

From the West Meadow
By Pastor Wes Higgins

The new year has started with a bang. A new President and a new administration, and whether one likes it or not, a political upheaval has begun. The ripples of this upheaval have already been felt, not only in our government but in businesses and governments worldwide.

It reminds me of another upheaval that took place as another new year began some 4000 years ago. It was in the land of Egypt, and God came to save His people. In so doing, one of the most powerful nations of the time came crashing down. Never again was Egypt to gain back its previous power and prestige.

But that wasn't the only upheaval that took place. God took His people who had been in slavery for generations under the Egyptian gods and their laws – under the Egyptian workweek, and under the Egyptian calendar – and He reintroduces to them Himself, His Laws, His week, and His calendar. The first thing God did was reveal His power over the universe, breaking them free from generations of slavery. The next thing He did was reintroduce His calendar. “This month shall be your beginning of months”, Exodus 12:2, NKJV. Then God reintroduced them to His workweek. “Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, – holy – to the Lord”, Exodus 16:23, NKJV. God then reintroduced His Laws in power and majesty. “I am the Lord your God, who brought you – out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me”, Exodus 20:2-3, NKJV.

In giving them a new calendar, God also revealed to them their savior in the form of a lamb (see Exodus 12). But not just any lamb. In choosing the lamb it had to be “without blemish”. They had from the tenth day of the month to the fourteenth day to confirm that the lamb they chose was the right one (Exodus 12).

It is interesting to realize that God left it to the people to choose the lamb whose blood would cover and protect them. Of course we know that lamb they chose was a representation of our savior, Jesus Christ. Centuries later, Christ Himself gave this warning: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ', and will deceive many”, Matthew 24:4-5, NKJV. Jesus' warning here is that there will be a plethora of false christs, and is telling us to choose our savior wisely.

Since “Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”, Hebrews 13:8, NKJV, our Christ needs to be The Christ revealed in the Bible, one who is a keeper of the Law, right down to the jot and tittle, see Matthew 5:17-19. Therefore, the Christ we choose will be teaching from the Old Testament. He will be preaching the Kingdom of God, present and future, see Mark 1:14-15. Our Christ will be preaching God's word faithfully, see John 14:6. Those following Him will be baptizing and making disciples in His Name and the Name of the Father and the Holy Spirit, see Matthew 28:18-20. And as the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28), our Christ will be keeping the Sabbath “as His custom” and all of God's Holy festivals as He is recorded keeping throughout the Gospels. Our Christ will always be about His “Father's business”, doing the will of the Father, see Luke 2:40.

“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak”, John 12:49, NKJV. Choose who you follow wisely.