

## A New Covenant

### Int.

1. Aim: To show the characteristics of the new covenant.
2. Jer. 31:31-34 "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."
3. There are many differences between the old covenant and the new covenant - yet God is the author of both.
4. The Old covenant was broken 31:31- 33
  - a. The Temple was a pathetic ruin in which the birds built their nests
  - b. The Ark of the Covenant was gone. It had been carried away to Babylon.
  - c. Many of the people had been killed, and the others were in exile in bitter straits.
  - d. Jeremiah the prophet comes along and announces that God will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and the house of Judah!
5. Then he describes four ways in which the New Covenant will be new:
  - (1) Heart written
  - (2) Personal relation with God
  - (3) It would be for the knowers of the Lord
  - (4) It would proclaim absolute remission

**Discussion**

**I. A HEART WRITTEN COVENANT**

A. Jer. 31:33 "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."

B. Contrasts

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Old = written in book, tables of stone, rolls of paper | NEW = written on hearts  |
| 2. OLD = externally written .....                         | NEW = internally written |
| 3. OLD = outward .....                                    | NEW = within             |
| 4. OLD = physical .....                                   | NEW = spiritual          |
| 5. OLD = visible .....                                    | NEW = unseen             |

C. Illustration

1. Drive through school zone at fast speed
  - a. A child runs into the street
  - b. Stop and child is touching bumper
  - c. Come close to running over a child
2. Never need signs again to warn you, it is written in your heart!

D. New Testament is not the New Covenant

1. It is a mistake to look upon the 27 books as the new covenant
2. They are valuable, and without them no one could know about the new covenant, but they are not the new covenant.
3. On the day of Pentecost blood was not sprinkled on a book and on the people as was the case at the inauguration of the old covenant.

- E. The new covenant began on Pentecost of A.D. 30
1. The inspired words of the Spirit through Peter's mouth were heard and received gladly. - Acts 2:4,14,22,37,41.
  2. Three thousand people had something written in their hearts that day.
    - a. They had inscribed in their hearts that Jesus was Lord
    - b. They had inscribed in their hearts that commitment to serve him
  3. When they were baptized, which put them into the new covenant, their bodies were not sprinkled with animal blood, but their hearts were spiritually sprinkled with Jesus' blood -
    - a. Heb. 10:22,12:24;
    - b. I Pet. 1:2.
  4. These 3,000 had received the word, not an externally written word, but the message which Peter had preached, and they had it in their hearts.
    - a. This was at least 15 years before the first of the 27 books was written
    - b. It was at least 66 years before the last of the 27 books was written
- F. Three thousand new covenants
1. Actually there were 3,000 covenants made that day.
  2. Each was making a commitment to follow Christ as Lord
  3. They responded because Jesus had written something in their heart.
  4. On that day 3,000 individual personal covenants or contracts were entered. Each was separate from all the others, but they were all the same covenant, the same agreement.

## G. NOT with ink

1. The words of the printer are contradicted by II Cor. 3:3 "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."
2. The volume of 27 books is written with ink.
3. It is the most important volume in existence, and salvation is impossible without it (Jn. 6:63), yet it is not the new testament.
4. The new testament or new covenant is not ink-written, but Spirit-inscribed.
5. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit through Peter's spoken words wrote on fleshy tables of hearts.
6. Today the Spirit through the written word does exactly the same thing.
7. The Holy Spirit has caused 27 books to be written with ink on paper, but they are not the new covenant.
  - a. Only when the message in those 27 books is read, accepted and acted upon has a new covenant been established.
  - b. When this is done it can be said that the Holy Spirit has written in fleshy tables of the heart.

## H. Illustrations of a Heart Written Covenant

1. This was written in ink but not in the heart.
  - a. A bride carried a beautiful white Bible during the wedding and for the pictures
  - b. On their honeymoon they carried the Bible but did not read it.

- c. In their home they displayed their Bible but did not open it and learn it.
  - d. In a few months they were divorced.
2. This was written in the heart
- a. A Godly lady had a copy of the scriptures that was torn and worn from use through the years.
  - b. She wondered if it would be sinful to burn her old Bible, since she had bought a new copy.
  - c. No book written with ink is sacred. That ink-written copy had served its purpose, for the message was written on her heart.
3. Today many have the message written on their hearts.
- a. When teenagers, who have learned of Christ and obeyed him, do not go out and commit the sins of other young people, is because they have their hearts inscribed by God's word.
  - b. When Christians are faithful to God, it is because God has written his law in their inward parts, or in their heart.

## **II. A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP**

- A. "...will be their God, and they shall be my people" Jer. 31:33b
- B. God has always wanted a personal companionship between Him and the ones made in his image
  1. This was possible in Eden until man's sin made it impossible.
  2. After this only a few enjoyed a close personal relationship with the Father.
    - a. Enoch
    - b. Samuel

- c. Joseph
- d. David
- e. Daniel

C. This companionship is possible in the New Covenant

1. All Christians live with the knowledge that God says "I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
2. We know that God is always close by: "The Lord is at hand." Phil. 4:5
3. This assurance gives us the peace that passes all understanding. - Phil. 4:6-7
4. "... as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." II Cor. 6:16b.

### **III. KNOWERS OF THE LORD**

- A. "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, 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:." Jer. 31:34
- B. Under the first covenant they did not know who the Lord was.
1. Samuel was born of Hebrew parents and did not know who the Lord was.
  2. Yet he was automatically part of that first covenant, by birth.
  3. He had to be taught who the Lord Was.

## C. Contrast this with the New Covenant

1. "As many as gladly received the word were baptized" Acts 2:41-- this was on the day of Pentecost the birthday of the church
2. The only ones who were admitted to the New Covenant were those who had come to know that Jesus Christ is the Lord - Acts 2:36

## D. Individual

1. This new covenant was an individual covenant
2. It was not a national, or even a family agreement.
3. It is an individual contract between a sinner and his savior.

**IV. ABSOLUTE REMISSION**

## A. "...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jer. 31:3

1. Forgive = pardon
2. Sins would be wiped away

## B. Impossible before the cross

1. Remission under the first covenant in the absolute sense was impossible because "...without shedding of blood is no remission." Heb. 9:22
2. "It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins." Heb. 10:4
3. The blood of a lamb could not erase guilt, it could only point to the Lamb of God "that taketh away the sin of the world" Jn. 1:29

## C. This was a reality after the cross

1. Up till the time of Pentecost there was a remembrance made of sins year by year  
- Heb. 10:3 "But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year."
2. Under the New covenant we are assured at the moment of baptism that one has been forgiven forever as far as his past sins are concerned. - Heb. 10:17 "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."
3. After baptism we are white as wool, or white as snow.
4. What we do after baptism has to be reckoned with in harmony with other regulations of the new covenant- repent and pray.
5. 1 John 1:6-10
  - a. Confess our sins
  - b. Acts 8:22 repent and pray

**CONCLUSION**

1. The new covenant is far superior to the old one.
2. There is a four-fold newness:
  - a. A heart - written covenant
  - b. A personal relation with God
  - c. All would be knowers of the Lord
  - d. There would be absolute remission
3. II Cor. 3:2-3 "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

4. Heb. 8:8-13 is a quote from Jer. 31:31-34
5. We are now living in the days of this New Covenant that God has made with Us.

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**Sources Consulted**

1. Great Sermons of 1967 - "A Fourfold Newness" by Hugo McCord - p.126
  2. Commentary on Jeremiah - by Andrew W. Blackwood.
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