

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

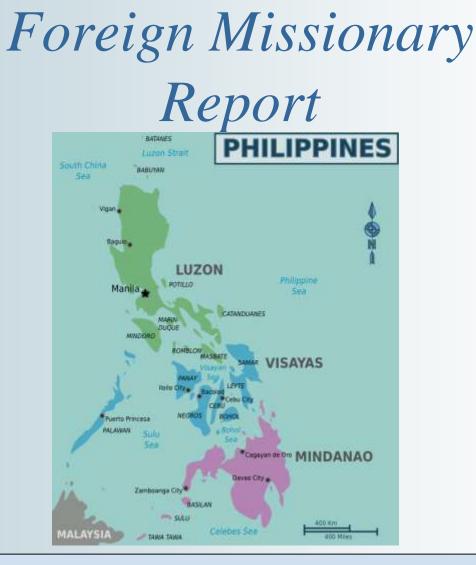


Make them *realistic*!
 Be *specific*.
 Keep *written records*.
 Don't start with the hardest, begin with *small steps*.



As we Reflect on New Beginnings . .

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

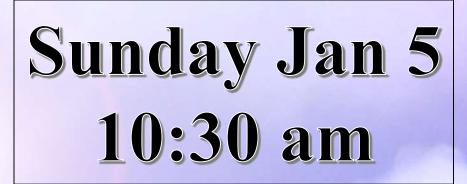


Dr. Phillip Puterbaugh

5:00 PM Tonight



HEAVEN AND WHY I WANT TO GO THERE!



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 " <u>This month shall be</u> <u>the beginning of months for</u> <u>you; it is to be the first month</u> <u>of the year to you</u>."



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, **selfcontrol, and in your <u>self-control</u>**, 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
 <u>BEFORE</u> the law was given!



Exodus 19:10

Ex 19:10 "Go to the people and tell them to <u>consecrate</u> <u>themselves</u> and let them <u>wash</u> <u>their garments</u>; and <u>not to come</u> <u>near a woman</u>."

Notice the focus and discipline and seriousness.



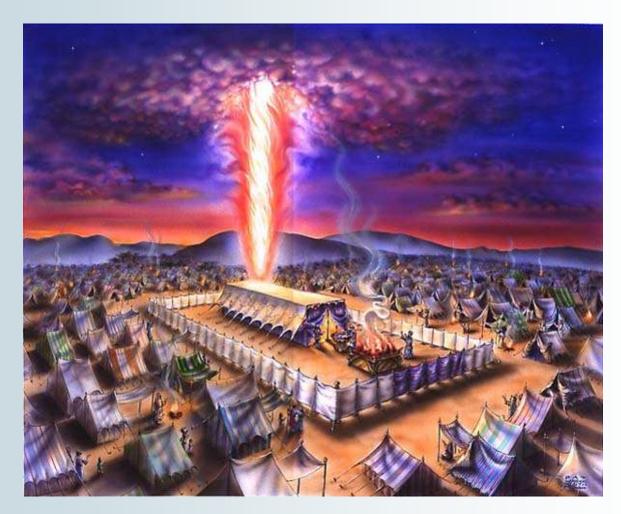
Time to Renew Worship

• 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,
 <u>"Do not give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters to your sons,"</u>

 14 Shall we again break Your commandments and intermarry with the peoples who commit abominations?



Ezra 10:2-4

- 3 "So now let us <u>make a covenant</u> 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 "<u>Arise</u>! For this matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; <u>be courageous and act.</u>"



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 <u>Set your mind on the things</u> <u>above</u>, 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