

The NEW Covenant!

Jeremiah 31:31-37

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Living and working under a contract
- **Does God have a plan for the future?**
 - Secularists say no divine plan, just the choices of men or blind chance.
 - “Replacement Theology” or Covenant Theology believes that God’s ultimate plan is the salvation of mankind.
 - God has only one redeemed people. Therefore the church of the New Testament replaces Israel from the Old.
 - God has no future plans for the Jewish people or nation. No tribulation, no millennial kingdom
 - Dispensational Theology believes that God’s ultimate goal is a display of His glory in this world
 - A “*dispensation*” means “*to manage or administer a household*”. How God governs His world.
 - **Six characteristics of a “Dispensation”**
 - 1) A differing governing relationship between God and His world
 - 2) New responsibilities on the part of mankind
 - 3) New revelation from God to affect the change in the relationship. A new contractual agreement
 - 4) A test: Will man respond favorably to God’s rule over them?
 - 5) The failure of men to pass the test
 - 6) Judgment follows with grace
- **Six Dispensations that we’ve studied so far**
 - 1) **Innocence or Freedom**-- From creation of Adam to the fall. God rules personally
 - 2) **Conscience**-- Internal “oughtness”. From the fall to the flood
 - 3) **Human Government**-- Man governing himself. From the flood to the Tower of Babel
 - 4) **Promise**-- From Abraham to Moses
 - 5) **Law**-- From Moses to Christ
 - 6) **Grace**-- From Pentecost to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ
 - a) **Age of grace began with the incarnation of Jesus Christ.**
 - John 1:17--“*For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*”
 - b) **Salvation is by God’s grace through faith plus nothing-**
 - Ephesians 2:8-9-- “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*”
 - c) **Living under grace** does not mean license to sin, but rather we are under the law of Christ, plus the many positive and negative commands in the New Testament. When no clear written instructions, we are guided by clear principles. We also have the indwelling Spirit of God to guide us.
 - d) **The Test:** “*What have you done with Jesus Christ? Have you accepted God’s gracious gift?*”
 - e) During this age of Grace God has temporarily set aside the Jewish people in order to build His **church**, composed of people from every nation, tribe, ethnic, and language group. Some call this period of time in which we are living the “Church Age”.

- f) The Age of Grace however does not end with the rapture of the Church, but with the **Second Coming of Jesus Christ** at the end of the tribulation. The tribulation is God's judgment on mankind for their failure to accept Jesus as savior and Lord.
- g) **The tribulation will also spiritually prepare the Jewish people to receive their Messiah at His second coming.**
 - Zephaniah 12:10b-14 -- , *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.”*
 - Romans 11:26-27 -- *“All Israel will be saved, as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is the covenant with them when I take away their sins.’”*
- h) At Jesus' second coming, the dispensation of Grace comes to a close-- and Jesus Christ launches a **new dispensation**, a new way of governing His world-- and that it, He will usher in the **Kingdom Age**.
 - **The KINGDOM AGE** begins with Jesus making a new covenant or contract with the surviving, believing Jewish remnant.

The NEW Covenant!

- Jeremiah 31:31-37-- *“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): “If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.” Thus says the LORD: “If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the LORD.”*

A. Important Details regarding the New Covenant

1. **It is an unconditional “grace” covenant, resting on the “I will” of God.**
 - Ezekiel 16:60-62-- *“Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you. And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.”*
2. **This covenant is made with the Jewish People, not the Church**
 - a. *“house of Israel and the house of Judah”*-- The divided kingdoms of the Jewish people as a whole
 - b. The same group of people with whom God made an early covenant, the Mosaic covenant

- c. The “new” covenant differs from the old in that the “new” is unconditional, whereas the old was conditioned on the obedience of the Jews. No “ifs” connected with the “new” covenant.
3. **The Covenant guarantees the perpetuity of the nation Israel and her restoration to the land. It is an everlasting covenant.**
- Jeremiah 31:35-37-- *“Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): “If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.” Thus says the LORD: “If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the LORD.”*
4. **The Covenant promises the impartation of a renewed mind and heart, what we today call “regeneration”.**
- Jeremiah 31:33 -- *“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”*

Included in the New Covenant is...

- a. **The power to obey God through the indwelling of the Spirit of God.**
- Ezekiel 36:25-27-- *“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”*
 - Isaiah 59:21-- *“As for Me,” says the LORD, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the LORD, “from this time and forevermore.”*
- b. **The forgiveness of sins of individual Jews and the nation as a whole.**
- Micah 7:18-19 -- *“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”*
 - Isaiah 44:21-23 -- *“Remember these, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you. Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel.”*
 - Jeremiah 50:19-20 -- *“But I will bring back Israel to his home, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan; His soul shall be satisfied on Mount Ephraim and Gilead. In those days and in that time,” says the LORD, “The iniquity of Israel shall be sought, but there shall be none; And the sins of Judah, but they shall not be found; For I will pardon those whom I preserve.”*
- c. **A clear apprehension of God and His will apart from human mediation.**
- Isaiah 54:13-- *“All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.”*
 - Jeremiah 31:34-- *“No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD.”*

- d. **Everyone will have an intimate, personal, life-transforming relationship with the living God.**
 - Jeremiah 24:7-- *“Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.”*
 - Ezekiel 11:19-20-- *“Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”*
- e. **No longer any need for Jewish missions as every Jew will know the Lord.** Instead the Kingdom age will be a time for the Jews to fulfill their divine purpose, and that is, to be a *“light to the Gentiles.”*

B. Our Relationship to the “New Covenant”

1. **Jesus Christ institutes the New Covenant by His death on the cross.**
 - Matthew 26:28-- *“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*
 - Hebrews 9:18-20-- *“not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.”*
2. **When we accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we participate in the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant, not the physical blessings.**
 - Ephesians 2:12-13-- *“at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”*
 - Ephesians 2:19-- *“you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”*
3. **We become “members of the household of God”, not members of the “commonwealth of Israel”**
4. **We are grafted in to the vine of Abrahamic blessing-- Romans 11**
5. **But the ultimate fulfillment of the New Covenant will be with the Jewish people in the Kingdom, not with the church in the present age.**