

## The New Year's Lesson

Manufacturers and merchants periodically take inventory. They have inventory sheets upon which they write the stock number, the description of the item and the quantity of that item.

The inventory aids them in knowing what materials they need to order, what commodity in their line is in the most demand, what commodity they can discontinue.

Think back over the year that is past, and write down all the outstanding events in their lives that took place during the year.

Write down things that were started or continued in the last year that meant a closer fellowship with the Lord.

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The Lord had commanded the Children of Israel that once a year there should be a Day of Atonement. (Leviticus 16:34, 23:23-32)

The people were to gather together at the tabernacle, bringing their sacrifices, remembering their sins and waiting upon the priests to offer the sacrifices and to ask God to forgive their sins.

As the people gathered each year, no doubt the year that just ended—with its joys and sorrows, its triumphs and defeats, its blessings and testings—flashed before their minds.

The Lord commanded the people that they must afflict their souls as they gathered on the Day of Atonement—they must bring themselves low before the Lord.

If any person did not humble himself before the Lord, repenting of his sins, he would be “cut off” from among his people.

There was to be, therefore, a set time once a year when each individual person stood soberly before God. An example of these times is given in I Samuel 1 and 2.

### 1. THE \_\_\_\_\_ LOOK.

- A. Elkanah brought his \_\_\_\_\_ to Shiloh once a year in obedience to God's law.
- B. This was a time of Israelite \_\_\_\_\_ when it was not popular to keep God's Word.
- C. Many people had \_\_\_\_\_ with surrounding heathen nations, and had adopted false religions.
- D. This man and his family, however, were \_\_\_\_\_ to God even though they were in the minority.

1) Hannah's \_\_\_\_\_ look caused her to be in bitterness of soul and to weep.

2) We need to take a \_\_\_\_\_ look.

3) We need to stand \_\_\_\_\_ before God and to look at our lives.

4) We need to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and to look at the sins that might be there Lord?

## 2. THE \_\_\_\_\_ LOOK.

A. Hannah made \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.

B. Her second request was for the \_\_\_\_\_ for whom she longed.

1) The Bible \_\_\_\_\_ God's people to tell God whatever desires they have.

2) Hannah made a \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.

3) Hannah could not \_\_\_\_\_ her vow to the Lord. She told her vow to her husband.

4) We should make it \_\_\_\_\_ to forget the promises that we make to the Lord.

## 3. FUTURE \_\_\_\_\_ LOOKS.

A. Hannah \_\_\_\_\_ her vow.

1) The next \_\_\_\_\_ that Hannah went to Shiloh with her husband, she gave Samuel to the service of the Lord.

2) Do we fully expect that at the close of this year the \_\_\_\_\_ that we made at the start of the New Year will be remembered as fulfilled vows?

We need to keep our vows. Our vows to the Lord should be faced time and time again. If they have been broken, ask forgiveness and remake them. If they have been kept, renew them. The Lord will bless us!

Examine the inventory sheets again. What promises to God need to be remade? What promises were kept and now need to be renewed?

What new promises should be made to God? MEMORY VERSE: Numbers 30:2, "If a man vow a vow unto the LORD,...he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."