

LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

PART 17 | THE NEW COVENANT II

We will see in this presentation that the New Covenant brought newness to God's relationship with his people but that the elements in this covenant were not brand new. Old Testament believers who personally knew the Lord in a saving way experienced in their walk with God the blessings of the New Covenant: personal knowledge of God, God's law written on their hearts, and personal forgiveness of their sins. The New Covenant guaranteed, however, that all members of the covenant would truly know God and that these blessings would be experienced in a greater way in light of what Jesus has done for us through his death on the cross and resurrection. Believers under the Old Covenant experienced great spiritual blessings, but we are blessed even more fully through the greater act of redemption that God has accomplished for us in Jesus.

Read the following passages:

Deuteronomy 10:1-11:17

Deuteronomy 30:1-14

Psalm 32

Psalm 40:1-10

Psalm 51

Jeremiah 9:23-24

John 3:1-21

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John 14:15-26

John 16:1-28

Romans 8

Questions for Discussion:

1. **Review from Presentation 16:** What were the new elements of the New Covenant that are promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34? And how would the New Covenant be effective in ways that the Old Covenant was not?
2. How do we see old covenant Israel experiencing new covenant realities in their walk with God as presented in the above passages from Deuteronomy? Why and how are these experiences greater under the New Covenant?
3. How do we see David experiencing New Covenant realities in Psalms 32 and 51? Why and how are these experiences greater under the New Covenant?
4. How do we see David experiencing New Covenant realities in Psalm 40 (note especially verse 8)? Why and how are these experiences greater under the New Covenant?
5. According to Jeremiah 9:23-24, Israel under the Old Covenant could know God in a personal way. What makes our knowledge of God in the New Covenant more direct, personal, and intimate?
6. How and why has the death and resurrection of Jesus brought a greater experience of the New Covenant blessings promised to God's people in Jeremiah 31:31-34?

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7. What New Covenant blessing(s) is/are being described when Jesus talks with Nicodemus about being “born again” in John 3? Was this something that people living under the Old Covenant should have been experiencing? Do you see any connections between the conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus and the passage we read from Ezekiel 36:24-32 last week?
8. What is different about the role of the Holy Spirit under the New Covenant that enables us to experience the blessings promised by Jeremiah in a greater way?
9. According to Romans 8, how does the Spirit work in our lives to bring about the kinds of personal transformation promised in the New Covenant?
10. 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?