

## ***The Church of the Servant King***

### **Survey of the Bible Series – Prophecy Series**

#### **Proph10A\_Introduction to the “New Covenant” with Israel Jeremiah 33:31-34**

The previous covenant that God made with Israel was made with David circa 1000 B.C. Several hundred years have now elapsed to include the Northern Kingdom of Israel having been taken into captivity at the hands of the Assyrians. Judah, the Southern Kingdom, is on the cusp of the Fifth Cycle of Discipline (Lev 26:14-39) and Jeremiah's ministry is in full swing at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. In 586 B.C., Jerusalem falls denoting the official beginning of the Babylonian captivity. Jeremiah's writing ministry began in about 605 B.C. After devoting almost all of the first 29 chapters of the book to establishing the basis for Judah's impending judgment, Jeremiah, in a fashion characteristic of many of the Hebrew prophets, interjects a Messianic/kingdom focused interlude as a means of encouragement to his readers and listeners.

#### **The Importance of the New Covenant**

The New Covenant guarantees that the basis for Israel's future blessings will be a converted heart. An understanding of the New Covenant is especially important since amillennialists attempt to demonstrate that the church is fulfilling the provisions of the New Covenant.

#### **The Provisions of the New Covenant**

The provisions of the New Covenant with Israel have not yet been fulfilled with that people and will only be fulfilled during the Messianic kingdom reign of Christ. Those provisions can be summarized as follows:

- ❑ The Covenant is unilateral – note the number of times God uses the words “I will” in these five verses plus the fact that God says that the New Covenant is “not according to the covenant that He made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt,” i.e. the conditional or bilateral Mosaic covenant. Compare Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Ezekiel 16:60-63.
- ❑ The Covenant is everlasting – Compare Ezekiel 37:26-28 with Jeremiah 31:35-37.
- ❑ The Covenant also promises that Israel will have a new mind or heart which may be called regeneration. Compare Jeremiah 31:33 with Isaiah 59:21.
- ❑ The Covenant provides for a restoration of Israel to a position of favor and blessing with God. Compare Hosea 2:18-20 with Isaiah 61:8-9.
- ❑ The Covenant includes forgiveness of sin. See Jeremiah 31:34b.
- ❑ The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is also included among its provisions for Israel. See Jeremiah 31:34 compared with Ezekiel 36:22-36, especially verse 27.
- ❑ The Holy Spirit will have a teaching ministry so that the will of God will be known by obedient hearts. See Jeremiah 31:34
- ❑ Israel will be materially blessed while in the Land. See Jeremiah 32:41; Isaiah 61:8-9; and Ezekiel 34:25-27.
- ❑ The sanctuary will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. See Ezekiel 37:26-27a.
- ❑ War will cease and peace will reign (Hos 2:18). This is a definite characteristic of the Millennium (Isa 2:4) and links the New Covenant provisions to the Messianic Kingdom.
- ❑ The work of Jesus Christ on the Cross is the foundation for the provisions of the New Covenant blessings to Israel. Compare Zechariah 9:11 to Matthew 26:27-29; Lu 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25.

The New Covenant to Israel deals specifically with Israel's regeneration, forgiveness, and justification as well as all the spiritual and material blessings that attend her new spiritual

condition to include the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon a regenerated people. All of these provisions and blessings find their foundation in the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. Any study of the New Covenant to Israel raises a number of questions in the mind of a student of God's Word and we will begin dealing with many of those questions in our next lesson.

### **Selected Passages<sup>1</sup>**

He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isa 2:4)

"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." (Isa 59:21)

For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth; and will make with them an everlasting covenant. Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed. (Isa 61:8-9)

"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." (Jer 31:31-34)

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. (Jer 31:35-37)

"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. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, that you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done," says the Lord God. (Ezek 16:60-63)

I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. The trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. (Ezek 34:25-27)

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<sup>1</sup> All quotations are taken from *The Nelson Study Bible*, New King James Version (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997).

Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore. (Ezek 37:26-28)

In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, to make them lie down safely. I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord. (Hos 2:18-20)