

November 7, 2021

Why the New Covenant?

Jeremiah 31:31-40

For 30 chapters Jeremiah details the sins of the people of Israel. They have been faithless to God. They worshiped false gods. They set up pagan altars. They did not offer the correct sacrifices to God. They completely turned their back on their promise to keep God's covenant. As a result of their continual sin, they would be carried off into captivity. In the past when this happened, God reinstated the covenant, again. The people failed to keep. And God reinstated it, again. Each time God reinstated the covenant, He demonstrated His steadfast love toward His people. The Israelites, even though they were about to be taken into captivity, expected God to do the same thing, again. This time God did not. Instead of reinstating the old covenant, God proclaims He would do something new. He will institute a new covenant. A covenant that the people can keep. A covenant that He would keep and allow His people to enjoy the benefits.

Outline:

- I. What covenant is being replaced?
- II. Why is the old covenant being replaced?
- III. Why did God give the old covenant?
- IV. What did God do?

Additional verses:

Exodus 19:1-9

Exodus 20:5-6

Exodus 34:6-7

Jeremiah 3:6-9

Romans 7:7-13

Galatians 3:24-26

Ephesians 2:4-7

Philippians 2:6-8

Dig Deeper:

1. Was the old covenant insufficient? What was the major problem with the old covenant?
2. How do you demonstrate your love and faith to God?
3. Why was it important for Jesus to fulfill the Law and not to abolish it?
4. What is the role of a guardian? How does that apply to the Law and Jesus?
5. What emotions are evoked when you read Philippians 2:6-8? What is God wanting us to learn from this passage?
6. How has God demonstrated His rich mercy toward you?
7. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?