

The Church in Prophecy

The New Covenant

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

INTRODUCTION.

I. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL.

- A. The old covenant was ratified with the sprinkling of blood. (Exodus 24:3-8)
 - 1. Moses told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. (vs 3)
 - 2. The people answered, *"All the words which the Lord has said we will do."* (vs 3)
 - 3. Moses built an altar and twelve pillars. Burnt offerings and peace offerings were sacrificed. (vs 4-5)
 - 4. Moses put half of the blood into basins. The other half of the blood, Moses sprinkled on the altar. (vs 6)
 - 5. After reading the Book of the Covenant in the "hearing of the people," Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people saying, *"This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."* (vs 8)
 - a. The writer of Hebrews gives a good explanation of how the first covenant was dedicated with blood. (Hebrews 9:18-22)
 - 6. When Moses sprinkled the blood on the altar and on the people, both parties of the covenant (God and the people) were brought into union, being linked by the blood of the sacrifice. This action symbolized the union between God and Israel in the covenant.
- B. Being joined with God in the covenant, the people were to keep their covenant with God. (Exodus 19:3-6)

- C. As we have seen in the previous lesson, Israel broke their covenant with God.
 - 1. Jeremiah wrote, *"They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers."* (Jeremiah 11:10)

II. PROPHECIES OF A NEW COVENANT.

- A. Jeremiah prophesied the coming of a new covenant. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
 - 1. The law would be written on hearts and minds, not on stone tablets. (vs 33)
 - 2. God would be Israel's God, and Israel would be His people. (vs 33)
 - 3. God would forgive the sins of all who entered the covenantal agreement. As a result, all covenant members would know the Lord. (vs 34)
- B. Jeremiah also said a time would come when Israel and Judah would come and *"ask the way to Zion, with their faces toward it, saying, 'Come and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten.'"* (Jeremiah 50:5)
- C. Isaiah said the Lord would *"make an everlasting covenant"* with His people. (Isaiah 55:3)
 - 1. *"Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David."* (Isaiah 55:3)
- D. Ezekiel prophesied of a time when the Lord would bring together Israel as one nation with one king and one shepherd. At this time, God would make *"a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them."* (Ezekiel 37:21-28)
 - 1. The Lord would gather His scattered people and unite them under one King. (vs 21-22, 24-25)
 - 2. The people would be cleansed from their sins. (vs 23)

3. The Lord would establish an everlasting covenant of peace with His people. (vs 26)
4. The Lord's dwelling place would be with His people. (vs 27)
- E. These prophecies pointed toward the coming of the new covenant of Jesus Christ.

III. THE NEW COVENANT.

- A. There was a need for a "better covenant" established on "better promises." (Hebrews 8:6-13)
 1. The first covenant was given to Israel because of transgressions.
 - a. Paul wrote, *"What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made;..."* (Galatians 3:19)
 2. The covenant could not make the people perfect if they violated the terms of the covenant.
 - a. Hebrews 7:18-19 reads, "For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect;..." (Hebrews 7:18-19)
 - b. Hebrews 10:1 reads, "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect." (Hebrews 10:1)
 3. The Lord found fault with Israel due to their disobedience. (Hebrews 8:7-8a)
 4. This "better covenant" would... (Hebrews 8:8-13)
 - a. Be written on hearts and minds, not on stone tablets. (vs 10; cf. 2 Corinthians 3:3)

- b. Bring the forgiveness of sins allowing the people to enter the covenantal agreement. As a result, all covenant members would know the Lord. (vs 11-12)
- B. The new covenant was ratified by the shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross.
 1. Jesus said the cup was the *"blood of the new covenant"* when He instituted the Lord's Supper.
 - a. *"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* (Matthew 26:28)
 - b. *"And He said to them, 'This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.'"* (Mark 14:24)
 - c. *"Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.'"* (Luke 22:20)
 2. God's covenant with Israel was ratified with the shedding of blood. Similarly, Jesus Christ's blood ratified the new covenant when He died upon the cross. (Hebrews 9:15-22)
 - a. Jesus' is the Mediator by means of death.
 - b. The New Covenant was dedicated with blood just like the old covenant.
- C. The blood of Christ brought redemption.
 1. Peter reminds us that we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. (1 Peter 1:18-19)
 2. Paul teaches that Jesus purchased the church with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)
 - a. *"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."*
- D. The blood of Christ cleanses our conscience from dead works. (Hebrews 9:11-15)

1. The writer of Hebrews also refers to the “blood of sprinkling.” (Hebrews 12:24; cf. Exodus 24:8)
 - a. Peter wrote, *“elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”* (1 Peter 1:2)
 2. Through the blood of the covenant, God makes us complete in every good work. (Hebrews 13:20-21)
- E. Members of the covenant (Christians) have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ. (Hebrews 10:5-10)

CONCLUSION.

- A. To enter into the new covenant with God, your sins must be washed away by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.
1. Jesus can wash your sins through His blood. (Revelation 1:5)
 2. When you are baptized, their sins are washed away. Ananias said to Saul, *“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* (Acts 22:16)
 3. By being baptized into the death of Christ, you are brought into contact with the blood of Christ. (cf. Romans 6:3-4)
 4. When you obey the gospel’s call, you appeal to God for a clean conscience. Peter wrote, *“Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”* (1 Peter 3:21, NASB)
- B. If you will enter into the new covenant with the Lord, then...
1. You will be redeemed with the blood of Christ.
 2. Your conscience will be cleansed from dead works.
 3. You will be sanctified, set apart to serve the Lord.

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