

## **LIVING IN THE WORD**

**WITH DR. GARY YATES**

### **PART 16 | THE NEW COVENANT I**

The final presentations in our study on the biblical covenants focus on the New Covenant. The New Covenant is the bridge that takes us from the Old Testament to the New Testament and that explains how Jesus brings fulfillment of all of God's covenant promises. The more we see of God's plan of salvation, the more we understand the fullness of the blessings that we have in Jesus. The key Old Testament passage promising this New Covenant is Jeremiah 31:31-34. The New Covenant will reverse the recurring problems of sin, disobedience, and judgment that had occurred under the Old Covenant. God will do an even greater work of salvation and spiritual renewal in the lives of his people. Three specific things add to the newness of this covenant: 1) more direct and personal knowledge of God; 2) God writing the law on the hearts of his people so that they will have the ability to obey; and 3) forgiveness of past sins that will motivate future faithfulness to God. Other prophetic texts in the Old Testament speak of this new covenant arrangement using different language and imagery, and we will reflect on these passages as well. This first study will explore why this covenant is superior to what has come before and why it will succeed in transforming God's people in the ways that the previous covenants had not.

**Read the following passages:**

Jeremiah 30:1-31:40

Jeremiah 32:37-41

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

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Isaiah 54:1-10

Isaiah 59:20-21

Ezekiel 16:59-63

Ezekiel 36:24-32

### Questions for Discussion:

1. The New Covenant applies to us as believers because of what Jesus has done for us, but it's important to notice that this covenant was first given to Israel. In reading Jeremiah 30-31, what is God promising for Israel's future in connection with this new covenant? Were all of these promises fulfilled in the past or are there things that God will do for Israel that are still in the future?
2. What are the things that make this new covenant new and different from the covenants that God had made with Israel in the past?
3. What other terms do the prophets use for what Jeremiah refers to as "the new covenant?" What do these other prophets contribute to our understanding of what the New Covenant will be like?
4. The passages in Jeremiah 31, Deuteronomy 30, and Ezekiel 36 picture God doing a transformative work on the heart for his people. What are the different images used for how God would transform the hearts of these people and how do you see these passages related to each other? What does it mean for God to write his law on the hearts of his people and why is that significant and important? How do the Deuteronomy 30 and Ezekiel 36 passages inform our understanding of HOW God writes the law on our hearts?

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5. After viewing the presentation, reflect on why this New Covenant will be effective in ways that the Old Covenant established with Israel at Mt. Sinai was not. What will be different about the make-up of God's people under the New Covenant that will guarantee the faithfulness of God's people to the Lord?
6. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this New Covenant, and how does the Spirit work in the lives of believers to make this new covenant a reality?
7. What other terms do the prophets use for what Jeremiah refers to as "the new covenant?" What do these other prophets contribute to our understanding of what the New Covenant will be like?
8. What do we learn about the character of God in his making of this New Covenant?
9. What is something that you have learned about God in this study that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to them or to initiate a Gospel conversation with someone who does not know Christ?