

## Jeremiah 31:31-34

### A New Covenant

**Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

#### Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Jeremiah declared that the Messiah would establish a new covenant by which man's sins would be forgiven...

#### I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. Jeremiah prophesied during the captivity of Judah in the land of Babylon.
- B. The name Jeremiah means, "Appointed by Jehovah," "Raised up by Jehovah," or possibly, "Jehovah will rise."
- C. Both Jeremiah and his father were priests of God.
- D. He was from the town of Anathoth, about 3 miles northeast of Jerusalem.
- E. He began prophesying in the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah's reign - one year after Josiah began his reforms in Judah.
- F. He continued prophesying through the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon - some 40 years later.

#### II. PROPHECY OF THE NEW COVENANT

(JEREMIAH 31:31-34)

- A. Chapters 30 - 31 of Jeremiah hold out a glimmer of hope in the darkness of captivity.
- B. Jeremiah was commanded to write God's message in a book so that it would be referred to and remembered by future generations (30:1-3).
- C. In this message was a promise of restoration and return from captivity (30:4-9).
- D. The captivity would be a means of discipline and correction from God (30:10-17).
- E. God would deliver them and there would be rejoicing (30:18 - 31:14).
- F. Weeping would be removed when restoration occurred (31:15-17; cf. Matthew 2:17-18).
- G. God would be merciful and bring His Son, the Messiah, into the world (31:18-26).
- H. God would bless them in their return and restoration (31:27-30).
- I. Then, in the future, He would establish a new covenant with them (31:31-34).
  1. It would be new - implying the superseding of the former (old) covenant.
  2. It would be different from the covenant made with Israel when they came out of bondage in Egypt.
    - a. That covenant - the Law of Moses - was not kept faithfully by Israel.
    - b. This disobedience is described clearly in Jeremiah 2:19-26.
    - c. Despite their sins, God was a faithful husband to them.

## Prophecy of Jesus

3. It would be spiritual – written in the hearts of men (cf. 2 Corinthians 3).
  - a. It would be made with spiritual Israel.
  - b. It would include both Jew and Gentile.
  - c. It would establish true fellowship with God (cf. John 20:17).
4. It would be instructive before one entered into it.
  - a. Under the Old Testament, one was born into the covenant relationship and then later taught it.
  - b. Under the New Testament, one is taught the covenant and then born into it (by the new birth) (cf. John 3:1-8; 1 Peter 1:22-25).
  - c. Thus, no one who is a part of the New Covenant will be taught of God for they already know Him – it is required to enter into the covenant!
4. It would be forgiving – providing true, immediate remission of sins (cf. Hebrews 10:3-4).
- J. The chapter ends with God's assurance that He will keep His promises (31:35-37) and a prophetic description of the expansiveness of spiritual Jerusalem (31:38-40; cf. Heb. 12:22).

### III. THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

(HEBREWS 8:6-13)

- A. The writer of Hebrews quotes this prophecy and applies it to Jesus and the Gospel.
- B. Jesus has a better ministry (service) because His is a better covenant built on better promises!
- C. The fault with the first covenant was with men and their failure to keep it.
  1. The Old Covenant was perfect for its purpose (Psalm 19:7; Romans 7:12).
  2. Yet only Jesus kept it perfectly (Hebrews 4:15).
  3. This enabled Him to fulfill the Law and to pay the price for man's sins (Hebrews 2:14-18).
- D. Thus, God promised – through Jesus – to establish a new covenant.
- E. This covenant provides forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus.
- F. As a result, the first covenant became old and was taken out of the way (Hebrews 10:9).
- G. Through this new covenant man finds sanctification and forgiveness (Hebrews 10:10-18).
- H. Thus, the Christian enjoys boldness in the fellowship of God and forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 10:19-25).

Conclusion: **One must never forsake the Gospel of Christ for any other system of faith.**