm starts with proclaiming and enthroning Jesus as King: "The earth is the YHWH's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters." (Ps. 24:1–2)

These verses give us no room to question Jesus' absolute kingship. Not only is He the King over all the earth and what it contains, but also the King of nations and every person who dwells on the earth. The reasons for this are clear — He is the One who created everything and is also the One who is sustaining everything.

As God's people in this nation, we want to begin this fast by enthroning Him as "King" over our lives, the corporate Body of Christ, and our nation of Singapore. We want to acknowledge His absolute authority and rulership over us and this nation.

If He is the King, then God's people have to live in obedience to His laws, commands, and His ways. We are to live surrendered lives and yield a hundred per cent of our heart, mind, soul, and strength to Him and His purposes.

Yet, the reality is that as believers, many of us invite Jesus into our lives as a tenant, but do not give Him the title deed. Instead, we carefully carve out areas for Him to preside over (e.g. Sunday services and ministry endeavours), while many others are subtly yet firmly left shut to Him. He is not yet the true "landlord" and King of our lives.

Let us begin this fast by settling the issue of who is the King of our lives. This is the first step towards entering into the fullness He has for us. May He take the rightful place as the King over our lives, over the corporate Body of Christ, and over Singapore!

- Seriously do business with God today and enthrone Jesus as the King over every area of our lives and the corporate Body of Christ in Singapore (Ps. 24:1–2).
- Pray that the Body of Christ will open the door of our hearts fully to Jesus and surrender our lives to Him.
  - For Holy Spirit to highlight areas in our hearts and lives that are not totally surrendered to Him (e.g. things we do not trust Jesus with).
  - o For His grace to surrender fully to His kingship.
- Enthrone Jesus as King over Singapore.

### PSALM 24 — Pray for the Body of Christ in Singapore to have clean hands before God (Ps. 24:4a)

Jesus is a holy King and for those who come near Him, He must be regarded as holy (Lev. 10:3). God's people need to be consecrated and set apart if we are to truly draw near to Him (Lev. 11:44–45). The psalmist lists four Biblical criteria needed for His people to ascend the hill of the Lord: "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully." (Ps. 24: 4)

In response to His invitation to ascend His holy hill, we are taking these four days to posture ourselves in humility and openness before Him to deal with each of these areas in the Body of Christ in our land. During this time we want to pray that we as God's people will acquire the two positive criteria (clean hands and pure hearts) and remove the two negative issues (idolatry and deceitful lips) from our lives.

#### **Clean Hands**

The Hebrew word for "clean" is "naqiy" — which means to be free from contamination; innocent, blameless, guiltless; free or exempt from blame or guilt (Ex. 23:7; Job 4:7). The word "hands" primarily refers to one's deeds and actions (Gen. 20:5 speaks of the "innocence of hands") and whatever it is that we "touch".

This includes refraining from unrighteous and evil acts such as abusing positions of power, cutting corners and compromising, stealing etc. (Ps. 141:4), while also living righteously before God and engaging in righteous acts such as giving to the poor, serving others, acting justly etc. (Ps. 15:2, Mic. 6:8). More subtly, it can also refer to things that we as God's people "touch" in our daily lives such as the kind of media, movies, and music that we consume.

As God's people, we want to possess clean hands that align with and reflect the righteousness of our God. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to purify and wash the hands of God's people in this nation. Let us also ask Him to lead and direct us to glorify Him in this land through our actions and deeds (Matt. 5:16).

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal the actions we take as His people (both towards Him and towards man) that are displeasing to Him (Ps. 139:23–24).
- Pray for God to wash us of every unrighteousness and filthiness of the flesh in our actions and deeds.
- Pray for God's grace and empowerment (Zech. 3, 4; 2 Pet. 1:2–4) to arise as ones who will shine forth His light in our actions, thus glorifying the Father in heaven (Matt. 5:16).

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### 3 June 2024 | Day 3

### PSALM 24 — Pray for the Body of Christ to have hearts that are pure and without mixture (Ps. 24:4b)

The Hebrew word for pure, "bar", means to be without mixture, consecrated, and always desiring what is pure, while the Hebrew word heart, "lebab" refers to the inner man, will or the heart. When we have a pure heart, our hearts are undivided and single-minded towards God (Lk. 11:34–35). This means that we have hearts that are wholly devoted to the Lord and without mixture of self or of other idols.

God desires us to have pure hearts because it is what will enable us to see Him (Matt. 5:8). When God looks at us, He is not just looking at our outward appearance or status, but at what goes on at the heart level (1 Sam. 16:7). From our heart, all our actions, ways and speech flow (Matt. 12:34–35) and thus, we want to cultivate our inward life in a way that honours and pleases God.

The prophet Jeremiah tells us that our heart "is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked," (Jer. 17:9). Many of us may have hearts that are divided, hardened and dull, proud or rebellious, and not even be aware of it! However, it is crucial to deal with the condition of our hearts — whatever it may be — because out of it flows all the issues of life (Prov. 4:23).

Ultimately, we want a heart that fears His Name, is single-minded in our devotion towards Him, and filled with purity of intentions and motives. We can be confident in God's mercy and grace to convict, reveal, and transform our hearts (Rom. 8:23; Ps. 51:10) as we pursue and seek to have a pure heart before Him.

- Pray for the Body of Christ to live in a sustained pursuit of having pure hearts before God.
- Pray for the purification and refining of His people of every defilement and impurity (Mal. 3:2–3; Heb. 12:27–29) and for the sanctification of our hearts with the washing of water which is His word (1 Thes. 5:23).
- Pray for the fire of God to fall upon the Body of Christ to burn away every impurity and to empower His people to live lives of purity before God and man (Isa. 63:15; Songs 8:6).

### PSALM 24 — Pray for the Body of Christ to deal with every idol in our lives and worship God as God alone (Ps. 24:4c)

Idols refer to anything that displaces God from the first place in our hearts, minds, and lives. It is anything that we place our confidence in (Jer. 2:27–28), give our allegiance or love to (Jer. 3:12–14; 3:1) or find satisfaction in (Jer. 2:13) that is above God. Idolatry is primarily an issue of the heart as it reveals a lack of love or trust in God, leading us to seek alternatives outside of God.

This violates the first commandment which is to have no other gods before our God (Ex. 20:3). This breaks the first commandment to love God all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind (Matt. 22:37) and defies God's exhortation for us to be holy (1 Pet. 1:16).

As the people of God in Singapore, while we no longer worship physical statues of other gods or in temples, this does not mean that we do not have idols in our hearts and lives. We could still have idols that are intangible but nevertheless present.

These could include, but are not limited to: money (i.e. how much we have in our bank accounts), our own comfort (i.e. striving towards a certain "bottom line" in our quality of life), ministry and career (i.e. climbing the corporate or ministry ladder), social status, structures and programmes, the pursuit of our own agenda and purpose in life etc.

Idolatry is a big issue to God because it opens the door for even greater evil and wickedness. It hinders us from walking in holiness (because we are no longer set apart for just Him) and righteousness (because we are defiled by idols) (Ezek. 20:7). It is a sin that causes us to go further astray to the point where we end up forgetting God (Jer. 2:5–8).

Seeing the seriousness of having idols in our lives, may we deal radically with this issue in our lives and also pray for the Body of Christ in this land.

- Pray for God to reveal the idols in the hearts of His people where we wrongly place our allegiance and confidence, and direct us back to Jesus as our God (2 Thes. 3:1,5).
- Pray for voices to arise to call people back to worship God as God alone.
- Pray for God to send conviction to His people unto a true repentance and putting away of all our idols (2 Chron. 7:14).
- Pray for God's people to walk in trust and confidence in God alone (Prov. 3:5-6).

### PSALM 24 — Pray for the Body of Christ in Singapore to be people of our word before God and man (Ps. 24:4d)

In a day and age where words can be taken very casually, God is looking for ones who do not swear deceitfully before Him or man. Keeping our vows and honouring our words reveal the truthfulness of our hearts and the integrity of our character. Thus, whether we keep our promises and word reveals a deeper issue of the condition within.

As His people, we have to be mindful of our heart's intentions and what we say to Him, especially when we make Him promises and vows. King Solomon tells us not to be rash with our mouth nor hasty in our utterance before God and exhorts us to not delay in paying our vows to Him (Ecc. 5:2–4). He even goes so far as to say, "Better not to vow than to vow and not pay." (Ecc. 5:5).

When we promise God something, do we have every intention of following through with it? Or do we simply pay Him lip service?

Similarly, in our words and promises to one another, the Lord also desires us to deal truthfully and with integrity. God calls a lying tongue abominable (Prov. 12:22), and dealing deceitfully with one another breaks trust and ultimately affects our own hearts if left undealt with.

However, this does not mean that God does not show mercy in the light of human weakness. There may be times when despite the sincerity of our hearts to follow through with our words, we fall short due to the weakness of our flesh. Nevertheless, if we respond with integrity — admitting our failures and seeking forgiveness from both God and man — we can be confident that the Lord will empower us with His grace to follow through in action that which we have promised in our speech.

God's people must ultimately reflect God even in our speech. Just as His words are reliable and always fulfilled, we are called to speak truthfully in all sincerity and honour our words. May our "Yes" always be "Yes," and our "No" be "No" (Matt. 5:37)!

- Pray for God to cleanse our lips of all deceit and rash words, together with a purifying of every intention of our hearts (Isa. 6:1–7).
- Pray for the fear of God to be imparted to the Body of Christ unto being accountable to our words to both God and man (Jer. 32:40).
- Pray for grace upon God's people to fulfil our vows and promises firstly to God and then to man (Col. 1:10–11).
- Pray that the Body of Christ will love the truth and only speak the truth with grace (2 Thes. 2:10).

### PSALM 24 — Pray for the King of Glory to break in and enter into Singapore (Ps. 24:7–10)

"Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in." (Ps. 24:7)

The full fulfilment of Psalm 24:7–10 will be at Jesus' Second Coming as He enters Jerusalem and takes His rightful place as the King of glory over nations. Before that ultimate and final triumphant entry, Jesus also desires entry into our nations in this season of open doors. More than just inviting us to ascend into His holy hill, He desires to break into Singapore with His glory.

Just as the psalmist exhorts the city of Jerusalem to "lift up" their gates and doors, the Holy Spirit is prophetically calling for the gates and the everlasting doors of our nation to be lifted up. This means that He is calling for the removal of every hindrance or resistance to Jesus coming as King in every area of society in a complete and absolute way. To "lift up" gates and doors implies that we are not simply swinging the door open for Him, but removing them completely from their hinges such that there are no gates or doors left!

This is what we as the Body of Christ want to stand in the gap for on behalf of our nation today.

However, there is more to this exhortation. In ancient times, the gates and doors were the weakest points in a city's defensive wall, which was otherwise thick, high, and fortified. As such, gates and doors are heavily guarded and carefully watched to ensure that they are not breached by enemies. Lifting them completely off their hinges such that they are no longer there means that the city no longer fears any attacks. This can only happen when their absolute trust and confidence are placed in the King of Glory who is coming into their midst.

As God's people take our stand in the gap for our nation, may Singapore's confidence be placed not in our own wisdom or strength, but in the One who is coming — the King of Glory, the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle, the Lord of Hosts (Ps. 24:8,10)!

- Pray for the ancient gates and the everlasting doors of this nation to be lifted up for the King of glory to come in.
  - Pray specifically for different sectors of society (social, economic, cultural, religious, business, education, family) and entrances to this nation (water, air, land) and open these for Jesus to enter.
- Pray for Singapore's confidence to not be in our wisdom, strength, or allies but in Jesus alone.
- Pray for the King of Glory to come into Singapore. Proclaim and/or sing the names of God from Psalm 24 over our nation.
  - Melek ha-Kabod King of Glory;
  - YHWH Izzu wa-Gibbo The Lord Strong and Mighty;
  - o YHWH Gibbor Milchamah The Lord Mighty in Battle;
  - YHWH Tzeva'ot The Lord of Hosts.

### ANTIOCH CALLING — Pray for Singapore to walk into her call as an Antioch of Asia (Jude 3)

Some have heard that Singapore's call to be an Antioch of Asia was prophesied by the late Rev. Dr. Billy Graham during the Singapore Billy Graham Crusade in 1978 (SBGC78). However, members of the SBGC78 Organising Committee clarified that the vision of Singapore as an Antioch of Asia had been shared by local spiritual leaders before 1964<sup>1</sup>. God put Singapore's destiny in the hearts of the shepherds of the land even before she was born as a nation (Jer. 1:5).

What is this vision of Singapore's destiny about?

The call is about Singapore being a city-nation that has churches like those in Antioch<sup>2</sup>. Antioch was the capital of the Greek Seleucid Empire which later became the third largest city of the Roman Empire. God's people in the prominent and prosperous city of Antioch played a pivotal role in advancing the kingdom of God. During the Roman Empire, Antioch became a major centre of Christianity that impacted the nations.

Singapore becoming an Antioch of Asia is thus about our city-nation having the Antioch-type *Ekklesia* (church) that will advance the kingdom of God to impact nations. Just as disciples were first known as "Christians" in Antioch, Singapore plays a critical role in the emergence of the mature sons of God and equally yoked Bride of Christ, unto the John 17 Generation that will function as the *Ekklesia* in partnership with Jesus before His return.

The rise of Singapore from a third-world country to a first-world country is nothing short of a miracle of God. God has a call for Singapore to play a pivotal role in serving and preparing the nations for the return of Jesus even as we are blessed to have a place on the world map.

This was the vision that God put in the hearts of our forefathers in the faith. May we catch God's vision for Singapore as an Antioch of Asia!

#### **Prayer Pointers**

- Thank God for putting the destiny of Singapore in the hearts of our forefathers in the faith.
   Pray for the people of God to be directed to God's heart for Singapore and to align with His purpose for Singapore as an Antioch of Asia.
- Pray for the Body of Christ in Singapore to have a greater insight and spiritual understanding
  of the role of Singapore as an Antioch of Asia in our generation the generation of Jesus'
  return (Col. 1:9).
- Pray for the grace of God to be upon believers in Singapore to walk worthy of the Antioch call
  that we will be faithful and steadfast in advancing the will of God instead of being distracted
  by prosperity and worldly success (2 Thes. 1:11–12).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Thir.st, Dec 7, 2018, Remembering the Crusade: A Church United for the Gospel, Part 02, 9:39min-12:08min, <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKKXWl3h1GQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKKXWl3h1GQ</a>, last accessed Apr 10, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://saltandlight.sg/news/singapore-an-antioch-of-antiochs/

# ANTIOCH CALLING — Pray for Singapore to be established as a lampstand equipping centre for the nations (Acts 11:19–30; 13:1; 15:30–35)

Antioch was a lampstand equipping centre. It was a place where Christians were strengthened (Acts 11:23; 15:32), discipled (Acts 11:26; 15:35), and then arose to partner with God to advance the purposes of His kingdom (Acts 11:27–30; 13:2–4).

People from all walks of life around the region were being saved in the metropolis of Antioch (Acts 11:20–21), and teachers and prophets from many places began to gather in the city (Acts 13:1). Outside of the first church in Jerusalem, Antioch was the place where early Christians were equipped and grounded in Truth. Antioch also served as a mission base for the preaching of the Gospel to the region. Even the early apostles and elders in the Jerusalem Council recognised the role of Antioch as a lampstand equipping centre; they sent to, and through Antioch, the letter for the Gentile church-at-large regarding how non-Jewish believers were to live out their Christian faith (Acts 15:22–30).

God has established Singapore as a multicultural trading entrepot, with a dynamic flow of people facilitated by friendly border policies and a trading port economy like that of Antioch. Thus, just like Antioch, Singapore too has the potential to be a lampstand equipping centre for nations.

In these last days, the Holy Spirit is unravelling the mystery of God to His prophets and preparing His teachers to make sense of His End-Time narrative from Scripture. May Singapore be a place where teachers and prophets gather like the Antioch of old. May Singapore rise to the call to walk in the fullness of God's invitation to be a lampstand equipping centre for the nations.

- Pray for God to direct the leaders in the Body of Christ in Singapore into His heart for the Bride so that they will earnestly steward the call to equip the people of God in Singapore and the nations with the same apostolic jealousy that Paul had for the mature and pure Bride to be made ready for the return of Jesus (2 Cor. 11:2).
- Pray for God to gather His Spirit-filled prophets and teachers to Singapore so that we will be established and strengthened as a lampstand equipping centre for the End Times (Acts 11:24; 13:1–2).
- Pray that the Singapore Church will be humble and faithful to steward and impart to the
  nations the revelation of God's End-Time narrative in accordance with the plumbline of the
  truth of God.

### ANTIOCH CALLING — Pray for God to use the Church in Singapore as a vessel to raise up the John 17 Generation (Acts 11:26; Jn. 17:22–23, 26)

The disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26).

Acts 11:26 speaks volumes of the kind of disciples that the Antioch Church raised up. The disciples in Antioch lived such real and authentic lives that so reflected and testified of the glory of Jesus Christ that the unbelievers in Antioch called them "Christians", which simply means "followers of Christ".

In our generation, the Church in Singapore has a similar role as God's vessel to raise up disciples who will reflect the glory of Christ and who can partner with Him in His move in this generation, just like the Church in Antioch did in their time.

Jesus prophetically prayed for the End-Time Church to walk in the John 17 glory and to be made perfect in oneness with God. This is so that the world may know the only true God has sent Jesus and appointed Him as the King of kings who will restore all things (Jn. 17:22–23; Ps. 2:6–8; Col. 1:19–20).

The greatest glory of the Church of Jesus Christ at the End of the Age is to be abiding perfectly in oneness with God who is love, and expressing the fullness of the Father's love for Jesus and others; for the greatest is love (1 Jn. 4:8; 1 Cor. 13:13). The John 17 Generation will fully and perfectly express the Father here on earth — loving Jesus as the Father does (Jn. 17:26), staying true to Jesus' commandment to love one another (Jn. 13:34–35), and loving their enemies with the greater love of God (Jn. 15:13).

- Pray for the Church in Singapore to be filled with the knowledge of God's will in raising up the John 17 Generation who will love Jesus as the Father loves Jesus.
  - Pray for God to give us the wisdom and spiritual understanding to first become the John 17 Generation and then disciple others to walk into this John 17 glory (Jn. 17:22–23,26; Col. 1:9).
- Pray for Jesus to set the empowering seal of His fiery love upon believers in Singapore so that
  we will be a vessel to impart God's love to the young generation and raise them up as firestarters who will set Asia ablaze with passion for Jesus (Songs 8:6).
- Pray for the Church in Singapore to bear much fruit and fruit that will last in raising up the John 17 Generation who will astound the world in loving others because of their love for Christ (Jn. 13:34–35; Col. 1:10).

# ANTIOCH CALLING — Pray for the Church in Singapore to be a prophetic and praying church (Acts 13:1–4)

The Church of Antioch was a church led by the prophetic spirit and a community immersed in a lifestyle of prayer.

Being a people led by the prophetic spirit is, in fact, a common trait of the early disciples in the book of Acts. By the prophetic spirit, Ananias obeyed and went to pray for Saul who would later become the Apostle Paul (Acts 9). By the prophetic spirit, Apostle Peter obeyed though he did not understand and went to preach to Cornelius, a Gentile centurion (Acts 10). By the prophetic spirit, the Antioch Church sent off Barnabas and Paul on a mission to the region and planted many churches (Acts 13).

Likewise, being people of prayer was a lifestyle trait of the early disciples (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4; 13:3). For the early Jewish believers, daily prayer was already a lifestyle that they then continued to walk in after coming to faith in Jesus (Acts 3:1). This lifestyle was passed on to the newer Gentile believers. These traits are two of the many that we can find in the lives of the early Christians.

God's people in Singapore need to understand the importance of cultivating these two lifestyle traits as they are crucial to usher us into walking out the fullness as an Antioch of Asia. Acts 13:2 records for us that it was at the place of prayer and fasting, when the disciples submitted themselves to voluntary weakness, that they received prophetic direction from the Holy Spirit to send Barnabas and Paul into the mission field. Their obedience to the Holy Spirit's direction would impact nations. These traits were again highlighted in the subsequent verses, "Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went..." (Acts 13:3–4).

It will not be by natural might or power that Singapore will walk into our fullness as an Antioch of Asia. It will be through the Church leaning on God at the place of prayer and obeying the prophetic leadership of the Holy Spirit.

- Pray for the grace of Jesus Christ to be given to the Church in Singapore to become a people
  of prayer not doing prayer meetings but walking in a lifestyle of prayer (Eph. 6:18).
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to teach believers in Singapore to be led by Him, to walk in the Spirit and to live in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16–25).
- Pray for ourselves, the people of God in Singapore, to have the fear of God in us so that when the Holy Spirit directs us, we will respond rightly in the fear of the Lord (Isa. 11:2–3; Jer. 32:39).

# ANTIOCH CALLING — Pray for Singapore to be a humanitarian blessing to the nations (Acts 11:27–30)

When the Holy Spirit through the Prophet Agabus prophesied of a great famine that would come upon the whole world, the disciples in Antioch were "determined to send relief to the brethren in Judea" (Acts 11:29). The disciples in Antioch, though living in a prosperous city, were not clinging onto their material wealth in self-preservation. They too would face the same famine, yet they were resolved to give according to each one's ability to those in need.

In this decade which began with much economic uncertainty, Singapore remains a prosperous nation in a world of over 200 countries. In 2022, Singapore ranked second in GDP at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) per capita and sixth in Nominal GDP per capita. Even though we are impacted by the rising cost of living, when we do take a step back, we realise that Singapore is still doing relatively well compared to most other countries in the world.

Singapore has a call to be a Joseph nation that will have the means to send humanitarian aid and crisis relief to the nations. Jesus prophesied that there would be many crises arising in the days leading to His return (Matt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8; Lk. 21:11). We have a responsibility to steward our wealth to help the poor in affected nations (Gal. 2:10).

As a country, Singapore has the means to be a blessing to the nations. As individuals and the Body of Christ in Singapore, we can give according to our ability to the poor and to congregations who may be in need. As Gentile believers, we also ought to remember to share our material blessings with the Jewish people from whom we partake of spiritual blessings (Rom. 15:27). May the Church in Singapore be a humanitarian church to the nations just as the Church in Antioch was led by the Holy Spirit to provide help in a time of famine.

- Thank God for the blessings He has given Singapore (e.g. expertise, technology, stature, wealth) and that she has been sending relief to the nations. Pray that Singapore will always be a nation that will
  - o do justly in treating the foreigners in our midst and towards the nations around the world,
  - o love mercy by being responsive in sending humanitarian support in the form of goods and through service to nations facing crisis, and
  - o walk humbly in the fear of God instead of in pride and complacency (Mic. 6:8).
- Pray for the enduement of grace upon God's people in Singapore to be able to give generously as we step into our Antioch call (Rom. 12:6,8; 2 Cor. 8:1–2).
- Pray for the Church in Singapore to excel in giving to the poor, especially to those in Southeast Asia, Greater China, and Israel (2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 2:10).

### REVIVAL, AWAKENING, HARVEST, REFORMATION – Pray for revival for the Body of Christ in Singapore (Isa. 64:1)

Jonathan Edwards, the great revivalist of the 1700s, defines spiritual revival as a supernatural and wonderful work of God that displays His hand and glory. It brings about spiritual renewal to the Church. Times of revival are great, glorious, unusual, and extraordinary. To "revive" is to restore back to life that which was previously alive but has become dead. This is a divine and supernatural work of God characterised by the outpouring of the Spirit (Acts 2:1–4), the advancement of His Kingdom, and an increased realisation of the unique presence of God.

True revivals are not the result of man's endeavours. They do not result from planned programmes or meetings intended to stir up greater fervour for God or meet conversion quotas. Yet, God's word from 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Isaiah 30:18 stays true — God graciously responds to the earnest prayers of His people.

As a Body of Christ in Singapore, a first-world country, it is easy to remain satisfied with how much we have of God while being dissatisfied with how much we have of this world. In this Laodicean age, the majority of us are spiritually lukewarm and lacking in evidence of the true power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are in desperate need of a fresh outpouring of the Spirit.

Let us contend for a spiritual revival for the Body of Christ in Singapore. Let us humble ourselves, pray and seek His face that He will be gracious to revive our spiritual vitality, passion for Jesus and break in with a demonstration of His power in and through His people.

Why not here? Why not now? Why not us?

- Pray for God to release His Spirit over the Church of Singapore as He did in Acts 2:1–4 (Isa. 63:15; 64:1).
- Pray for God to break in with His fires of revival, igniting passion and first love for Jesus in the Church of Singapore (Songs 8:6–7).
- Pray for God to revive His works in and through His people in Singapore (Hab. 3:2).

### REVIVAL, AWAKENING, HARVEST, REFORMATION – Pray for revival for the global Body of Christ (Hab. 3:2)

Joel 2:28–32 prophesies that in the latter days, God will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. Surely, we stand at the cusp of a new wave of the breaking in of the Holy Spirit.

The God who invaded the upper room on Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4), revived the Church during America's Great Awakenings (1730s & 1800s), convicted hearts during the Welsh revival (1904 – 1905), empowered the Church during China's revival (1970s), and responded to the cries of hungry students during the ACS Clock Tower Revival (1972), is the same God who desires to break in to this generation.

Revivals give rise to deep repentance, renewed resolutions to holiness, greater intensity in personal and corporate prayer, greater zeal for the advancement of God's kingdom and greater partnership with the Holy Spirit.

It is time to "re-dig" the wells of revival in the place of intercession (Gen. 26:18) and prophetically declare, "Spring up, O wells" (Num. 21:17). This is God's sovereign appointed time and the time of the latter rain (Zech. 10:1). His promises are increasingly being fulfilled and we will see the move of the Spirit at an unprecedented and global scale!

- Pray for God to "do it again" for wells of revival to spring up again all across the global Body of Christ and in Singapore (Num. 21:17; Hab. 3:2).
- Pray for the springing forth of new wells of revival and the unprecedented move of the Holy Spirit in this hour of human history (Jude 3).
- Pray for the release of God's rain in this sovereign appointed time (Zech. 10:1).
- Pray for the release of the "Luke 4:18" anointing the fullness of the Spirit of God (Jude 3).

### REVIVAL, AWAKENING, HARVEST, REFORMATION – Pray for a great spiritual awakening in our generation (Eph. 5:14)

While revival primarily brings renewed life to the Church, a spiritual awakening speaks about regeneration from being spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1). It is a time where the Holy Spirit breaks in to convict and awaken the hearts of unbelievers. It is a time when mighty signs and wonders break out to authenticate the message of the Gospel of Jesus.

When a great spiritual awakening comes to a nation, every sphere of influence is changed and a visible transformation is brought about. The cry for spiritual awakening is not a cry for a better and more comfortable life, but a desperate cry for God to intervene because it is the only solution to the degradation of both moral and spiritual values.

The Great Awakenings in American history started with a few earnest men and women who went on their knees in prayer and preached the true Gospel of Jesus Christ from the pulpits. The Holy Spirit would convict those who listened of their sin, which produced a deep cry of repentance. Many were awakened from death to life as they called upon Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

This generation is due for another great spiritual awakening. Now is the time to cry out for God to send an unprecedented spiritual awakening where the display of His power is unparalleled, the number of people saved will be in the hundreds of millions, and the effects of a truly transformed life will last for decades to come.

- Pray for God to send a spiritual awakening that is reserved for our time, far exceeding the First and Second Great Awakenings of America (Hab. 3:2).
- Pray for God's hand to move and bring conviction of hearts, true repentance, and transformation in nations and in Singapore (Isa. 63:15).
- Pray for the Acts 2:2 sound from heaven to go forth and cause an awakening from the false narratives of this world (2 Thes. 3:1).
- Pray for the breaking forth of the power of the Holy Spirit that will authenticate the message of the Gospel (Eph. 1:17–18; Acts 5:12).

## REVIVAL, AWAKENING, HARVEST, REFORMATION – Pray for the billion-soul harvest all across the world (Matt. 9:38)

Matthew 9:37–38 says, "... The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." It has always been God's desire that all should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9) and be saved. As we escalate towards the return of Jesus, we can expect to see a great harvest of souls.

In 1983, Bob Jones (a prophetic person from America) prophesied about a coming billion-soul harvest. Three key signs would indicate the beginning of this harvest<sup>1</sup>: (1) the perfecting of the abortion pill,<sup>2</sup> (2) the legalisation and brazen promotion of homosexual marriage in the U.S., and (3) people in rice fields in Asia watching 24/7 worship and prayer on "unplugged TV sets" on their wrists (what we know today as smartwatches).

These three signs have already been fulfilled in our day.

It is in this time that God will break in with His spirit of conviction, convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement (Jn. 16:8). Let us press in for the light of Jesus to shine into the darkness, enlightening spiritual eyes (Eph. 1:17–18) and turning hearts to the confession of Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

#### **Prayer Pointers**

- Pray for the salvation of people you know who are not saved (Matt. 9:38).
- Pray for the spirit of conviction to fall upon many, causing them to turn to Jesus as Lord and Saviour (Acts 2:37–41).
- Pray for the great Evangelists in this generation, like Billy Graham, to arise with unction to preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:10).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://godencounters.com/signs-of-the-times-billion-soul-harvest-has-begun/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/the-abortion-pill

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#### 18 June 2024 | Day 18

# REVIVAL, AWAKENING, HARVEST, REFORMATION – Pray for another spiritual reformation in the Body of Christ (1 Thes. 3:10) | Part 1

Just like how God brought about a reformation to the Church through Martin Luther and others in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, He is once again bringing reformation to His Church today, specifically in these four areas: (1) in the prophetic, (2) in worship, (3) in how "Church" is done, and (4) in the kind of Gospel that is preached.

A "reformation" takes the old and "re-forms" it into something new. Spiritual reformation is about renewing the wineskin of the Church for the new wine that God desires to pour out. In the natural, as wine is consumed from a wineskin and it is gradually emptied, it becomes dry, hard, and brittle. To make it suitable to contain a new batch of wine, it would have to be made pliable again. The wineskin would have to be soaked in warm water for a period of time and then treated and massaged with oil.

This is what the Lord wants to do both individually and corporately in His people. Once again, He will wash us with the water of His Word and anoint us with the oil of the Spirit. He desires us to have new mindsets, new priorities, new perspectives, and a new lifestyle that is aligned with Him so that when He pours out new wine, we can enter into His new move and not miss out.

- Pray for God to break in with another spiritual reformation in the Body of Christ.
- Pray for the Church to be renewed in our understanding of what Christianity is by the washing of God's Word (Jn. 17:17; Rom. 12:2).
- Pray for the renewal of the wineskins of the Church with the oil of the Spirit so that we may contain God's new wine being poured out (Col. 1:9–11; 1 Thes. 3:10).

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#### 19 June 2024 | Day 19

# REVIVAL, AWAKENING, HARVEST, REFORMATION – Pray for another spiritual reformation in the Body of Christ (1 Thes. 3:10) | Part 2

These are the four areas of spiritual reformation that God is bringing about in His people:

#### (1) A Reformation in the Prophetic

God is bringing His people back to what being a true "prophet" is all about. It is primarily about "forth-telling" God's heart and not "foretelling" events. He is also directing us back to the more important issues — such as prophetic character and foundations — that matter to Him.

#### (2) A Return to True Worship

God is bringing us back to the true posture and heart of worship. Worship is not primarily about how we feel, but about who God is! It is a response to His worth and is a daily offering of our lives as living sacrifices unto Him (Rom. 12:1).

#### (3) A Change in How "Church" is Done

God is calling us out of institutionalised Christianity into the New Normal of being the Spirit-led Body of Christ. He is shifting us from being programme-based to Spirit-led, from vision-driven to value-driven and awakening us to our call as the "Ekklesia" of Christ. No longer will we be centred primarily around Sunday services, a building, or the senior pastor, but we will be centred around Jesus, grounded in His Word, and led by the Holy Spirit.

This would mean changing how discipleship is carried out, our current rhythms of "church life" as we know it and reorienting ourselves back to more Biblical feasts (such as Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles).

#### (4) Preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom

God is bringing His people back to preaching the fullness of His Gospel — the Gospel of the Kingdom. No longer will the Gospel be preached simply as "fire insurance" and as a means to receive more blessings. Instead, we will stay true to preaching about the coming Kingdom of Christ and the necessity for believers to align with our soon-coming King.

- Pray for a spiritual reformation in the prophetic (2 Thes. 1:11–12).
- Pray for a spiritual reformation and alignment to God's heart of true worship (1 Thes. 3:10).
- Pray for a spiritual reformation and return to the true Biblical expression of Christianity as seen in the book of Acts (1 Thes. 3:10).
- Pray for a spiritual reformation in how the Gospel of the kingdom is preached (Rom. 16:25–27).

### YOUNG GENERATION — Pray for God to awaken the young generation to the hour they are living in and their role as the final transitional generation (Col. 1:9–11)

There are sufficient signs to show that this generation of Millennials, Gen Zs, and Gen Alphas are the final transitional generation that will usher in the return of Jesus and partner with Him in fulfilling His glorious End-Time plan. We see three major transitional generations in the Bible: Moses' Generation, the Apostles' Generation, and the End-Time Generation, which is the final transitional generation.

In Moses' Generation, God birthed forth the nation of Israel as He led His chosen people out of Egypt into the promised land. During the Apostles' Generation, God birthed forth the Church and released the Holy Spirit to dwell within His people. Lastly, the End-Time Generation will witness Jesus' return and the Millennial Kingdom birthed forth (Rev. 20:4).

Although Scripture tells us that we do not know the exact day or hour that Jesus is returning, significant signposts show that it is near. It is out of God's grace and mercy that He is exhorting many to take heed, watch and pray, and be counted worthy "to stand before the Son of Man" (Matt. 24:4, 42; 25:13; Mk. 13:5, 33, 35, 27; Lk. 21:8, 34, 36).

It is vital for young people to know the generation they have been born into, understand God's heart, and embrace His End-Time plan and call that He has for them as the final transitional generation. God has not been silent and has been trumpeting His heart in this hour to many. He has been revealing His plans and strategies that will prepare the End-Time Generation for the fullness of both darkness and glory that will be seen on the earth (Isa. 60:1–3).

However, this generation needs to hear, take heed, and respond. Truly, they have come to the kingdom for such a time as this (Est. 4:14).

- Pray for God to awaken the hearts of the young generation to the times and seasons they are living in, and the necessity for a response that is commensurate with the urgency of the hour (Col. 1:9).
- Pray for God to fill them with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual understanding to know their role as the final transitional generation (Col. 1:9; Eph. 1:18).
- Pray for the enduing of the Zechariah 4 grace and strength upon the young generation to stay faithful to God's call and assignments for them (Zech. 4:6; Col. 1:11).

## YOUNG GENERATION — Pray for God to reignite passion for Jesus in the young generation with His Song of Songs 8:6 seal (Songs 8:6–7)

As we approach the End of the Age, the greatest battle is not between good and evil, but the battle for the passions of the hearts of the young generation. Since the creation of man, the enemy has always sought to turn the hearts of God's people away from Him and towards worldly pleasures, ungodly temptations, and broken cisterns that never satisfy.

Amidst increasing lukewarmness, compromise, and passivity, Jesus is coming as the "most vehement flame" (Songs. 8:6) to reignite a fervent passion for Jesus and zeal for His Kingdom. It is out of His zeal and jealousy that He desires to remove everything that hinders wholehearted love in the hearts of His people.

God is not looking for mouth-professing but heart-possessing believers who have fiery hearts and vibrant spirits. This is the hour where He will release His seal of love upon the hearts and arms of many.

Yet, growing in passion for Jesus is not automatic or instantaneous. We have to respond. This is the Revelation 3:20 moment where He is knocking on the doors of the hearts of His people. The reality is that Jesus can open every door except the door of our hearts; those who open their hearts fully to Him will be transformed with an unquenchable fire for Jesus that is unmatched by anything that this world can offer.

This is the hour to seek His face. We can be confident that Jesus will turn every dull and cold heart into a heart full of zeal, passion, and fire for Him, especially among the young generation.

- Pray for God to release His Songs 8:6–7 seal of fire upon the young generation unto passion for Jesus (Songs 8:6–7).
- Pray for God to refine and reignite hearts with zeal for the things of God (1 Thes. 5:23–24).
- Pray for God to set His seal upon their hearts and arms where every action would be for the glory of Jesus and His Name alone (Songs 8:6).
- Pray for God to increase His fire within the hearts of this generation where passion for Jesus will far transcend every worldly passion (Songs 8:7).

## **YOUNG GENERATION** — Pray for the Finest Generation to arise in this finest hour of human history (2 Thes. 1:11–12)

In January 1979, the Lord spoke to Bob Jones (a prophetic person from America) of an appointed generation of young people who would far surpass all previous generations. This generation will possess the maturity to carry God's glory and be anointed by the Holy Spirit to walk in the fullness of God's promises. This is the End-Time generation.

The Lord spoke that "their children (i.e., the young generation) will possess the Spirit without measure if they walk in a life with no mixture. For they are the best of all generations that have ever been on the face of the earth."

This generation will walk in a measure of the Spirit that past generations did not attain. The miracles and mighty works done in the Book of Acts will pale in comparison with what this generation will do. God is raising up ones who partner with Him to accomplish His will here on earth as it is in heaven. They will be filled with the presence of God, carry His glory, and shine forth His light all across the nations.

However, in order to be able to bear the weight of His glory, this generation will have to walk in a life with no mixture. God is in this hour fashioning many hearts to walk in the fullness of maturity so that they may carry the fullness of God's glory.

This is what God has for this young generation; it is their inheritance and portion. The exhortation has gone forth for many to prepare themselves to arise as the Finest Generation in this finest hour.

- Pray for the young generation to grow into the fullness of maturity as believers.
- Pray for His perfecting and sanctification work so that many will arise without mixture to carry God's glory (1 Thes. 5:23).
- Pray for God to endue many with the fullness of the Spirit that they will possess the Spirit without measure (Col. 4:12).
- Pray for God to arise over the Finest Generation with His glory and light (Isa. 60:1–2).

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#### 24 June 2024 | Day 24

# YOUNG GENERATION — Pray for another "Jesus Movement" among the young generation today (Jude 3; Hab. 3:2)

Many young people today are passionate and zealous about many things, but God desires to direct their passion toward Jesus and Jesus alone. This "new thing" that God is doing (Isa 43:18) will restore us to the original intent of God's heart for His people: to have a people radically sold out for Jesus.

In the late 1960s and early 70s, at the height of the hippie movement in America, God visited the young generation and birthed forth what we know today as the "Jesus Movement". The American youths of that time were disillusioned with what they saw and turned to alternative and countercultural lifestyles. Many experimented with drugs, ran away from home, and sought to break free from the norm. It was in the midst of this darkness that God broke in and awakened many to find the true answer in Jesus Christ.

Once again, we are in God's sovereign appointed time where He desires to send a wave of His Spirit to birth forth such a "Jesus revolution". Just as how many young people were dissatisfied and disillusioned then, many are thus today. And just as how many hippies were radically changed and transformed to become passionate, zealous followers of Christ, God will likewise move in the current young generation. He will direct the hearts of the young people to search for the "real thing" and bring an awakening with the visitation of the Holy Spirit.

These ones will not settle for "Sunday Christianity" or being "status-quo believers" but will radically pursue a wholehearted zeal for Jesus — even if it contradicts the secular narrative and normal ways of living. This revolution will be part of God's promise to change the understanding and expression of Christianity in a generation. May a "Jesus Movement" arise once again in this time and generation!

- Pray for God to visit the young generation with a wave of the Holy Spirit unto awakening and transformation (Hab. 3:2).
- Pray for a revolution among the young people to arise with passion, zeal, and wholehearted love for Jesus (Hab. 3:2).
- Pray for a restoration of a true understanding and expression of our faith in this young generation real, deep, and authentic Christianity (1 Thes. 3:10, 13; Jude 3).

## YOUNG GENERATION — Pray for the emergence of the End-Time Gideon's Army (Judg. 6:34)

One key promise that God has for the young generation is from Judges 6 – 7 — the emergence of the End-Time Gideon's Army. God promises to anoint and empower weak and broken people who have much lack to do great exploits with Him and His glory (Judg. 7:4).

This promise was given through a supernatural encounter over 40 years ago. On 4 August 1979, Howard Pittman, a Baptist minister had a near-death experience and was brought before God's throne in heaven. God told him that He was raising up a people like "Gideon's Army" whom He would anoint to do great miracles and exploits. The Lord spoke that the recruitment process would begin on 7 May 1983, and that it would be confirmed through a heavenly sign in the sky. This heavenly sign turned out to be a comet, unpredicted by scientists, which passed by Earth around early May, and was reported in the local news exactly on 7 May 1983.

Judges 6 – 7 reveals three aspects of what the Gideon's Army looks like:

- 1. They will be fearless. Out of the 32,000 who had initially followed Gideon to war, 22,000 returned because they were fearful and afraid (Judg. 7:3).
- 2. They will be watchful, vigilant, and focused on God's mission for them, just like the 300 who were eventually chosen. Unlike the 9700 who let their guard down as they quenched their thirst, the 300 drank on alert with one hand still on their weapons (Judg. 7:5–6).
- 3. They will be radical, dependent on God, and walk in complete confidence in Him. It is unimaginable to think that 300 could defeat 135,000. Yet, Gideon's Army fully depended and relied on God's instructions and leadership, having confidence that it was YHWH Tzeva'ot, the LORD of Hosts, who fought for them.

In this hour, the Holy Spirit is moving all across the nations to stir up the hearts of this generation to respond and arise as the Gideon's Army. God is speaking courage into the hearts of many, so that fearful men like Gideon will arise as great warriors to partner with Jesus at the End of the Age to do great exploits.

Now is the time to arise, O mighty men and women of valour (Judg. 6:12)!

- Pray for God to reveal His Name "YHWH Shalom" that would renew strength and birth forth boldness and courage in many hearts (Judg. 6:24).
- Pray for the trumpet of the Lord to sound and call many to fall in line to prepare themselves as the Gideon's Army (Judg. 6:34).
- Pray for God to transform and fashion hearts to be fearless, vigilant, and radical for God in the midst of increasing warfare (2 Thes. 1:11).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Howard Pittman recorded this encounter in a book titled "*Placebo*". It also contains further details regarding his story and God's message to His people through him.

# YOUNG GENERATION — Pray for God to establish the young generation on the Isaiah 35 Highway of Holiness (Jude 3)

In July 1984, Bob Jones (a prophetic person from America) received a vision of approximately 35 young people carrying the Lord's presence and exalting Him as they made a procession towards a large stadium in Kansas City. They were leading a great company of people who had been touched by God's power through their ministry. These young people represented future leaders whom God would prepare to carry an unusual measure of power to preach the Gospel and heal the sick like in the book of Acts. They would not only be from America but raised up by God from all across the nations.

At the same time, the Lord clearly said that there were requirements for them to carry the glory of God. The 35 young people pointed to the Isaiah 35 highway of holiness (Isa 35:8). These leaders had to live lives of holiness unto the Lord so that they would keep Jesus high and lifted all the days of their lives, and lift up nothing higher than Him. The Lord promised that they would serve Him all the days of their lives and be faithful to the end.

In May 2022, we saw a partial prophetic fulfilment of this vision when young people formed a procession toward this very stadium (Arrowhead Stadium) for a gathering of thousands called "The Send". This marked a significant shift in season into a time of prophetic fulfilment where we will witness this promise coming to pass in the "now".

In light of this promise becoming reality, it is now time for young people to respond rightly to become part of this glorious company — a people who will not sell Jesus out to immorality, fortune, fame, comfort, or the cares of this life, but will remain loyal and wholly devoted to Him until the end. Just as how the Ark of the Covenant was lifted up in the days of David (2 Sam 6), so will this young generation lift up and champion the name of Jesus and Jesus alone.

- For the emergence of a generation of leaders who will keep Jesus high and lifted up all the days of their lives.
- For God to sanctify and refine this young generation until holiness is formed and perfected in them (1 Thes. 5:23–24).
- For God to empower and strengthen the young generation to walk and remain on the Isaiah 35 highway of holiness until the very end (Col 1:10–11 / 2 Thes. 1:11–12).

# JOEL 2 LIFESTYLE — Pray for the Body of Christ in Singapore to return to living out the Joel 2 Lifestyle

If there is one place in the Bible where God provides a clear, concise, and all-encompassing roadmap of how His people are to respond to Him in times of crisis, it is in the book of Joel. If there is a time that God's people need to seriously pay attention to this, there is no more urgent time than now.

What Israel was going through in the time of the prophet Joel is uncannily relevant to our times. They were facing the coming "day of YHWH" that would be "great" and yet "very terrible" (Joel 2:11). The near fulfilment of this "day" was in ancient Israel's time, but the far fulfilment would be at the End of the Age.

God has spoken that we have stepped into the Isaiah 60:1–2 moment where there will be an unprecedented increase in light and escalation in darkness. Since the start of this decade, the world has been experiencing crisis after crisis — the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas wars, economic uncertainty, earthquakes and other natural disasters — and there seems to be no end in sight. God's people need to seriously consider prophet Joel's questions in light of this intensity, "Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?" (Joel 1:2), and the more important one: "...who can endure it?" (Joel 2:11).

God's answer to the latter rhetorical question is found in the subsequent verses of Joel 2:12–17—the "Joel 2 Lifestyle". Just as how these verses were Israel's roadmap to respond in Joel's time, so too are they for the End-Time Church. The Joel 2 Lifestyle is God's answer in times of crisis. There is no other way except to return to God in a lifestyle of wholeheartedness that is expressed through fasting, prayer and gathering in sacred assemblies.

As Singaporeans, we cannot view this as a formula! It is not meant to be a strategy but a sustained lifestyle that we live in until Jesus' return. As we humble ourselves in repentance and seek His face, we will receive His forgiveness, restoration, divine wisdom, direction, and empowerment (2 Chron. 7:14). More than that, as we live out the Joel 2 Lifestyle individually and corporately, God's *Ekklesia* can turn an impending crisis into an Acts 2 revival!

- Pray that the Body of Christ will be awakened to see the escalating darkness and increasing intensities that are at our doorstep and respond in living out the Joel 2 Lifestyle (Col. 1:9–10).
  - That we will be awakened from our slumber to see the urgency of the hour, and that the days are evil (Eph. 5:15–17);
  - o That there is no other answer in this time of great need except the Joel 2 Lifestyle.
- Pray for the people of God in this land to hear and respond to God's call for the Joel 2 Lifestyle (Col. 1:9–10).
- Pray that the Church will be established in this lifestyle and faithfully live it out until the return of Jesus.

### JOEL 2 LIFESTYLE — Pray for the Body of Christ in Singapore to return to God in wholeheartedness

"... Turn to Me with all your heart ... " (Joel 2:12)

The God who has everything and lacks nothing is firstly looking for wholehearted love from His people. This is Jesus' priority and thus what He calls the "First Commandment" (Matt. 22:37–38). In this hour, God is restoring the First Commandment to first place in His Church. He is calling us back to loving Him with our all — with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind.

This is His call for us today because we are presently living in the Laodicean Church age. Our hearts are largely dulled or weighed down by the comforts and cares of life but more disconcertingly, we cannot see our true condition. The Lord, in His love and zeal, is calling the Church to return to wholeheartedness. He is calling us back to the place of extravagant devotion and the complete giving of our hearts to the only One who is worthy.

Lest we think we have to "do more", it is not about fulfilling requirements. Our intimate relationship and heart connectedness with Him is what the Lord desires and values. It has to go beyond a mouth-professing faith to a heart-possessing faith, and is about becoming the kind of people who know Him, who constantly engage His heart and seek His face.

The Lord is looking for holy and consecrated hearts and lives. He is looking for hearts without mixture and lives without compartmentalisation. We need to return to the place of wholehearted love and devotion so that Jesus once again has all of our hearts.

- Pray for the First Commandment to take first place in the Church.
- Pray for the Church to turn to the Lord in wholeheartedness and live a consecrated life unto Him (2 Thes. 1:11–12).
- Pray for the Lord to come and impart His fire to His Church, and to deliver us from the Laodicean spirit of lukewarmness and dullness of heart (Songs 8:6).
- Pray for the Lord to direct His people to His burning heart and to His prescribed lifestyle, the Joel 2 Lifestyle, that will keep our hearts burning (2 Thes. 3:5).

# JOEL 2 LIFESTYLE — Pray for the Body of Christ in Singapore to rend our hearts in deep repentance

"So rend your heart, and not your garments." (Joel 2:13)

Turning to God with all our hearts involves repentance. Loving God, at the core, is about coming into agreement and alignment with Him. Rending our hearts before God is a non-optional part of wholeheartedness. To rend means to tear something violently or forcibly. The Lord wants us to deal radically with our hearts that we can be pure and without mixture in our pursuit of wholeheartedness.

In their time, the Jewish people would tear their garments to show their grief and desperation. However, God is not looking for outward demonstrations. He wants us to deal with the innermost parts of our hearts and live before Him in a real and authentic manner (Ps. 51:6; 139:23–24).

Rending our hearts speaks of **dealing radically with matters of the heart such as sin, compromise, pride, and lust** with holy violence just like John the Baptist (Matt. 5:27–30; 11:12). The prophet Joel emphasises that we are not to be casual in pursuing wholeheartedness but be radical in forsaking all compromise.

When we radically pursue wholeheartedness, there is often pain involved when we seek to uproot deep strongholds of sin and bondage in our lives in cooperation with the Lord. We are to press through the pain until we are completely free. There may be a cost or struggle, but it is well worth it because our hearts will come alive. The process may not be smooth-sailing, but God's grace and mercy is what carries us through!

As we come before our holy God, let us come with reverence. Let us open our hearts fully to the Lord and allow Him to remove what displeases Him from our hearts. Let us deal radically with our lives, so that we may be holy and without mixture before Him.

- Pray for the Spirit of conviction to fall on the people of God, producing godly sorrow that will lead to repentance and the rending of hearts (Isa. 64:1).
- Pray for the Lord to perfect His sanctification and establish our hearts blameless in holiness even as we rend our hearts before Him (1 Thes. 3:10,13).
- Pray for the Church not to be casual in dealing with sin, but to be zealous in dealing with the issues and compromises found in our hearts.

### 1 July 2024 | Day 31

### JOEL 2 LIFESTYLE — Pray for the Body of Christ in Singapore to be established in a lifestyle of fasting and prayer

"... Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." (Joel 2:12)

In Joel 2:12, God gives us insight into what turning to Him in wholeheartedness looks like. It involves **turning to God in repentance**, **fasting**, **and prayer**. This is part of God's definition of wholeheartedness. Yet this is resisted by many in the Church of Jesus Christ today.

The divine response in the prophet Joel's time is the same one God requires today — wholeheartedness expressed through fasting and prayer. Prayer is the core of how the people of God are to respond in times of crises. It is really about connecting with God at the heart level, interceding according to what is on His heart, and changing history by His grace.

Prayer is not a strategy. It is the highest expression of God's desire for intimate partnership. God wants us to be connected with His heart in intimacy, and from there, partner deeply with Him. Prayer is the vehicle that brings together relationship and partnership with God.

Additionally, a lifestyle of prayer and fasting will also help us grow strength in the Lord so that we can stand in the midst of raging eschatological storms.

Fasting is a crucial spiritual discipline that has been lost by the modern-day Church. A lifestyle of fasting deepens our relationship with the Lord, changes our desires to want more of the things of God, and tenderises our hearts to experience more of Him. It strengthens our spiritual identity and increases our understanding of the Word, enabling us to receive greater insight. It positions our heart and creates greater capacity within our spirit to receive more of what God already desires to give us.

Is fasting meant only for the Old Testament saints? By no means! The early Church and the apostles fasted and prayed. The fact that Jesus said in Matthew 6 "when you fast" and not "if you fast" indicates that fasting is normal and a lifestyle for the New Testament Church.

A lifestyle of fasting and prayer is crucial to mature the End-Time Church. As spiritual darkness escalates and warfare intensifies, only a fasting and praying Church will have the authority, power, and strength to prevail!

The destiny of a nation truly lies in the hands of intercessors. The Lord is always looking for men and women to stand in the gap on behalf of the land, so that He can relent from His judgement and release His blessings (Ezek. 22:30). He is also waiting for us to persevere in prayer until we receive the fullness of His promises for our nation and generation (1 Tim. 1:18; Jas 4:2; Matt. 7:7–11).

May the Church return to and be established in the lifestyle of fasting and prayer and step into the fullness of God's promises for us!

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#### **Prayer Pointers**

• Pray for the Church to have understanding regarding the importance of fasting and to be established in the fasted lifestyle (Col. 1:9–11).

- For the Lord to bring understanding and conviction regarding the necessity of the fasted lifestyle.
- For the Lord to give wisdom and strengthen His people with might so that they may live out a lifestyle of fasting.
- Pray for the Church to be established in a lifestyle of prayer from the place of intimacy with the Lord.
- Pray for the arising of the fasting and praying *Ekklesia*, who has the authority to prevail over the enemy, and who will partner with the Lord to establish His kingdom here on earth (Matt. 6:10).

#### 2 July 2024 | Day 32

## JOEL 2 LIFESTYLE — Pray for the Body of Christ in Singapore to be established in confidence in God's kindness and mercy

"... Return to YHWH your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him..." (Joel 2:13–14)

One key aspect of the Joel 2 Lifestyle is to acquaint ourselves with God as we\_seek His face and heart at the place of prayer. God reveals who He is in Joel 2:13 so that we may develop a steadfast and unshakeable confidence in Him.

When we are established in confidence in the Lord's kindness and mercy, we will run to Him in times of crisis, testing, and failure. The knowledge of God's heart gives us confidence to rend our hearts in repentance, open our hearts to Him in vulnerability, and intercede from the place of knowing His goodness.

This is the five-fold core nature of the Lord — He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, of great kindness, and relents from doing harm.

**The Lord is gracious.** He evaluates us differently from everyone else. He remembers our frailty and that we are but dust (Ps. 103:14). He is not like a harsh military leader or the angry coach that rejects any form of weakness. His requirements are within the reach of the weak who are empowered by His grace (Ps. 103:10–14; 1 Jn. 5:4; Matt. 11:30).

**The Lord delights in mercy.** He desires His people to return to Him in repentance and delights in giving us a new start even though we may have failed time and time again.

**The Lord is slow to anger.** He is not easily provoked by our weakness. He does not delight in the death of the wicked and is patient in His dealings with us (Ezek. 33:11; Rev. 2:20–22).

**The Lord has great kindness.** He deals with us tenderly, with gentleness, and not harshly. It is His kindness that leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4).

The Lord relents from doing harm. He desires to relent from judgement and is willing to hold back the decree of judgement instead of issuing it. That is why the prophet Zephaniah exhorts us to gather together to seek the Lord for "the perhaps of God" (Zeph. 2:1–3). Through intercession, the course of events or the end results can be changed, as long as the Lord has not yet issued the decree to execute judgement (Gen. 18:22–33; Jon. 3:4–10). This is how we can turn a would-be disaster zone into a revival centre!

Indeed, may the people of God be established and anchored in the Lord's kindness and mercy through the Joel 2 Lifestyle!

- Pray for the revelation of the five-fold core nature of God to His people (Eph. 1:17).
  - Pray for God's people to encounter His graciousness and kindness, and to have personal history with Him.

**IHOP – One Thing Ministries** Page 36 Pray for the people of God to be established in full confidence in the Lord.  $\circ$   $\;$  That we may trust in Him with all our heart and not lean on our own understanding. Pray for the people of God to partner with Him in prayer from the place of confidence in who He is.

# JOEL 2 LIFESTYLE — Pray for God's people to gather in sacred assemblies all across Singapore

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly..." (Joel 2:15)

From the starting point of turning to God with wholeheartedness as individuals, God desires His people to respond corporately to Him — to regularly gather to pray in sacred assemblies. This is the corporate aspect of the Joel 2 Lifestyle.

While private devotion and prayer are critical, they will not be enough for the coming global End-Time crisis. Corporate blessing is released when God's people come together with a common heart and purpose — to humble ourselves and seek the face and mercy of God.

Prophet Joel was unequivocal when he issued his call to Israel to gather: "Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. Let the priests..." (Joel 2:16–17). He made no exception. The pastor, the leader, the layperson in the marketplace. Even newlyweds were called to put aside honeymoon plans, and parents were called to bring their children and infants. If no one is exempt from the crisis and End-Time storms, no one is exempt from crying out to Him.

More than just meetings, sacred assemblies are sacred appointments with our King. God Himself is the One who is calling us to gather, and we cannot be casual with Him. If the assemblies are "sacred", we have to prioritise them in our schedule. If we are meeting with our King, we come to yield to His will and His agenda. Sacred assemblies are also not meant to be held online virtually but in person. While this may be more inconvenient, the Lord only releases His fullness when His family comes together physically to pray.

In this hour, the Lord is blowing the trumpet. He is calling for sacred assemblies — for His people to gather, humble ourselves to seek His face, and to fast and pray. Will we not respond when summoned by the King Himself?

May the lifestyle of gathering regularly in sacred assemblies be a norm in this land!

- Pray that God's people will hear and respond to His clarion call to gather in sacred assemblies (Col 1:9-10).
  - o To understand the urgency of the times and respond.
  - o To understand the importance of gathering in person to pray.
  - o For the spiritual leaders of the land to lead by example.
- Pray for God's people to recognise the sacredness of God's call, and to respond by prioritising sacred assemblies over fellowship and other ministry activities.

# ISRAEL — Pray for the salvation of Israel (Rom. 10:1)

There is only one way to eternal life, and that is through calling on the name of Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The Jewish people are not automatically saved for being the physical descendants of Abraham. Their zeal and their righteous acts cannot lead them to salvation. Salvation for them too is only by grace by faith in Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus the Messiah).

The Jewish people's rejection of their Messiah led to the Gospel going to the Gentile nations, but this blindness is neither final nor complete (Rom. 11:25). When the fullness of the Gentiles happens, all Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:25–26).

It is critical to pray for the salvation of the Jewish people because the return of Jesus is dependent on the nation of Israel turning to Yeshua as their Messiah (Matt. 23:37–39, Acts 3:19–21).

Consequently, the return of Jesus, together with Israel's national salvation, is critical for the fullness of God's redemptive plan for all mankind to unfold across the nations, and for His glory to cover the earth (Hab. 2:14). Thus, Paul says that their national salvation will be "life from the dead" for the world (Rom. 11:15).

Pray for the salvation of the Jewish people today!

- Pray for the Jewish people to be convicted of their need for Jesus as Saviour, that He is the Passover Lamb that was slain for their sin, and He is the One who reconciles man with God through His work on the cross (Eph. 1:17–18).
- Pray for the removal of the partial and temporary blindness that has been upon Israel for the past two millennia.
- Pray for the awakening of many through personal encounters and miracles that will point them back to the God of Israel (Joel 2:28–32; Eph.1:17–18).

# ISRAEL — Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6-9)

There is only one city explicitly mentioned by name in Scripture that God calls us to pray for — Jerusalem. In Psalm 122:6, God's people are exhorted to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

Indeed, throughout her history and even in modern times, moments of peace and rest have been few and far between. The reality is, Jerusalem will never have true, complete, and lasting peace until the hearts of the Jewish people turn to the Prince of Peace — Yeshua their Messiah, and He returns to establish His throne in Jerusalem, and His Kingdom here on earth. In the meantime, we are called to pray for her and bless her until her namesake, "Yerushalayim — the possession/foundation of peace", comes to pass in reality.

The Biblical definition of peace is not just about an absence of war, conflicts, or tensions, but "wholeness, fullness, and completeness". Peace comes from the word "shalom", which means being safe in mind, body, or estate.

Psalm 122 tells us to pray for Jerusalem's peace and protection, but there's more. It speaks of praying for the completeness and fullness of God for the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is God's chosen city from where He will manifest His *shalom*.

We need to pray for many to encounter Yeshua, the Prince of Peace, who will give them true peace and stability in their hearts amidst increasing darkness and conflicts, and for the fullness of God's will and purposes for Jerusalem.

#### **Prayer Pointers**

- Pray from Numbers 6:24–26 the Aaronic blessing upon Jerusalem: that God would bless her, keep her, make His face shine upon her, be gracious to her, lift up His countenance upon her, and give her peace.
- Pray for the manifestation of her namesake "Jerusalem" to be a reality and for the fullness of her destiny as God's chosen and holy city for His throne.

Psalm 122:6–9 gives us four aspects on Prayer Pointers

- "The peace of Jerusalem" (v6) Pray for protection from attacks and war, and for wholeness;
- "Peace within your walls" (v7) Pray for unity and harmony within the Jewish people and the people groups in Jerusalem; pray for peace within her walls in the midst of the turmoil within and without;
- "Peace be within you" (v8) Pray for God's supernatural peace upon the hearts of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and for divine encounters with Yeshua, the Prince of Peace;
- "I will seek your good" (v9) Pray for the fullness of God's will and purposes for Jerusalem, that she will be the city of the great King Yeshua.

# ISRAEL — Pray for God to prepare Israel as the holy seed (Isa. 6:13)

The term "holy seed" is relatively unknown to the Gentile Church but is really what the Lord desires to produce in His nation Israel. All of the Lord's work upon the nation of Israel throughout history has been for the purpose of producing the "holy seed" (Isa. 6:13) that will be worthy to advance the Kingdom with Him in partnership during the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:6).

In Isaiah 6:9–13, God prophesies about the refining that Israel will go through via the judgements that He will send upon her. These judgements will be sent in response to her rebellion towards Him. Through the judgements, He will produce humility and gratitude in her, so that she will be able to carry the glory that will be given to her in the Age-to-come. This is because God is zealous for Israel's fullness and glory that will be unsurpassed by any other nation.

While the prophecies of the judgements towards Israel are severe and seem devastating, they are not without redemption or hope. God likens Israel to a tree that keeps being cut down (through persecution, discipline, and judgement), but promises that a "stump" or remnant will remain (v13). Through God's refining, this remnant will ultimately emerge as that "holy seed" that will walk in humility and gratitude and be set apart for her call to govern nations with Yeshua her Messiah in the Millennial Kingdom.

Let us agree with the Lord's sovereign hand and work over His beloved nation unto her arising as the "holy seed"!

- Agree with God regarding His ordained preparation process for Israel to be made ready as the holy seed who will partner with Him to rule in the Millennial Kingdom.
- Pray for God to refine and purify her with His fire and judgements in accordance to His infinite wisdom (1 Thes. 5:23–24).
- Pray for His mercy in the midst of the judgements.
- Pray for God to produce and work humility and gratitude in the heart of Israel.
- Pray for Israel to come forth as the "holy seed" and light to the nations at the End of the Age that will be worthy to step into the fullness of her call in the Millennial Kingdom.

# ISRAEL — Pray for the Aliyah: for God to bring the Jewish people from the nations back into their own land

The Jewish people were exiled from their land with the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions (721 BC and 586 BC) and the destruction of Jerusalem by Emperor Titus in AD 70.

"Aliyah", which in Hebrew means to "go up", refers to the return of the Jewish diaspora from all over nations to the land of Israel. Since Israel's re-formation as a state in 1948, we have seen a progressive return of the Jewish people back to their homeland.

Some have returned with the help of strong support and assistance in their return. Others have returned because antisemitism or crises have forced them to flee from danger back to the promised land. An example is the recent Russia-Ukraine war where many Jewish people were forced to return to Israel.

Whether through assistance (organisations, leaders or individuals assisting their return) or through crises, God will bring His people back (Jer. 16:16).

God will keep His covenant to Abraham to give his descendants the land of Israel (Gen. 15:18–21). In His zeal for His name, God will bring the Israelites back to their homeland from the lands they have been scattered to (Isa. 11:11–16; Ezek. 36:24).

- Pray for God to stir the hearts of many Jewish people to return to the land.
- Pray for the directing of their hearts to His zeal for the land (2. Thes. 3:5).
- Pray for the hastening of the work of Aliyah even in the midst of tensions in Israel (Hab. 3:2).
- Pray for the raising up of people of authority and influence who will help facilitate the migration of the Jewish people back to Israel.
- Pray for the Jewish people to be strengthened with God's grace to return despite the difficulties they may face in making Aliyah (Zech. 4:7).

# ISRAEL — Pray for our nation to stand with Israel

In Genesis 12:3, God made a covenant with Abraham, and told him that He would bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel. Matthew 25:31–46 tells us that at the Second Coming of Jesus, Gentile nations will be judged by the Lord on whether we align with His heart concerning Israel and whether we stand with her.

With antisemitism on the rise as we head towards the End of the Age, it will be increasingly unpopular for nations to stand with Israel. There will likely come a time when standing with Israel will result in those nations being at economic or political disadvantages on the world stage.

Hence, there is a need for us to pray for our nation to stand with Israel. Furthermore, Scripture commands us to pray for the city (or nation) that we dwell in (Jer. 29:7).

Whichever nation we are from, pray that our nation would align with God's heart and stand with Israel regardless of external pressures and global circumstances. It is only when our nation is aligned with the Lord that she can fulfil the destiny that God has for her!

- Pray for God to put the fear of the Lord in the hearts of the governmental leaders of our nation with regard to the issue of Israel, that they will not give in to political pressures, but will fully align with God's heart with regards to our nation standing with Israel (Col. 4:12).
- Pray that God will turn the hearts of the kings like He turns rivers of waters (Prov. 21:1), directing them into full alignment with His heart and plans for Israel (Col. 4:12).
- Pray that God will release understanding upon the leaders and the people of our nation regarding the necessity to stand with Israel (Col. 1:9–10).
- Pray that He will show the leaders that those who bless Israel will be blessed, and those who curse Israel will be cursed.

# ISRAEL — Pray for the perfecting of the John 17 oneness between Messianic and Arab believers (Jn. 17:21–23)

In John 17, Jesus prays fervently for His people to be one in Him and with one another, the same way that He and the Father are One. While He prays this for all believers both Messianic and Gentile, the most striking manifestation of this oneness will be seen between Messianic and Arab believers, especially at the End of the Age.

Isaiah 19 prophesies about the fullness of oneness — when Israel, Egypt and Assyria will together bring forth God's glory to the nations in the Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 19:24–25). Oneness among Messianic and Arab believers will be the first fruit of this future oneness of their nations in God.

During the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, God divinely accelerated the John 17 oneness between Messianic and Arab believers through an online Passover gathering. As this work of God grows, it will astound the world as two groups with ancient grudges and hostility towards each other come together as one in the name of Yeshua.

Let us pray for the perfecting of this oneness as we race towards the Second Coming of Yeshua.

- Pray for Messianic and Arab believers to be one with God through intimacy in their relationship with Yeshua (Jn. 17:21–23).
- Pray that God will supernaturally impart the glory of Oneness of the Trinitarian God onto the Arab and Messianic Jewish believers (Jn. 17:21–23).
- Pray for the fullness of the breaking down of every wall of separation, and for the cleansing and removal of every ancient hostility through His blood (Eph. 2:14–15).
- Pray for God to direct both groups to release forgiveness and to bring healing and reconciliation between them.
- Pray that God will empower them with the greater love so that they will lay down their lives for one another, and not love their lives even unto death (Jn. 15:13).
- Pray for the mind of Christ to be upon both groups, that each group will, in humility, esteem the other better than themselves (Phil. 2:3–4).

# GOSHEN — Pray for Singapore to step into our call as a Goshen city (Jude 3)

"Goshen" was a region in ancient Egypt where Jacob and his family found refuge in a time of famine in the region of Canaan (Gen. 46 – 47). They eventually settled there, and it became the home of the children of Israel for 400 years. During their time there, they multiplied and grew exceedingly in numbers from 70 people to possibly a million or more (Gen. 47:27; Ex. 1:5, 12:37). God provided for them abundantly during their sojourn in Egypt.

Goshen was also the place that was protected supernaturally by God's hand during the plagues that were unleashed upon Egypt. God "made a difference" between His people and the Egyptians (Ex. 8:23, 9:5, 11:7) and Goshen did not experience God's judgements that the rest of Egypt did.

Thus, the Biblical concept of "Goshen" is synonymous with a refuge place that is set apart by God, blessed with an abundance of His provision for His Kingdom's purposes, and protected and preserved by Him from calamity.

The call to be a "Goshen" is one aspect of God's destiny for Singapore. From a purely natural perspective, there are no reasons why Singapore should have arisen to prosper as we have over our nation's history. In the secular world, we are a safe and stable place for trade, tourism, and economic activities. Geographically, we are also sheltered and free from major natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and extreme weather. In God's Kingdom, we are a relatively safe haven for the Gospel to flourish and for Christianity to be practised without much persecution.

However, we cannot take our current situation for granted as we approach the End of the Age. We are entering into the Isaiah 60:1–2 moment of increasing light and darkness and we have to contend for our nation to step into the fullness of our destiny.

- Pray for Singapore to be established as a Goshen for God's End-Time Kingdom purposes (2 Thes. 3:3).
- Pray that Singapore would step into the fullness of our destiny as a Goshen at the End of the Age for:
  - The region (Asia);
  - o Israel and the Jewish people;
  - o The End-of-the-Age crisis.
- Pray that God's hand of blessing will continue to prosper us in all areas for the purpose of advancing His Kingdom and Gospel in the region and nations (3 Jn. 1:2).

# GOSHEN — Pray for Singapore to be found qualified and worthy to arise as a Goshen city (2 Thes. 1:11)

For any region or city to arise as a Goshen or refuge place, there are certain "criteria" that need to be fulfilled. Firstly, the city has to be called by God. Secondly, there has to be a sufficient amount of prayer arising to God's throne from His people. Thirdly, there has to be a critical number of righteous people in the city.

Isaiah 19:18 reveals a biblical pattern where God does set apart cities for His Kingdom purposes. While the context for Isaiah 19 specifically pertains to the nation of Egypt and God's specific call for those five cities, there have been prophetic words spoken over Singapore regarding our call to be a Goshen city and a "Joseph nation" (i.e. a source of provision). However, unlike Egypt stepping into her fullness that will surely come to pass (as it is written in Scripture), whether Singapore will definitely step into the fullness of our call as a nation will depend especially on whether God's people respond and align with God and His ways.

#### **Sufficient Prayer**

In Joel 2:14, the Lord reveals His heart to "leave a blessing behind" if we as His people turn to Him with all our heart and respond in fasting and prayer amid His judgements. In light of the End-Time shakings that are upon us, this "perhaps of God" is crucial for us to grasp if we want Singapore to be that "pocket of mercy" in the midst of His shakings. Prayer and intercession that are aligned with His will and heart are important for a city to become a place of refuge. However, more than just a one-time response, God is looking for His people to respond in a sustained manner by living a lifestyle of prayer and living in wholeheartedness towards Him.

#### **Righteous People & Righteousness**

Just as how the Lord was willing to spare Sodom if sufficient righteous people were found in it (Gen. 18:16–32), so too is the Lord's heart for nations today. Should He have found a critical number, Sodom would have become a place of refuge as He rained down judgement upon the rest of the cities in the plain (Gen. 19:25). If He was willing to do so for Sodom, how much more for Singapore if we already are called to be a Goshen? God's Word says that "righteousness exalts a nation" (Prov. 14:34). One major aspect of being "righteous" is to stand with the nation of Israel (Matt. 25:37–40; Gen. 12:3). Let us contend for Singapore to stand righteous in His sight.

- Pray for God to stir the hearts of His people to fast, pray, seek His face, and align to His ways of righteousness (2 Thes. 3:1,5).
- Pray for the houses of prayer in Singapore to be strengthened and built up (Col. 1:11-12).
- Pray for righteousness to prevail in our nation in the hearts of people, in our laws, institutions, and society (Matt. 6:10).
- Pray for our nation to stand with Israel (1 Tim. 2:1–2).

# GOSHEN — Pray for Singapore to be established as a source of abundant financial provision for the Kingdom of God

One aspect of being called to be a Goshen and a Joseph nation is in the area of financial provision for the Kingdom of God. The word "Goshen", while likely of Egyptian origin, is closely related to the Hebrew "geshem", which means "rain". How apt this is! It was a place where God rained down His blessings on Jacob and His descendants. Scripture also mentions that Goshen was situated in the "best of the land" of Egypt (Gen. 47:11). In other words, it was neither impoverished nor a backwater town.

Similarly, Singapore has been abundantly blessed with material wealth and economic success. We have transitioned "from third world to first" in the span of a few decades and are now the fifth richest city in the world.<sup>2</sup> We have sizable national reserves and have a history of providing aid to nations around the world in times of famine, war, and natural disasters. Surely this is not by accident!

As we approach the End of the Age, God promises to shake all things that can be shaken, including the global economy (Hag. 2:6–8). In the midst of the shaking, God desires to channel finances towards His Kingdom purposes, through the hands of His people. If Singapore is called to be a Goshen, surely, He will abundantly bless us for that very cause.

However, when God blesses us, we need to always remember that: (1) God is the ultimate source of our prosperity, (2) He prospers His people and nations for the purposes of His Kingdom and the Gospel (Deut. 8:18), and (3) we cannot forget Him when we become prosperous (Deut. 8:11).

Even as we pray for our land to be established as a Goshen, we also need to pray for surrendered and holy hearts so that we will always be serving the right Master (Matt. 6:24) as we steward His provision!

- Pray for God to grant wisdom to the leaders of our nation to generate wealth and manage the financial assets of our nation.
- Pray for God to channel economic wealth towards the purposes of establishing His Kingdom and advancing the Gospel (Hag. 2:8).
- Pray for God to position His people in strategic places in the marketplace to receive the shift in finances into the Kingdom of God (2 Thes. 3:5).
- Pray for surrendered hearts and wisdom in God's people to steward financial resources well (Col. 1:9–12).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Strong's H1653

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://theindependent.sg/singapore-again-ranked-is-5th-richest-city-in-the-world-2nd-in-asia/#

# GOSHEN — Pray for Singapore to be established as a place of provision for physical sustenance (Hab. 3:2)

Another major role that Goshen played was to preserve the lives of Jacob and his family through the provision of food and water during serious famine across the lands of Egypt and Canaan (Gen. 50:20). In light of the End-Time sorrows where Jesus warned that famines would increase in various places (Matt. 24:7), Goshen cities would be places of provision of physical sustenance — food, water, and basic necessities — that are necessary for life.

In a nation that lacks natural resources, where more than 90% of our food is imported, and only 1% of land is set aside for agriculture, it would seem that Singapore is highly unsuited for this particular aspect of our call. Covid-19 has also underscored our vulnerability in this area as we were faced with disrupted trade and export bans from nations that supply us with food. Even with urban farming, it is a physical impossibility to grow sufficient food locally to feed our own population, much less provide for other nations in need!

While Singapore may have a national stockpile of food, as God's people, it is time we turn to God to contend for and expect the miraculous. Scripture is filled with examples of God's supernatural provision in times of need and famine. The Israelites had manna and quail for 40 years in the wilderness (Ex. 16:4–35), God provided for Elijah during a drought by ensuring that the widow's flour and oil would not be used up (1 Kings 17:13–16), Jesus fed the 5000 with just five loaves and two fish (Matt. 14:13–21) — the list goes on.

In the face of increasing uncertainty in the area of food supply and our call as a Goshen, let us lean into our supernatural God with faith for this. Jesus promised us that those who believe in Him would do even greater works than Him (Jn. 14:12), and this certainly includes supernatural multiplication of food.

May it be so that we witness God's power and provision made perfect in our weakness as a nation!

- Pray for God to establish us as a Goshen to provide food, water, and basic necessities in times of famine and need (Jude 3).
- Pray for God to supernaturally multiply food and water resources in Singapore as He has done for His people before (Hab. 3:2).
- Pray for God to lead, direct and give wisdom to His people in Singapore in this area of food security and a place of provision (Col 1:9–12).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.sfa.gov.sg/docs/default-source/publication/sg-food-statistics/singapore-food-statistics-2021.pdf

# GOSHEN — Pray for the protection and preservation of Singapore to be a place of refuge

Due to our geographical location, Singapore is largely unaffected by natural disasters that frequently plague many other nations. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, tornadoes, and typhoons can be considered non-existent for us, and our location near the equator also protects us from extreme temperatures.

Our present high standard of living and level of medical care have also almost eradicated many diseases that used to be rampant in our early years as a nation and increased life expectancy greatly.

However, we cannot take this for granted! In Matthew 24:7, Jesus prophesied of "pestilence" and "earthquakes" increasing in various places as we approach the End of the Age. Already, we are seeing this come to pass globally and also locally. Singapore was certainly not immune to Covid-19 and diseases such as dengue and tuberculosis are on the rise here. Furthermore, while all we have ever experienced have been low-level earth tremors, 1 the recent earthquake that rattled the north-eastern United States 2— of all places— serves as a reminder that our God is in heaven, and He can do whatever He pleases (Ps. 115:3)!

Indeed, Scripture recounts how God preserved Israel in the land of Goshen from the plagues that decimated the agriculture and economy of Egypt. God said that He would "set apart the land of Goshen" (Ex. 8:22). He protected them from the plague of flies (Ex. 8:20–32), disease upon the livestock (Ex. 9:1–7), the plague of boils (Ex. 9:8–12), hail mingled with fire (Ex. 9:18–26), the plague of darkness (Ex. 10:21–23), and the death of the firstborn (Ex. 11:4–7).

In light of this, and our nation's call to be a Goshen, let us contend for God's hand to protect and preserve us so that we can be that place of refuge for many as the End-Time sorrows intensify.

- Pray for God to continue to protect us from earthquakes, extreme weather, and other natural disasters.
- Pray for God to protect our nation from future epidemics and new emerging diseases.
- Pray for God to manifest His healing power through His people in this nation, that every disease will be healed in the Name of Jesus (Hab. 3:2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.nlb.gov.sg/main/article-detail?cmsuuid=faae6249-89e7-4903-af54-809278f37345#

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/live-blog/earthquake-rattles-buildings-nerves-east-coast-rcna146578