**A NEW YEAR A LIVING HOPE**

# SCRIPTURE READINGS…. ***Jeremiah 29:11Living Bible (TLB)***

***11For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.***

I pray all Christians Bring in the [**New Year**](https://www.thoughtco.com/a-new-years-plan-christian-poem-701095)meditating on these encouraging Bible verses especially chosen to inspire a new fresh walk with God and a deeper commitment to living the Christian faith as He would want us to walk in.

First let us consider our Salvation…

**A new Birth - A Living Hope**

[Salvation in Jesus Christ](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-gods-plan-of-salvation-700502) represents a new birth -- a complete transformation of who we are. I believe that the start of a new year is a great time for all Christians throughout the world to reflect on the new and living hope we have in this life and in the life to come: as this scripture tells us about our new found hope…

***Praise be to the*** [***God and Father***](https://www.thoughtco.com/god-the-father-701152) ***of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us*** [***new birth***](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-new-birth-700358) ***into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3,*** [***NIV***](https://www.thoughtco.com/new-international-version-niv-700664)***)***

*Without this mercy and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead we would all be most miserable. Where would any of us Christians be without it?*

**Hope for the Future**

Beloved we can all trust God in the year ahead, for he has good plans for us and our future ahead will be well worth the wait:

***Jeremiah 29:11******"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*** [***(NLT)***](https://www.thoughtco.com/new-living-translation-nlt-700666)

*I only ask this question….What plans have you made for this year? I believe if you have then its time to let God plan for all of us what he has instore for us! Our own plans will only fail us! Listen God’s plans will never fail, for His plans for us are only good. Our future is brighter ahead when we let go of our plans and let Him lead the way…as one scripture says …”The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord!!!!”*

**A New Creation**

The following passage describes a transformation that will eventually lead to the full enjoyment of eternal life in the new heavens and new earth. Christ’s life, death, and [resurrection](https://www.thoughtco.com/the-resurrection-story-700218) introduces followers of Jesus Christ to a foretaste of the new world to come. We must all learn to let go of the past and begin to develop a taste of the things that have become new in our lives. Our lives in Christ are now new, knowing this is pure joy and excitement to any Child of God. Places I used to visit, I visit no more, Things I used to speak, I speak them no more, The Bad company I kept , I keep them no more, The evil desires I had, I have them no more, the way I walked and talked, I walk and talk no more. The list goes on and on! That’s why the scripture says….

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a*** [***new creation***](https://www.thoughtco.com/christianity-4133210)***; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17,*** [***NKJV***](https://www.thoughtco.com/new-king-james-version-700665)***)***

***We are totally brand new beings!!!***

**A New Heart**

Listen, Believers are not merely just changed externally, they undergo a radical renewal of heart. This total cleansing and transformation reveal the holiness of God to an unholy world:..Here is the essence of what God has done!!!!

***Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command. (Ezekiel 36:25-27, NLT)***

***God has taken you , washed you of all your filth, so that you can come boldly into His throne room to praise him! Took away your stony cruel and evil heart full of sin and then put His Spirit in you in order for you to be obedient unto Him!!!***

**Forget the Past – use the past to Learn From past Mistakes**

Christians aren't perfect. The more we grow in Christ, the more we realize how far we have to go. We can learn from our mistakes, but they are in the past and need to stay there. We look forward toward the resurrection. We keep our eyes on the prize. And by maintaining our focus on the goal, we are pulled heavenward.

I believe that Both discipline and [perseverance](https://www.thoughtco.com/perseverance-is-the-key-701554) are required to accomplish this objective.

Here’s how our brother Paul penned it…..

***No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. (Philippians 3:13-14, NLT)***

***Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:10-11, NIV)***

***What more can anyone add to these two verses it’s all self explanatory! It need not be explained for it is plain and simple for any child of God to understand!!!***

**Wait on the Lord - God's Timing Is Perfect**

As Christians we can be content and [**wait for God's timing**](https://www.thoughtco.com/christianity-4133210)**,** for it is sure to be the right time. By waiting and trusting patiently, we gain quiet strength: Here’s a few scriptures for thought…..

***Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. (Psalm 37:7, NLT)***

***Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. (Isaiah 40:31, NASB)***

***He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11, NIV)***

**Each New Day Is Special and a new blessing comes along with it.**

We can count on God's never-ending love and faithfulness with each new day: this year like all years gone by will also usher in another 365 days. Many will not see the full 365 days for our lives are nothing but like a Vapor here today Gone tomorrow! We must never forget that God has all our days number out! A person once wrote…” Life is like a cancelled check, once cashed it’s spent, Life is like a promissory note days and years are not promised to anyone, Today is all you got, Spend it wisely! I will spend the days I am granted in this life absorbed in the Lord for I have found His love never ends, and His mercies are new each day! To God be the Glory!

***The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" (Lamentations 3:22-24, NASB)***

***I pray these quick reminders have helped us all fight the good fight of faith and persevere unto the end when He will put in His appearance!***

***Wait on the Lord and again I say Wait!!!***

***God shed His blessings on the readers of these words!***

***Happy New Year…***

***Pastor Carlos Sepulveda Gonzalez.***