



# Happy New Year!!

2023



As you reflect on 2022 and look ahead to 2023, think about these three letters that make one powerful word:

## YET...

Officially, the word "yet" has a few different uses/definitions, but for the sake of this letter I want to focus on the following meaning of the word:

"Sentence connector—nevertheless, still, in spite of"

"Yet" usually connects something negative with something positive, something painful with something comforting;

"Yet" often brings together in one thought or sentence both the dark clouds and the silver lining.

"Yet" can be a POWERFUL word of hope and encouragement!

The word "yet" appears in the Bible approximately 395x, and for the rest of this letter I want to show just a few of the ways that:

**God uses this word "yet" to encourage us, to give us endurance and hope, to contrast the seeming hopelessness of our situations with the true hopefulness of His love, His power, His faithfulness, and His willingness to show that we can trust Him always, no matter what we are going through.**



In the next three passages (one typed out and 2 for you to look up), soak in the pain and suffering of the words before the "yet," and then soak in God's hope and promises through the words after the "yet."

**Lamentations 3:19-26 NLT:**

*"The thought of my suffering and hopelessness is bitter beyond words.*

*I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.*

**YET** *I still dare to hope when I remember this:*

*The faithful love of the Lord never ends!*

*His mercies never cease.*

*Great is his faithfulness;*

*his mercies begin afresh each morning.*

*I say to myself, 'The Lord is my inheritance;*

*therefore, I will hope in him!'*

*The Lord is good to those who depend on him,*

*to those who search for him.*

*So it is good to wait quietly*

*for salvation from the Lord."*

**Habakkuk 3:17-19 NIV**

**Jeremiah 50:33-34 NIV** shows us that even when we suffer greatly from our own poor decisions, God is strong, loving, and willing to rescue us, free us, defend us, and give us rest when we turn back to Him!



Now, in the next two passages, look at Jesus' suffering before the "yet" and His amazing responses to His suffering after the "yet":

**John 16:32 NIV:**

*"A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home.*

*You [my closest friends on earth] will leave me [Jesus] all alone.*

**YET** *I am not alone, for my Father is with me."*