

Covenant Theology: from a Reformed Baptist Perspective

Lesson 11: The New Covenant

Historical background of the New Covenant

The Davidic Covenant took place 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus Christ (the Mediator of the New Covenant). In this long interval between covenants, the role of _____ became very important in the nation of Israel. While there were a few who were identified as prophets before the reign of David, the majority of prophetic activity that is recorded for us in Scripture took place in between the giving of the Davidic Covenant and the New Covenant.

The ministry of the prophets was primarily to call the nation of Israel back to their covenant _____. The prophets told the people of their sin and of God's judgment that would come if the people chose to persist in their lawlessness.

The prophets not only speak of judgment to come if the people continue in sin, but they also tell of something _____ to happen in the future. Several of the prophets speak of a coming New Covenant that will be different from the current covenant that the people of God are under. The prophet Jeremiah was given by the Lord the clearest teaching about the coming New Covenant (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*).

"Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound; for as things went from bad to worse in the earthly kingdom of Israel, God was pleased to grant much fuller revelations concerning the heavenly kingdom of the Messiah." -Pink

New Covenant and the Eternal Covenant

The New Covenant is the accomplishing of the Covenant of Redemption in _____.

Jesus came and _____ all the covenant requirements and also gave of Himself in the place of sinners to suffer as one who had violated the covenant requirements. Thus, Christ both fulfilled all righteousness and suffered all wrath. The New Covenant comes to humanity because of the life and work of Christ (the Son of God).

"The Covenant of Redemption was a covenant of works from the Father to the Son. The Son had a mission, a work to complete, and a reward suspended on condition of His obedience. Jesus willingly and perfectly fulfilled that Covenant of Works. He Himself said that it is finished...the New Covenant is the fulfilled Covenant of Redemption mediated to those for whom the Son was appointed Head in the Covenant of Redemption." -Renihan

The New Covenant in Jeremiah 31

We see several important truths about this New Covenant from the words contained in Jeremiah 31:31-34. We are going to focus on this particular OT text because it is the text that the writers of Hebrews chose to focus on when he discussed the New Covenant in Hebrews 8.

- 1. This covenant would be in the _____ sometime** (vs. 31a)-The people of Israel were not under the new covenant but were to be looking for it to come.
- 2. This covenant is made with the house of _____ and the house of Judah** (vs. 31b)-This covenant is not for all humanity but only for the people of God.
- 3. The New Covenant would be very _____ from the Old Covenant** (vs. 32)-While there is a continuity in Scripture there will be some major differences between the covenant that the people of Israel were currently living under at the time and the New Covenant that was to come in the future.

"Jeremiah is teaching that the new covenant will not be like the old covenant, not that somehow the moral law no longer exists, but that our obedience to this covenant will not be the judiciary means of cursing or blessing for covenant-community promises. Rather, someone else will keep this covenant perfectly on our behalf, and it is through faith in His covenant keeping that blessings follow." -Van Dorn

4. There are four _____ given in this New Covenant (vs 33-34)

1. The Law will be written on their _____
2. God will be their God and they shall be His _____
3. Everyone shall _____ the Lord
4. God will _____ all iniquity and remember their sin no more

The New Covenant in Hebrews

1. The New Covenant was _____ by Jesus Christ (8:6)-By his life, death, and resurrection the New Covenant has been inaugurated. The old covenant has become obsolete now that the New Covenant has come (8:13)
2. All those _____ by Christ are partakers in New Covenant (9:15a)-Through the ministry of the Apostles it had been made clear that even Gentiles were admitted into the new covenant. Therefore, the use of the words "Israel" and "Judah" in Jeremiah 31 must be understood in a spiritual way as a reference to all those who spiritually are the people of God.
3. The New Covenant was very different in that it was _____ by Christ on behalf of the people (9:11-14)-Whereas, under the Old Covenant the individual had to obey the commands to receive God's blessing. Under the New Covenant the blessings come through Christ's obedience. The New Covenant is a covenant of grace.

Even that which He requires of us He supplies to us...The New Covenant is a kept Covenant of Works, mediated to the world. The Old Covenant longed for completion and fulfillment. It longed for faithfulness. The New Covenant is a covenant already completed, already kept, and delivered to Christ's people...Jesus Christ is the Federal Head of the New Covenant."-Renihan

4. The four promises of the New Covenant come to the saints through Christ:

1. All of those under the New Covenant are _____ by the Spirit of God and have a "new" heart (10:19-22). The Spirit of God takes away our hatred and carnal fear of God and gives us hearts that love God (the law is written on our hearts).

"Regeneration is a reality possessed by all true members of the new covenant."-Renihan

"Love for God inspires a desire to please Him: Love for its Author produces a love for His Law."-Pink

2. Through the work of Christ there is _____ between man and God as God is now our God and we are His people (10:19). Only those that are approved of by God are allowed to enter the holy places and through Christ the saints are not only allowed but encouraged to enter. Not only are the saints called the people of God but through Christ we are adopted into the family of God and we call God "Father".
3. Through Jesus Christ all the saints _____ the Lord (1:1-3). Our knowledge of God comes through knowing Christ. One cannot know God rightly outside of Christ.
4. Through Christ our sins are remembered no more (_____). Jesus Christ is the mercy of God. By grace through faith in Christ we are counted as righteous and forgiven of all our sins.