

A New Covenant
Jeremiah 31: 23-40

Introduction.

- A. The weeping prophet.
 - 1. The sins of the people.
 - 2. The imminent destruction and captivity of the nation.
- B. Written during the time of the Babylonian conquest of Judah.
 - 1. Nebuchadnezzar (606, 598, 596 BC).
 - 2. Jeremiah was locked up for his messages.
 - 3. Jeremiah brought the word from the LORD.
 - a. They must accept their captivity.
 - b. God will restore them when discipline is complete.
- C. Note the constant repetition of:
 - 1. The LORD says.
 - 2. Declares the LORD.
- D. The promise of restoration and blessing.

I. Restoration (23-26).

- A. Blessing.
 - 1. The LORD Almighty (God of warrior hosts).
 - 2. The God of Israel.
- B. Contentment.
- C. Ease.
 - 1. Satisfaction (to drink one's fill).
 - 2. Refreshment.

II. Prosperity in the land (27-30).

- A. Population growth (Gen. 15:5).
 - 1. People.
 - 2. Animals.
- B. Rebuilding.
 - 1. God brought destruction.
 - 2. God will bring about rebuilding.
- C. Justice.
 - 1. Inequity in the past.
 - 2. Fairness now (Dt. 24:16).

III. The new covenant (31-34).

A. The promise (31).

1. In the day of the Messiah.
2. To cut a covenant.

B. Unlike the Sinaitic covenant (32).

1. Made with the forefathers.
2. Impossible to keep (Heb. 8:8).
3. They betrayed God.
4. The fault was with the people, not the covenant.

C. Characteristics of the new covenant (33-34).

1. Internal.
2. Written on the heart (= the mind).
3. Intimate relationship between God and his people (Ex. 6:7).
4. All shall know (= direct access to the LORD).
5. Based on the forgiveness of sins.

IV. The promise stands forever (35-40).

- A. Israel will never cease to be a people.
- B. The LORD will never reject his people.
- C. Even the valley of corruption will be restored.
- D. It is a declaration of the LORD.