

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: What Makes It A New Year
Scripture Text: Lamentations 3:17–24
01/01/2017

Lamentations 3:17–24 (NKJV) ¹⁷ You have moved my soul far from peace; I have forgotten prosperity. ¹⁸ And I said, “My strength and my hope Have perished from the LORD.” ¹⁹ Remember my affliction and roaming, The wormwood and the gall. ²⁰ My soul still remembers And sinks within me. ²¹ This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. ²² *Through* the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.* ²⁴ “The LORD *is* my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!”

We have just celebrated the last of the three major Christian holidays of this time. I speak of Thanksgiving, Christmas and now New Years. Only one of the three has significant Spiritual meaning, that being Christmas. I said three Christian holidays because Thanksgiving to the Christian is associated with our thankfulness for God's abundant blessings. New Years may be considers a Christian because not all religions recognize it as a New Year.

NEW YEAR

What marks or makes or makes it a new year? Time, solar system? You make it a new year.

Is it the calendar? Jewish, Roman or Gregorian? There are over 100 different calendars in the world.

Egyptian calendar	Julian calendar	Ethiopian calendar
Chinese Calendar,	Islamic calendar	Hebrew calendar

A case in point. Ever hear of the Chinese New Year? A time of celebration the New Year different from ours.

It was the [Hellenic calendars](#) that inspired the [Roman calendar](#), including the solar [Julian calendar](#) introduced in 45 BC. Many modern calendar proposals, including the [Gregorian calendar](#) itself, are in turn modifications of the Julian calendar.

It seems to me that there is a more joyous celebration of New Years than Christmas. It is not surprising since the celebration of New Years is mainly a secular event and the world loves a party.

There is a Christian connection to New Years that is more of a religious connection than a spiritual one. We mark the New Year we celebrate based on the Gregorian Colander. The **Gregorian calendar** is internationally the most widely used **civil calendar**. It is named after [Pope Gregory XIII](#), (thus the Christian/religious connection) who introduced it in October 1582. The calendar was a refinement to the [Julian calendar](#)^[4] involving a 0.002% correction in the length of the [year](#).

Another Christian/religious connection is that the years are called Anno Domini (AD or A.D.) and before Christ (BC or B.C.) are used to label or number years in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. I am sure you know what is meant by the label BC. The label AD stands for, the term "Anno Domini" in Medieval Latin, which means "**in the year of the Lord**" but is often translated as "in the year **of** our Lord." Giving a closer Christian/religious connection.

It is not my intent to be a party pooper. I ask you why is there such celebration on December 31st by Christians and non-Christians alike. Many would say that it is the celebration of the incoming new year. But could we be celebrating the coming of a better year as some hope or a not so good year that very few anticipate. In short the celebration is about the unknown.

Just as we took a different and deeper look into the songs we sing at Christmas I would like us to consider a different look surrounding the marking of a new year. Often celebration is based on something that has happened. When we look back over our lives this past year we do have a testimony, we do have something to celebrate in that God has brought us through another year. When we remember how far we have come we then have the faith to go forward to face whatever the new year may bring.

Our celebration should be about remembrance AND anticipation. When we remember God's past blessings we are excited about His future blessings He has reserved for His own.

What makes it a New Year? There is nothing magical about the date. As we have seen that date is based on a calendars among many calendars

What Makes It A New Year?

We are the ones to make it a "New Year." Just as it is recognized as a New Year for many and The Chinese New Year is recognized by the Chinese, and other cultures, peoples and religions recognize other dates as their New Year, the Calendar is not what really makes the year new it is us within ourselves that do so.

If we keep doing the same old things without any new outcomes then it is just another year with a different number.

In fact with most of us only the year is new, but we can make the year new by making a new commitment if need be. We can have a new attitude about our relationship with God and our fellow man if need be. Often something new is not necessary but that something good may need to be Renewed.

God does His part.

In our focus passage Jeremiah, is lamenting (mourning) over the transgressions of his people and his current state. But as he thought about it all he saw the blessing of the Lord and was encouraged. Although the past was bleak he understood that every day was a new day in the Lord.

Lamentations 3:22–23 (NKJV) ²² *Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.**

No matter what lies behind or what lies ahead we still have hope in the Lord.

In the secular world that celebrates a New Year, we who live by faith can celebrate a New Day everyday for we have His new compassion and new mercies that are faithfully given each day. Now that is something to celebrate!!!

If we realize we have new underserved grace and mercies every day, that will add up to a whole New Year of grace and mercies.

END

Anno Domini

The **Anno Domini** or "[in the] year of [Our] Lord" nomenclature (commonly abbreviated "A.D.") for the chronological era in which we live is somewhat controversial. The alternative [Common Era](#) (abbreviated C.E.) is often suggested.

Other Eras in Common Use

The A.D. era is the only system in everyday use in the Western hemisphere and Europe, and it is the common system in regular commercial use in the rest of the world. However, many religious and ethnic groups keep track of their lives and celebrate holidays according to various [calendars](#) and eras. For instance, Muslims, Chinese, Hebrew.

History of Dating in the Christian World

Anno Domini dating was not the initial choice of Christians in the Mediterranean world. Like all people in the Roman Empire, early Christians dated by their local system.

The *Anno Domini* system was developed by a monk named Dionysius Exiguus in Rome around the middle of the 6th century, but was not widely adopted.

The Popularization of Anno Domini

The first historian or chronicler to use A.D. as his primary dating mechanism was the [Anglo-Saxon monk Bede](#), in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, published around [730](#).

He had also previously written a chronicle going back to Creation, so he had the numbers at his fingertips. He adopted A.D. dating as a way of keeping track of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and trying to bring their dates into line with the fragmentary evidence he had for imperial regnal years.

It should be noted that when properly used, the "A.D." should appear **before** the year, e.g. A.D. 2001. This is in keeping with the original Latin meaning: "in the year of our Lord 2001" versus the (ungrammatical) "2001 in the year of our Lord". Other era markings, B.C., C.E., and B.C.E. are placed after the year, e.g., 2001 C.E. They are also generally typeset in small caps.

Source: From Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia

2003 is the Chinese Year of the Black Sheep. To the Christian every year since the birth of Jesus is the “Year of our Lord.”

A few Calendars In Use Today	Comments
Egyptian calendar	The year is based on the heliacal rising of Sirius (Sothis) and divided into the three seasons of <i>akhet</i> (Inundation), <i>peret</i> (Growth) and <i>shemu</i> (Harvest).
Ethiopian calendar	the calendar associated with Ethiopian Church, based on the Coptic calendar
Chinese Calendar, Dàmíng origin	Created by Zu Chongzhi , most accurate calendar in the world at its invention
Islamic calendar	Based on the observational lunisolar calendars used in Pre-Islamic Arabia . Remains in use for religious purposes in the Islamic world.
Gregorian calendar	Introduced as a reform of the Julian calendar in the Roman Catholic church, since the 20th century in <i>de facto</i> use worldwide.
World Calendar	Perpetual calendar with 1–2 off-week days, preferred and almost adopted by the United Nations in 1950s
Soviet calendar	Gregorian calendar with 5- and 6-day weeks, used during 1929 to 1940.
Julian calendar	Revision of the Roman Republican calendar , in use in the Roman Empire and the Christian Middle Ages, and remains in use as liturgical calendar of Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Anno Domini

The terms anno Domini (AD or A.D.) and before Christ (BC or B.C.) are used to label or number years in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The term anno Domini is Medieval Latin, which means in the year of the Lord but is often translated as in the year of our Lord.