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A NEW BEGINNING

Learning from our Calendar (1)

INTRODUCTION

- Calendars remind us of various holidays and observances. Some are purely secular, some exclusive to our country, some have religious foundations.
- While there is much misunderstanding about the purpose of various days, we can learn valuable lessons from what we these days represent.
- This year, I want to notice some of these days from a Biblical perspective.

INTRODUCTION

- FIRST, we must understand that as the church belongs to Christ, the Bible is silent about observing these days.
- The church is NOT a political, social or nationalistic organization.
- It is the body of Christ governed by His word in what we do, teach and observe
(**cf. Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 3:17**)
- That is why, as a church we do not have "special services" for various holidays.

INTRODUCTION

- Many believe that Easter, Christmas and other observances are in the Bible and what God expects the church to observe. But it is NOT there! NOR is it the intended purpose of the church.
- Our purpose is simple: To support the truth of God's word by strengthening brethren and trying to reach the lost (**1 Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Thessalonians 1:8, etc.**)
- A church that fails to make this distinction is NOT faithful! (See **Revelation 2 & 3, 1 Corinthians**)

INTRODUCTION

- Our society has blurred the spiritual distinction of the church by seeking to incorporate nationalistic observances into its purpose and teachings.
- The result is a society that expects the church to be something other than what God intended!
- Sadly, even some brethren have “jumped on the bandwagon”.
- Let it be our goal to keep the church pure
(**Ephesians 5:27**)

INTRODUCTION

- With that in mind I introduce what I want to address throughout this year from time to time.
- When a calendar event arrives, we often pause to think about its purpose.
- It is good to remind ourselves of what the Bible says about a subject that is on our mind.
- The Bible DOES speak of beginnings, love, fathers & mothers, freedom, labor, leaders, memorials, race relations, the birth and resurrection of Jesus.
- My goal is to notice these subjects by considering what the Bible does say (**2 Timothy 2:15**).

INTRODUCTION

- Also, please CONSIDER:
The observance of national holidays is an individual matter. Should you choose to observe some of these days, it must be based upon your personal convictions. **Cf. Romans 14**
- You cannot bind such upon others, AND do not expect the church to participate in your celebrations. It is simply NOT her purpose!
- Some of my brethren have chosen to NOT make this distinction.

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A NEW BEGINNING

Learning from our Calendar (1)

REMINDERS

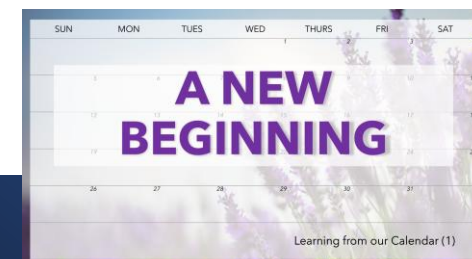
- We need reminders.
- **2 Peter 1:12, 3:1, Philippians 3:1**
- **Hebrews 5:12-13** – a reminder of first principles (which we should move beyond)
- Why do we need reminders?
Because we are human and forget.



REMINDERS

Memorials in scripture!

- Israel, as a nation (theocracy) had many memorials, some instituted by YHWH.
- **Leviticus 23**
- The Sabbath every week - **23:1-2, Ex. 20:8-11**
- The Passover - **23:4-8, Ex. 12:14-20**
- First fruits - **23:9-14**
- Feast of weeks - **23:15-22**
- Feast of trumpets - **23:23-25**
- Day of atonement - **23:26-32**
- Feast of tabernacles - **23:33-44**



REMINDERS

Memorials in scripture!

- Israel, as a nation (theocracy) had many memorials, some instituted by YHWH.
- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** – Parents were to remind their children regularly of God’s laws
- **Deuteronomy 31:9-13** - every 7 years they were to gather and read the Law before all the people
- **Joshua 4:6-7** – memorial stones



REMINDERS

Memorials in scripture!

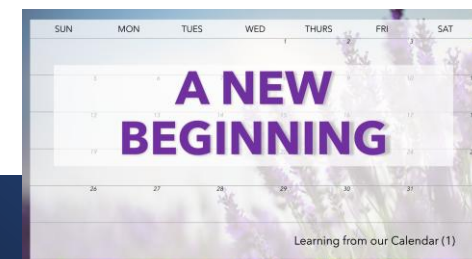
- **Genesis 9:4-9** – the rainbow
- **Luke 22:19-22, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26** – we observe the Lord's Supper
- **Acts 20:7, 2:1** – Sunday! The day Jesus arose, the church/kingdom began.
- It is no secret we are expected to assemble –
Hebrews 10:24-25



CALENDARS and the bible

The word "calendar" is not found in the Bible

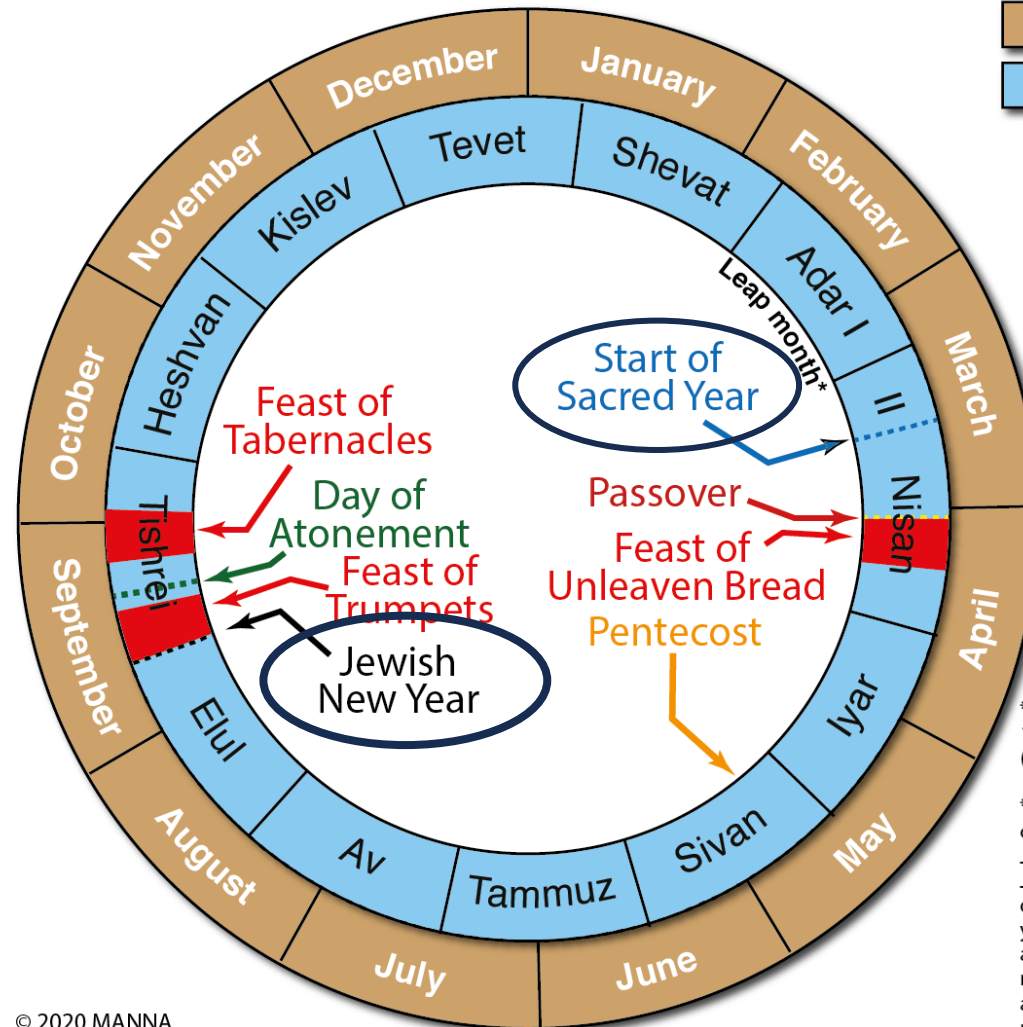
- BUT the basis for a calendar is there.
- **Ecclesiastes 3:1** – a season for everything
- **Psalms 104:19** – *He appointed the moon for seasons, the sun knows its going down.*
- **Genesis 1:14** – lights in the sky for seasons, days and years (4th day). **1:5** – "first day", etc.
- Calendars are based upon these.



CALENDARS and the bible

The Jews had 2 calendars

Jewish Calendar



Gregorian Calendar
 Jewish Calendar

Month	# of Days
Nisan (Abib*)	30
Iyar	29
Sivan	30
Tammuz	29
Av	30
Elul	29
Tishrei	30
Heshavan	29/30
Kislev	30/29
Tevet	29
Shevat	30
Adar**	29/30

* The first month was originally called Abib (Exod. 13:4) but was changed to Nisan after the captivity (Neh. 2:1, Est. 3:7).

** In the 4th century, Rabbi Hillel II instituted a complex, mathematical system for reconciling the Jewish lunar calendar with the solar year. The Jewish calendar has twelve lunar months of 29-30 days each, which is about ten days short of a solar year. To rectify the misalignment, a "leap" month is added to the Jewish calendar in seven of every nineteen years. The leap month Adar I (30 days) is added after Shevat, while the regular Adar is referred to as "Adar II." This adjustment ensures seasonal feasts remain in their correct season.



CALENDARS and the bible

Tracking events in the Bible

- **Genesis 7:11, 8:4, 13-14** – Noah & the flood
- Many dates tied to the rules of leaders -
Daniel 1:1, Ezra 1:1, Nehemiah 2:1, etc.
- Days, weeks, months & years addressed throughout scripture.
- NOTE: The concept of a week? Where did it originate? **You CANNOT escape the Bible!**



CALENDARS and the bible

What is the significance of a calendar?

- It keeps you on track with various seasons, as well as dates (including celebrations and observances).
- It gives us a timeframe for reminders.
- It helps you schedule events
- This will be my starting point for various days of the year that I believe have spiritual lessons attached to them



New Beginnings in the Bible

Typically, we celebrate the beginning of a new year

- Why? 1) Tradition; 2) We are reminded of a new beginning
- Life as we know it goes on, but as the clock strikes midnight, I cannot help but think – we are starting over with a new year – a new beginning!
- This is a time of reflection and resolve to make needed changes, both spiritually and physically.



New Beginnings in the Bible

New Beginnings in the Bible

- **Genesis 1:1** - *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...*
- **Genesis 8:13ff, 9:9-11** - after the flood, God established His covenant with Noah and his sons
- **Exodus 12:2** - as Israel prepares to exit Egypt, YHWH declared it a new beginning.



New Beginnings in the Bible

New Beginnings in the Bible

- **Isaiah 6:5-7** – his calling. An angel touched his tongue and declared him clean.
- **Micah 7:8-19** – If Israel repented, God promised forgiveness and a fresh start, **esp. 18-19**
- **Zechariah 3:3-5** – a vision of Joshua the high priest. Given a clean garment – a new start.



New Beginnings in the Bible

New Beginnings in the Bible

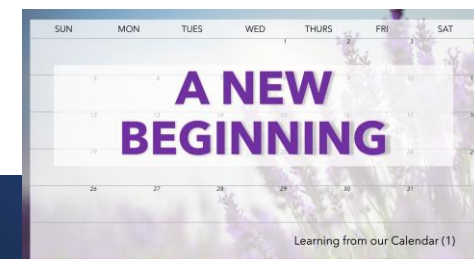
- **Acts 2:1**– the beginning of the church/kingdom. A new dispensation (**Cf. Acts 11:15, Galatians 4:4**)



Lessons from New Beginnings

Our God is a God of 2nd chances

- He does not desire that any perish –
2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- **Romans 6:23** – while sin brings about death, Jesus died to give us a new beginning.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:3-4**
- Even as Christians, when we sin, we can be restored – **1 John 1:9**
Luke 15:17-21 – the prodigal son



Lessons from New Beginnings

Resolutions

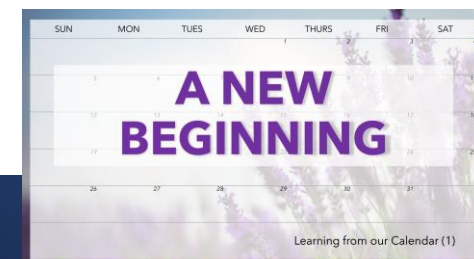
- From time to time, we need to examine ourselves, a “spiritual inventory” –
2 Corinthians 13:5
- What better time than the beginning of a new year? We are THINKING about a new start.
- NOTE: While the new year reminds us of this, do NOT wait until then to make changes –
2 Corinthians 6:1-2
- **Revelation 2:5** – start where you are right now!



Lessons from New Beginnings

Forgiving others

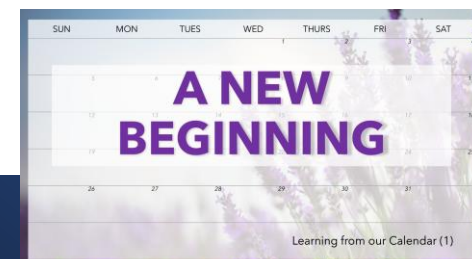
- **Matthew 6:14-15** – as we forgive is how we will be forgiven.
- Do you need God's mercy and forgiveness?
- **Matthew 18:21-22** – reminds us that our disposition to forgive must exceed the norm.
Cf. Luke 17:4
- Will we give others (or ourselves) a second chance?
- Forgiving can mean a new beginning



Lessons from New Beginnings

Our future and final "new beginning"

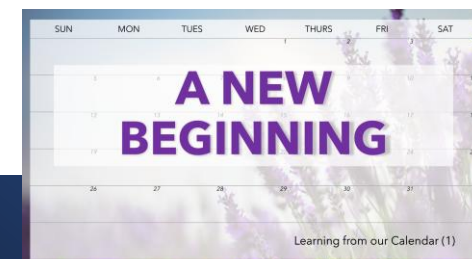
- **Hebrews 4:9-10** speaks of a rest that remains for the people of God.
- We walk by faith because we know when this life is over something better awaits us (**Matthew 25:46, John 5:28-29**). As Christians we desire heaven.
- We live knowing He will return. This world will cease and we look for "new heavens and a new earth" **2 Peter 3:10-13**

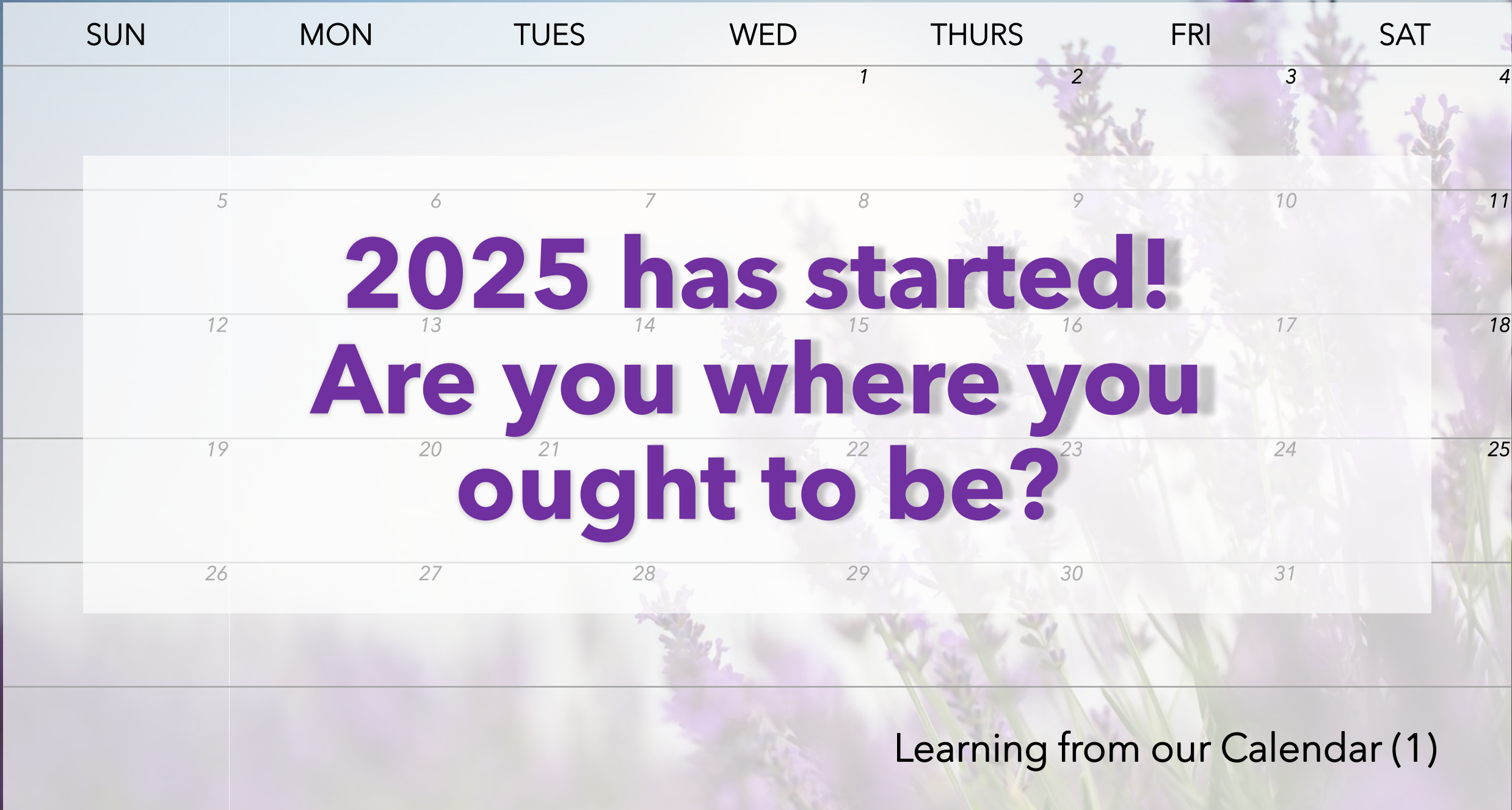


Lessons from New Beginnings

Our future and final "new beginning"

- That WILL be our final "new beginning".
1 Thessalonians 4:17-18, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.





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**2025 has started!
Are you where you
ought to be?**

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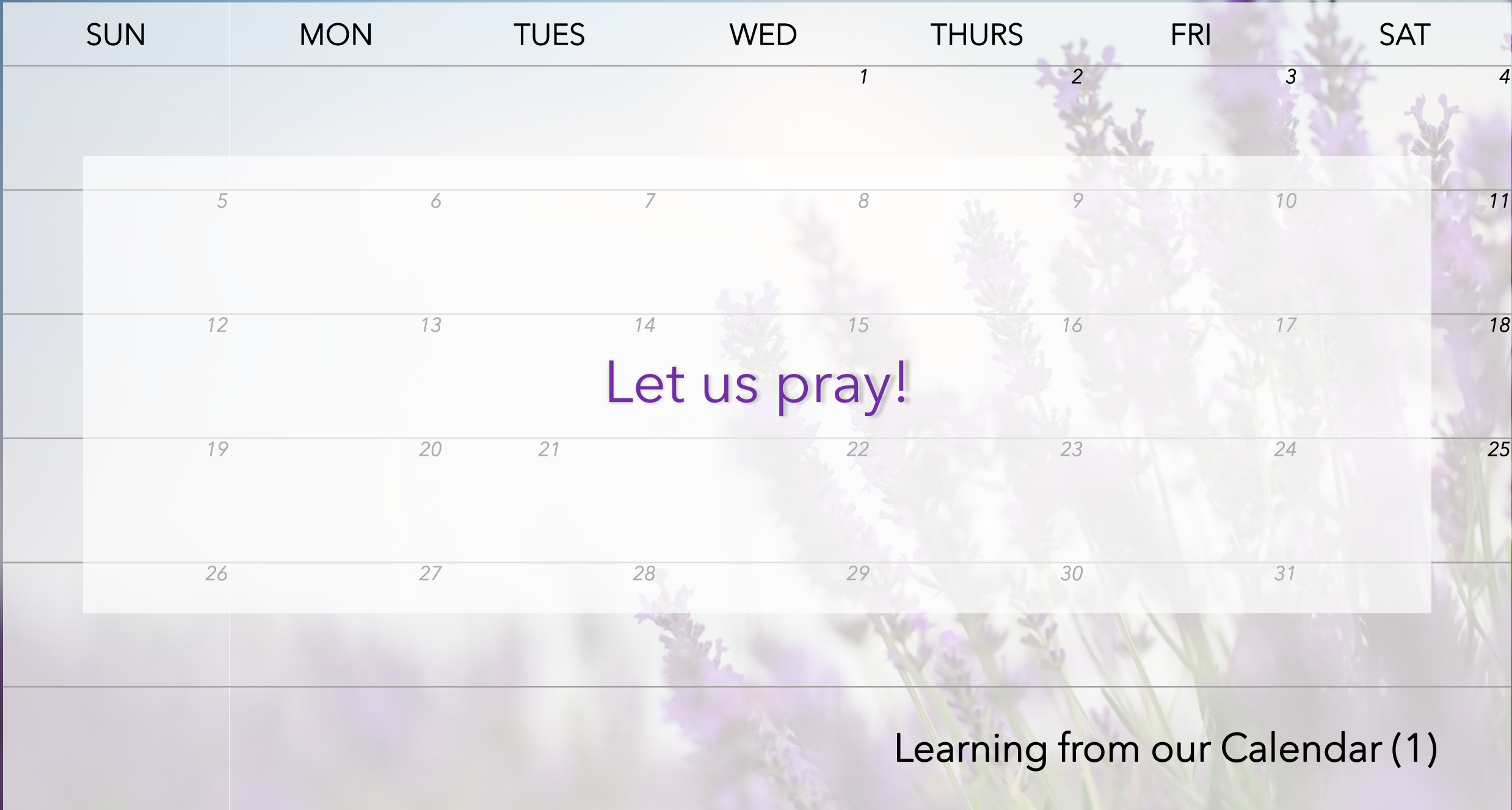
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Let us pray!

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Learning from our Calendar (1)