

## Blowing the Shofar



## *New Beginnings for a New Year*

Lessons from the way God dealt with His people on past New Year's Days.





# *Time of Resolutions and New Commitments*

## **4 Tips for Success!**

1. Make them *realistic!*
2. Be *specific.*
3. Keep *written records.*
4. Don't start with the hardest, begin with *small steps.*



## *As we Reflect on New Beginnings . .*

- Three O.T. Passages . .
  - Ex 12 – Identity
  - Ex 40 – God’s presence
  - Ezra 10 -- Holiness

**Rom 15:4** “For whatever things were written before time were written for our learning...” NKJV

ADULT SUNDAY 9:30 AM CLASS  
1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER Jan - March



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# CHURCH HISTORY

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Todd Nielsen

Teacher

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**  
Winter Class Quarter

*The book of*  
**Judges**

BROKEN PEOPLE

FAITHFUL GOD

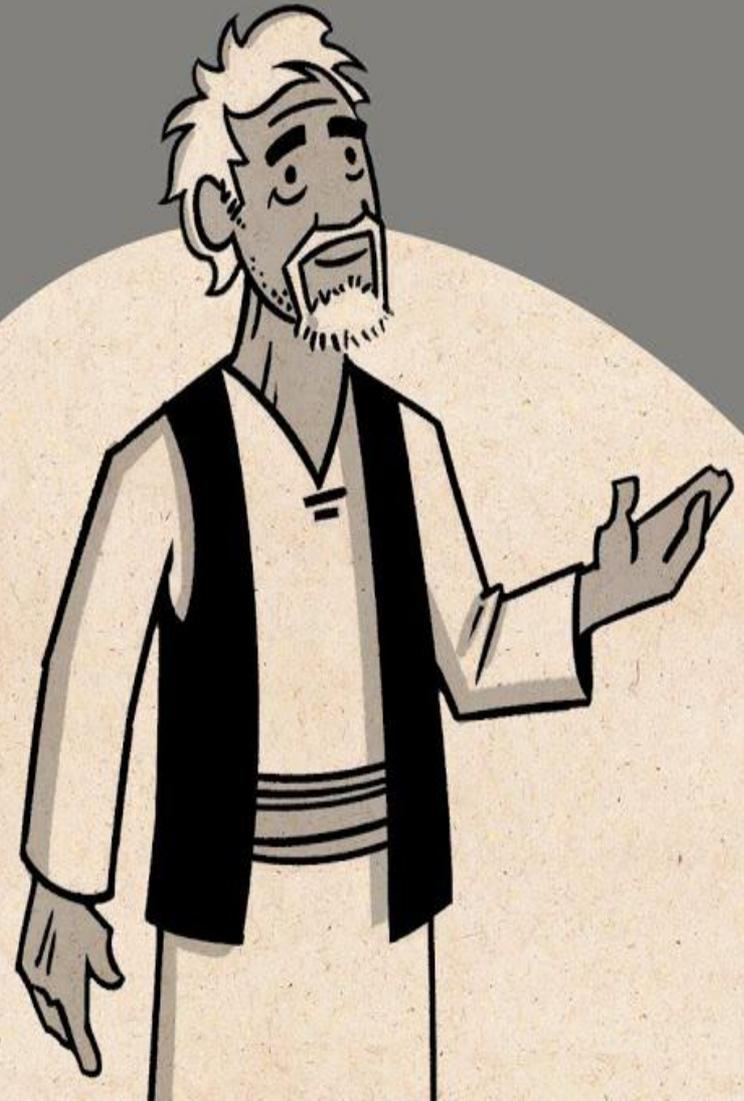
Brent Hunter

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

# 1-3 John

Quarter one: 2023

Jesse Wilmore  
teacher



**“Looking for a Clean Heart”**  
**Sunday 5:00 p.m.**  
**Ben Keehn**





*2023 stands before us like  
a new chapter in a book.*

- By setting meaningful goals we can have a *productive* year!
- See a “new beginning” as a *gift to our loved ones!*

Jan 29 – State of the church address



*Not just a new year  
but a whole new calendar!*

Ex 12:1-2 “Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 “ This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.”



*God starts a new way to tell time..*

- **Beginning of a birth of a new nation as a covenant people.**
  - Nissan --month one, year one
  - Institutes Passover Feast
  - First and only real *Theocracy*.



## *New Year is a Good Time to “Take Stock and Evaluate”*

- The Passover served as a *memorial* observance of their national birth (Ex 12).
- It was a *time of remembrance, worship and well wishes!*
- The Jewish New Year is a time of *introspection*, looking back at the past year and planning for the new!



*Many “New Year’s Resolutions”  
only last a few weeks*

- **Why?**

- “Idealized wishes.”
- “*A goal without a plan is just a wish.*”
- Make *too many* of them and you will lack focus.

- **What is the Key?**

- To remember the **source of the problem** not just the symptoms.



## *2 Peter 1:5-6*

“Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith, supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, **self-control, and in your self-control,** perseverance . . .”



## *Look for Heaven's Help*

- Improve health, have a better marriage, be more spiritual!
- Phil 4:13 “I can do all things through **Christ** who strengthens me.”
- Also: Eph 3:20-21



## *Exodus 19:7-8;10*

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, . . . And all the people answered together and said:

*"All that the LORD has spoken we will do!"*

- Notice the **commitment** **BEFORE** the law was given!



## *Exodus 19:10*

- Ex 19:10 "Go to the people and tell them to consecrate themselves and let them wash their garments; and not to come near a woman."
- Notice the **focus, discipline and seriousness.**



## *Time to Renew Worship*

- Ex 40:1-3 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 " On the **first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.**

*One Year Anniversary*



# *The Presence of God!*





## *Began worship on the first day of the first month!*

- Ex 40:34 “Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the **glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**”
- God dwelt in the midst of His people and they could meet Him there!
- When we worship God is the audience!



## *Best way to renew worship is to focus on God's presence!*

- OT --Prepare for worship the day before!
- OT had to cleanse themselves and prepare to meet God.
  - Ps 122:1 *“I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord.”*



*Best way to renew worship is to focus on God's presence!*

- Real joy in praising God and communing with the Lord.
  - Wondered: What would we do if God appeared?



## *A Time to Put Away Sin!*

- Ezra 10:17 “They finished investigating all the men who had married foreign wives by the **first day of the first month.**”
- **Serious SIN!** Put the righteous remnant and identity of the Davidic line at risk!



## *Ezra 9:10-14*

- 10b For we have forsaken Your commandments, which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, **“Do not give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters to your sons**
- 14 Shall we again break Your commandments and **intermarry with the peoples who commit abominations?**



## *Ezra 10:4*

- 4 "**Arise!** For this matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; **be courageous and act.**"
- **Reaffirm our Holiness!**



*Good time to stop doing things we know are wrong or harmful*

- Sins of **commission**:
  - Sinful habit...burdening your conscience?
- Sins of **omission**– James 4:17
  - *Neglecting Bible study, Bible classes, services, prayer time?*
  - *Sharing of your faith!*
  - *Allowing your zeal to wax cold?*



## *Character Weakness?*

- Lack of patience.
- Tendency to gossip.
- Holding grudges.
- Overspend or overindulge?
- See Rom 6:1.



*This “new year”—put on  
the “new man.” Col 3:2ff*

- 2 **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- 9 **Lay aside the old self with its evil practices**, and put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him



# *As we Reflect on New Beginnings . .*

## **Blowing the Shofar**

