

# "For They Shall All Know Me"

## Developing a New Covenant Relationship with God

Spring 2016 / Sunday AM Bible Study



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## Lesson 8. I Will Make a New Covenant



### 2016-04-16   ↘ Introduction



09:30

1. In previous lessons we've learned that God wants a relationship with people
2. At earlier times He chose a people, the Israelites, and made a special covenant with them.
3. Israel rejected this covenant.
4. They faced horrible physical and spiritual consequences.
5. It's terrifying to think that we, too, may fall under the same judgment of God.
6. We might feel a bit like this picture.
7. 'what must we do to be saved?'
8. Today we'll start talking about God's solution for us, the New Covenant.

## 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.

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### 2016-04-16   ↘ Introduction

#### ↳ God wants a relationship with people

09:32

1. Our text text for the class is a prophecy of what this New Covenant will be.
2. It's God's solution to bringing a sinful people back into a relationship with Him.

## Goals

- Understand what the New Covenant is
- Examine why the New Covenant was needed
- Assess how God's relationship with His people changed from the Old to the New Covenants

### Introduction

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09:34

1. We'll look at 5 scriptures and think about what the New Covenants is, why it was needed, and how our relationship with God improved from the Old to the New
2. The scriptures are Luke 22:14-23, Eph. 2, Rom. 11:25-32, Heb 10:1-18, and II Cor. 3:7-18
3. The flow will be a little different than normal in that we'll revisit each scripture multiple times.
4. We'll consider each scripture (most of the scriptures) in the context of the goals.

## The New Covenant vs. the Old

Jer. 31:31-34

I will put my law within them genuine obedience  
 I will write it on their hearts inward commitment  
 I will be their God a new focus  
 they shall be my people it's no longer physical Israel  
 ...they shall all know me faith not genealogy  
 from the least to the greatest there's no distinctions  
 I will forgive their iniquities more than overlooking sins

### What is the New Covenant?

#### The New Covenant vs. the Old

The New Covenant vs. the Old  
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09:36

1. A prep for the last 5 lessons.
2. law within them – Christians focus on commitment from the heart not outward rituals (e.g., Pharisees, 'whitewashed tombs')
3. write it on hearts – not tablets. Israelites should have done this (law 'when you rise up and lay down'). Christians will get it right.
4. I will be their God – Christians are God's new focus
5. They shall be my people – no longer physical Israel
6. ...they shall all know me – from 'no longer teach...' forward says you don't have to teach a Christian how to be saved. All Christians already 'know' God. Not true in the OT. You could be born an Israeli but grow up not knowing the Lord.
7. least to greatest – no distinction between clergy/laity, Jews/gentiles, rich/poor, etc. In God's kingdom we're all priests.
8. forgive their iniquity – You'll need a better sacrifice for this.

## The New Covenant according to Jesus

Luke 22:14-23



- ▶ New Covenant = Kingdom of God
- ▶ Payment made with Jesus' body.
- ▶ Signed with Jesus' blood

### What is the New Covenant?

#### The New Covenant according to Jesus

The New Covenant according to Jesus  
 Luke 22:14-23



New Covenant = Kingdom of God  
 • Payment made with Jesus' body  
 • Signed with Jesus' blood

09:41

1. Jesus talks about the kingdom and the new covenant in the same context. They are synonyms.
2. Two parts of a contract are mentioned here.
3. The first is payment for services rendered.
4. Note the Jesus says that *he* is paying for *our* side of the contract.
5. Second, there's a signature, which really is ratification of the contract.
6. When Jesus dies the New Covenant is ratified.
7. *If someone says ratification is Pentecost, then I'd say Pentecost is the date of effect. It's ratified before, but the start date is 50 days later. But, we'll not take the analogy too far.*

## The New Covenant according to Ephesians

Eph. 2



- ▶ Life with the Messiah (1-4)
- ▶ Salvation by grace through faith (5-10)
- ▶ The end of the Old Covenant (15)
- ▶ God's Holy Sanctuary (19-21)

## The New Covenant according to Hebrews

Heb. 10



- ▶ Jesus' sacrifice is once for all (10)
- ▶ Jesus' sacrifice sanctifies forever (12)
- ▶ Jesus' enemies not punished... yet (13)

## The New Covenant according to II Corinthians

II Cor. 3:7-18



The New Covenant is more glorious than the Old.

### What is the New Covenant?

#### The New Covenant according to Ephesians

09:43

1. New Covenant people will be 'resurrected', in more ways than one.
2. The end of the Old Covenant - New Covenant is not based on law
3. There's no room for boasting since it's not of works
4. Holy Sanctuary - Both house (v 19) and tabernacle (v 21)
5. Jesus is the cornerstone
6. Apostles and prophets build on it
7. That house was put together by God and is always growing

The New Covenant according to Ephesians



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### What is the New Covenant?

#### The New Covenant according to Hebrews

09:47

1. There's only going to be one sacrifice in the New Covenant.
2. That sacrifice is going to work for everyone for all time.
3. There are pieces of the New Covenant that have yet to be fulfilled
4. For instance, judging of the wicked, who by their actions reject the sacrifice of Jesus.

The New Covenant according to Hebrews



- Jesus' sacrifice is once for all (10)
- Jesus' sacrifice sanctifies forever (12)
- Jesus' enemies not punished... yet (13)

### What is the New Covenant?

#### The New Covenant according to II Corinthians

09:50

1. Neil already went over this, so we'll just review
2. The New Covenant is more glorious
3. What does it mean to be more glorious?
4. Better. But, that sort of falls short.
5. Here's the best illustration I can come up with.
6. Could you imagine trying to go back and use the cell phone on the left?
7. Can you imagine what your 1980's self would think if you went back in time and handed him an iPhone?
8. That's a level of improvement that we can comprehend. The improvement from the Old to the New covenants is much bigger than that.

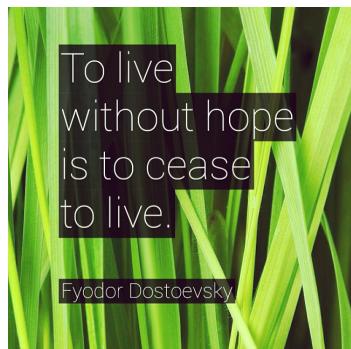
The New Covenant according to II Corinthians



- The New Covenant is more glorious than the Old

## We were dead with no chance for life

Eph 2.



- ▶ We were dead in sins (1-9)
- ▶ We are Gentiles in the flesh(11-21)

## Animal sacrifices are insufficient

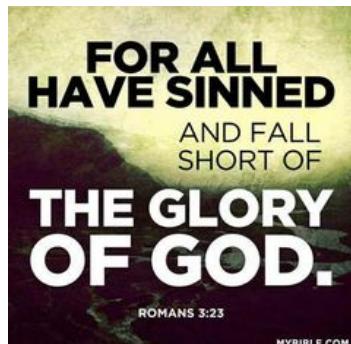
Heb. 10:1-18



- ▶ The Law cannot perfect the worshipers (1-2)
- ▶ The sacrifices can't really take away sins (3-4)
- ▶ God doesn't really want animal sacrifice and offering...
- ▶ He wants a human offering (5-7)

## All Israel needs to be saved

Romans 11:25-32



- ▶ Everyone had to be consigned to disobedience
- ▶ So, a partial hardening came on Israel
- ▶ Until the Gentiles came in
- ▶ Christians are now the new Israel

2016-04-16 └ It was needed because...

└ We were dead with no chance for life

We were dead with no chance for life  
Rom. 2.



• We were dead in sins (1-9)  
• We are Gentiles in the flesh(11-21)

09:52

1. We needed the new covenant because without it we're dead, both physically and spiritually
2. We're Gentiles: Excluded from citizenship of Israel, Foreigners to the covenant of promise, Without Hope, Without God
3. Does this mean *no* Gentiles were saved in the OT? *Of course not, (e.g. Ruth), but the plan certainly didn't focus on salvation for the whole world.*

ooo

2016-04-16 └ It was needed because...

└ Animal sacrifices are insufficient

Animal sacrifices are insufficient  
Heb. 10:1-18



• The Law cannot perfect the worshipers (1-2)  
• The sacrifices can't really take away sins (3-4)  
• God doesn't really want animal sacrifice and offering...  
• He wants a human offering (5-7)

09:55

1. The argument is that if the sacrifices take away sins, then you don't have to keep offering them.
2. How were the sacrifices a 'reminder of sin'? *Well, you had to do it frequently. It cost you something. And, you had to be there when the animal was killed.*

ooo

2016-04-16 └ It was needed because...

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All Israel needs to be saved  
Romans 11:25-32



• Everyone had to be consigned to disobedience  
• So, a partial hardening came on Israel  
• Until the Gentiles came in  
• Christians are now the new Israel

09:55

1. Paul makes the same point in chapters 1-3 culminating in v23 'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'
2. The hardening of Israel served to bring the Gentiles in by...
3. Killing Jesus
4. Persecuting the church so that the gospel spread to all places
5. There's nothing to suggest all physical Israel would be saved eventually (in a millennial kingdom)
6. Paul already said that Israel in the New Covenant is spiritual Rom. 9:6-7

## We've been brought near to God

Eph 2



- ▶ A seat in the heavens (6)
- ▶ Access to the Father (18)
- ▶ A member of God's household (19)



### 2016-04-16 A Change in Relationship

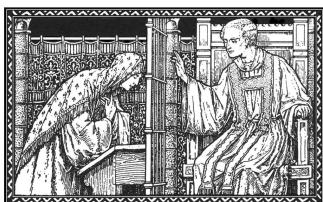
#### └ We've been brought near to God

9:58

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## We've been perfected

Heb. 10:1-18



- ▶ Jesus has sat down at the right hand of God
- ▶ He's perfected forevermore those who are sanctified
- ▶ No longer a need for an offering



### 2016-04-16 A Change in Relationship

#### └ We've been perfected

10:01

1. Jesus new position suggests that he has completed his earthly work
2. Jesus has received His reward and gives us hope that we will receive our reward.
3. His sacrifice is still sufficient today.
4. Think about the effectiveness of Jesus' sacrifice in the context of the catholic practice of penance (picture).
5. Penance is basically punishing yourself for sins you committed and has to be done over again when you commit another sin.
6. The Hebrew writer would reject such practices on the basis that Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for the sins you have committed in the past, *and* the sins you will commit in the future.
7. Don't continue to beat yourself up over past sins.
8. And, don't fret over the 'cursing as I die in a car crash' conundrum of unconfessed sin.

## God can have mercy on all

Rom 11:32



### 2016-04-16 A Change in Relationship

#### └ God can have mercy on all

10:05

1. This depiction of lady justice illustrates a few things we'd like to avoid when it comes to our spiritual life.
2. The balance: What you've done will be weighed exactly against the standard.
3. The blindfold: You can't get out of it because you're special.
4. The sword: If the balance finds you guilty, consequences will follow.
5. But, God arranged His plan specifically so He could show mercy
6. It's hard for us to understand, because we're used to how our justice system works.
7. Governments seek out the wrong-doers for the expressed purpose of bringing them to justice.
8. Our Lord sought out wrong-doers to help them avoid the justice they deserve.

## We've been set free

II Cor. 3:7-18



### 2016-04-16 └ A Change in Relationship

#### └ We've been set free

10:08

1. More review from Neil's class.
2. What does it freedom *feel* like?
3. *Relief*
4. *Taking a weight off our shoulders.*
5. *Peace*

## I will make a new covenant

- ▶ The New Covenant is...
  - ▶ salvation by grace through faith
  - ▶ the forgiveness of sins
  - ▶ the kingdom
  - ▶ paid for by Jesus' sacrifice once for all
  - ▶ the end of the Old Covenant
- ▶ The New Covenant was needed because...
  - ▶ we were all dead in sin.
  - ▶ we were Gentiles without hope.
  - ▶ animal sacrifices were insufficient
- ▶ The New Covenant changed things by...
  - ▶ bringing mercy for all
  - ▶ making us members of God's house
  - ▶ perfecting us forever

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  - salvation by grace through faith
  - the kingdom
  - the end of the Old Covenant
  - the end of the animal sacrifices once for all
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### 2016-04-16 └ Review

#### └ I will make a new covenant

10:10

1. Just go over these and leave time for other to make comments.