

WHAT'S NEW IN 2006?

WHAT'S NEW? This is a way to greet one another in some countries. Usually the answer is "not much". Today we are going to enter a NEW YEAR. We have wished each other Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have sent cards, sent email and even sent Happy New Year messages over our hand phones.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes 1:9 we read, "what has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN. Is there anything of which one can say, 'Look! This is something new'? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time."

Men keep discovering new things all the time. But are they really new?

Columbus discovered America but it was already there long before Columbus arrived!

People are only discovering what already is there and what God has already created.

Then people begin use the cycles of God's natural creation.

But in Isaiah 42:1 The Lord God is introducing the coming of His Son into the world.

With the coming of His Son God is introducing many new things to you and me.

UNDER THE SUN, nothing is new says King Solomon. BUT UNDER THE SON ALL IS NEW says God in His Word. In Isaiah 42:9 we read, **"See the former things have taken place, And NEW THINGS I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you. SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG."**

Before the Son of God was born in Bethlehem the angel came to announce the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ to Joseph, Mary and the Shepherds. Announcements of the coming of Jesus Christ were also made by the prophets Moses, David, Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Micah and Malachi. These were descriptions of details about the manner of birth, the birthplace, His miraculous ministry, the manner of His death, His resurrection, His everlasting Kingdom, His titles, and His plan of Salvation for all mankind.

In Isaiah 65:17 there is the announcement of a **NEW KINGDOM** to be established. **"Behold I will create New heavens and a New earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."** Then in the same chapter there is more detail of this New Kingdom.

No more suffering, weeping and crying.

People will live forever because there will be no more death.

The wolf and the lamb will feed together.

No more destruction by men or animals.

Everlasting joy and happiness.

We are already part of the spiritual kingdom of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus taught His disciples that this Kingdom is within you. As we have received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and King we already enjoy being part of His kingdom as He reigns and rules in our lives day by day.

NEW THINGS, A NEW SONG AND A NEW KINGDOM.

Then we read about a **NEW COVENANT**. In Jeremiah 31:31 we have the announcement of this New Covenant, “The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.” Then we learn some details of this New covenant. Verse 33 “I will put my laws in their minds and write it on the hearts. Verse 34, “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Luke 22:20, The Lord Jesus is referring to the cup being the New Covenant.” The cup represents the Blood of Christ. A New Covenant is the Gospel, the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. God almighty makes New Covenant with all who believe and receive the Gospel. Hebrews 9:15, “Christ is the Mediator of the New Covenant.” Hebr. 12:24, “Jesus the Mediator of the New covenant.”

NEW COVENANT, NEW PROMISES A NEW MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS.

The Blood of Christ cleans us from all sin. 1 John 1:7 “The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin”.

The Old covenant had to do with the blood of bulls, goats, lambs and doves. God demanded all sorts of sacrifices. Now we are under the New covenant. No more sacrifices are needed. Jesus died once and for all men. He is the Savior of all people, the Savior of the Christians, the Roman Catholics, the Moslems, Buddhists, Shintoists, Hindus, Jews and all people everywhere.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW? There is teaching about a NEW CREATION. 2

Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ. Galatians 6:15 “What counts is the New Creation.” When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as our personal Savior, we are born again. We become a New Creation. We are changed. Our life is changed, our habits are changed, our lifestyle is changed, our reasons for living are changed, and goals in life are changed. Our future is changed. Our destination is changed.

ANYTHING ELSE NEW? In Hebrews 10:19 We read about entering “the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a **NEW AND LIVING WAY**, that is His body. Jesus said in John 14:6 “**I am the Way the Truth and the Life**”. We enter into fellowship with God, friendship with God, unity with God, by a **NEW AND LIVING WAY**. Jesus is the way to God, He is the bridge to God, He is the door and we can only know God and enjoy God by this New and Living Way, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The followers of Jesus were told by the Angel of God in Acts 5:20 to stand in the temple courts and tell the people the **FULL MESSAGE OF NEW LIFE**. New Life in Christ. The religious leaders were upset and gave strict orders not to teach the name of Jesus. But Peter and the apostles replied boldly: “**We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead – whom you had killed by hanging Him on a tree. God exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.**”

This takes us to take a look at the sign or proof of having the Holy Spirit. **OBEDIENCE TO THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD OUR LORD** causes God to give us the Holy Spirit. In acts 5:31 we have a description of a Prayer Meeting. This must have been some exciting prayer service. “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly”.

There are other signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit. But here we have a direct and immediate result of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Speaking the Word of God boldly. No more fear and being bashful or ashamed of sharing Christ. In 2 Corinthians 3:6 God says “that He has made us competent as ministers of the New Covenant. V. 12 ..”We are very bold”.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW FOR THE YEAR 2006? Colossians 3:10 refers to “**Put on the New Self**”. Also in Ephesians 4:23-24 we have the same instruction “To be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the New Self – created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” We are told to put on the New Self. This involves submission to the Lord Jesus Christ and allows Him to live His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit. The New Self is the changed self, the New Creation. Christ in us, the Hope of Glory! Righteous and Holiness during the year 2006. This would certainly be something new for all of us.

IS THIS ALL? There is one more **NEW** found in John 13:34-35, and that is a **NEW COMMAND**. “A **NEW COMMAND** I give you”, says Jesus, “Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.”

We sing a **NEW SONG** because we have a **NEW COVENANT**

Because of the New Covenant we have become a **NEW CREATION**

We have become a New Creation because of the **NEW AND LIVING WAY**

We must share the **FULL MESSAGE OF NEW LIFE with our friends and neighbors**

As we go to share this wonderful message we **PUT ON THE NEW SELF**,
Our life style is **NOT I BUT CHRIST**.
Righteousness and Holiness during the year 2006.

Let us enter the New Year living out the **NEW COMMAND**. A life of Loving instead of criticizing one another. A life of Giving and sharing instead of taking. And so all people will know we are followers of Jesus Christ.