

LESSON 6 – THE NEW COVENANT



Reading Assignment:

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 29-33; Luke 22:7-38; Hebrews 8
Text Reading: Chapter 10

AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT

Each Sunday we hear it read,

*And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is **the new testament** in my blood, which is shed for you.*

Luke 22:19, 20

STOP AND THINK:

As we hear these words, what do they mean to us? We repeat them over and over, yet do we know what they mean?

Our word “testament” is the Greek word for “covenant.” Thus, at a most important moment in the Upper Room, the Lord introduces the idea of a *new covenant*.

THE NEW COVENANT IS UNIQUE

A. It is specifically called a new covenant in the Bible –

write out the following verses:

[Jeremiah 31:31](#)

[Hebrews 8:8](#)

[Hebrews 8:13](#)

[Hebrews 12:24](#)

B. Some observations from the Bible's usage of the term

1. The Lord Himself used the term in the Upper Room He called it "the" new covenant – an obvious reference back to the same covenant mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31
2. Its would begin with the _____ of His blood
3. Because it was "new" it did not _____ before this statement
4. Notice it was announced to 11 Jewish men, His _____
5. The disciples represented two groups – Israel and the Church
6. Hebrews 8:13 indicated it replaces an older covenant, the Mosaic or Law

C. What is a Covenant?

A Covenant is a formal agreement or relationship between two parties stating the actions or rules governing their relationship, it is a formal contract or promise.

D. The five prime covenants of the Bible

1. Abrahamic Covenant – Genesis 15:7-21
2. Mosaic or Law Covenant – Exodus 19:3-6, Deuteronomy 19:1ff
3. Deuteronomic Covenant – Deuteronomy 29:1ff
4. Davidic Covenant – the Throne of David – 2 Samuel 7:8-16
5. The New Covenant – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 34:25-30; 37:21-28

E. Characteristics of these covenants

1. They have both physical and spiritual aspects
2. The physical aspects [blessings and cursing] always apply to Israel as a national entity
3. The physical aspects always apply physically to the land of Israel
4. Therefore, there must be a national Israel for the physical aspects of this covenant to be fulfilled
5. The spiritual aspects of the covenants apply to individuals **and** the nation of Israel.
6. The use of the word, Israel, always applies to the descendants of the line Abraham to Isaac to Jacob

WHY A NEW COVENANT? – JEREMIAH 31:31-34

A. It is prophesied by Jeremiah – "The days come..."

1. "come" is in the _____ tense - therefore after Jeremiah's day.

2. In Jeremiah's day, the Land was divided into
the _____ kingdom
the _____ kingdom
3. Israel was a spiritually weak nation, failing to observe the covenant

B. Jeremiah speak of a "new" covenant

1. "New" means it has a beginning – the shed blood of Christ the Messiah
2. "New" means it replaces a failed, conditional covenant, the Mosaic or Law Covenant

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.

- a) Thus, in Jeremiah 11, the Lord says that Israel broke the Mosaic Covenant and must now pay for it through exile and death [v. 10].
- b) The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant and failed because it depended upon man's heart – but man's heart is sinful and will always fail.

QUESTION?

Can you think of a verse [give reference] to support "man's heart is sinful"?

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

- c) Thus, God says the new covenant will not fail, read Jeremiah 31:31-33. Why will it not fail?
- d) This change can only come because the of shed blood which cleanses man from his own sinful heart.

STOP AND READ:

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.

3. This covenant is unconditional and offered by God for only one reason –
_____ Jeremiah 31:3
4. This was true mercy – Jeremiah 30:12-15
5. This new covenant is gracious, carrying on the Abrahamic promise by God's grace and forgiveness alone.

STOP AND WRITE OUT:

[Leviticus 26:42](#)

[Leviticus 26:44](#)

C. It applies to the divided land of Israel and Judah – restoration

THE PROMISES OF THE NEW COVENANT

A. The spiritual promises to Israel

1. _____ – Jeremiah 31:33; 32:39-40; Ezekiel 36:26
2. _____ of sins – Jeremiah 31:34; Ezekiel 36:25
3. _____ of the Holy Spirit – Ezekiel 36:27
4. New _____ – Jeremiah 32:39-40; Ezekiel 36:27; 37:23-24

B. National blessing to Israel

A unique relationship to God as His people – Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:28

1. God would do them _____ – Jeremiah 32:40-42
2. Wild beasts would be eliminated from the land – Ezekiel 34:25, 28
3. Complete _____ for Israel in the Land – Ezekiel 34:25-28
4. Abundance of food – Ezekiel 34:27, 29; 36:29-30
5. Israel would be a Garden of Eden – Ezekiel 34:29; 36:34-35
6. Population _____ – Ezekiel 36:37-38; 37:26
7. A united nation – Ezekiel 37:21-22
8. They would be in the land forever – Ezekiel 37:25
9. God would dwell in the land forever – Ezekiel 37:26-28
10. God would never turn away from them – Jeremiah 32:40

OUR PLACE IN THE NEW COVENANT

A. The Church enjoys the spiritual benefits right now

1. It began at Pentecost – all Jewish
2. Includes Gentiles – teaching of the feast and Ephesians 2:11-22
3. We have been included into the New Covenant with Israel

B. Why do we know this?

1. We are to take part in the Lord's _____ – 1 Corinthians 11:23-30
 - a. Jesus use the statement – “the” referring to a specific covenant
 - b. In His blood, Ephesians 2 includes us
 - c. The Jewish disciples knew of no other covenant and it is not spoken of as a mystery, such as the church.
2. Believers enjoy the same _____ blessings as the New Covenant
3. The apostles of the Church functioned as _____ of the New Covenant

[2 Corinthians 3:6](#)

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the New Covenant was given to the literal nation of Israel, just as had the previous covenants been given to them.

- The Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional and continues.
- The Davidic Covenant has not yet been fulfilled.
- The Mosaic or Law Covenant is to be replaced by the New Covenant.

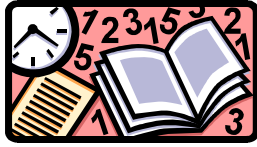
Since all previous covenants applied to the nation of Israel, so must the New Covenant.

When will the New Covenant be completely fulfilled? In the _____.

STOP AND THANK GOD:

1. Thank God for His grace that allows all men to be regenerate, their sins forgiven, the Holy Spirit to indwell them, and to have a new nature.
2. Thank God He never abandons His people
3. Thank God for His Word and His great plan for the world.

After completing this course, you might wish to consider a further study offered by the *Internet Bible Institute*. The sequel course is *TH-202 Dispensationalism 2* which covers Chapters 11-15 of Dr. Showers' book, *There Really Is A Difference*.



Homework

Briefly write a paragraph on each of the following based upon your text reading, the Bible, and Lesson 6.

- 1. Briefly discuss the three Old Testament factors that indicate that God intended to establish the New Covenant with the literal people of Israel.** [20 points]

- 2. Briefly discuss the spiritual promises of the New Covenant.** [20 points]

- 3. Discuss why the New Covenant is conditional or unconditional.** [20 points]

- 4. Discuss the relationship of the New Covenant to the Church.** [20 points]

- 5. When will the New Covenant be fulfilled?** [20 points]

I have read _____ % of the textbook. I have read _____ % of the Scripture Reading

Signed: _____ Date: _____