

## 1-7-2026 – 6 Reasons Series

### **1-7-2026 - 6 Reasons to Embrace the New Year. Week 2**

**New Year.** Some hate it. Pressure/Resolutions. Just another day.... But “newness” is a Christian theme. Hallmark. Biblically based idea.

#### **1. New Beginnings are God Ordained.**

a. **God created time & seasons.** New months. New days.

Gen. 1, day 4 –created lights in sky to mark seasons, days, & years.

b. **God created Fresh starts.**

**Lamentations 3:22-23** - "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

c. **Some events are so important, they are New Beginnings. 1<sup>st</sup> mo.**

d. **Exodus 12 – story of Passover.**

i. **Ex. 12:1-2** – “While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the Lord gave the following instructions to Moses & Aaron: ‘From now on, this month will be the 1st month of the year for you.’”

ii. **10<sup>th</sup> day** – choose lamb. **14<sup>th</sup> day** at twilight – sacrifice.

e. Gregorian Calendar – January - 1<sup>st</sup> month; formalized by the Romans.

f. Biblical/Hebrew Calendar: **God ordained Passover** (Nisan/Aviv) as the **1<sup>st</sup> month of the year** for - a significant religious starting point.

**Ex. 12:14** - “This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the Lord. This is a law for all time.”

g. New Years – Time to remember what God has done. **Reflect** and **Celebrate** what God has done . . . what He’s brought you through.

## 2. New Creation.

- a. Just as Passover was **new start**, faith in Jesus is a **new beginning**.  
**Cor. 5:17** - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
- b. Passover celebrates the day **Israel was saved**. And coming to know Jesus as the Son of God who died for us - believing in His grace and forgiveness – that is our new start. **We are saved**.
- c. **Life should change** when we know Heaven is our destiny . . . when we see how much we are loved . . . when we are aware of how much has been forgiven and sacrificed by Jesus's death in our place.
- d. As **new creation in Jesus**, our lives should be different than ever lived

## 3. New Life. **If we're a new person (creation), we live a new life.**

- a. Christians are called to be **baptized after our Salvation** experience.
- b. Baptism is symbolic of a new life. New start. Born again.
- c. **Romans 6:4** - "Therefore we are *buried with him by baptism* into death: that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even *so we also should walk in newness of life*."
- d. Baptism marks a change in us!
  - i. If you live life the same as if Jesus wasn't your Savior, it's time to question the authenticity of your profession of faith.

## 4. New Heart.

- a. God can give us a **new heart** so we live differently.
- b. Prophet Ezekiel explains God's plan for restoration of Israel:
  - i. **Ezekiel 36:24-28** – "I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries & bring you back into your own land.  
<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will

cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart & put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. <sup>28</sup> Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God."

- c. God knows we can't change unless He gives us a new heart.
  - i. [Luke 6:45](#) – "What you say flows from what is in your heart."
  - ii. Likewise, how we live – what we do – is b/c of the heart.
    - [Prov. 4:23](#) – "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."
  - iii. **The heart is the core of a person; it is our motivation.**
- d. [Jer. 17:10](#) - "I the LORD search the heart & test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."
  - i. We don't fully commit to the Savior until we give Him our hearts.

## 5. New Self.

- a. Realize – even when we commit, we have to reaffirm it daily.
- b. [Col. 3:10](#) - "clothe yourselves with the new self which is being remoulded into full knowledge so as to become like Him who created it."
- c. Every day we put on clothes . . . every day we have to be **Deliberate**.
- d. Embrace a new identity in Jesus – you aren't who you used to be.
- e. Embrace new practices / habits & seek to reflect our Father. . . the Father who constantly teaches us more about Him. **Born Again.**

## 6. New Mission.

- a. Don't get stuck living in the past . . . past success & glory.

- b. 1 Kings 18 tells of Elijah's success – a miracle when he built an altar, had water poured over it 3x – and called on God to send fire so the people would know that God exists, and Baal was not a God.
  - i. But he then became afraid of Jezebel . . . sat down under a broom tree and was giving up. Felt alone.
  - ii. 1 Kings 19 – God gives him a new mission. You aren't done.
- c. We are never too old to do great things for God.
  - i. Moses was 80 when he returned to Pharaoh; Aaron was 83.
  - ii. Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born. That's a new mission!
- d. Allow God to give you **new goals**, new dreams, new purpose. A new mission. Be open to something new.
  - i. **God is in the business of NEW.**
  - ii. **Isaiah 43:19**: - "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert".
  - iii. **Revelation 21:5** - "Then he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new'"
    - **So Embrace the new. Embrace the New Year.**