

The Spiritual Significance of the New Year

Scripture Reading: Exo. 12:1-2; Num. 10:10; Lev. 6:9; 1 John 1:5; John 8:12

I. Days, Months, and Years Being a New Beginning

- A. God has ordained days, months, and years for the existence and growth of living things.
- B. If we experience a failure during one year, there will be another year.
- C. God gives us opportunities not only year after year and month after month but also day after day.
- D. All these outward matters speak of spiritual matters. God is our sun and our light-bearer. We depend on Him for our existence and for our growth in life.

II. Keeping a Spiritual New Year before God

- A. In our spiritual life we have spiritual days, months, and years.
 - 1. God charged the children of Israel to keep the Passover before leaving Egypt. This was a great beginning-Exo. 12:1-2; 34:18.
 - 2. The book of Numbers also speaks of “the beginnings of your months,” which refers to times set according to new moons(10:10, 28:11). The beginning of a month is a lesser beginning.
 - 3. God also required the Israelites to worship daily in the morning and at night-Lev. 6:9, 12. The beginning of a day is a small beginning.
- B. The days, months, and years of the Israelites were full of spiritual significance. When we are saved, we experience the reality of the Passover, which is a great and new beginning. Therefore, God desires that we have a new beginning every month and even a new beginning everyday.
- C. At the end of the year and at the beginning of a new year, we go before God to review and settle their condition before God from the passing year.
 - 1. At the end of the year, we need not only to balance our outward account but also our inward account, not only to enter into a new calendar year but also into a new spiritual year.
 - 2. We need to bring our spiritual condition before the Lord in order to settle accounts and have a proper clearance so that we can have a new beginning.

III. Two Important Principles Concerning Days, Months, and Years

A. In regard to the first principle, days, months, and years are related to light-bearers, that is, to the sun and the moon.

1. Both changing of a day and the changing of a year is related with the sun.
2. The changing of a month is related to the revolution of the moon around the earth.
3. Every change in our spiritual life experience involves light, whether it is a great change like a new year, a lesser change like a month, or a small change like a day.
4. If a person does not encounter God in Christ, there will be no spiritual change, either great or small. When we encounter God in Christ as the Spirit coming to us as light, we will have a new beginning-1 John 1:5; John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46.

B. The second principle of days, months, and years is death and resurrection.

1. When we encounter God's shining concerning our shortages, failures, weaknesses, and mistakes, we confess them before God and receive His forgiveness and cleansing. Then our past is terminated and there is a new beginning for our future.
2. The ending and beginning of days, months, and years signify death and resurrection.
3. The course of our spiritual journey involves a continuous experience of death and resurrection-Phil. 3:13.

IV. God's work in the universe is a work of renewing. He wants to end the old things and begin something new. Therefore, a proper celebration of a new year is to have a new spiritual beginning. We need to go before God and touch His presence. When we touch God and meet God, we will enter into a new year and have a new beginning-2 Cor. 5:17.

Further Readings:

God's Need and God's Goal, Witness Lee