

# THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR AND THE NEW YOU?!

**TEXT: Exodus 12:1** And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, **2** This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

**THESIS:** To show the prospects & potential of starting anew w/the beginning of the New Year.

**INTRO.:** A. God sets the *"times & the seasons"* as He pleases & here He changes the Jewish New Year from Sept.-Oct, to Mar.-April. "Abib" is the equivalent of our March-April or our "Spring."

**ILLUS.:** How appropriate that the New Year begin in the newness & life of the Spring instead of the bleakness & deadness of winter. The word "Abib" means "fresh young ears" e.g., of barley or corn.

B. The Israelites had lived under the domination & tyranny of Egypt for 450 years. Now God has judged Egypt w/plagues & was about to free His people with the final judgment on the firstborn. To protect His people from this judgment, He instructs them to kill a lamb & place it's blood on the doors of their homes, so the death angel will "pass over" that home & it's inhabitants. As with Israel, the Lord will pass over us (in judgment) because of the blood of the Lamb of God. And from that moment (of our salvation) we begin a new life & date all future events!

## I. A NEW LIFE:

A. Changing the Calendar: v.2

1. With this new calendar the Israelites were to receive "favored nations" status as God's chosen people.
2. This fantastic event (The Passover) will change the future of Israel forever.
3. This *"beginning of months"* will mark their new life under God's direct leadership.

**ILLUS.:** Moses will be the representative, but God will lead them thru the wilderness & supply their every need. When God delivered us from the bondage of sin, He also promised to supply our needs, as long as we follow His leadership.

The day you got saved was the *"beginning of months"* for you too! Only then did you really begin to live. *"All things"* became new & *"old things"* were passed away & we too have a new chronology. Our calendar has been amended by a true act of God's grace.

Spurgeon: *"(We) used to think that our birthday fell at a certain time of the year; but now we regard w/much more delight another day as our true birthday, since on that second natal day we began truly to live."*

B. Protection by Blood: v.7

1. Imagine the joy of each family when they were told that their sons could be saved, if the lamb was slain instead.
2. The death angel would pass over that home, not because the execution of vengeance was undone, but because the death-blow had already been struck & the victim had died & the penalty could not be exacted twice!

**NOTE:** Good News! God's wrath was poured out on His Son, the Lamb of God, so you & I could be *"passed over"* when His vengeance is executed! But someone must die - you or me or our Substitute! Praise God He is our Passover Lamb.

C. Refreshment From the Lamb: v.7b-11

1. This event marked the beginning of their new life & the Lamb would be their sustenance.
2. They were to eat it amid the shrieks & cries of their Egyptian neighbors, and w/staffs in their hands as pilgrims in a hostile land.
3. They ate the *"lamb roast w/fire"* and the best refreshment for a troubled believer is the suffering Savior.

**ILLUS.:** The poor sinner w/his burdens goes to a church where Christ is presented as a good example or a great teacher & that is useful to the saint, but is no help to the sinner, who needs Christ as the suffering Savior. They were told also to "let nothing of it remain until the morning..." i.e., we ought to feast on all of Christ, not just the suffering Savior, but our High Priest, Great Prophet, Coming King & Good Shepherd. Yes, we can indeed feast on Him & get "refreshment from the Lamb."

## II. A NEW LIFESTYLE: v.14,15,18

A. Elimination Of Leaven:

1. Justification w/out sanctification is an incomplete message.
2. A new life w/out a new lifestyle is hypocrisy ("the leaven of the Pharisees").
3. A denial of Christ's power in the life is a sham ("the leaven of the Saducees").
4. A Christian living w/out sound doctrine in the life is a barren believer ("the Leaven of the Herodians"), we are to grow in the grace & *knowledge* of the Lord.

**ILLUS.:** The Christian life is received by grace & is a free gift, but the lifestyle of the believer involves his/her works. There is the daily crucifying of the flesh w/its lusts and the reckoning of ourselves dead indeed unto sin & the constant battle w/the world, the flesh & the devil. Every day is to be a day of victory & growth.

B. Details Of Deliverance:

1. The morning after the Passover, the Israelite was to leave forever the brickkilns, leeks, garlics, whips, & even his old home! Amen!
2. For seven days they were to march & eat unleavened bread till they reached the Red Sea (death); Jesus is that Unleavened Bread for the believer, till death finally overtakes him.

**III. A NEW LONGING:**

**ILLUS.:** They all ate of the Lamb that night, they all were protected by the blood, they were all refreshed by the feast & they all started their march to Canaan w/unleavened bread. God had put a new longing in their hearts for the **"land that floweth with milk & honey."**

A. Beginning Of Life:

1. They were to leave every facet of their old life behind; a beginning speaks speaks of something to follow.
2. The garlic of Egypt was to be replaced w/the sweetness of the honey of the Promised Land, the slavery of Egypt was to be replaced w/the freedom of the Promised Land, the gods of Egypt were to be replaced by the living God.

**ILLUS.:** They could have entered the Holy Land in a few days if it hadn't been for unbelief & appetite for Egypt. They had been tainted by the fellowship of the ungodly.

How brilliant the devil is. He took us from the fleshpots of the world, & brought them into our homes. The shame of Hollywood used to be confined to the theaters, now is carried to our living rooms. The language of the Egyptians used to be heard only in the street, bars & nightclubs, now it comes from our TV's & computers.

B. Starting Over Again:

1. Israel was given a fresh start; this was to be **"the first month of the year..."**
2. They entered Egypt as slaves, they came out as an army.
3. They went there in a famine, they came out w/God supplying their needs.
4. They were within days of the Promised Land...the land of opportunity, prospects, & potential.

**CONCL.:** This is **"THE FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR"** for us! It is an opportunity to renew our commitment to the Lord, to sanctify ourselves anew, to start over again! Let's begin the New Year w/revival & praise to the Lord Who saved us!

If you are not saved, **"NOW is the accepted time, NOW is the day of salvation..."** Make this the **FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR AND THE NEW YOU!**