

## NEW MERCIES

-Ryan Parsons-

First held on December 31, 1907 to welcome 1908, the Times Square Ball drop has been held annually since. One of the most well known celebrations worldwide takes place in Times Square and is attended by more than 1 million people. At the same time across the globe, people are celebrating the moment while watching the live broadcast with their own confetti, fireworks, firearms, or simply by banging pots with wooden spoons. People kiss and shout, “Happy New Year!”

But, what’s the big deal about a new year?

Hope.

As the ball drops and the calendar changes, everyone, at least for a moment, hopes for something. Some hope for prosperity; while others only hope for less suffering. Hopes of better health, healthier relationships, and tolerable work environments fill the crowds. Still others dream and hope of new beginnings rather than be overcome with lament of the past year’s woes.

However, it is interesting to me that so many find themselves once again back at December 31st with so many disappointments. Could it be that their hopes are misplaced?

What if God’s Word told you that you could celebrate every day? What if each day was worthy of confetti, fireworks, kisses, and shouts of joy? Could it be that when you open your eyes, even before you brush your teeth and your feet hit the floor, there is reason for inexpressible HOPE?

In 586 B.C., Jerusalem was utterly destroyed by the Babylonians, and many of God’s people were drug off into captivity. Unthinkable things occurred in those days and the following years. As they were confronted with those horrific events and their own sin that served as the root cause, they mourned. It was their December 31st. I find it amazing that in the midst of that pain, hope emerged.

### **Lamentations 3:22-24**

22

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;

23

they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

24

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”

Good morning! Today is a new day, a new week, and new start. Why? Because the STEADFAST LOVE (ἄγαπή) of God is still going. You may have gone to bed last night a wreck, but you can rejoice today because God's mercy is still here going strong. It is here for you when you wake up. Take hold of it and put your hope only in Him!