

The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

5/03/03

Intro

- We had a great vacation.
- Seeing two fins next to a swimmer...

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The context of these verses is blessing. The Lord wants to convince the people of Israel that God wants to bless them like they've never seen blessing before.

No more will people talk about what their fathers did that has made life hard, it will be personal. God is going to deal with each person individually and included with that is a promise of blessing like they've never imagined.

God, through Jeremiah was referring to the New Covenant, a building up, and a planting that would be beyond their ability to even imagine – it would be so good.

Theses are some of the most important verses in the entire Old Testament because this is the only place in the Old Testament where God specifically mentions the New Covenant which Jesus referred to when He was having the Passover supper with the disciples the night before He was crucified for their sins.

These verses give us insight into the newness of the New Covenant.

I. A new heart

A. Not tablets of stone

- The New Covenant will not be like the Old
- The Old was external, represented by the Law on stone tablets

II Corinthians 3: 3, 7 Tablets of stone.

➤ **And their hearts were stone as well**

Ezek 36:25-26 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a New Spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from you and give you a heart of flesh.

B. Righteousness was based on good behavior

- It was all about “do this” or “don’t do that.”
- And it only created to desire to sin more

Illus – As soon as there is a law there comes the desire to break it! Try going on a diet.

C. The New Covenant is much different

- Now it’s about loving God!
- The law will be written on their hearts!!

Illus – There is a law that a parent must care for his/her children. But the law is already there in our hearts.

II. A new relationship

A. Not just a few priests

- In the Old Covenant only a few priests could approach God and not without blood
- The priests would come to God in behalf of the people

Illus – The high priest would enter once a year and that with fear and trembling

B. Now everyone will know the Lord

- We will be a kingdom and priests to our God
- We all have direct access to the Father in heaven
- We do not need a mediator **because Jesus is our mediator!!**

C. We have a new relationship to God

- Now He is our “abba” or daddy.
- Because we are truly sons or daughters by adoption.

Illus – When there is an adoption, the children call him “Dad.” They don’t have to go through the mom!!

III. A new beginning

A. “I will remember their sins no more.”

- This isn’t the way it was in the OLD.

Hosea 7:2 “but they do not realize that I remember all their evil deeds. Their sins engulf them; they are always before me.”

- Does God actually “forget” our sins?
- No, he doesn’t hold them against us, He doesn’t bring them up.

Ps 103:12 “as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

Illus – Man, that’s love!!

Illus – Don’t you hate it when you can’t ever be rid of your past?

B. In Jesus, there is a constant new beginning

- His mercies are new every morning.
- Jesus already paid it all

Illus – there is no need for “penance.”

- God is for us, who can be against us?

Illus – Peter and Malchus’ ear

C. Now, there is peace with God

- We’re not just forgiven, but we’re righteous!!

Illus – Presidential pardon is one thing, but God’s righteousness is altogether different!

Illus – On vacation, “I don’t deserve this.” God’s answer, “You’re right.”

II Corinthians 5: 17

Conclusion

Now, the love of Christ controls us. And love is so much more powerful than Law!!