

Handout January 3, 2025

A New Beginning

Welcome back and here we go! Another year is in the books and another year looms ahead.... Or does it? Is it inviting and full of hope or is it literally looming over you, ahead of you? Are you full of dread? Let's hope not.

1) _____ is about _____!

II Kings 21:1-4

I think we can certainly get to places far from God in our hearts. Maybe not to the extreme of Manasseh, but the image of building altars in the house of the Lord, certainly is relatable. Hezekiah, his father, was a good man who God loved, and God delivered him and Israel, by the word of Isaiah, from the Assyrian invaders. He also had the shadow go back on the sundial.

I can imagine the people of God were exhausted from the sin.

2) We can always _____ for a New _____!

II Kings 22:1-12

3) Does your _____ have _____ on it?

I want you to know that our posture towards God and the knowledge of and desire for God's Word, cannot be faked.

4) If you _____ a *New Beginning*, you need to begin _____ something new!

Isn't it interesting how in January we begin to hope for something better? I mean, why in January? Why not April 22nd? Birthdays bring about other feelings, about change, usually age..... Yay, I'm 21, Boo, I'm 55.... I guess it doesn't matter why we choose January 1st. Let's just be grateful that as humans.....

5) We have a _____ *button*!

So, the King sends to inquire of the prophetess, Huldah, and she answers...

II Kings 22:18-20 *But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard—¹⁹ because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the Lord.²⁰ "Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place." ' ' ' So they brought back word to the king.*

He is rewarded!

What altars have you built in the house of the Lord?

- ♦ An altar of cynicism, everything is terrible
- ♦ Of fear
- ♦ Of hopelessness
- ♦ Of addiction
- ♦ Of anger
- ♦ Of spiritual laziness
- ♦ Of worldliness
- ♦ Of _____

New Beginnings are possible. They really are. God's Word says...

Philippians 1:6 'being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;'

6) We are all a _____ in _____.

God's not done. And if you have ideas where you could change, they weren't just ideas! You do have the Holy Spirit and the calendar. Just push the *reset button*! Now it is time to respond.

II Kings 23:25 'Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.'

What resolutions are you making? What changes are you feeling you need? Now is the moment. Go grasp it.

Being of service here and participating... Start thinking more about what God wants to say through you. Start writing out your thoughts.

Why? I --- of all people --- know that if you are writing and preparing something, it will change you the most.

- ♦ What do you want to be done with? _____
- ♦ What do you want to change? _____
- ♦ What do you want to start? _____

Lamentations 3:22-24 NLT 'The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"'

God's love and mercy are new each day! He will give you the strength to change. He will give you a *New Beginning*!

Philippians 4:13 !!! I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'

Let's Pray.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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