

God's biblical new year starts tonight at sundown.



*“From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you.” Exodus 12:2*

## **Happy New Year!**

According to God’s biblical calendar, His new year starts tonight at sundown. This makes sense for a number of reasons including:

- The “mark” of redemption was initiated and is commemorated at the Passover every year which is just two weeks after the new year starts. This redemption is every Believer’s starting point as we, by faith, have placed the blood of the Lamb, Yeshua, on the doorposts of our hearts. Just like what occurred in Egypt, this provides an “invitation” for the Living God to dwell within us and to save us from the wrath to come. An interesting aspect of the Passover is that God has a mark He places on the right hand and forehead related to the active observance (not just the cognitive understanding of) His festival of Passover (Exodus 13:9-10). I believe that multiple millions of Believers take part in the

implementation of this “mark” through the Lord’s Supper. Most of them, however, are unaware that these powerful symbols originate and are “lifted” out of the covenant Passover meal.

- New life begins in the spring with newly-seeded and dormant nature coming alive.

In light of God having a new year, what would be practical responses on our part to partake of this?

**1. Individual Observance:** Three broad categories of helping to make the new year tangibly personal come to mind.

- First of all, it can involve an **assessment** of the previous year where we look back over the year from last Passover. What good things happened? What tough things happened? What did you feel that God was saying to you? What things do you want to leave behind as you enter a new year? What were lessons learned from the previous year?
- Secondly, I believe God would desire **cooperative anticipation** on our part where we become excited as we discover what God would have for us as we partner with Him for the coming year. What new things are in front of you? What are the most important areas God would have you focus on for this coming year? Are there any areas of distraction that you need to leave behind?
- And finally I believe He would have us involved in **focused action** for the coming year. What S-M-A-R-T (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and tangible) goals can we set in place to help us achieve that which God would have for us this year? To accomplish the above well, it would probably take at least an hour of set-apart time with God to carefully ask Him, listen and think about what is on His heart for us in this season. Can we set apart some time with Him to process what He would have for us?

**2. Family Traditions:** There are things that we as families and/or groups of friends can do to make these festival seasons days of great focus and joy. There are many resources available on the internet and I’ve found Robin Sampson & Linda Pierce’s

book *The Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays* to be a great resource for ideas for keeping on target with the themes of the festivals and making them fun. Jess and I have also developed a simple erev Shabbat liturgy that helps us as a family to enter into the Sabbath. I would be glad to email a copy for anyone interested in having this.

3. **Corporate Meetings:** God has a number of “appointed meetings” that He has set up for His people to corporately attend together in this season (Leviticus 23). To celebrate these festivals as God fully intended we cannot just observe them individually or as a family. He wants us actively involved in a local congregation (and even with congregations joining together) as extended families of Believers coming together for fellowship, worship, instruction, and fun. Tomorrow I will share more about the upcoming appointed times (in addition to Sabbath) during the next three weeks that we as a congregation will be a part of.

In closing, let’s line up our calendars and lives with God’s desires and calendar in order to take part in that which He is emphasizing in this season.