

A New & Better Covenant

Covenant is our key word for today's class.

A covenant is a _____ based on _____. We've learned in a wide variety of ways throughout this study that the LORD is a God of covenants. He takes covenants seriously and expects his people to do the same ([Deut 28:1-2, 15](#)).

But much of what we've heard in recent weeks has emphasized Israel's **unfaithfulness** to their covenant with God. So much of the bad news throughout the Old Testament prophets revolves around the coming consequences for Israel's rebellion. And yet, there are always glimpses of coming light. In [Isaiah 55:3](#), for instance, God continues to invite:

Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an _____ covenant...

How would this "everlasting" covenant be different? [Jeremiah 31](#) is a key prophecy that helps us understand what God would eventually offer through a new and better King:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a _____ covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their _____, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law _____ them, and I will write it on their _____. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall _____ know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will _____ their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." ([31:31-34](#))

How would this prophecy find its fulfillment? In and through Christ our King. Just listen to the way disciples of Jesus are described in [2 Corinthians 3:3-4](#):

And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, _____ on tablets of stone but on _____ of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.

Our King is the key to a **better** covenant, "enacted on better promises" ([Heb 8:6](#)).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- When you hear the word “covenant,” what comes to your mind? Our video described it as “a relationship based on promises.” Is there another way you could summarize what a covenant is?

- What do you think God meant by his question in [Isaiah 55:2](#)?

- What is he communicating in [Isaiah 55:1](#), in your own words?

- Why was it absolutely key, if people were going to become part of the “**everlasting covenant**” the LORD references in [Isaiah 55:3](#), that they first “**incline**” their ears and “**come**” to him, “**forsaking**” their wicked ways ([55:7](#))?

- In [Jeremiah 31:32](#), God emphasizes that the “**new covenant**” he would make would not be like “**the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.**” So how would this new covenant be different? Let’s carefully analyze the next few verses. What’s the significance of...
 - “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts” ([31:33](#))?

 - “And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest” ([31:34](#))?

- So how does God “**write**” on “**tablets of human hearts**” today ([2 Cor 3:3-4](#))? How and why is this “**better**” than the “**old...enacted on better promises**” ([Heb 8:6](#))?

For NEXT Sunday:

- We’ll examine the incredible dream of Nebuchadnezzar in [Daniel 2](#) and the prophecy of a kingdom “**that shall never be destroyed.**” What did it mean? **We’ll talk about it...**