

The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament

**Bethlehem Baptist Church, sp 2013
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A Walkthrough the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31–34

❖ The New Covenant in the NT:

❖ Instituted at the Lord's Supper

- ❖ Luke 22:20. And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the *new covenant* in my blood. (Cf. Matt. 26:27–28; Mark 14:23–24)
- ❖ 1 Cor. 11:25–26. In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the *new covenant* in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

❖ Ministers of the New Covenant

❖ 2 Cor. 3:6. [God] made us competent to be ministers of a *new covenant*, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

❖ Jesus as the Mediator in contrast to the Old

❖ Heb. 8:6–8, 13. But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a *new covenant* with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,... In speaking of a *new covenant*, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (Cf. Heb. 9:15; 12:24)

❖ Jeremiah's New Covenant (31:33–34)

31 The days are coming when

I will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah
(32) not like the covenant that I made with the
exodus generation that they broke.

33 Indeed this is the covenant I will make with
Israel after those days:

I will put my law in their midst; even on
their heart I will write it.

And I will be their God, and they my
people.

34 And they will not teach one another,
“Know the LORD,”

because they will all know me

because I will forgive their iniquity
and no longer remember their sins.

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Explanation (or Ground):

33 Indeed this is the covenant I will make with Israel after those days:

1. Internalized law—
obedience from the heart

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1. Internalized law— obedience from the heart		
2. Covenant relationship enjoyed	34	<u>And</u> they will not teach one another, “ <u>Know the LORD,</u> ” <u>because</u> they will all know me <u>because</u> I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sins.

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1. Internalized law— obedience from the heart		
2. Covenant relationship enjoyed		<u>And</u> I will be their God, and they my people.
3. Covenant knowledge grounded in spiritual redemption	34	<u>And</u> they will not teach one another, “Know the LORD,” <u>because</u> they will all know me <u>because</u> I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sins.

- ❖ All NC members “know the LORD”:
 - ❖ Knowledge of God implies **reflecting God’s character** as one who loves others and works for justice without prejudice.
 - ❖ Jer 9:23–26. Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD. ²⁵Behold, the days are coming, declares Yahweh, when I will punish all those who are circumcised with a foreskin—Egypt, Judah, Edom, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and all who dwell in the desert who cut the corners of their hair, ²⁶for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart.

- ❖ **Jer 22:15–17**. Do you think you are a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? declares the LORD. But have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence.
- ❖ **1 John 4:7–8**. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- ❖ Knowledge of God results in **keeping** his commandments and fleeing from sin
 - ❖ Jer 4:22. For my people are foolish; they know me not; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are “wise”—in doing evil! But how to do good they know not.
 - ❖ 1 John 2:3–6. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says, “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. ⁶By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same in which he walked. Cf. 3:6–7

- ❖ Knowledge of God requires **teaching truth** and **promoting what is good**.
- ❖ Jer 2:8. The priests did not say, “Where is the LORD?” Those who handle the law did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.
- ❖ Jer 9:3. They bend their tongue like a bow; falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, declares the LORD.
- ❖ Jer 9:6. Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me, declares the LORD.

- ❖ One reason all NC members know Yahweh (v. 34) is because they all are **effectually taught** by him—“I will put my law within them” (v. 33)
- ❖ Isa 54:13. All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.
- ❖ John 6:44–46. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets, “And they will all be taught by God.” Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—⁴⁶not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.

❖ 1 John 2:20–21, 27. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.... ²⁷But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

- ❖ All new covenant members will know Yahweh, because all will experience an internal encounter with **the gospel of forgiveness**—“I will remember their sins no more” (v. 34).
 - ❖ 1 John 2:2–3. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.
 - ❖ Lev. 10:3. Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.

❖ **The New Covenant in Jeremiah—A Synthesis**

- ❖ **The new covenant will be between Yahweh and a reunified Israel (Jer 3:18; 31:31, 33) and will be sparked by a new exodus out of exile and slavery climaxing in a return to the promised land or Zion, the new Jerusalem (3:14, 17–18; 23:7–8).**
- ❖ **The salvation will be led by the new, hoped-for King David, who will reign in wisdom, righteousness, and justice and whose identity will be, “Yahweh is our righteousness” (23:5–6).**
- ❖ **This restoration will be overseen by godly shepherds, who will feed God’s people with knowledge and understanding and guard them from harm (3:15; 23:4).**

- ❖ **This restoration will spark the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant promise of blessing to the nations (4:1–2), as Gentiles with new hearts will embrace God’s law, serve Yahweh their God and David their king, and be adopted into the one people of God, resulting in a new identity that distinguishes them from the nations (3:17; 12:16; 30:9 with 30:11).**
- ❖ **This restoration will also include a judgment on the wicked who remain hostile to God and refuse to surrender to his Word (12:17; 30:11).**
- ❖ **Every member of this transformed, new covenant people of God will enjoy a God-wrought, blood-bought reconciliation with the Lord that will result in knowing God, relating to God, and obeying God (31:33–34).**

❖ **A Synthesis of the Distinctions between the OC and NC:**

- ❖ **The makeup of the communities**
- ❖ **The nature of covenant grace: NC has ...**
 - ❖ **Better mediator**
 - ❖ **Better sacrifice**
 - ❖ **Better provision—new heart and spirit**
 - ❖ **Better results**
 - ❖ **Covenant keeping ensured**
 - ❖ **Covenant curses avoided**
 - ❖ **Better promises**