

Allen Temple Baptist Church

✝ *Sunday School Live* 

October 2021 Sunday School Lesson Theme

The Call to Renewal

Sunday October 3, 2021

God's Promise of Renewal

Lesson Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Devotional Reading Matthew 26: 26-30

Presenter: Michael McCants

EXAMINING THE TEXT

Lesson Outline

Key Focus Points

- God's Plan of Restoration
- The Prophetic Ministry of Jeremiah
- The Promise of A New Covenant
- Difference Between Two Covenants
- Reflection On Things To Remember

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Explore God's love, discipline and promise of redemption to Judah, Israel.
2. Understand the difference between a Covenant and a Contract.
3. Embracing the New Covenant.
4. Ability to explain the significance of the New Covenant and what does it require of us.

Lesson Context

- **Born 650-55 BC. Son of a Priest named Hilkiah, Jeremiah was a Major Prophet of the Bible and also the Author of Kings, and Lamentations.**
- **Consecrated and appointed before his birth.
Jeremiah 1:5**
- **Jeremiah was the last Prophet God sent to Judah before it became captive to Babylon.**

THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

- **Prophesied during the administrations of Judah's last five kings.**
- **His Ministry ending sometime after the destruction of Jerusalem 586/587 BC.**
- **Jeremiah preached doom and punishment as directed by God. However, his message was ultimately one of repentance and restoration.**

LESSON TEXT JEREMIAH 31: 31-34

³¹ “The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD.

LESSON TEXT JEREMIAH 31: 31-34

33 “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

LESSON TEXT JEREMIAH 31: 31-34

³⁴ And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

WHAT IS A COVEVENANT

- ▶ **A covenant is an ancient construct wherein two parties promise to do something or not do something.**
- ▶ **It is considered immoral to break a covenant. There is never a sense in which it is morally upright for a person to break a covenant, even if the covenant-breaker is willing to pay the penalties.**

THE OLD COVENANT

The Mosaic Covenant was given to Moses by God at Mt. Sinai. This Covenant is also commonly referred to as The Law ,Pentateuch or Torah.

The Old Covenant was only temporary.

GOD gave Moses the Law for His People and it was repeatedly broken by acts of sin.

Ref: Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21

WHAT IS A CONTRACT?

- **A Contract is a legally binding agreement to do or not do something. It often includes penalties for a breach of contract. If the contract is breached and penalties are paid, then the payment is considered to be adequate compensation for the breach of contract.**

✝ THE NEW COVENANT

Facts

- 1. We Receive Salvation Freely Through Jesus.**
- 2. No Longer Under The Law But Grace.**
- 3. It is Written On The Heart Not On Stone.**
- 4. It Cannot Be Broken By Man.**
- 5. The Guaranteed Fulfillment Of Gods Promise.**

COVENANT AS A SUBVERSIVE PARADIGM

BY WALTER BRUGGEMANN

A new covenant which recharacterizes the nature of God, church and world is not simply a restatement of conventional Western assumptions; it requires drastically new affirmations.

A God Who Embraces

- ▶ **Everything depends on our confession of God,**
- ▶ **Does one (God or human) come to the covenantal relationship with everything settled?**
- ▶ **Covenant requires a radical break not only with uncritical, scholastic notions of God, but also with contemporary views that vote for detachment.**

A Community on Earth

Point 1

- ▶ The new community now to be proclaimed and called into being bears at least three marks, according to Jeremiah.
- ▶ 1. It is a community of God's Torah: "I will put my Torah in their midst" (31:33, the translation "within them" is excessive personalizing). Torah that marks the new community is not a practice of law to clobber people, not a censure to expel and scold people, not a picky legalism. It is rather a release from small moralism's to see things through the eyes of God's passion and anguish.

A Community on Earth

Point 2

- ▶ **The covenant construct permits us and requires us to think afresh about the character and business of the church.**
- ▶ **There, will be no new community on earth until there is a fresh articulation of who God is.**
- ▶ **The new community of covenant is in *solidarity about the knowledge of God*: "They shall all know me, from the least of these to the greatest" (Jer. 31:34).**

The Practice of Forgiveness

Point 3

- **The third mark of the community envisioned is that *it knows about, experiences and practices forgiveness*: "I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more" (Jer. 31:34).**

SUMMARY

QUESTIONS:

Who Fulfilled The New Covenant?

JESUS

What Benefits Are In The New Covenant?

Salvation Eternal Life Forgiveness of Sin

One Way We Can Honor The New Covenant?

Baptism & The Lords Supper.

CONCLUSION

- ▶ **Live With Ownership of The New Covenant.**
- ▶ **Share The Goodness of Jesus Christ With Others.**
- ▶ **Our Individual and Corporate Body Actions Matter.**
- ▶ **Love Your Neighbor As Yourself.**
- ▶ **John 3:17**

SCRIPTURE AND TEXT REFERENCES

- ▶ **Covenant as a Subversive Paradigm**
- ▶ **Walter Brueggemann**
- ▶ **Something New is Coming: Jeremiah 31:31-37 | Jimmy Johnson**
- ▶ **Covenant Confessions.**
- ▶ **LESSON TEXT JEREMIAH 31: 31-34 NIV**
- ▶ **Devotional Reading Matthew 26: 26-30 NIV**