

It's a New Year

A Time for *Reflection* and *Renewal*

A. *Reminding* ourselves of God's Sovereignty

...Then Daniel *blessed* the God of heaven;
Daniel answered and said,

"Let the name of God be *blessed* forever and ever,
for *wisdom* and *power* belong to *Him*.

"It is *He* who changes the *times* and the *epochs*;
He removes kings and establishes kings;

He gives wisdom to wise men
and *knowledge* to men of *understanding*.

"It is *He* who reveals the profound and hidden things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with *Him*.
(Daniel 2:19b-22)

"The LORD *kills* and *makes alive*;
He brings down to Sheol and *raises up*.

"The LORD makes *poor* and *rich*;
He brings low, *He also exalts*.

"*He raises* the poor from the dust,
He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make
them *sit* with nobles, and *inherit* a *seat* of honor;

for the *pillars* of the earth are the LORD'S,
and *He set* the world on them.
(I Samuel 2:6-8)

The LORD has *established* His throne in the heavens,
and His sovereignty rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)

B. *Recognizing* the Signs of our Times

1. *Societal Decay* and Decadence

But realize this, that in the *last days difficult times* will come.

For men will be lovers of *self*, lovers of *money*, *boastful*,
arrogant, *revilers*, *disobedient* to *parents*, *ungrateful*,

unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,..
(II Timothy 3:1-4)

2. False Messiahs, Wars, Famines, Earthquakes, Persecution

As **He (Jesus)** was sitting on the **Mount of Olives**, the **disciples** came to **Him privately**, saying, “**Tell us, when** will these things happen, and **what will be** the **sign** of **Your coming**, and of the **end of the age?**”

And **Jesus** answered and said to **them**, “See to it that no one **misleads you**. For **many** will come in **My name**, saying, ‘I am the **Messiah**,’ and will **mislead many**.

You will be hearing of **wars** and **rumors of wars**. See that you are not frightened, for *those things must* take place, but *that* is not yet the end. For **nation will rise against nation**, and **kingdom against kingdom**, and in **various places** there will be **famines** and **earthquakes**.

Then they will **deliver you** to **tribulation**, and will **kill you**, and **you will be hated** by **all nations** because of **My name**
(Matthew 24:3-7, 9)

3. Israel’s Regathering in the Land

Say to them, ‘Thus says the **Lord GOD**, “Behold, I will **take** the **sons of Israel** from among the **nations** where they have gone, and I will **gather them** from **every side** and **bring them** into their **own land**;

and I will make them **one nation** in the land, on the mountains of **Israel**; and **one king** will be **king** for **all** of them; and they will **no longer** be **two nations** and **no longer** be divided into **two kingdoms**. (Ezekiel 37:21-22)

“Now learn the **parable** from the **fig tree**: when its **branch** has already become **tender** and puts forth its **leaves**, **you know** that **summer** is near; so, you too, when you **see all these things**, recognize that **He is near**, *right* at the **door**. (Matthew 24:32-33)

C. Renewing our Resolve

1. Our *Resolve* to **Proclaim** the Truth

- The **truth** of the **gospel message** (Romans 1:16-17)
- The **truths** and **principles** of **God’s word** (II Timothy 3:16-17)
- “**Speaking the truth in love**” (Ephesians 4:15)

For I am **not ashamed** of the **gospel**, for it is the **power of God** for **salvation** to **everyone** who **believes**, to the **Jew first** and also to the **Greek**.

For **in it the righteousness of God** is **revealed** from **faith to faith**; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
(Romans 1:16-17)

I solemnly **charge you** in the **presence of God** and of **Jesus the Messiah**, who is to **judge** the **living** and the **dead**,..

preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort**, with **great patience** and **instruction**.

For the **time will come** when **they** will **not endure sound doctrine**; but *wanting* to have their **ears tickled**, they will accumulate for themselves **teachers** in accordance to their **own desires**, and will **turn away** their **ears from the truth** and will turn aside to **myths**.

But **you**, be **sober** in all things, **endure hardship**, do the **work of an evangelist**, **fulfill** your ministry.
(II Timothy 4:1-5)

2. Our **Resolve** to be **Faithful** in our **Service**

"If it is **disagreeable** in your sight to **serve the LORD**, **choose** for yourselves today **whom** you will **serve**..

but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
(Joshua 24:15a,c)

Only **fear the LORD** and **serve Him** in **truth** with **all your heart**; for consider what **great things** He has **done for you**. (I Samuel 12:24)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **steadfast, immovable**, **always abounding** in the **work of the Lord**, knowing that your **toil** is **not in vain in the Lord**.
(I Corinthians 15:58)

3. Our **Resolve** to be **Fruitful** in our **Spiritual Walk**

For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to **pray** for you and to ask that you may be **filled** with the **knowledge** of **His will** in all **spiritual wisdom** and **understanding**,

so that you will **walk** in a manner **worthy** of the **Lord**, to **please Him** in all respects, **bearing fruit** in every **good work** and **increasing** in the **knowledge of God**;.. (Colossians 1:9-10)

And this I pray, that your **love may abound**
still more and more in **real knowledge** and **all discernment**,

so that you may **approve** the things that are **excellent**,
in order to be **sincere** and **blameless** until the **day of Messiah**;
having been **filled** with the **fruit of righteousness**
which *comes* through **Jesus the Messiah**,
to the **glory** and **praise of God**. (Philippians 1:9-11)

4. Our **Resolve** to maintain **Hope** in our **Hearts**

Why are you in **despair**, O my **soul**?

And **why** have you become **disturbed within me**?
Hope in **God**, for I shall yet **praise Him**,
the **help** of my **countenance** and my **God**. (Psalm 42:11)

For the **grace of God** has **appeared**, bringing **salvation** to **all men**,
instructing us to deny **ungodliness** and **worldly desires**
and to live **sensibly, righteously** and **godly** in the **present age**,

looking for the **blessed hope** and the **appearing** of the
glory of our great God and **Savior, Messiah Jesus**, (Titus 2:11-13)

Therefore, **prepare** your **minds** for action,
keep **sober in spirit**, **fix your hope** *completely*
on the **grace** to be brought to **you**
at the **revelation of Jesus the Messiah**. (I Peter 1:13)

5. Our **Resolve** to be **Thankful** in **all things**

Know that the **LORD Himself is God**;
It is **He who has made us**, and **not we ourselves**;
We are His people and the **sheep of His pasture**.

Enter **His gates** with **thanksgiving** and **His courts** with **praise**
Give thanks to Him, **bless His name**.

For the **LORD is good**; **His lovingkindness** is **everlasting**
and **His faithfulness** to all generations
(Psalm 100:3-5)

I will **give thanks** to the **LORD** with **all my heart**;
I will **tell** of all **your wonders** (Psalm 9:1)

Rejoice always; **pray** without ceasing; in **everything give thanks**;
for this is **God's will** for you in **Messiah Yeshua**. (I Thess. 5:18)

Closing Comments