

Week 8: The word of future restoration – Jeremiah 31

Pray for our mission partners and your time in the Word

Context (Anticipation of a new Covenant)

1. What do you remember from the sermon on Sunday?

Read Jeremiah 11:1-8, what was the covenant given to Israel?

- Why couldn't they keep it (see also Jer 17:1)?

Read Jeremiah 31:22-25, Given what we have read in Jeremiah, why might something new be needed?

Notice

Read Jeremiah 31:15-34

2. Re-read the passage on your own

3. Break the passage up into sections?

For each section:

4. Discuss all together,
 - a. What are you unsure about?
 - b. What do you think the section is about?

Prompts for reading on own

- Images/metaphors
- Keywords or ideas
- Questions you have

Guided study *if needed*

Vs: 26-30

What is the promise God makes?

- How does this passage connect with Ch 1?
- Vs: 29-30 (see Ezekiel 18:1-4), how does this clarify the basis for their relationship with God?

Vs: 31-34

What is the promise God makes?

- What's new about the new Covenant?
- How does it solve the problem with the old Covenant (Jer 17:1)?
- How will they become a part of the new covenant?

Vs: 35-37

Resolve what you think the main point of the passage is?	What's the assurance of hope in the future?
Reflect	
5. As a group, a. What do these chapters teach about God? b. Resolve what you think the main message	<i>Guided study if needed</i> How do the images help us understand God's compassionate heart? Read Matthew 26:26-29, how does Jesus fulfil the new covenant?
Respond	
6. What kind of impact should it have? On a. What you believe b. What you want in life c. What you do this week	Read, Galatians 5:22-25, How does Jesus' fulfillment of the new covenant change our lives? How does this provide hope in the battle against sin?
Pray in response to the passage, then in pairs	

MP: God has promised that he will make a new covenant that will be better than the old covenant as it will write the law on the heart.

App: We are living not under the old covenant but the new covenant, which means we have the forgiveness of sins and new desires.

11 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Listen to the terms of this covenant and tell them to the people of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem. ³Tell them that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Cursed is the one who does not obey the terms of this covenant— ⁴the terms I commanded your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the iron-smelting furnace.’ I said, ‘Obey me and do everything I command you, and you will be my people, and I will be your God. ⁵Then I will fulfill the oath I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey’—the land you possess today.”

I answered, “Amen, LORD.”

⁶The LORD said to me, “Proclaim all these words in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: ‘Listen to the terms of this covenant and follow them. ⁷From the time I brought your ancestors up from Egypt until today, I warned them again and again, saying, “Obey me.” ⁸But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts. So I brought on them all the curses of the covenant I had commanded them to follow but that they did not keep.’”

31 How long will you wander,
unfaithful Daughter Israel?
The LORD will create a new thing on earth—
the woman will return to^[d] the man.”

²³ This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “When I bring them back from captivity,^[d] the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: ‘The LORD bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain.’ ²⁴ People will live together in Judah and all its towns—farmers and those who move about with their flocks. ²⁵ I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.”

Promise 1

²⁶ At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me.

²⁷ **“The days are coming,”** declares the LORD, “when I will **plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah** with the offspring of people and of animals. ²⁸ Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD.

²⁹ “In those days people will no longer say,

‘The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

³⁰ Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge.

Promise 2

31

"The days are coming." declares the LORD,
"when **I will make a new covenant**
with the people of **Israel**
and with the people of **Judah**."

32

It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to^[e] them,^[f]
declares the LORD.

33

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time," declares the LORD.
**"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people."**

34

No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'
because **they will all know me**,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the LORD.
**"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."**

Guarantee

³⁵ This is what the LORD says,

he who appoints the sun
to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars
to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea
so that its waves roar—
the LORD Almighty is his name:

³⁶

“Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,”
declares the LORD,
“will Israel ever cease
being a nation before me.”

³⁷ This is what the LORD says:

“Only if the heavens above can be measured
and the foundations of the earth below be searched out
will I reject all the descendants of Israel
because of all they have done,”
declares the LORD.