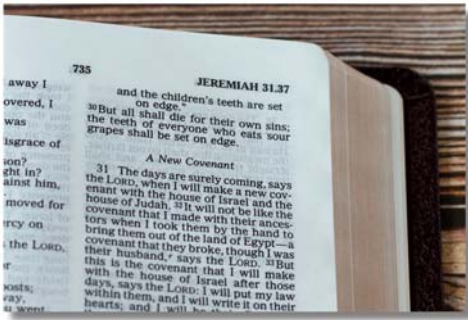


Is the New Covenant Different From God's Other Covenants?

Jeremiah 31:31–32: *31 Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.*



In our last episode, (#1330: “Do the Covenants of God All Last Forever?”) we talked about the great power of the solemn promises in the Bible called covenants. We observed that God had made several of these solemn promises and that many of these are specifically labeled as “everlasting covenants.” As we look at Bible history, we can see all of God’s promises have already been made and are already functioning except for one. This one promise yet to unfold is the New Covenant. While this promise is clearly defined in the book of Jeremiah, it is alluded to in several other books of the Bible. Is the only difference between this New Covenant and God’s other promises the fact that it is yet coming, or are there more pieces to this puzzle?

Let’s review what we already covered:



Covenant: Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #1285 *ber-eeth*; (in the sense of cutting [like 1254]); a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh)

Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon: 1) covenant, alliance, pledge
1a) between men 1b) between God and man
1b2) covenant (divine ordinance with signs or pledges)

Forever/Everlasting: Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #5769 *owlam* ...concealed, i.e. the vanishing point; generally, time out of mind (past or future), i.e. (practically) eternity

Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon: 1) long duration, antiquity, futurity, for ever, everlasting, evermore, perpetual

A vanishing point is a point at which something disappears from view, like when you look at the horizon and it looks like the earth ends because of its curvature, but it really doesn’t. A vanishing point can also mean something actually ceases to exist.

There is a depth to God’s promises. Covenants can be eternal (meaning forever and ever) or last until a vanishing point (appearing to end, but we cannot see beyond a certain point). The covenants of God work together.

Let's review God's other promises before we begin looking at this New Covenant:

- **God's original promise to humanity was not framed as a promise; rather, it was a command. Genesis 1:28:** *God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it... Adam's disobedience didn't change what God gave them to do—fill the earth and exercise dominion over it, to take responsibility for its care.*
- **After the Flood, God gave an everlasting promise to Noah to never flood the earth again.** This promise is often called the Rainbow Covenant.
- **God's promise to Abraham, the Abrahamic Covenant, was another everlasting promise: Genesis 17:7:** *I will establish My covenant <1285> between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting <5769> covenant <1285>, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.*
- **God established the Law for Israel as a covenant,** but it was NOT an everlasting covenant. It would, however, be a key to understanding the New Covenant.
- **With the Davidic Covenant,** God promised King David that through his lineage an everlasting king would rule.

End
Recap

Based upon God's promise to Abraham (the Abrahamic Covenant), a NEW promise to His people would be everlasting:

Jeremiah 31:31–32: *31 Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant <1285> with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant <1285> which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant <1285> which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.*

God stood for righteousness but Israel didn't.

The house of Israel and with the house of Judah—this was written at a time when the ten northern tribes of Israel were separate from the two southern tribes of Judah, so it was necessary for Jeremiah to mention both, in order not to be misunderstood to mean only the ten tribes. Jeremiah plainly tells us a New Covenant will be made with Israel, not like the Law Covenant the people couldn't keep.

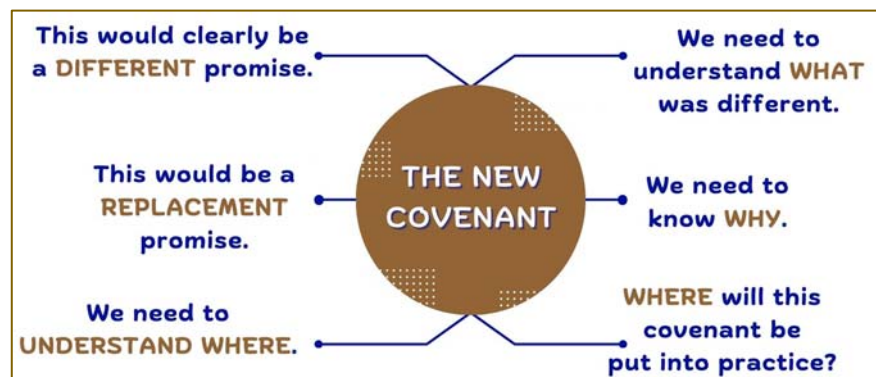
We are looking at the New Covenant in the context of both the Abrahamic Covenant and Israel's Law Covenant.

Let's look closer to see what we can learn about the New Covenant:

Jeremiah 31:31: *Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant <1285> with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,*



Jeremiah 31:32: *not like the **covenant** <1285> which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My **covenant** <1285> which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.*



WHO receives this very specific and dynamic promise? Some in Christianity answer this as those who enter a new relationship with God upon sincere declaration that one believes in Jesus Christ.

Q But was this promise made to Christians?

A No, it was made to Israel!

While this New Covenant is in direct contrast to the Law Covenant, it is built squarely upon the foundation of the Abrahamic Covenant.


The Abrahamic Covenant was profoundly reinforced as everlasting:

Psalms 105:8–11: *8 He has remembered His **covenant** <1285> forever < 5769>, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations, 9 the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac. 10 Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an **everlasting** < 5769> **covenant** <1285> 11 saying, To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion of your inheritance,*


A thousand generations is figurative language that gives the sense of its enormity.

Ezekiel 37 contains two special prophecies where the interpretation is given for us.



 1. The Valley of Dry Bones, comparing the nation of Israel to completely lifeless bones. In this figurative picture, Ezekiel predicts these “bones” will come to life, stand, live and become a great multitude.



 2. The Lord told Ezekiel to write the name “Judah” on one stick and “Joseph” on the other. (Again, Judah was the name of the southern kingdom. Joseph was the father of Ephraim, the leading tribe in the north.) He was told to join the two sticks together, representing how the splintered kingdom would eventually be mended and reunited as one.

Because Israel was founded on the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant, they must be the recipients of the New Covenant:

Ezekiel 37:21–22: *21 say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.*

Israel went from a split nation to a dead nation with dry bones, and now one nation brought back into their original land promised by God. This prophecy came true! Never in the history of humanity had a people been completely scattered to the ends of the earth and then regathered to the exact same land thousands of years later—while keeping their national and religious identity strong.

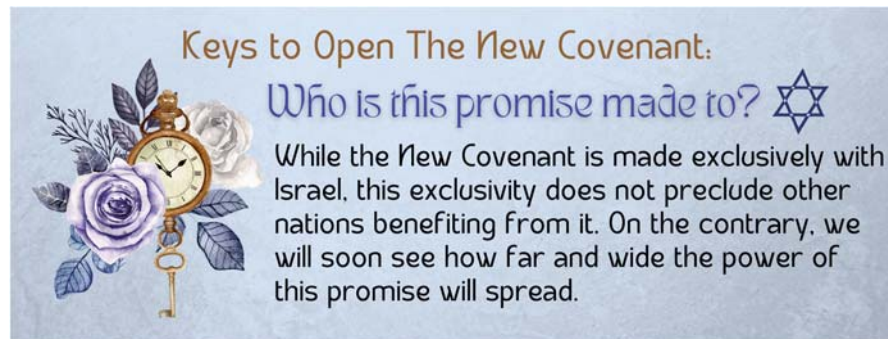
It was prophesied long before it could possibly be known. The magnitude of this cannot be overstated. It is a big part of the understanding of how this New Covenant works and to **WHOM** it is given.

A reunified nation will be given a renewed hope as the God of Abraham’s covenant will bless them:

Ezekiel 37:26–28: *26 I will make a **covenant** <1285> of peace with them; it will be an **everlasting** < 5769> **covenant** <1285> with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. 27 My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. 28 And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.*

The dry bones and sticks prophecies immediately before this are important because they can only apply to literal, physical Israel. We have no indication to spiritualize this. Some Christians try to appropriate the blessings given to physical Israel, saying the Jewish people are replaced by Christians. We are looking at God’s prophets speaking God’s words. If we have a preconceived notion of what we would like these prophecies to say, but they say something different, we are obligated with integrity to follow where the Scriptures lead us. It is clear in this prophecy that physical Israel is the subject matter.



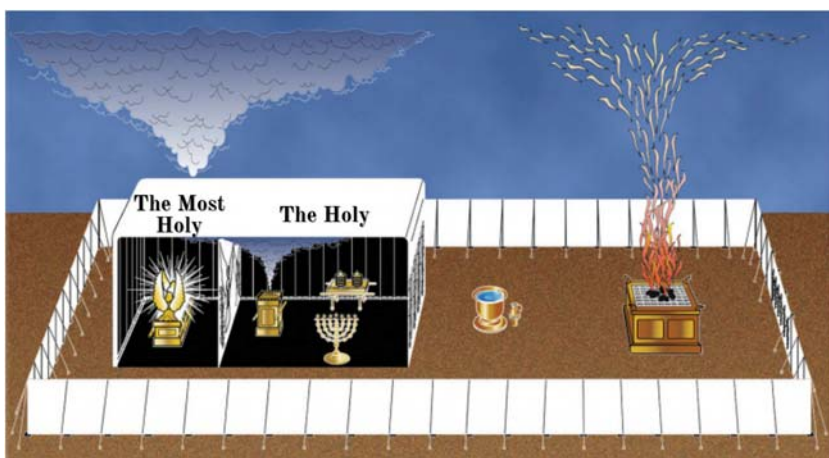


The nation of Israel is the **WHO**. This New Covenant is an everlasting promise of peace from God to Israel that will have massive and far-reaching influence.

**While this sounds pretty magnificent, aren't we missing something?
Where do Jesus' true disciples fit into this amazing picture?**

One of the first and perhaps most important points to make here may sound shocking to some. True Christians are NOT recipients of this New Covenant. Before we begin to think about how they would be missing out, we need to establish what they are privileged to be putting into this great promise as they follow Jesus! Let's see **HOW** this promise works.

We're going to stay in **Hebrews 8** for a while, so we need a little background as to what the Apostle Paul's audience would have understood. After leaving the slavery of Egypt, the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before being allowed into the Promised Land. During that time, they used a moveable temple called the Tabernacle to worship, where God's presence dwelled with Israel during this time. "Tabernacle" means "dwelling place."



The people were divided into 12 tribes. The tribe of Levi was appointed to be the priests. The structure of the Tabernacle had two compartments called the Holy and the Most Holy. Only the priests were allowed to enter the Holy, and only the High Priest, who was Aaron, the brother of Moses, could enter the Most Holy where the Ark of the Covenant was kept, and that was only once a year.

The New Covenant is mediated by Jesus. **Hebrews 8** helps us understand this mediation context.

The purpose of a mediator is to bring together two opposing sides:

Hebrews 8:1-2: *1 Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.*

The Law Covenant required a mediator—someone to stand between God and the people, and the people asked Moses to speak with God directly (**Exodus 20:18-21**). The priesthood (led by Aaron) was set up to act as intercessor. Right before this in **Hebrews 7**, Paul had explained that when priests died, they needed to be replaced.



But Jesus remains a priest forever, and his priesthood will never end. He is THE holy and sinless high priest. The old priesthood of Aaron goes away.

Here in **Hebrews 8**, Jesus is pictured at the right hand of God in heaven. Fleshly Israel made the Tabernacle with hands, but the true, heavenly Tabernacle is made by God and not man.

The Apostle Paul is giving us the spiritual application of what the physical tabernacle was trying to show us. He then reviews the earthly offerings given by an earthly priesthood.

His point is to show all that the earthly setup was carefully enacted to reflect the glory of the heavenly—something much higher:

Hebrews 8:6: *But now he has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.*

Israel's priesthood foreshadowed this greater priesthood to come. This priesthood would be led by Jesus, *the mediator of a better covenant*. The difference between the Mosaic Law and the New Covenant is that people still died under the Old Law Covenant, but the New Covenant will bring life. This is because Christ is a better mediator than Moses, and the offering of his perfect life was much better than the animals sacrificed under the Law.

Hebrews 10:1-4 specifically says the Law was only a shadow pointing to this better covenant as it was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins on a permanent basis. It was used as a picture of what was to come through Jesus.

How did Jesus become the mediator? He earned the position by his obedience and his sacrifice:

Hebrews 9:1: *Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.*

The rules of the Law Covenant were necessary, sacred and had to be followed.

For our listeners who are unfamiliar with all the details of the Tabernacle that was enacted as a picture for the Christian walk, we recommend listening to Episode #1099: “Should Christians Care About the Jewish Tabernacle?” (Yes, they should!)

The priests had to do everything in a certain order and in a certain way. Each component has a corresponding meaning—the building materials, the furniture in the compartments, the clothing worn, the sacrifices made—all collectively pointing to Jesus and his true church. It is a wonderful Bible study.

Recommended topic for Bible study.



To be in the Most Holy was to be in the presence of God. A blood sacrifice was the price of entry, or else the priest would not come out alive:

Hebrews 9:6–7: *6 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, 7 but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.*

The high priest couldn't go into the room where the Ark of the Covenant resided without first offering the sacrifice, as the room represented the presence of God. They could not go in on their own, being sinful and unworthy, or else they would literally be stricken dead. The sacrifice had to proceed them. This is solemn, sacred and serious.

Jesus fulfilled this requirement and earned the right of entrance into God's holy presence:

Hebrews 9:11–12: *11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, he entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through his own blood, he entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

Can we see the power of this? This incredible picture has a deep sacredness and even danger. Jesus enters the Most Holy spiritually because he offered his blood as the sacrifice ONCE for ALL. Eternal redemption. He has earned his place at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 9:15: *For this reason he (Jesus) is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

Those who have been called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance—these are Jesus' faithful followers, also known as the church. Jesus opened the heavenly way, and the apostle is saying those who have been called benefit by being with Jesus in heaven.

Let's talk about the followers of Christ, as there are many differing views about the New Covenant within Christianity.

 **Are Christians under the New Covenant—either while they are alive now or later when they are in heaven?**



The answer is NO. They cannot be under the New Covenant because they are part of the body of Christ and are administrators of the New Covenant! The complete Christ, “head and body” (Jesus and his church of faithful followers) is the administrator and mediator of the New Covenant between God and mankind.

Influential Jewish Christians had convinced the early Galatian church to follow the Law Covenant. The Apostle Paul wrote to them to firmly set them straight. In so doing, he revealed where the call to Christ fits in relation to the Law, and therefore to the New Covenant with its better promises and a better mediator.

Here’s something amazing. We’re going to see how God put in place certain women to represent certain covenants.

It’s not just a matter of interpretation—the Apostle Paul came right out and said it: Galatians 4:21–23, 28: *21 Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the Law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman (Hagar) and one by the free woman (Sarah). 23 But the son by the bondwoman (Ishmael) was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman (Isaac) through the promise.*

When Abraham was 75 years old, God promised he would have descendants. Fast forward 11 years later and still no children. Abraham and Sarah decided to take things into their own hands since Sarah was 76 years old at this point. They arranged for Sarah’s maidservant Hagar to have the child, and Ishmael was born. But he was NOT the son of the promise. Finally, Isaac is born when his brother Ishmael was 13 years old.

- *The son of the bondwoman—Ishmael from Hagar*
- *The son of the free woman—Isaac through Sarah—and only Isaac was the son of the promise.*

Paul is showing us that these two women, Hagar and Sarah, and their two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, represent a much bigger picture.

Paul is about to explain the difference between fleshly and spiritual Israel.

Here’s how we know these women represented covenants:

Galatians 4:24–25: *24 This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. 25 Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.*

Paul plainly teaches Hagar represents the Law Covenant of sinful Israel. Hagar and Ishmael represent the physical, likened to the Law coming from Jerusalem.

Galatians 4:26,28: *26 But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. 28 And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.*

There are two parts: earthly Jerusalem in slavery under the Law versus Jerusalem from above for the children of promise.

Paul likens the church to Isaac, the son of a free woman and not under bondage. In other words, the church is not under the Law, but under grace, pictured by Sarah. The Law could not bring life because those under it cannot perform it perfectly. But being under grace means we are under the blood of Christ, and that does bring life.

The apostle reminds the Galatians how the Law did not work; therefore, why would they want their Christianity to be under the Law? He uses the two well-known women from Jewish history and their children to represent physical Israel under the Law (which did not work) and spiritual Israel under the Sarah or “grace feature” of the Abrahamic Covenant (which works now for the church and in the future for all of mankind).

Sarah represented a covenant of grace through which Isaac was born. He was a child of grace. Sarah was too old to have that child, but she had him by God's grace.

Paul illustrates the spiritual part of the Abrahamic promise. Let's review the promise:

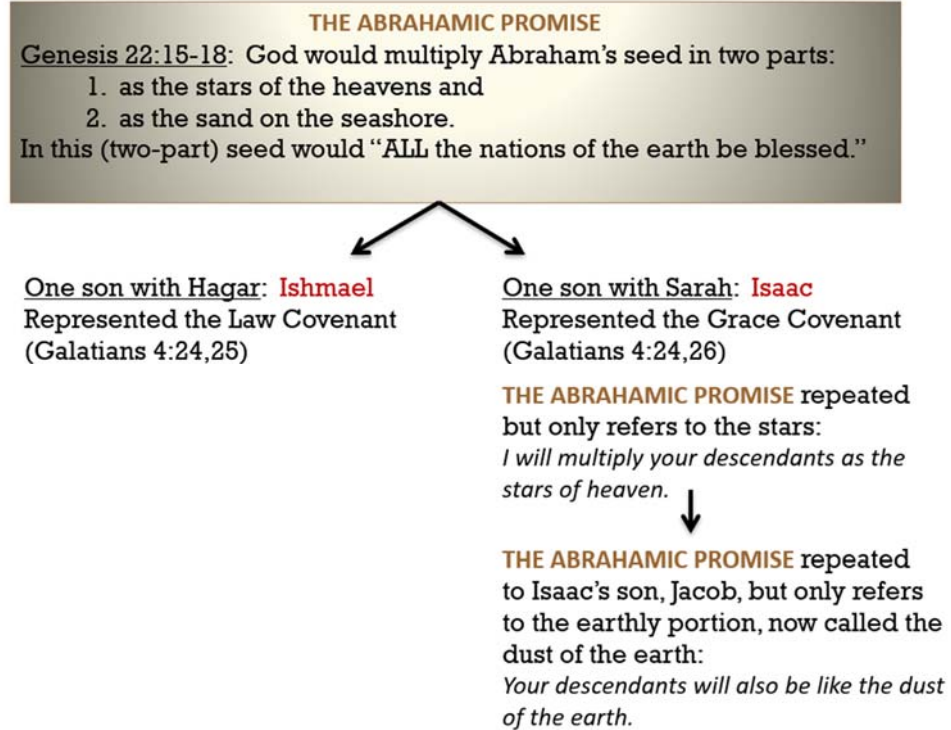
Genesis 22:17-18: *17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*

THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE SPEAKS OF:

The stars of heaven – referring to the
spiritual seed of Abraham–
CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

The sands of the seashore – referring to
the physical seed of Abraham,
the nation of Israel.

There are two parts here, as well. Abraham's descendants are described as the *sand which is on the seashore*, earthly, and the *stars of the heavens*, heavenly. Through both parts will *all the nations* (or families depending on the translation) *be blessed*.



Blessing comes from the physical seed of Abraham (the nation of Israel) and from the spiritual seed (the faithful followers of Jesus).

Notice how the Apostle Paul focuses his Galatian brethren on just who they are:
Galatians 3:29: *And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.*

How do we know we belong to Christ? It's evidenced by the holy spirit—God's power and influence working through us. We are following a spiritual teacher and developing Christlikeness.

A part of the end result of our development is shown here:

1 Peter 2:9: *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, a royal PRIESTHOOD, a HOLY NATION, a PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

From Galatians we know Hagar represents the Law from the literal, physical Jerusalem in the nation of Israel. Here in 1 Peter, we see the spiritual seed of Abraham is different and higher—a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and so on. Jesus, along with his disciples, inherit the capacity to bless mankind from heaven through God's spiritual government.

Hagar and the Law represent physical Jerusalem. But the *Jerusalem from above* is represented by *Sarah our mother*.

Revelation 21:1-3: *1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,*

When the faithful followers of Jesus are with him in heaven, they will administer the New Covenant to humanity to bless them.

All this blessing comes from the *new Jerusalem*, which Revelation says comes *down from heaven*. This is symbolic, as the city does not physically float down from heaven. It means it is the heavenly source of God's law and God's way—the **New Covenant** comes through this city, pictured as a bride adorned for her husband.



Reminder →

The church then, is actually under the Abrahamic Covenant, NOT the New Covenant. Why? Because they help administer the blessings of the New Covenant that come from the Abrahamic Covenant.

How is all this possible? It's all because of Jesus:


Hebrews 13:20-21: *20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, 21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

This *eternal covenant* described is the New Covenant, and it will be without end. But it is a conditional covenant in that obedience to God's ways will be required.

This New Covenant is an arrangement by which the Abrahamic Covenant will be fulfilled as it relates to Israel AND all mankind. It carries out the promised blessings through the mediation of Jesus and his body, the church, symbolized in the *new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God*. Jesus' faithful followers are not UNDER the New Covenant; the church with her head, Jesus, is OVER the New Covenant!

Keys to Open The New Covenant:

How is this inaugurated?



It's plain and simple. The **New Covenant** comes through **Jesus**. While his true disciples do not receive the benefits of the **New Covenant**, they are privileged to **GIVE** the benefits of that covenant to Israel and then to the world as they administer it as "kings and priests" under the jurisdiction of Jesus.

To summarize, **HOW** does the New Covenant work, specifically in regards to the faithful followers of Jesus? Through the blood of Jesus and the mediation of Jesus and his body—*...for I go to prepare a place for you... that where I am, there you may be also...* **John 14:2,3**.

They descend from heaven to bless the recipients of the New Covenant—Israel and the rest of mankind.

This is an amazing picture that has begun to come into focus. Jesus and his disciples will bring God's covenant of peace to all!

**We have been introduced to how the spiritual seed blesses the world.
How does the physical nation of Israel join in this blessing?**


Israel's role in blessing the world in some ways follows a similar pattern to the spiritual seed. Their ability to bless will come through trouble—lots of trouble. When this trouble reaches its full measure, it will likely be tragic to watch. This is why it is so important to hold tightly to God's promises as they help us see His ultimate purposes.

We will now look at the physical seed of Israel to whom the New Covenant is given and focus on the **WHERE** and the **WHEN** of this New Covenant.


For Christians, we can format our further understanding by applying to us the apostle's reasoning to the Hebrew Christians:

Hebrews 12:22–24: *22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.*

Let's look at this in pieces:


 *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,*

In both Galatians and Revelation, we are given a picture of the bride of Christ coming down to govern. The Apostle Paul explained to the Jewish Christians they were called to a higher, spiritual law, and therefore no longer under the Old Law Covenant.


 *to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all.*

WHERE is this church enrolled? In heaven.

WHERE is the New Covenant? On earth. The church of the firstborn are the administrators and mediators of this wonderful promise.

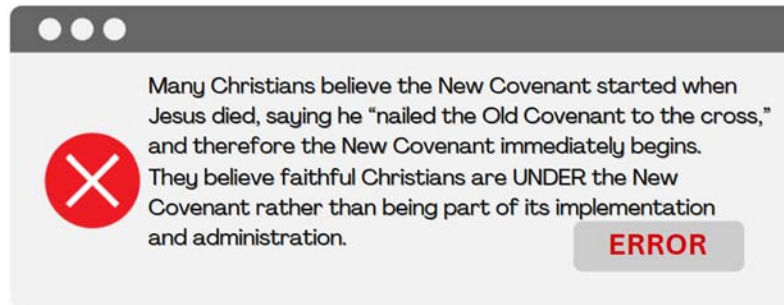
 *and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,*

These are the faithful, ancient heroes of faith described in **Hebrews 11** who died before Jesus and therefore were not promised a heavenly reward. Upon being raised from the grave, they will have an earthly reward of being in God's earthly government. As all humanity on earth, they will be under the New Covenant.

 *and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.*

It comes down to Jesus, to his blood that paid the price so that all of this can happen.

We have the context. Now the question is—WHEN?



The New Covenant did not start with the death of Jesus, but it does start with severe trouble.

Knowing all of these elements will come together, we now look at a prophecy speaking about the judgment against Babylon:

Jeremiah 50:3: *For a nation has come up against her out of the north; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be no inhabitant in it. Both man and beast have wandered off, they have gone away!*

We see this judgment as literal upon Israel in Jeremiah's day, but it is also a prophecy about spiritual Babylon, representing false church systems. Historically we can see how grossly different the religious systems are from when Jesus and the apostles were here. False Christianity will eventually be destroyed.

We understand the demise of these systems to be part of the prophesied time of trouble:

Jeremiah 50:4-5: *4 In those days and at that time, declares the LORD, the sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be the LORD their God they will seek. 5 They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to the LORD in an everlasting < 5769 > covenant < 1285 > that will not be forgotten.*



in those days and at that time—during what days and time? Zionism is the beginning of this time marker when the Jews began returning to Israel since the late 1870s and then became a nation in 1948 all the way up until today. The other piece is the judgment of the false church systems, with their errors and immoralities being exposed and finally destroyed.

The collapse of these false systems will bring us to *an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten*. These are the precursors. As we see these things happening, we know the time is close.

God has always planned that through great trouble will come great blessing.

To summarize, **WHEN** will the New Covenant be inaugurated?

This New Covenant cannot yet begin—it waits for its proper time when the covenant of grace has completed its work:

Romans 8:18-22: *18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (the recipients of the second great promise of Grace, the true church). 19 For the anxious longing of the creation (the “everybody else” who will receive the New Covenant) waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God (the true church). 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*

They are subjected to futility. When there is futility, there is trouble. We are seeing this now, and whether mankind realizes it or not, they are waiting eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God which will signal relief from the trouble and great difficulty. But from trouble will come great blessing.

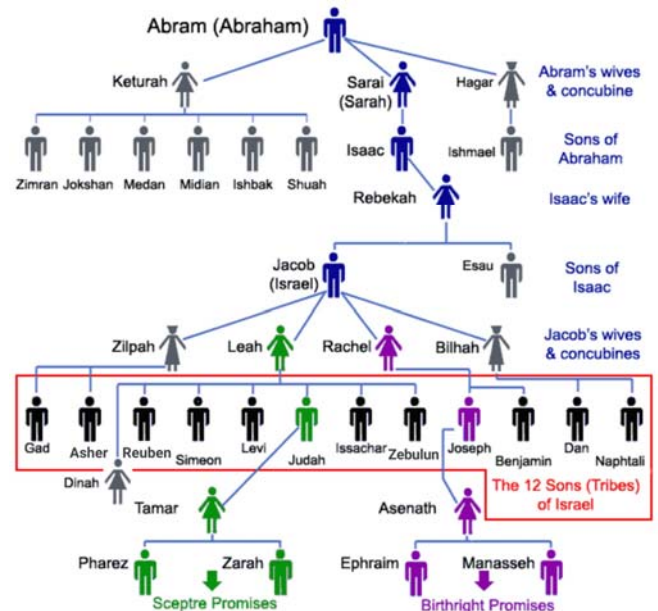
WHERE: At this point, the **WHERE** is easy. We have already seen many scriptures that unequivocally point to the physical nation of Israel.

After all, it is the land God originally promised to Abraham:

Ezekiel 37:24-26: *24 My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. 25 They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. 26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an **everlasting** <5769> **covenant**<1285> with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.*

Israel will be the first to profit from the New Covenant. It is a covenant of forgiveness, blessing and restitution to all those who want to live under it.

There's no doubt this describes the physical land of Israel, in spite of today's headlines. Abraham had Isaac, Isaac had Jacob. Jacob had 12 sons who would become the nation of Israel. When Jacob was dying, he gave a blessing to each of his sons. An interesting key when reading prophecy about Israel—sometimes "Israel" means "spiritual" Israel; that is, the faithful Christians who have been grafted into God's favor and who, if faithful, receive a heavenly reward. But spiritual Israel is never referred to as "Jacob."



IMPORTANT POINT

Today's headlines report massive worldwide demonstrations against Israel because of Gaza and its Hamas leadership. We are not going to get into the politics of the situation, but we do believe the trouble for Israel will increase, as has been prophesied. There will be more trouble before the blessing arrives.

In this next prophecy, Jeremiah shows the people of Israel their sins and then their dramatic deliverance.

This is another emphatic proof that the New Covenant is made with the physical nation of Israel:

Jeremiah 16:10-13: *10 Now when you tell this people all these words, they will say to you, For what reason has the LORD declared all this great calamity against us? And what is our iniquity, or what is our sin which we have committed against the LORD our God? 11 Then you are to say to them, It is because your forefathers have forsaken Me, declares the LORD, and have followed other gods and served them and bowed down to them; but Me they have forsaken and have not kept My law.*

Jeremiah 31:29: In those days they will not say again, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.

It sounds like the fathers have eaten the sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge, meaning while the present generation suffers for what past generations did, under the New Covenant arrangement, all will be responsible for themselves.

12 You too have done evil, even more than your forefathers; for behold, you are each one walking according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me. 13 So I will hurl you out of this land into the land which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers; and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will grant you no favor.

What dramatic language! In other words: *You defiled everything about Me, your holy God!*

This was not only fulfilled in Jeremiah's day, it was even more dramatically fulfilled in AD 70 when the Temple was destroyed by the Roman government and the Jewish people were scattered to the ends of the earth.

Next, Jeremiah points them to the day of the New Covenant:

Jeremiah 16:14-15: *14 Therefore behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no longer be said, As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt, 15 but, As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them. For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers.*

In our last episode, we discussed how the Passover memorializing the Hebrews leaving the slavery of Egypt was the beginning of the Law Covenant. Its remembrance was a *perpetual statute* within the Law, meaning that when the Law ends, so does that specific memorial. It will be a respected memory.

One of the most often-repeated events in the Old Testament is the deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt. This was an absolute focal point showing God's foresight, power, wisdom and providence. Jeremiah is saying the deliverance from Egypt will no longer be Israel's focal point, as even more dramatic is the regathering from the ends of the earth and the eternal restoration of the nation to their promised land!



Prophetically, we have seen the Jewish people restored to their land, but we haven't yet seen a restoration of Israel to their faith. **WHEN** does that happen? And to summarize, **WHERE** does the New Covenant apply?

The New Covenant begins in the nation of Israel after being restored to their land and after a time of great trouble that will require God's undeniable hand to stop.

It has been said that truth is stranger than fiction. Watching God's truth unfold is far more dramatic and exciting than fiction!

What does this all end up looking like when all of these diverse pieces are finally put in place?

The end results of all of this will absolutely reflect the description of this New Covenant as God's covenant of peace. As we put some of the final pieces together, we will focus on the "what." **WHAT** is this covenant made of? We know it's God's promise, but what makes it so different from the previous Law? Finally, we will look at the "why." **WHY** is God going through all this trouble to do this?

By some counts, the Law Covenant has 613 individual statutes, ordinances and requirements, not to mention all of the oral traditions of the Law that dictated every aspect of Jewish life. We don't find corresponding lists of do's and don'ts for the New Covenant.



Why are we given such little information about the logistics of how it will work?



It will work from the inside out. All of those precise rituals of the Old Covenant will not be needed to bring Israel to God. The New Covenant works through God's government. Remember the *new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God*? It is a clear picture. "THE" Christ, Jesus and his bride (the church) will reconcile mankind back to God.

WHAT makes this covenant so different from the Law?

First, it will be received very differently—in the hearts of men:

Jeremiah 31:33-34: *33 But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD, I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know the LORD, for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*

"Rather than a set of commandments on tables of stone, God will implant the principles of godliness in their hearts, just as Adam at his creation had an impress within, an intuitive sense, of what was right and good in order to regulate his conduct. But with Israel this writing on the heart, when complete, will be more thorough than with Adam because the knowledge of sin will, by contrast, deepen their appreciation for what is right." – CQ Contributor David Rice

"It will not be a mechanical reprogramming of man's brains. It will come through education and perfect teachers. People will have to make the effort to learn and change. The kingdom arrangement will provide the setting for mankind to finally attain perfection and be granted eternal life on a perfected earth. Peter describes this in Acts 3:21 as the Times of Restitution of all things." – CQ Contributor Tom Ruggirello

The New Covenant won't be about an arrangement of rituals and details; rather, it will be one of principles from the inside out. There is so much more value when we look to principles rather than focus on ritualistic details. These principles will be *written on the tablets of their hearts*, **Proverbs 3:3**.

Second, it is an unmistakably eternal promise which produces eternal surety and confidence:

Jeremiah 31:35-37: *35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the LORD of hosts is His name: 36 If this fixed order departs from before Me, declares the LORD, then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever. 37 Thus says the LORD, If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD.*

God is stating (with a little bit of sarcasm here), *If the sun and the moon and all of that fall apart, then yes, I will cast off Israel. It's just not going to happen. If you can measure the heavens and measure the deep, then I'll cast off Israel. It's not possible because I made them an eternal promise.*

Let's go back to a question we raised in our previous episode. The Sabbath is part of the Law Covenant—prominent enough to be one of the Ten Commandments and is called a *perpetual covenant*.



If the Law Covenant is being replaced and the perpetual statute of Passover ends, what happens to the Sabbath?



The Sabbath will be ever present:

Exodus 31:16-17: *16 So the sons of Israel shall observe the Sabbath, to celebrate the Sabbath throughout their generations as a **perpetual <5769> covenant <1285>**. 17 It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed.*

Instead of being “given” a Law, Israel and humanity will have the new law written in their hearts based on principles. You have heard the saying, “Let your conscience be your guide.” But what guides your conscience? In that day, God's New Covenant will guide each and every conscience that receives it.

When we look at the Sabbath in the context of it being written on their hearts, we see how it becomes a natural outgrowth of the beauty and the power of God's eternal promise. God wants us to pause and reflect. The Sabbath is eternal.

The Sabbath is like a “selah moment”— stop, pause and reflect to praise and honor God for all He has done for us. There will be such positive influence all around, and we can expect everyone will look forward to the Sabbath.



The **WHAT** of the New Covenant: It is principles written on the hearts of the people, and they will look forward to reflecting on all their blessings from God.

WHY does God do this?

Why did He go through all the pain of the sin and death and trouble and prophecies and the ups and downs of “Yes! We’ll follow you.” “No! We won’t follow you.” This and that happened, they crucified Jesus, and then he is raised, and the people do not understand. Why did God do this? Because it was His plan all along. The power of the heavenly mind saw the necessity for the experience of sin and death.

God created man to live forever! That was His original intention and design:

Genesis 1:26–28: *26 Then God said, Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*

God blessed them; and said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. That promise is fulfilled in the New Covenant. All of God’s other promises are pieces that bring us to the New Covenant. This is how God fulfills what He said at the very beginning.

Remember in **Jeremiah 16**, He proclaimed what they had done as a people. Now he proclaims the sins of Israel’s spiritual leaders—they also are not blameless.

He goes again back to “that day”:

Jeremiah 23:3, 7–8: *3 Then I Myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply... 7 Therefore behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they will no longer say, As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt 8 but, As the LORD lives, who brought up and led back the descendants of the household of Israel from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them. Then they will live on their own soil.*

Jeremiah goes through the trouble of restating, they will no longer say, As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt...but this is the God who brought them from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.

He says it both times—once to the people and once to the leaders. In other words, *All of you, no matter who you are, will know that I am God.*

This will be a powerful, undeniable proof. This is the power of the New Covenant, for the benefit of ALL people! It unquestionably starts with Israel but is even bigger.

Once again, the drama of that time cannot be underestimated. Trouble will bring peace:

Daniel 2:44: *In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.*



This kingdom IS the new covenant! Yes, it is inseparable. The new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, Jesus mediating, having the law written in their hearts...it is a profound connection.

In the days of those kings—so it has to crush the other kingdoms and get this world out of the way. The New Covenant needs a place to be planted and grow.

All nations will seek God, understand His righteousness, and live under this covenant of peace:

Isaiah 2:2-4: *2 Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. 3 And many peoples will come and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.*

In Ezekiel 37:26, God said, *I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them.* Some point out this never specifically calls it the “New Covenant” by name, but look at these Isaiah scriptures! God’s righteous government comes directly from heaven, working with the earthly Jerusalem. Earth’s billions will be raised from the dead with God’s law written on their hearts. What a relief! *Peace on earth, good will towards men!* The original Good News!

There are many pictures to help us understand this kingdom and its New Covenant. A new Jerusalem coming down from heaven is one of the pictures. *The mountain of the house of the Lord* is another picture. It shows us the same event but with different picture language.

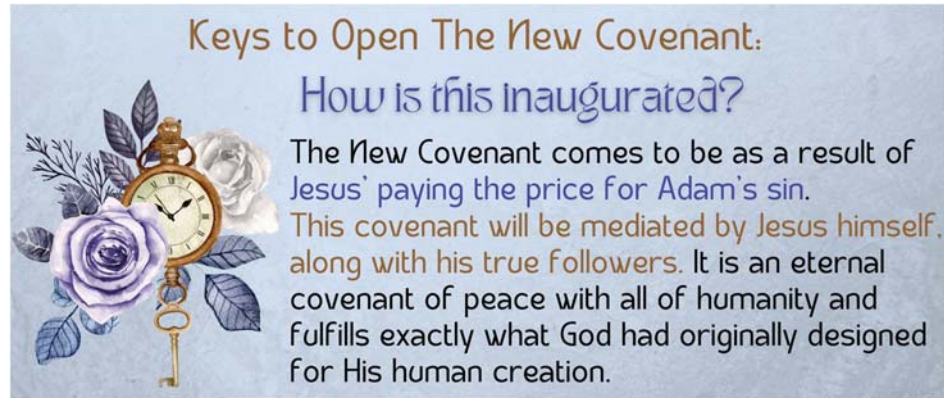
Isaiah 11:9-10: *9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. 10 Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious.*

Isn’t this what we all long for? It’s not only everywhere; it’s within everyone. Can we imagine the true, heartfelt appreciation which will give birth to heartfelt loyalty? This is harmony restored. Thank God!

This is what having God's law written on their hearts means. *In that day, the nations (not just Israel—everybody!) will resort to Jesus, the root (descendant) of Jesse.*

Psalms 22:27-28: *27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. 28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations.*

He rules through the New Covenant because it fulfills the promises given to mankind originally.



God did not say, *Oh! I have to think of something else.* He allowed sin, Satan, death, tragedy and the Law Covenant to show us how we had fallen below His standard in following Satan's leadings. When the New Covenant is fully inaugurated, we will see God's true will come to fruition in a way that is staggering in its magnificence and its glory throughout the entire earth and for all of humanity.

**So, is the New Covenant different from God's other covenants?
For Rick, Jonathan, Julie and Christian Questions...
...Think about it!**

All scriptures cited are from the NASB1995 translation unless otherwise noted.



Next episode

Episode 1332:
Am I Too Cynical or Not Cynical Enough?



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Bonus Material and Study Questions

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<https://christianquestions.com/character/1271-privilege-part-i/>

Ep. 1311: What is the Biblical Process to Become Perfect? (Part III – Israel and Nations)

The perfecting of Israel as a nation and all other nations of the world

<https://christianquestions.com/current-events/1311-perfecting-nations/>

Ep. 1099: Should Christians Care About the Jewish Tabernacle?

Unlocking the secrets and symbols God gave to ancient Israel

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1099-tabernacle/>

Ep. 1253: How Do I Let Go and Let God?

The value of God's timing, not ours: lessons from Abraham and Sarah

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1253-let-go-and-let-god/>



Parents and Bible class teachers, continue your studies on this topic with these short, animated videos for kids at [ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube](https://christianquestions.com/YouTube):

- **What was the Ark of the Covenant?**

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As reference, here are scriptures (King James Version) that use the phrase *everlasting covenant* and *new covenant*:

Isaiah 55:3: *Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an **everlasting covenant** with you, even the sure mercies of David.*

Isaiah 61:8: *For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an **everlasting covenant** with them.*

Jeremiah 32:40: *And I will make an **everlasting covenant** with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*

Ezekiel 16:60: *Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an **everlasting covenant**.*

Ezekiel 37:26: *Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an **everlasting covenant** with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.*

Hebrews 13:20: *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the **everlasting covenant**,*

Jeremiah 31:31: *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:*

Hebrews 8:8: *For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:*

Hebrews 8:13: *In that he saith, A **new covenant**, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.*

Hebrews 12:24: *And to Jesus the mediator of the **new covenant**, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

Study QUESTIONS

Ep.1331: Is the New Covenant Different from God's Other Covenants?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1331-new-covenant/>

See:



1. What is a covenant? How long do they last? List and describe the promises and covenants given in the Bible we recapped from the previous podcast.
2. What is **Jeremiah 31:31-32** promising? As you continue this study, fill in the following:
 - a. **WHO:** What do the following tell us about *who* the New Covenant applies to?
 1. Abrahamic Promise: **Psalms 105:8-11, Genesis 22:15-18**
 2. Two prophecies: **Ezekiel 37:21-28**
 3. Mediator: **Hebrews 8:1-6, 9:1,6-7,11-12,15, 10:1-4**
 4. Hagar (Ishmael) versus Sarah (Isaac) covenants: **Galatians 4:21-29, 1 Peter 2:9**
 - b. **WHEN:** What do the following tell us about *when* the New Covenant happens?
 1. Judgment against Babylon: **Jeremiah 50:3-5**
 2. Revealing of the sons of God: **Romans 8:8-22**
 - c. **WHERE:** What do the following tell us about *where* the New Covenant will be put into practice?
 1. Land given by God: **Ezekiel 37:24-26**
 2. Day of the New Covenant: **Jeremiah 16:1-15** - Describe the progression of events in this prophecy.
 - d. **WHAT:** Explain *what* makes this New Covenant so different from the previous Law Covenant?
 1. How it is received: **Jeremiah 31:33-34**
 2. Surety of the promise: **Jeremiah 31:35-37**
 - e. **WHY:** *Why* does God do this? *Why* go through the trouble of sin, death, prophecies, ups and downs?
 1. God's original intention for man: **Genesis 1:26-28**
 2. Who God wants to "know" Him: **Jeremiah 23:3,7-8**
 3. What trouble brings: **Daniel 2:44, Ezekiel 37:26**
 4. Who will then seek God as a result: **Isaiah 2:2-4**
 5. To inspire loyalty: **Isaiah 11:9-10**
 6. Because of what the New Covenant will fulfill: **Psalms 22:27-28**
3. Which covenant are you under? Where will you be during the inauguration of the New Covenant? What will be your role?