It's a **New Year**
A **Time** for ***Reflection*** and ***Renewal***

A. ***Reminding*** ourselves that **God** is **Sovereign** over **all** things

…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** and **Persecution**

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)

It will come about in **that day** that I will make **Jerusalem**
a **heavy stone** for ***all*** the **peoples**;.. And ***all*** the **nations** of the earth
will be **gathered against it**. (Zechariah 12:3)

'Alas! for **that day** is **great**, there is **none like it**;
and it is the **time** of **Jacob's distress**, but **he** will be ***saved*** from it. (Jeremiah 30:7)

C. ***Renewing*** our ***Resolve*** to **"Fulfill"** our **Ministry**

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