

The New Covenant & The Church of Christ

Jeremiah 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, *and* an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 31:7 For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel

Jeremiah 31:15 cf:

Matthew 2:16-18 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. **2:17** Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, **2:18** In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Jeremiah 31:16 Captivity for Judah

Jeremiah 31:21 cf:

Isaiah 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

Jeremiah 31:27 Promise of Return from Captivity

Jeremiah 31:28 God to Build Up

Jeremiah 31:29 The Fathers ate sour grapes (forbidden fruit) Children's teeth set on edge (Children being punished for the sins of the fathers); Jeremiah 31:30 cf:

Matthew 23:29-38 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. 23:31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. 23:32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city: 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. 23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! 23:38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Jeremiah 31:31 cf:

How do you know preacher you are reading this prophecy right and Christianity is the New Covenant?

Hebrews 8:1-8 1 Now of the things which we have spoken [*this is*] the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. 3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore [*if*

is] of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: 5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [*that*] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. 6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7 For if that first [*covenant*] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 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:

***"God found fault"* (8:8) with the people because the first covenant could not remove sin.**

The Old Testament system of worship was designed to show the need of something better than what it offered. The Old Testament held the worshippers as prisoners of sin, for it offered nothing that could remove sin cf:

Romans 7:22-25 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin

Christ's ministry on our behalf is far superior to the Levitical ministry on behalf of Israel. The Levitical priests ministered for the people in an earthly tabernacle, but Christ ministry is in heaven. Christ is seated at God's right. This takes Jesus out of the realm of human existence.

The superiority of Christ's priesthood necessitated a new covenant between God and man. Jeremiah prophesied about the new covenant God would make with us.

Hebrews 8:8-13 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: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 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.

An Inferior System of Worship

The system of worship under the Law restricted access to God. The heart of Old Testament system of worship revolved around the tabernacle and the Levitical priesthood. The tabernacle represented God's dwelling place. The tabernacle represented the nearness of God, but it also created a barrier between God and man. The design of the system of worship in the Old Testament was a constant reminder of the sin barrier between God and man. The priest of the Old Testament were the only one's that could bridge the barrier created by sin. The barrier was bridged as the worshippers brought the required sacrifices to the priests to be offered on behalf of those worshipping. However, there was no direct access to God.

There were two main areas in the tabernacle Moses built; they were the Holy Place and the Most Holy place. The Most Holy place represented God's dwelling place. The cherubim of Glory above the ark represented God's throne. God's dwelling place could only be entered once each year on the Day of Atonement. The high priest entered with a blood offering for his sins and the sins of Israel. The sacrifices themselves spoke of the barrier sin created between God and man. The sacrifices offered could not remove the sin barrier. They could not clear the clear consciences of the worshippers as they came before God; the sacrifices were continual reminders of their sinfulness.

Jeremiah 31:31 cf:

Matthew 26:26-30 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. 26:30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

Acts 20:7 And upon the first [*day*] of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

II Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Jeremiah 31:32 cf:

Exodus 19:3-8 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; 19:4 Ye have seen what I did

unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. 19:7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. 19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

The Old Testament itself imprisoned the worshippers in their sin until Christ came. Adhering to the Law written upon tables of stone could never remove sin simply because it was impossible to live up to the precepts of the law. Actually, God gave a law impossible to live up to so as to create an awareness of the need of something better.

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Exodus 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

I Peter 2:5-9 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the

stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Jeremiah 31:32 cf:

Hosea 1:2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, *departing* from the LORD.

Idolatry Spiritual Adultery

Jeremiah 31:33 cf:

A Superior Relationship

We are learning that it takes more than making laws in Washington to make us better people. It takes something more than laws written in books to make a better world. External solutions will not solve internal problems. Taking peoples rights away will not create a better world. Neither will legalizing immoral behavior make a world better. Neither will legislating morality solve our problems. The Old Testament is proof of this truth. Only internal restraints written upon the hearts of people will make our world a better place to live. No matter what law you make, there is always somebody ready to make a loophole in it. This was also true of God's law. It was a perfect law, but that law became a means of self-destruction for many seeking their self-righteous way.

Christ came to write God's laws upon our hearts.

II Corinthians 3:2-3 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: **3:3** *Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. **12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, ...

This is not a racial thing ... You can't be born and raised up in the Church of Christ as a Jew was born a Jew. When a Jew grew up he had to be taught to be a Hebrew and learn their religion but he was already a born a Jew before he was taught or could speak.

In this New Covenant you have to be born again to get in the covednant.

John 3:1-5 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: **3:2** The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. **3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. **3:4** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? **3:5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

The New Covenant is built upon a close relationship between the believer and God rather than rigid obedience to a set of rules. We are no longer kept at a distance through the dread and fear our sin seeks to create. Christ has made each Christian a priest and has given each Christian free access to God. God has taken each of us under his wing of protection. Christ blood covers our sin and gives us confidence as we approach God. *Christ has placed his seal of ownership on us.*

Acts 2:37-47

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

The reason all will be motivated to know the Lord is because of his willingness to forgive and forget their sin. His willingness to forgive creates our desire to know him. God's grace removed a covenant designed solely for the purpose of reminding us of our sin. If he were not a gracious God that covenant would still remain. God's grace moves him to write his laws upon our hearts. Likewise, grace is the only thing that can soften our hearts enough to be written on. Fear and dread make our hearts to tense to be written upon. Fear and dread keep us running from our insecurities, but grace allows us to face our insecurities with confidence. Grace says that God is approachable.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [*our*] profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [*we are, yet*] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Jeremiah 31:34 ... for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

I John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

Isaiah 1:18-20 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: 1:20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Isaiah 55:1-13 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for [*that which is*] not bread? and your labour for [*that which*] satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye [*that which is*] good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. 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. 4 Behold, I have given him [*for*] a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. 5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation [*that*] thou knowest not, and nations [*that*] knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee. 6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts [*are*] not your thoughts, neither [*are*] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For [*as*] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and

maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [*in the thing*] whereto I sent it. 12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap [*their*] hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign [*that*] shall not be cut off.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

It is reassuring to know that when you approach God's throne the sacrifice for every sin you have committed or will ever commit has already been made. We will never need another sacrifice for sin. Your atonement has been made once and for all. This is the confidence we have as we approach God.

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Coffman's Commentaries, B.W. Johnson Peoples New Testament Commentaries & Quotes from James Davis @ Focus on God.