



The good word, now!

Headlines

To us is given a brand new year. It's a gift that some did not receive. So what will this new year bring? Instinctively we say, "We have no idea." But actually, we do. "The Lord and King never does anything without telling his servants the prophets about it." Amos 3:7 (NIRV). God will do something on Earth this year—and tell us about it! Specifics maybe, headlines definitely. Evil will grow worse. God will raise some leaders up, bring others down. The Father's faithfulness will remain. Believers will receive strength and blessing. Heaven's Good News will proceed. God's Word will have power. And King Jesus will return soon. Want more? Stand by. Listen intently and watch closely, as God unfolds your year.

Fire

The world despises God's prophets. Sometimes the church despises them, too. The prophet Jeremiah was beaten nearly to death. But that didn't stop him. Hear his testimony: "Sometimes I think, 'I won't talk about his message anymore. I'll never speak in his name again.' But then your message burns in my heart. It's like a fire deep inside my bones. I'm tired of holding it in. In fact, I can't." Jeremiah 20:9 (NIRV). How about you? Does God's message burn in your heart? Is it a fire in your bones? Imagine yourself as one of thousands who flame with God's Word in everyday life, throughout our land. Some around us will despise us for it, but we will not hold it in. In fact, we can't.

Risk

Hundreds of years before it happened, the prophet Isaiah said, Be on the lookout for a messenger who cries, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" In the fullness of time, John the Baptist marched onto the stage. John was a strange man—he dressed weirdly, and for his meals he fixed locusts and honey. John 3:1–4. Prophets always seem strange. They point out sin and confront popular culture. But their core message is what our society needs—"Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 (NIRV). Will you join this message? Will you risk your popularity? Will this be your year to be strange for God—to point people to the Lamb of God, who forgives sin and takes it away?

Invitation

The world and many communities of faith ignore the Bible's last book. The book of Revelation is unusual. It's alarming. It's inconvenient. But Jesus says, read this book out loud. Listen to it. Obey it—and you'll be blessed. Don't add anything to it, don't remove anything from it. "You can trust these words. They are true. The Lord is the God who gives messages to the prophets. He sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place. Look! I am coming soon!" Revelation 22:6–7 (NIRV). Here it is—your pathway and mine for life. See Jesus—he stands by a sign that reads, "Enter Here." He opens his arms wide. Today, are you saying "Yes!" to his invitation? Revelation 3:20.