

End-Time Prep Series  
**Lesson 19: A New Beginning**  
Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers

**During the fall, the leaves of trees are stripped from their branches leaving them bare, naked, and lifeless. Every year we have the privilege to witness a new beginning during the Spring time in which the trees come back to life. The new buds become new leaves. This is what salvation of Jesus Christ offers to all those on the path of sin and destruction, a new beginning.**

**Without this new beginning there is no hope, joy, and peace.**

**New Beginning**

A new beginning was offered to Adam and Eve after they sinned. God made a way that they could be saved from sin.

Genesis 3:21 “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”

Coats of skin reveals that an animal had to die in order to get the skin from it. When Adam and Eve sinned God illustrated His Plan of Salvation to them.

By the death of the animal, God showed Adam and Eve that He would pay the wages of sin - death, in place of the sinner to give us everlasting life at the last day when He comes again in the clouds.

Jacob who was a deceiver, a thief, and a liar was changed into the likeness of God. He repented, confessed and turned from sin in which God changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Israel means God prevails. When God prevails in our lives we prevail over sin and are given a new beginning.

**Genesis 32:27-28**

27 And he said unto him, What *is* thy name? And he said, Jacob.

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

When we are justified through the lamb of God, Jesus take us from guilty of sin deserving of death to NOT GUILTY in order to receive eternal life. Justification is a new beginning for all who believe in Jesus Christ. This is the gift He promised in His Everlasting Covenant.

**Nicodemus** a Pharisee and prideful was touched and pricked by the truth and ministry of Jesus Christ.

John 3:1-6

- 1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:
- 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
- 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**
- 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
- 5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**
- 6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

To be born of the spirit of God is a new beginning.

### **Everlasting Life is a New Beginning.**

**Zacchaeus a tax collector and thief was given a new beginning when he confessed and believed in Jesus Christ.**

#### **Luke 19:2-10**

- 2 And, behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.
- 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.
- 4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that *way*.
- 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, **Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.**
- 6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.
- 7 And when they saw *it*, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.
- 8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.
- 9 And Jesus said unto him, **This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.**
- 10 **For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Paul, also a Pharisee, was given authority to cast many of the followers of Christ into prison. He consented to the death of many Christian.

### **Jesus gave Paul a new beginning on the road to Damascus.**

#### **Acts 26:12-23**

- 12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,
- 13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun,

shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.**

16 **But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;**

17 **Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,**

18 **To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

**When God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage. God gave them a new beginning literally and spiritually.**

**From Creation on the Jewish calendar, the first day of Tishri [which means beginning] was commemorated and celebrated by the Jews as the beginning of Creation, the beginning of the New Year, Rosh Hashanah.**

**Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."**

**Originally the seventh month on the Jewish calendar was Abib which later became known as Nisan.**

**When God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt on Passover, He gave them a new beginning and Abib/Nisan became the first month.**

**Exodus 12:2 "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."**

God also instituted Passover, a prophecy and memorial of the Lamb of God who died for the sins of the world. Passover points to a new beginning, justification and righteousness for those who believe and are covered by the blood of the Lamb.

### **Exodus 12:3-7**

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

Passover pointed to Jesus Christ the Passover Lamb that died for the sins of the world.

### **1 Corinthians 5:7**

7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

The first three feasts starting with Passover was fulfilled by Jesus Christ with His death, burial, and resurrection for three consecutive days.

14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan: Passover

15<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan: Feast of Unleavened Bread (beginning of a seven day feast)

16<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan: Feast of First Fruits

Passover was based on a date not a day like your birthday....

1. Jesus, the Passover Lamb died on Passover (Thursday evening to Friday evening)
2. Jesus, rested in his tomb on the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Unleavened meaning without sin. (High Sabbath)
3. Jesus, rose again from the grave on the Feast of First Fruits. He is the first fruit before God the Father who accepted His sacrifice. (First day of the week)

The modern Jews rejection of the Messiah is so deep that they changed the Passover feast to begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan instead of the 14<sup>th</sup> day.

### **Jesus is our new beginning...**

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.