



Pastor Doug Wilson • BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR! January 4, 2026

1. Your “Old Year” might have been \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Your “New Year” might be \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Life is \_\_\_\_\_.

JUDGES 2:3 (TNIV)

**2** <sup>1</sup> The angel of the Lord...said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you,’ <sup>2</sup> and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.’ Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? <sup>3</sup> ...I have also said, ‘I will not drive [the people of this land] out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.’”

a. It’s natural to ask “\_\_\_\_\_?”

b. Sure, sometimes it’s \_\_\_\_\_.

JUDGES 2:10 (TNIV)

<sup>10</sup> After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew **①**neither the LORD **②**nor what he had done for Israel.

c. But sometimes it’s \_\_\_\_\_ any fault of our own.

ECCLESIASTES 9:11 (NIV)

I have seen something else under the sun:  
The race is not to the swift  
or the battle to the strong,  
nor does food come to the wise  
or wealth to the brilliant  
or favor to the learned;  
but time and chance happen to them all.

“Life is what happens when we’re busy making other plans.”

— JOHN LENNON

d. So, what can we \_\_\_\_\_ about it?

Seek a closer relationship  
with the One who created you,  
loves you,  
sustains you,  
is WITH you,  
and is for you.

- Ask Him what \_\_\_\_\_ He might have for your suffering.
- Ask Him to be \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- Ask Him to \_\_\_\_\_ you get through what you’re going thru!

JUDGES 2:21-3:4 (TNIV)

<sup>21</sup> I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. <sup>22</sup> I will use them to **TEST** Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their ancestors did.” <sup>23</sup> The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

**①** It was a \_\_\_\_\_ • That’s an \_\_\_\_\_.

**③** <sup>1</sup> These are the nations the LORD left to **TEST** all those Israelites **WHO HAD NOT EXPERIENCED any of the wars** in Canaan <sup>2</sup> (**he did this only TO TEACH WARFARE to the descendants** of the Israelites **who HAD NOT HAD PREVIOUS BATTLE EXPERIENCE**): <sup>3</sup> the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. <sup>4</sup> **They were left to TEST** the Israelites **to see whether they would obey the LORD’s commands**, which he had given their ancestors through Moses.

**②** It was \_\_\_\_\_ • That’s \_\_\_\_\_.  
That’s instruction. That’s teaching. That’s “Torah”! That’s **discipleship**!