



## *New Beginnings for a New Year*

**Lessons from the way God dealt with His people on New Year's Day from the OT.**



# *Time of Resolutions and New Commitments*

## **4 Tips for Success!**

1. Make them *realistic!*
2. Be *specific.*
3. Keep *written records.*
4. Don't start with the hardest, begin with *small steps.*



## *As we Reflect on New Beginnings . .*

- Three O.T. Passages . .
  - Ex 12
  - Ex 40
  - Ezra 10

# *Foreign Missionary Report*



**Dr. Phillip Puterbaugh**

**5:00 PM Tonight**

HEAVEN

*Our*  
HOME

**HEAVEN AND  
WHY I WANT TO  
GO THERE!**

**Sunday Jan 5  
10:30 am**



# Welcome from the Kirkland church family!

“Born to belong to each other”



September 8, 2013



*Not just a new year  
but a whole new calendar!*

Ex 12:1-3 “Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 ” **This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.**”



*God starts a new way to tell time..*

- Beginning of a birth of a new nation as a covenant people.
  - Nissan --month one, year one
  - Institutes Passover Feast
  - This great nation will receive law & a system of worship.
  - First and only real *Theocracy*.





## *New Year is a Good Time to “Take Stock and Evaluate”*

- The Passover served as a *memorial* observance of their national birth (Ex 12).
- It was a *time of remembrance and well wishes!*
- The Jewish New Year is a time of *introspection*, looking back at the past year and planning for the new!



*Many “New Year’s Resolutions”  
only last a few weeks*

- **Why?**

- “Idealized wishes.”
- “*A goal without a plan is just a wish.*”
- Make *too many* of them and you will lack focus.

- **What is the Key?**

- To remember the **source of the problem** not just the symptoms.



## *2 Peter 1:5-6*

“Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith, supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, **self-control, and in your self-control**, perseverance . . .”



## *Look for Heaven's Help*

- Lose weight, have a better marriage, be more spiritual!
- Phil 4:13 “I can do all things through **Christ** who strengthens me.”
- Also: Eph 3:20-21



## *Exodus 19:7-8;10*

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, . . . And all the people answered together and said,

*"All that the LORD has spoken we will do!"*

- Notice the **commitment**  
**BEFORE** the law was given!



## *Exodus 19:10*

- Ex 19:10 "Go to the people and tell them to consecrate themselves and let them wash their garments; and not to come near a woman."
- Notice the **focus and discipline and seriousness.**





## *Time to Renew Worship*

- Ex 40:1-3 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 " On the **first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.**

*One Year Anniversary*



# *The Presence of God!*





## *Began worship on the first day of the first month!*

- Ex 40:34 “Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the **glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**”
- God dwelt in the midst of His people and they could meet Him there!
- When we worship God is the audience!



*Best way to renew worship is to focus on God's presence!*

OT --Prepare for worship the day before!

- OT had to cleanse themselves and prepare to meet God.
- Ps 122:1 *“I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord.”*



*Best way to renew worship is to focus on God's presence!*

- Real joy in praising God and communing with the Lord.
  - Wondered: What would we do if God appeared?



## *A Time to Put Away Sin!*

- Ezra 10:17 “**They finished investigating all the men who had married foreign wives by the first day of the first month.”**
- **Serious SIN!** Put the righteous remnant and identity of the Davidic line at risk!





## *Ezra 9:10-14*

- 10b For we have forsaken Your commandments, which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, **“Do not give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters to your sons,,**
- 14 Shall we again break Your commandments and **intermarry with the peoples who commit abominations?**



## *Ezra 10:2-4*

- 3 "So now let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.
- 4 "Arise! For this matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; be courageous and act."



*Good time to stop doing things we know are wrong or harmful*

- Sins of **commission**:
  - Sinful habit...burdening your conscience?
- Sins of **omission**– James 4:17
  - *Neglecting Bible study, Bible classes, services, prayer time?*
  - *Sharing of your faith!*
  - *Allowing your zeal to wax cold?*



## *Character Weakness?*

- Lack of patience.
- Tendency to gossip.
- Hold a grudge.
- Overspend or overindulge?
- See Rom 6:1



*This “new year”—put on  
the “new man.” Col 3:2ff*

- 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.** 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- 9 Lay aside the old self with its evil practices,** 10 **and put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him**