

## New Beginnings

Final piece for January – “God finishes what he begins”

New beginnings require an ending

### **I. Final Outcome**

“I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. **Rev 21:1-7 NLT**

This is the final outcome and the new beginning that God has planned from before the Earth had its foundations a new heaven and earth

But there are a series of events that occur before the end and New Beginning we will briefly consider some of them this morning

### **II. God’s Plans always revolve around His Son Jesus Christ**

One thing that helps get a handle on End Time Prophecy is that everything revolves around Jesus Christ. God’s plan has two parts and everything else hinges on these two parts.

#### 1. His First Coming

- A babe born in Bethlehem – God becomes one of us – the incarnation (Emanuel)
- Jesus three year teaching healing ministry that will change the world –
- His sacrificial death on the cross pays in full out debt the debt we owed to God
- His resurrection from the dead makes eternal life in a new resurrected body available for any who will receive Him

#### 2. His Second Coming

- Jesus is coming back to Earth again
- This time he will not come as the suffering servant but the conquering king
- He will destroy the devil and his works
- He will judge the nations
- He will make a new beginning – a new heaven and a new earth

Does God require of us to know His prophetic Plans? **See Jesus at triumphant entry**

Jesus grieves over Jerusalem speaking prophetically  
their missed opportunity and refers to his Second Coming Matthew 23: 37-38

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, 'Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!'*

Matthew 24: 3- 31 Jesus mentions the signs leading up to his return

☆ The lesson of the fig tree

The fig tree is an icon for Israel - Ben Gurion Israel's first Prime Minister Declared the establishment of the independent state of Israel on May 14, 1948

Quoting from Isaiah's prophecy –

“Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.” **Isaiah 66:8**

“**I tell you the truth;** This generation shall not pass from the scene until all these things take place.” Matt 24:34 Baby Boomer generation

This is a time frame - a starting point for all these events and Jesus return

Jesus warns not to pinpoint the day! Mistakes so many have made

As it was in the day of Noah – When the Son of Man returns

On August 24<sup>th</sup> 79 AD people were going about their business in Pompeii a city of 20,000 people Mt. Vesuvius eruption was so sudden that most the inhabitants were buried beneath its ash – some instantly preserved down to expressions of horror from the sudden annihilation

God has given us each of us responsibilities. **Are managing our lives for Him or for us?**

More than anything else – God wants you to get to know him! This is his greatest desire and plan for us – it starts with a humble and broken spirit.

**Life is challenging do we see problems as obstacles or opportunities?**

Jen just finished a book entitled A Search for Purple Cows, (voracious reader)

Yeah I know – I thought the same thing but it's an excellent book also read by Mary Ann and Sue

It's the story of a woman being treated terribly by an abusive husband. She starts to turn to God for help and amazing things happen. Not all of them seem too great!

She gets into a horrific car crash, with her two almost three year old son, that should have killed them both but instead they walk away with only scratches. When she later asks her son why he wasn't frightened and he tells her what he saw at the moment of the accident. An angel who was first outside the car smiling then inside the car with him telling him everything was going to be alright.

God doesn't want to know about Him – He wants us to know Him! That can only happen over the course of time – a life time.

Our Journey begins with a broken and humble spirit – He's not receptive to a prideful heart.

See **Matthew 25: 31-40** *Judgment of the nations*

“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.”

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

*The Least of these*

God cares about people – when He becomes a part of us – takes up residence in our hearts – We will care about people too.

There are hurting people all around us some who need a warm coat and others that need to know that some cares

They are in this church they are in this community they are at your place of work

**Not all prisons have bars**, some are in emotional meat grinders – some are trying to decide whether or not they can live with themselves if they have that abortion.

Planned Parenthood the biggest provider of “women’s right to choose” actually pushes their staff to maintain quotas so they can keep those government funds rolling in.

Our nation is drowning, falling asleep at a time when we need God the most our people desperately need God.

When our relationship with God becomes key to our existence he will direct us to people who need us developing talents in us to minister to the least of these.

Play song *While you were Sleeping* by *Casting Crowns*

Close in prayer