

## Divine Covenants...the New Covenant

1. Study all of the verses pertaining to the New Covenant: Jer 31:31-34, Isa 59:21, Isa 61:8-9, Jer 32:40, Ezek 34:25-31, Ezek 37:26-28, and Zech 13:7-9. What does God promise in the New Covenant?

*"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,..."* God will make a new covenant with the whole Jewish nation (Jer 31:31). During Jeremiah's time, the nation was split in two: Israel and Judah.

*"...not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,..."* The New Covenant is different and apart from the Mosaic Covenant (Jer 31:32). In addition, because of the Mosaic Covenant, this unconditional covenant was made with the literal nation of Israel.

*"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,..."* *"It will come about in all the land,"* Declares the LORD, *"That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it."* Fully 1/3 of all Jews will be regenerated (Jer 31:31-32, Isa 59:21, Zech 13:8). Note: there is no reference to Gentiles. Regeneration refers to a new heart or decision-making process and a new spirit that predisposes one to God.

*"I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." "As for Me, this is My covenant with them, ... My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth,..."* *"I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me."* The New Covenant will bestow something within the Jew: the Holy Spirit (Jer 31:33, Isa 59:21, Jeremiah 32:40).

*"They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,"* *"My Spirit which 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 offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring."* Once the regeneration of the Jews begins, each successive generation will be regenerated (Jer 31:34, Isa 59:21).

*"for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."* God will forgive sin (Jer 31:34)! This is a big departure from the Mosaic Covenant, which only covered the Jew's sin. The New Covenant could do something that the Mosaic could not: complete removal of sin.

*"I will faithfully give them their recompense and make an everlasting covenant with them." "They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make them afraid. I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore."* God will bless Jews with a secure nation and a bountiful land (Isa 61:8, Ezek 34:28-29).

*"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever."* When God builds a Sanctuary within the nation of Israel, the whole world will know that God sanctified the nation of Israel (Ezek 37:26-28).

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2. Given that the New Covenant was made with the Jews, how is it that Gentiles are spiritually blessed as well? Survey the New Testament with references to the New Covenant: Matt 26:28, Mark 14:24, Luke 22:14-20, Rom 11:26-27, 1 Cor 11:25, 2 Cor 3:2-6, Eph 2:11-16, Eph 3:5-6, Heb 7:22, Heb 8:6-13, Heb 9:11-22, Heb 10:16-18, Heb 12:24, Heb 13:20, Ti 3:5, 1 Cor 6:19, 2 Cor 3:3, Eph 1:7, Eph 4:32, and Col 1:14.

In the Abrahamic, Mosaic, Land, King, and New Covenants, God made these covenants with Abraham and the physical descendants who received Abraham's inheritance, and who later formed the nation of Israel. Gentiles were "*excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world (Eph 2:12).*"

Regarding the Jew and Gentile, Paul tells the Ephesians that Christ brought "*both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall (Eph 2:14).*" The "dividing wall" between Jew and Gentile was the Mosaic Covenant, which prevented Gentiles from receiving spiritual forgiveness and blessing from God.

Hebrews refers to Jesus as "*the mediator of a new covenant (Heb 9:15).*" Because of His sacrifice, the prophecy of Jeremiah is becoming fulfilled, "*according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb 9:22).*"

Jesus Christ introduced the communion cup saying, "*This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood (Luke 22:20, 1 Cor 11:25).*" His reference to the "*new covenant*" to the Jewish apostles referred to the only "new covenant" in the Old Testament.

The spiritual blessings of the New Covenant are: a) regeneration, b) indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and c) the forgiveness of sins. The apostle Paul, in his ministry to the Gentiles, states that Believers are regenerated (Ti 3:5), indwelt with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19, 2 Cor 3:3), and forgiven of our sins (Eph 1:7, Eph 4:32, Col 1:14).

3. When will this covenant be fulfilled?

Christians now experience the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant; however, this covenant has not been completely fulfilled. The New Covenant was made principally with the Jews and the spiritual and physical blessings, promised to them in this unconditional covenant, will be fulfilled when the other three unconditional covenants will be fulfilled (Abrahamic, Land, and King). When this occurs at some future time, 1/3 of Israel will be repentant, accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah, regathered, and restored within the land promised by God.

4. What is the significance of the New Covenant?

Despite Israel's efforts of obedience or lack of, the New Covenant was unconditional; God said that it would be fulfilled because of Israel's disobedience, and that it would cause Israel's obedience (Ezek 36:21-22, Jer 32:39-40, Ezek 36:27; 37:23-24)! In a similar fashion, regardless of one's efforts, the New Covenant provided Gentiles an unconditional means for salvation; Gentiles could experience the spiritual blessings of the covenant, and the New Covenant was the elaboration of the universal blessings aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant.

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