

“For They Shall All Know Me”

Developing a New Covenant Relationship with God

Spring 2016 / Sunday AM Bible Study



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Introduction
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God wants volunteers
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God provides for His people
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God's people are special
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Review
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Lesson 3. They Shall Be My People

Tebow-ing



God wants a relationship with people

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 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 husband, declares the Lord. 33 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 within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and **they shall be my people**. 34 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, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Goals

- Recognize that God wants a people who choose Him voluntarily
- Understand that God always provides a way and a reward for His people
- Appreciate how unique and special a Christian's relationship with God is

God invites, but doesn't coerce

Matt 22:1-14



All the original guests to the feast had to do was show up.

No impostors allowed

Matt 22:1-14



- ▶ You've got to have the right clothes to be part of the feast.
- ▶ Sincerity and truth in thought and action is a requirement
- ▶ There's severe consequences for hypocrisy.

Many are called few are chosen.

Matt 22:1-14



The people of God have to embrace being different.
You volunteered for this.

You can always choose not to.

Matt 22:1-14



God will always provide for His people

Ezekiel 37



- 1-14 The Valley of the Dry Bones – God will resurrect His people
- 15-28 The Joined Stick – God will give His people an everlasting possession.

God will resurrect His people

Ezekiel 37:1-14



This is one of the few passages in the Old Testament that directly refers to the resurrection from the dead.

With a New Covenant perspective we see three resurrections eluded to in this prophecy:

- ▶ Physical Israel would return from captivity.
- ▶ Spiritual renewal in the Holy Spirit under the New Covenant
- ▶ Bodily resurrection from the dead at the last day

God will give His people an everlasting possession

Ezekiel 37:15-23



- ▶ “I will . . . bring them to their own land.”
- ▶ “Make them one nation”
- ▶ “One king”
- ▶ “My dwelling place shall be with them”
- ▶ “I will be their God and they shall be my people”

God's people still have a promised land

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

The Lord made Israel special

Deut. 10:12-22



- ▶ No one else got the benefits that Israel did.
- ▶ No one else had the requirements that Israel did.

The Lord made Christians special

I Peter 2:9-10



- ▶ We are a chosen race (like Israel).
- ▶ We are a royal priesthood (like Judah and Levi put together!).

God adopts us as sons

Romans 8:12-17



- ▶ “Abba, Father” reveals the closeness we have with God.
- ▶ We are heirs with Christ.
- ▶ We will be glorified with Christ.

The Lord is with His people from start to finish

Romans 8:28-30



- ▶ This passage should encourage us, not simply generate theological discussions.
- ▶ God's preparations for His people started before time.
- ▶ God's support of His people will continue through the end of time.

They shall be my people

- ▶ God wants volunteers
- ▶ God makes a way for His people
- ▶ God gives His people eternal possessions
- ▶ God's people are special
- ▶ The best days are still ahead of us