

It is a new year; 2023 is behind us and now it is 2024. Some see New Years as a second chance (or third, fourth, fifth, etc). Some look at the New Year as a do over. *“This time around I will lose that weight.”*, *“This year I will begin reading my Bible.”*, *“This year I will make better choices.”* A new year, thus a new beginning.

But there is something else that is “new” that you ought to embrace. It is also a new beginning. It is New Life because of the New Covenant. Read these verses from the prophet Jeremiah...

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. **For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**”*

This New Covenant is because of Jesus’ death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. The New Covenant is a new beginning for the sinner, forgiveness and thus peace with God. The New Covenant is not something you do but something God has done. It is all grace. And because of this New Covenant given to you through faith, you are a new creation. This, from 2 Corinthians 5:17...

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

And now, because of Jesus you have this “something new” (Revelation 21:1-5) in which you can look forward...

*“Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every*

*tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, **for the former things have passed away.***"

It is a new year, and I pray that it is THE new beginning to top all new beginnings for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.