

ISRAEL: GOD'S CHOSEN

The New Covenant

PRIMARY SCRIPTURES:

Jeremiah 31:31-38; 33:14-26

Ezekiel 36:22-32; 37:20-28; 39:21-29

Luke 22:20 (1 Cor. 11:25)

2 Corinthians 3:6-18

Galatians 3:1-25

Hebrews 7:11-28; 8:1-13; 9:1-28; 10:1-18

OTHER RELEVANT SCRIPTURES

Romans 3:19-31; 7:1-14

Galatians 2:14-21

Colossians 2:16-23

THE NC EXPLAINED:

God first introduced the New Covenant through the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31-37). There God promised Israel specifically that He would make a new covenant with them and that it would not be like the old covenant, meaning the Mosaic Covenant (Jer. 31:31-32). The necessity of a new covenant lies in the fact that Israel was unfaithful and broke the old covenant (Jer 31:32; Heb 8:8). But through the new covenant God will make them faithful to him: He will put his Spirit in them, write his law on their hearts and minds, be known by every one of them, and move them to follow his commands (Jer. 31:33-34). Interesting is the promise of Israel's perpetual existence and the reference to creation. It seems God is saying that since he is the Creator of the universe

he is also the Creator of Israel, and just as he sustains the universe he will sustain Israel (Jer. 31:35-37).

KEY ELEMENTS FOR ISRAEL IN THE NC:

- Their eternal preservation as a nation and people (Jer 31:
- Their resurrection
- Their regathering and permanent establishment in the land
- Their regeneration with the Holy Spirit
- Their sins forgiven
- The law of God written on their hearts and minds
- Their being moved by God to follow his commands
- They will all know God
- God's presence in their midst
- God's glory seen by all nations through Israel
- They will be healed
- They will live in peace and have no fear of enemies

WHY THE NC WAS NECESSARY

The NC is necessary because it solves what the MC could not: the sin problem of man. Whereas the MC showed God's righteousness it simultaneously showed the unrighteousness of man in comparison (Gal. 3:19; Rom 3:20; 7:7, 13). The perfect righteousness of God cannot be matched by man. The success of the MC is that it shows the true sinful condition of man and shows the justice of divine condemnation (Rom 3:20; 7:10; 2 Cor. 3:6-7; Heb 10:1-4). But the MC cannot change either the condition or the condemnation of man. But the NC can. Through the NC

God forgives sin, justifies, regenerates, and transforms man's condition (Jer. 31:31-34; 2 Cor. 3:6-9; Gal. 3:2, 14; Heb 10:9-22).

To highlight why the NC is necessary, let's examine the scriptures' testimony showing the superiority of the NC over the MC. The NC is able to do what the MC was not:

- Purify inwardly (Heb 9:9, 13)
- Perfect the worshipper (Heb 7:11, 18-19; 10:1)
- Cleanse the conscience (Heb 9:9, 14; 10:2)
- Actually take away sins (Heb 10:11)
- Give access to the Most Holy Place (Heb 9:8)
- Justify/declare a man righteous (Rom 9:30-32; 2 Cor. 3:9; Gal 2:15-16; 3:1-4; 5:1-4; Heb 7:11, 18-19, 22; 8:6-7, 13)
- Give life (2 Cor 3:6)
- Give the Holy Spirit
- Remove the veil (2 Cor. 3:12-16)

MORE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MC & THE NC:

- Whereas Moses was the mediator of the MC, Jesus is for the NC (Heb 9:15)
- Whereas the MC was effected with the blood of bulls and goats, the NC was effected with the blood of Jesus (Heb 9:13-15)
- Whereas the MC was written on stone tablets, the NC is written on the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit (Jer 31:33-34; 2 Cor. 3:6-8)
- Whereas the MC required repeated animal blood sacrifices the NC required only one blood sacrifice from God's Son (Heb 7:27; 9:6-7, 9-10, 25-28; 10:1-3, 11).

- Whereas the MC operated with the Aaronic and Levitical priesthood, the NC operates by the priesthood of Melchizedek (Heb 6:20-7:28)
- Whereas the MC was merely a copy and shadow, the NC pertains to the true substance and reality (Col. 2:16-23; Heb 8:5; 9:23)

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AC, THE MC, AND THE NC

The Abrahamic Covenant promised Abraham's physical descendants they would live in the land of Canaan forever. It also promised that through Abraham and his "Seed" all nations along with those descendants would be blessed. The Mosaic Covenant proved the spiritual fault of the Israelites (Abraham's physical descendants) and that they didn't deserve those blessings promised through Abraham. So God formed a New Covenant whereby He transforms man spiritually to be "fit" for those blessings and makes those blessings possible. The New Covenant made possible the blessing of righteousness promised in the Abrahamic Covenant (Gal. 3:6; Rom. 3:20-21) - a blessing the Mosaic Covenant could not provide.