

AT THE
OPENING
GATES OF A
NEW YEAR
JOSHUA 3:1-4

2007 is winding down.

2008 is fast approaching.

New experiences await us.

New Opportunities.

New Challenges.

This was the same situation that the Israelites were faced with.

We, like them, “have not passed this way before.”

As Each Year Comes And Goes, We Are Impressed
With The Thought Of Time.

Time means nothing to God because He is not
bound by time.

II Peter 3:8

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with
the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a
thousand years as one day.

On the other hand, time is very important to us,
because we have so little of it.

Job 14:1-2

Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue.

The future is uncertain.

James 4:13-14

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Psalms 90:10-12

The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

We also, do not know when the Lord will return.

Matthew 24:36-42

But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but only My Father. But as the days of Noah were, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

II Peter 3:10-11

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness.

Because the future is so uncertain Paul gives us this admonition.

Ephesians 5:16

Making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

This Is Also The Time Of Year When We Should
Take Stock.

God has blessed us in so many ways with both:

Physical blessings.

Spiritual blessings.

Psalms 65:11

You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your
paths drip with abundance.

Matthew 5:45

He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good,
and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

We should learn to count our blessings and be thankful.

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

I Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

II Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

We also need to take stock of our spiritual life.

What progress have you made in your spiritual life in this past year?

I Peter 2:2

Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation.

II Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

We Need To Lay Aside Everything That Hindered Our Progress In Serving God This Past Year.

Hebrews 12 :1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

If something has stopped us from serving God in a better manner, it must go!

Sin hinders us from serving the Lord as we should.

I Peter 2:1

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking.

Colossians 3:5-9

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices.

We must also lay aside indifference (lukewarmness).

This is perhaps the biggest problem facing the church.

This kind of attitude causes us not to see things as they really are, including our self.

Revelation 3:15-17

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Also, we need to lay aside worldliness.

James 4:4

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

You are either with God or not.

I John 2:15-17

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Not all things that hinder us from serving God fully, is sin.

The people who were invited to the “great dinner”, in [Luke 14:16-24](#), were not immoral sinners or hardened criminals.

They allowed other things to get in the way.

A piece of land; 5 yoke of oxen; A wife.

Not bad things.

But they were weights.

[Luke 14:26](#)

If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

In 2008, We Should Plan A Course Of Action.

Everyone will be faced with storms and disappointments this coming year.

How are we going to handle these situations?

They can either become:

weights.

wings.

Let us resolve then in this New Year to better serve the Lord by: **Stepping up and meeting every challenge.**

Overcoming every obstacle.

Seizing every opportunity.

II Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-control.

Everyone should realize whether you acknowledge God or not, God will be in your future.

Amos told the people of his day in [Amos 4:12](#) to:

“Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

We should do the same.

[II Corinthians 5:10](#)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

[Romans 14:12](#)

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

ARE YOU
PREPARED
TO MEET
YOUR GOD?

Given by David Hamlin on 12-30-07 am at Hollister Missouri
church of Christ. www.hollisterchurchofchrist.org