



## **PAHANG STATE SERMON TEXT**

**SERIES 12 /2024**

## NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

20 DECEMBER 2024 | 18 JAMADILAKHIR 1446H

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ  
فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be forgiven by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Let us express our gratitude to Allah Azza Wajalla on this blessed Friday, who has allowed us to arrive at the threshold of the new year 2025. Every new day, new week, new month and new year that comes is a blessing and opportunity given by Allah the Almighty for us to continue breathing. As His grateful servants, this blessing should be used to improve oneself, increase piety and improve all practices. The new year is not just a change of numbers, but a time to reflect on the past and make plans for the future. Allah the Almighty says in surah al-Hasyr verse 18:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَانْتَظِرْ نَفْسَ مَا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ١٨

**Which means:** “O believers! Be mindful of Allah and let every soul look to what deeds it has sent forth for tomorrow. And fear Allah, for certainly Allah is All-Aware of what you do.”

This verse teaches us to reflect and make plans for the future, namely for provisions for the afterlife. Let us ask ourselves, “What have we achieved throughout 2024?”. Have we drawn closer to Allah through sincere worship, maintaining relationships and doing good to fellow human beings? If there are still shortcomings, this is the time to change and start a new and better chapter.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Scholars basically differ in their opinions regarding the ruling on celebrating the Christian New Year. There are some scholars who forbid its celebration because of its connection to the history of January 1<sup>st</sup>, which coincides with 'Janus', the name of the God of Beginnings. At that time, the Roman people celebrated by making sacrifices, exchanging gifts and decorating their homes. They also held wild parties to celebrate January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Some other scholars are of the opinion that the Gregorian calendar has become a generally accepted system and is not related to the imitation of other religions. Although this Gregorian calendar was not created by Muslims, it has been considered the world's calendar system. Therefore, it is necessary to welcome the new year and express happy new year wishes to both Muslims and non-Muslims. If there is a New Year celebration, it is

permissible to attend as long as the celebration does not conflict with Islamic law.

It is also a tradition that every time the new Christian and Islamic year approaches, most individuals set a new resolution to be achieved in that year. There is nothing wrong with making resolutions for the new year in the context of Islam. However, new resolutions should be broadened to include things that are good for this world and the hereafter. Strive to increase piety and acts of worship, both obligatory and sunnah, and to be consistent (*istiqamah*) in doing righteous deeds at all times in this new year.

Moreover, the celebration of the new year 2025 CE (Common Era) coincides with the first day of the month of Rejab 1446 Hijrah, corresponding to the beginning of January 2025. The month of Rejab is one of the sacred months and the rewards are doubled for Muslims who do good deeds during this month. Let us take this opportunity with the spirit of the new year and the blessings of the month of Rejab to increase our practices in conjunction with this new year.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

In the excitement of celebrating the new year, let us not forget the plight of Muslims who are being oppressed and wronged, such as those in Palestine and Lebanon. Every day women, the elderly, children and babies are martyred. They also suffer from lack of food, clean water, medicine and shelter. Therefore, as a symbol of togetherness, let us call for the celebration of the new year 2025 to be filled with awareness of the struggle of the Palestinian community, in addition to carrying out beneficial activities such

as religious talks, forums, scientific discussions, prayers for the well-being of Muslims, praying for blessings or any other knowledge gathering function. Stay away from any form of extreme entertainment because it is prohibited by Sharia law.

To all parents, monitor your children on New Year's Eve. Prevent our children from getting caught up in promiscuity, free socialising, illegal motor racing, and taking prohibited substances under the pretext of celebrating the New Year. Allah the Almighty gave warning in Surah Ghafir verse 75:

ذَلِكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَفْرَحُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَبِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَمْرَحُونَ ٧٥

**Which means:** *“They will be told: “This punishment is for being prideful on earth unjustly and for acting arrogantly.”*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

From today's sermon, we can conclude that:

**Firstly**, the obligation to celebrate the New Year must not involve things that are forbidden such as excessive entertainment, immorality, illegal street motorcycle racings, *khalwat* (close proximity) and taking prohibited substances.

**Second**, cultivate the resolve to seek Allah's pleasure in matters of the world and hereafter.

**Third**, the celebration of the new year should be filled with activities or programs that are beneficial to society, such as the plight of the Palestinian struggle, Islamic history, gatherings to seek knowledge, prayers of need (solatul hajat), supplication for safety and happiness etc.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
أ  
ب ب ب  
وَالْعَصْرَ ١ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ٢ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصَرُوا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَّصَرُوا  
بِالصَّبْرِ ٣

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.