

All Things New (3)

Joseph Carty / General

Holidays / New Year / Revelation 21:5

People seem to be captivated by the concept of a new start. Perhaps it is the regrets that haunt us over a lifetime. Or perhaps it is the excitement of embarking on a new journey. Either way, New Years seems to have a lot fans. But God is also in the business of new starts as we will see in this sermon.

I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

- Everyone loves New Years
 - Why?

- It brings hope.
 - hope for bright future
 - hope to overcome
 - better choices
 - new journey
- God is also
 - a God of Newness

God is Continually New

New Mercies Every Morning

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

- Elsewhere bible says

- God does not change.
- Here He is NEW every day.
- New how?
 - new in grace
 - new measure of mercy!
 - fresh supply of redemption
- God is continually
 - trying new methods
 - to reach our hearts!

God does a New Thing

Isaiah 43:18-19 ESV

“Remember not the former things,

nor consider the things of old.

Behold, I am doing a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

- What new thing?
 - God's new approach
 - to woo us
 - with His love!
- God constantly
 - doing new things.
 - Tells us His plans.

God Prophecies New Things

Isaiah 42:8-9 ESV

I am the LORD; that is my name;

my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to carved idols.

Behold, the former things have come to pass,

and new things I now declare;

before they spring forth

I tell you of them.”

- God does not
 - want us to be surprised
 - with new approach.
- Gives us prophecy
 - to let us know
 - what he will do next.
- Speaking of Prophecy
 - about new approaches
 - Jeremiah foreshadows
 - New dispensation of grace.

New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31 *ESV*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

- Jesus describes more

- clearly the New Covenant:

Luke 22:20 ESV

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

- What made the
 - new covenant new?
- The fact that his grace
 - not focused on Israel
 - focused on all.

Parables about Newness

Parable of the Scribe

Matthew 13:52 ESV

And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

- Scribe -
 - diligent Bible Teacher

- Study deeply
 - bring out new truths
 - along with old waymarks
- Each of us
 - need to be scribe
 - digging for new treasure
- Along the same vein
 - parable:

New Wine in New Wineskins

Mark 2:22 ESV

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

- Jesus talking symbolically.
- New Wine =
 - New Testament Gospel

- Old Wine =
 - Old Covenant Teachings
- For people to
 - receive new truth
 - must let go
 - of old dogmas.

The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 5 (Burst the Bottles)

Jesus' revolutionary teachings could not be reconciled with the reactionary dogmas of Judaism. Any effort to contain Christianity within the dead forms of Judaism, that is, to unite the two by forcing Christianity to take the shape of, and be reconciled to it, would prove vain. Jesus taught that the principles of the kingdom of heaven applied to the souls of men would lead to the outworking of those principles in lives of active, radiant religion.

- Speaking of
 - Letting Go of Old
 - Receiving New
- Bible talks a lot about:

New Us

A teacher of a young adult class asked the students to write their answers to the question, “What do you want most out of life?” Nine out of ten answered, “Happiness.”

Psychology Today magazine took a poll of 40,000 readers. Eighty-three percent responded that their main question was, “How can I find real happiness?”

- People are desperate
 - for hope
 - happiness
- Why does it
 - seem to elude most?

God Gives Us a New Heart

Ezekiel 36:26 ESV

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

- Amazing promise
 - of transformation.

- Many say,
 - no point in resolutions.

- Jesus teaches,
 - we can
 - change
 - transform
 - heart
 - mind
 - spirit

- In fact,
 - bible says,
 - We can become
 - completely New!

We Can Be a New Creation

Galatians 6:15 ESV

For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- This is the power
 - of the gospel!

- Some may feel.
 - they can't change.
 - can't follow through

- Jesus says categorically
 - not just possible
 - it is sure result
 - of gospel faith.

- Paul repeatedly says:

Put Off Old Self, Put On New Self

Ephesians 4:22–24 ESV

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

- Put off old self.
- Put on new self.

- Paul says
 - renewed in
 - spirit
 - mind.

- New Year
- New Slate
- New You
 - Actually biblical!

- Paul says again:

Colossians 3:9-10 ESV

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

- We are made new.
 - what are we like now?
- Made new
 - into Creator's image!!!
 - made like God!
- The power of redemption!
- That is the purpose
 - of Christ's 2nd Coming.
- Speaking of 2nd Coming
 - Peter says:

2 Peter 3:10 ESV

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

- This is not just
 - doom and gloom.
- God destroys this
 - old sinful world
 - to bring something better.

New Heaven and new Earth

- Few verses later:

2 Peter 3:13 ESV

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- Our heart longs
 - for newness?
- God wrote it into us.

- New Year,
 - symbol of
 - new earth...
- God speaks of it
 - repeatedly:

Revelation 21:1 ESV

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

- again:

Isaiah 65:17 ESV

“For behold, I create new heavens

and a new earth,

and the former things shall not be remembered

or come into mind.

- We won't remember
 - brokenness and sin.

New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2 ESV

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- This is all so great.
 - but that is not all.
- Not just
 - New Heaven
 - New Earth
- We get
 - new identity!

New Name in Heaven

[Revelation 2:17](#) (ESV)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

[Revelation 3:12](#) (ESV)

Revelation 3:12 ESV

The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

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[Isaiah 62:2-4](#) (ESV)

The nations shall see your righteousness,

and all the kings your glory,

and you shall be called by a new name

that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,

and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken,

and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,

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You shall no more be termed Forsaken,

and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,

but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,

and your land Married;

for the LORD delights in you,

and your land shall be married.

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and your land Married;

for the LORD delights in you,

and your land shall be married.

- I can't wait,
 - everything new.

- New Heaven
- New Earth
- New Jerusalem
- New Name
 - and...
- New Worship

Worship in the New Earth

Isaiah 66:22-23 ESV

“For as the new heavens and the new earth

that I make

shall remain before me, says the LORD,

so shall your offspring and your name remain.

From new moon to new moon,

and from Sabbath to Sabbath,

all flesh shall come to worship before me,

declares the LORD.

- Imagine Heavenly Worship
 - Angel Choir

- Entire Universe
- Jesus Sermon
 - What more!
- Truly New Year's
 - Is a biblical concept
 - God desires newness
 - He promises newness

All Things New

Revelation 21:5 **ESV**

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

- God wants to offer
 - complete newness
 - this New Year..
- Will you accept it?
- Will you seek it?

Someone once observed that a wasted life is really nothing more than a collection of wasted days. As God gives us life, each one of us starts the new year with the same number of opportunities—365—that we can choose to either use and invest in eternal things or allow to drift by without taking advantage of the gift we have been given. The difference between those who succeed and those who fail is not found primarily in talent but in diligence and effort.

Appeal

- In this New Year
 - God is offering
 - Newness
 - Accept it
 - Pursue it.