

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

HERE AS IN HEAVEN: HEAVEN AND HELL

Aloha everyone and hau'oli makahiki hou! I pray your New Year is off to a great start and that the fast is yielding fruit. We are extremely excited about what God has in store for this year! This is a year of big transition in the Palompo household. We had a beautiful installation service last night. But God is keeping me grounded in subtle ways. As I mentioned, January 1st kicked off our Church's 40-day fast. Every year I fast from recreational media (Instagram, Facebook, movies, YouTube, and Streaming Services). Right before the fast, I got a notification on Instagram that Pastor Wayne Cordeiro was following me. I thought, "He must've heard about the transition." I immediately went to my feed and started deleting posts. I posted something on my birthday a couple years ago where I was posing poolside with the caption, "35 Ain't no vibe". I thought Pastor Wayne wouldn't like that. Then I thought, "This guy only follows like 70 people. I wonder who else is in this inner circle." So I started scrolling through people he followed and I didn't recognize a single name. I thought, "He doesn't follow Pastor so-and-so but he follows me?" Then I checked his followers and I still didn't recognize anyone. So I went to the oldest post on his feed and it was posted 15 hours ago. I checked his account name. It wasn't Wayne Cordeiro, it was Wayne Cordiero! I had been catfished. So God has been keeping me grounded. We've also been going through an amazing devotional. Aside from our 21-day devotional, *Here as in Heaven* that many of us are going through, I also go through an annual Bible reading plan, and the reading for January 1 was Genesis 1,

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," (Genesis 1:1).

I thought, how appropriate that we should start the new year off [where?] in the beginning! I love New Years because it always feels like a new beginning – a fresh start. Our Church is going through something of a new beginning this year and it's exciting. But that's not to say that new beginnings are easy. And it's not to say that new beginnings aren't scary.

*"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep..."
(Genesis 1:2).*

Sometimes new beginnings are scary. A lot of people have a word, or a theme for the new year. But for many of us, we look ahead and it just seems formless, empty, and dark. What's out there? What lies ahead? And maybe you're feeling a little anxious this morning because you feel behind the ball. Maybe you feel like the new year is taking off ready or not! Maybe you're freaking out because you don't have your word for the year. The good news is that you don't have to have this year figured out because God already does.

OG Discussion Question: How do you feel about 2023? Have you taken time to ask the Lord for His vision for this year?