

## Journey through Jeremiah Part 36 The New Covenant

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Th.D. – Wednesday, Sept. 06, 2017

### † Jeremiah 31:31-40

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name:

36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

37 Thus saith 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, saith the LORD.

38 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be built to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.

39 And the measuring line shall yet go forth over against it upon the hill Gareb, and shall compass about to Goath.

40 And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse gate toward the east, *shall be* holy unto the LORD; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever.

What we are studying tonight is the LORD's "**new covenant**" with His people. To get a clear understanding of the contrast between the new and old covenants we will be relying heavily upon the Book of Hebrews and other passages of Scripture as well.

Aren't we privileged to have ALL of God's Word? The LORD has really blessed us by giving us the information in both the Old and New Testaments. Because of that, we are able to "rightly divide the Word of Truth." The folks back in Jeremiah's day did not have such luxuries.

First of all, we want to examine a few things about the Old Covenant.

The Old Covenant or better yet, First Covenant, that God made with the Children of Israel after he had brought them out of Egypt's bondage in the Exodus.

### **Exodus 19:3-8**

3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, **and keep my covenant**, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the

words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

I want you to notice that the first issue we find with the first covenant, was that the people declared that **they would do it**. 8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken **we will do**. In other words, they claimed that they could keep God's covenant. The truth is they couldn't even keep it long enough for Moses to go back up the mountain and return again with the 10 Commandments, which is the very foundation of the covenant.

But, Moses does return with the 10 Commandments and once again they assume that they would be able to keep God's commandments – but they could not.

**1. Mediator** - One aspect of the first covenant was its mediator was Moses: **Exodus 20:18-19** And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw *it*, they removed, and stood afar off. 19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

The Hebrew writer also points that out in **Hebrews 9:19-20** For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20 Saying, This *is* the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

**2. Ratified (Sanctioned)** - The next thing I want us to notice is that the first covenant was ratified by the blood of animals: **Exodus 24:7-8** And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. 8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

Likewise, the Hebrew writer says: **Hebrews 9:19-20** For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20 Saying, This *is* the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

**3. Promises** - The next thing of importance in the first covenant is the promises that God made to them: **Exodus 19:5-6** Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And **Leviticus 26** goes into much more detail about the promises.

### **4. Initiation of the covenant.**

**a. Circumcision: Genesis 17:11** And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

**Exodus 12:48-49** And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. 49 One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.

And in the Gospel of John, Jesus mentions it: **John 7:22-23** Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. 23 If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

**b. Keeping the Sabbath: Exodus 31:16-17** Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. 17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

**Ezekiel 20:12** Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

**5. Requirements:** Obedience to the law: **Exodus 24:3** And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

Then long list of things they were to keep in **Leviticus 26** and **Deuteronomy 28**.

**6. Duration:** Was to last until second or "new covenant" was given: **Hebrews 8:13** In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

**7. The Priesthood:** Aaron and his sons: **Exodus 29:9** And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.

All of **Leviticus chapter 8** details the consecration of Aaron and his sons for the Priesthood.

**8. The High Priest goes before God:** The Day of Atonement, once a year, the High Priest, Aaron, would enter into the Holy of Holies to perform the sacrifices and sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat, etc. You can read all about the institution of it in **Leviticus chapter 16**.

The Hebrew writer also talks about it: **Hebrews 9:6-10** Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. 7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: 8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: 9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; 10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

**9. Place of Worship** - Restrictions on where God could be worshiped. In the first covenant, there were specific places where God was to be worshiped. In the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and in the Holy Temple of Jerusalem.

**Tabernacle:** Explained in **Deuteronomy 12**.

**Temple: 1 Kings 8:29-30** That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place. 30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.

**10. Ordinances of the First Covenant:**

**a. Weekly Sabbaths: Exodus 20:8-11** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

**Leviticus 23:3** Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

**b. Feasts and Festivals:**

- Passover – Leviticus 23:4-8
- Feast of Firstfruits – Leviticus 23:9-14
- Feast of Weeks – Leviticus 23:15-22
- Feast of Trumpets – Leviticus 23:23-25
- Day of Atonement – Leviticus 23:26-32
- Feast of Booths – Leviticus 23:33-44

**11. Laws for Sacrifices** under the first Covenant:

- Burnt Offerings: Leviticus 1
- Grain Offerings: Leviticus 2
- Peace Offerings: Leviticus 3
- Sin Offerings: Leviticus 4-6
- Laws for Priests making offerings: Leviticus 6-7

We read in Hebrews that all of these Sacrifices were only temporary:

**Hebrews 10:4** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

**12. The first or Old Covenant also contained the Law.**

The Ten Commandments as detailed in **Exodus 20** and **Deuteronomy 5**. Then there were over **600 other laws** that they had to observe under the Mosaic law system which you can read about in Deuteronomy and Leviticus.

**13. Contact with God** - Under the first Covenant your only contact with God was through the Levitical Priesthood as described in **Leviticus 1-7**.

So, those are 13 important aspects of the First or Old Covenant that God gave. But Jeremiah in our opening text is prophesying about a New Covenant when things would be very different than the First Covenant. In the New Testament, the Hebrew writer repeats this prophecy word for word:

**Hebrews 8:7-13**

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.  
 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.  
 13 In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away.

The **New Covenant** was established when the LORD Jesus was crucified on the cross and then everything changed.

**1. Mediator** – The Old Covenant was Moses, the **New is Christ Jesus:**

- **Hebrews 8:6** But now hath he (Christ) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.
- **Hebrews 9:15** And for this cause he (Christ) is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
- **Hebrews 12:24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.
- **1 Timothy 2:5** For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

**2. Ratified (Sanctioned)** – Old was blood of animals, the **New by Christ Jesus:**

- **Matthew 26:28** For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
- **Romans 3:24-25** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- **Hebrews 10:9-10** Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

**3. Promises given** – Old be God's treasured nation and he offered protection.

**New;** eternal life, become sons of God, Heirs of God, His Law is written on our hearts, dwell with God.

- **Eternal life - John 3:16** – For God so loved the world that He gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- **Sons of God - Romans 8:14-16** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
- **Heirs of God - Romans 8:17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.
- **Law on our hearts - Hebrews 8:10** For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

- **Dwell with God - Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

**4. Initiation of the Covenant** – The Old was circumcision of flesh, keeping the law. New change and circumcision of our hearts:

- **Acts 15:8-9** And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as *he did* unto us; 9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.
- **Romans 2:28-29** For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

**5. Requirement**, keeping the Law – The Old you had to keep the laws of Moses. The New, we are saved by grace not the law or works:

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**6. Duration** – Old, only temporary, a shadow of what was to come. New is permanent and everlasting:

- **Hebrews 9:15** And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
- **John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
- **John 6:56-58** He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

**7. The Priesthood** – Old was Aaron and his sons. New, is Christ Jesus and those that believe on Him.

- **Hebrews 5:5-6** So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. 6 As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
- **1 Peter 2:9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**8. The High Priest** – Old Covenant, Aaron went before God once a year. New Covenant, Christ Jesus is before God always and seated at His right side:

- **Hebrews 9:24** For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
- **Hebrews 4:14** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.
- **Luke 22:69** Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.
- **Romans 8:34** Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

**9. Place of worship** – Old Covenant the Tabernacle and Temple. New Covenant we worship anywhere and everywhere:

- **1 Corinthians 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
- **John 4:21-24** Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.
- **Matthew 18:20** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

**10. Ordinances** – Old Covenant keeping of the Sabbath and the weekly and yearly feasts and festivals. New Covenant Baptism and the LORD's Supper.

**11. Sacrifices** – Old Covenant laws of animal, plant, grain sacrifices and the peace and sin offerings. New Covenant, Christ Jesus was the final sacrifice:

- **Hebrews 9:26-28** For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
- **Hebrews 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
- **Romans 6:10** For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

**12. The Law** – Old Covenant the law must be kept. New Covenant, Christ came to fulfill the Law because we could not keep it.

- **Matthew 5:17** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
- **Romans 3:21-22** But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
- **Romans 5:20-21** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

**13. Contact with God** – Old Covenant it was only through the Levitical Priest. New Covenant we have direct access to God:

- **Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

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† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible