

# LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

## PART 18 | THE NEW COVENANT III

The New Covenant is promised for Israel in the last days by Jeremiah and the prophets, and the New Testament teaches that these promises find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The old covenant was established by sacrifice, and the death of Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for sin institutes and inaugurates the New Covenant as well. Through Jesus, the Church receives the blessings of the New Covenant that were originally promised to Israel as they are grafted into the people of God (see Romans 11:17-20). Believers today enjoy the personal knowledge of God and the spiritual enablement that comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit writing God's law on our hearts and giving us the desire and ability to obey God's commands. We will focus in this presentation on the New Testament passages that show how believers today enjoy the blessings and benefits of the New Covenant. In the New Testament, we can see a "now and not yet" fulfillment of the New Covenant promises from the Old Testament. The New Covenant blessings are presently enjoyed by God's people, and these blessings will be fully realized with the future restoration of Israel (Romans 11:25-32) and the second coming of Jesus.

**Read the following passages:**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah 32:1-44

Luke 22:14-23

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2 Corinthians 3:1-4:18

Hebrews 8:1-13

Hebrews 10:1-18

### Questions for Discussion:

1. **Review from Presentation 17:** What are the primary blessings and spiritual benefits promised to Israel through the New Covenant prophecy in Jeremiah 31:31-34?
2. What was the lesson God was trying to teach the people through Jeremiah's purchase of the field that belonged to his uncle? How would this lesson have been difficult for Jeremiah in light of his circumstances and what he was prophesying about things that would be happening in the near future?
3. How do the depictions of the "everlasting covenant" in Jeremiah 32:37-41 and the "new covenant" in Jeremiah 31:31-34 compare to each other? What are the key concepts that these two passages share?
4. What does the Lord's Supper help us to see about the relationship between the death of Jesus and believers experiencing and enjoying the blessings of the New Covenant today?
5. What are some of the specific connections we see between the discussion of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31-32 and Paul's teaching on the New Covenant in 2 Corinthians 3-4?
6. In 2 Corinthians 3:2-4, Paul says that the Corinthians themselves are his letter of recommendation, "written on his heart." How does this relate to what Jeremiah 31 says about the law being written on the

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heart of the believer? What is Paul saying about the Corinthians and his relationship with them?

7. From 2 Corinthians 3-4, how does the New Covenant give confidence to Paul in the success and effectiveness of his ministry? In what does he place his confidence to transform those he ministers to? What does this passage say about “self confidence” in ministry?
8. What is the Holy Spirit’s role in producing New Covenant transformation in our lives? From 2 Corinthians 3:8-18, how does this transformation take place in our lives? What is our part and what is God’s part in the process?
9. What does Hebrews 8 and 10 teach us about the connection between the death of Jesus and believers now enjoying the blessings of the New Covenant? Based on what we read in these chapters, how is the New Covenant superior to the old one? What significance would these passages have for the original recipients of this letter who were considering abandoning their commitment to Jesus and going back to their old life in Judaism?
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?