

### THE NEW COVENANT – PART 3

Jeremiah 31:34 ... “...’for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

This is the final segment in our series about God’s new covenant with man, which Jeremiah prophesized 700 years before Jesus came to earth to enact it. You should include the old testament in your study of the Bible because many of God’s promises, as well as his life lessons for us, are contained in it. Together they paint a full picture of who God is, how he operates, and what he expects of us.

In Jeremiah chapter 31, verses 31 and 32, God promised to make a new covenant with Israel after they disobeyed him repeatedly for thousands of years. God said his new covenant would be easier than the first. In verse 33 and the first part of verse 34, we learn of God’s promise to put his law in our minds and hearts, and to allow us to know him personally, instead of learning about God only through priests and prophets.

In the last part of verse 34, which is our scripture for today, we find that the new covenant gives us access to God’s forgiveness. We no longer have to sprinkle the blood of animals on altars as payment for our sins. Christ, whom God sent to deliver his new covenant to us, paid our sin-debt when he bled and died as the ultimate and final sacrifice required by God. God also promises in verse 34 to never mention our sins again after he forgives us. This is the assurance we have that on judgment day we will not be reminded of our sins nor punished for them. Are not these promises worth studying the old testament to find?

One final reminder: God’s new covenant – the one in place today between God and man – applies to each of us, even though in Jeremiah’s prophecy it is addressed to the Jews. Do not skip the old testament in your Bible study because you assume that it applies only to Jews. Christ and the Apostle Paul clearly tell us that when we accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, God adopts us into his people – the Jews – even though we are Gentiles. He accepts us for two reasons: 1) God recognized the hunger for him among the Gentiles (every person who is not a Jew, is a Gentile), and 2) because of Israel’s rebelliousness and their practice of taking God for granted.

You were born and live with the ability to know God personally, to be forgiven of your sins, and to spend eternity with him in Heaven. These are the guarantees of God’s covenant with you, IF you love and worship him, and accept Christ as your Lord and Savior.

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