

The New Year Celebration

Know the Essence And Praise Him

The Lord said to Moses, “Consecrate to me every first born male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal”

(Exodus 13:1-2)

Every year we witness the world raging with great celebrations and festivals for the new coming year. Big preparation will be held for that day and drastic measure will be taken for its success. A holiday would be declared all over the world and almost in all countries. Nations expressed their gladness in this day and people regardless of their beliefs and religious legacy celebrate it and every one according to his own way. Streets and public places would be filled with the multitude celebrating with glee and glamour. Many will be drunkard and in debauchery, and many will let their souls go freely and what was restricted before will be allowed in this day. Pops and nightclubs in this day are full, and on the same day many names were praised and put on high and gratitude were offered to them.

What is the story behind this day? And why it has to be in such a way? In the verse we chose God asked Moses after the event of exodus, to consecrate every first born male among the Israelites whether man or animal to belong to God. The 1st born offspring of the animal is to be slaughtered before the Lord. And for a big animal like donkey can be redeemed by a lamb. And the same for the first born among the sons can be redeemed as well. ***“Redeem with a lamb every first born donkey, but if you do not redeem it break its neck. Redeem every first born among your sons.” (Exodus 13:13)***

The first born can be redeemed by a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a dove for a sin offering. And if the family cannot offer that, two doves or two young pigeon will be accepted. That redemption offering is to be brought to the priest at the day forty from the delivery, which is the day of purification of the woman or cleansing her from the blood. And to complete the frame of this religious background we add to you this: ***“On the eight day the boy is to be circumcised.” (Leviticus 12:3)***

Joseph and Mary as they were Israelites did the same. On the eight day they circumcised the child Jesus, and on the day forty of Mary’s purification they presented Him in the temple of Jerusalem with a pair of doves. ***“As it is written in the law of the Lord, every first born male is to be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the law of the Lord: a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” (Luke 2:23-24)***

People around the world traditionally celebrate Christmas every 25th of December. If we consider that day as the birth of Jesus, (Although no one knows exactly which day Jesus was born. then the day of His circumcision ought to be the 1st of January. And as time went, then the 1st of January, the 1st day of the New Year, the day of Jesus circumcision, was celebrated by the

people and till this day without recognizing how it is started and what are the spiritual meanings behind that celebration.

The essence and the spiritual meaning behind that celebration then it is to offer the first born to the Lord, to give the first fruit to the Lord, and to consecrate every grace given by God. And God ordered the Israelites to do that for the following reasons:

- 1) As to commemorate the freedom God had given to the Israelites from the Egyptian slavery. ***“In the day to come when your son asks you, what does this mean? Say to him, with a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” (Exodus 13:14) “And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.” (Exodus 13:16)*** As a sign of the grace of God to His people we celebrate as gratefulness to God for the freedom that we receive from Him.
- 2) As a confession of God’s power over Pharaoh’s stubbornness. ***“When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed every first born in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my first-born sons.” (Exodus 13:15)*** God will punish every act of wickedness and stubbornness against His will and will fight for us against the power of darkness.

It would be praise-worthy to consider that the motive behind all these celebrations is to offer God the first fruit of everything of our life because God gave every item. New Year celebration should be a day to offer our thanksgiving to Him as a gratitude to all the grace that He lavished. But sadly, if we observe how the people celebrate this occasion and the way they look to it they will not only displease the Lord but they grieve His spirit and offend His name. They persevere in their celebration but they ignore the essence of this feast, and they put many names and evils on high but they fail to exalt the Lord’s name.

My Dear and Beloved: At this occasion we should take the opportunity to offer our thanks to the Lord for He is the one who freed us from the trap of sin. And He is the one who delivered us from the hands of death and offered to us the eternal life. Let us remember our God always and to present the first harvest of everything He gave us. And, to redeem the first fruit of His grace by offering the best of our time, our efforts, our relationship, our finances, our interests, and our praises unto Him. Godbless and Happy New Year!

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord Jesus thank you for your word that gives me understanding and wisdom, and it helps me to know the truth and to walk in your ways. Lord I praise you for the great deliverance that you have done for me, and continue to uphold me with your grace to continue to be faithful to you and to your commands this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.