




JEREMIAH 31:31-34
LUKE 22:20
JOHN 14:1-4
REVELATION 19:6-9
ROMANS 10:9
EPHESIANS 2:8-10
NIV

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

NEW COVENANT: "...I DO" - BECOMING HIS BRIDE, REMAINING FAITHFUL UNTIL HIS RETURN

New Covenant Foretold - Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Luke 22:20

20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

John 14:1-4

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

Revelation 19:6-9

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Romans 10:9

9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 - Message Bible Translation: The earlier revelation was intended simply to get us ready for the Messiah, who then puts everything right for those who trust him to do it. Moses wrote that anyone who insists on using the law code to live right before God soon discovers it's not so easy—every detail of life regulated by fine print! But trusting God to shape the right living in us is a different story—no precarious climb up to heaven to recruit the Messiah, no dangerous descent into hell to rescue the Messiah. So what exactly was Moses saying? The word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest. It's the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching. Say the welcoming word to God—"Jesus is my Master"—embracing, body and soul, God's work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That's it. You're not "doing" anything; you're simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That's salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: "God has set everything right between him and me!"

"I Do"...A Gracious Gift Accepted; Not Earned - Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



LET'S STUDY...

Terms and Conditions

The New Covenant is based on _____ in Jesus Christ rather than obedience to the Mosaic Law.

- Faith in Jesus Christ – "_____ in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).
- The Law Written on Our Hearts – "I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their _____" (Hebrews 8:10).
- The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit – "You yourselves are God's _____ and God's Spirit _____ in you" (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Blessings of the New Covenant

- Forgiveness of Sins – "I will remember their _____ no more" (Hebrews 8:12).
- Eternal Life – "For God so loved the world... whoever _____ in Him shall not perish" (John 3:16).
- A Personal Relationship with God – "They shall all _____ me" (Hebrews 8:11).
- The Holy Spirit as a Helper – "The _____ will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

Consequences of Rejecting the New Covenant

- Separation from God – "Whoever does not believe stands _____ already" (John 3:18).
- Judgment for Unbelief – "If we deliberately keep on _____... there is no sacrifice for sins left" (Hebrews 10:26-27).
- Eternal Punishment – "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to _____ life" (Matthew 25:46).

An Attribute of God in the New Covenant: His Grace

- Definition of Grace: Unmerited favor of God, giving us salvation as a gift.
- Scripture: "For by _____ you have been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).
- Application: We live by grace, not by works, but grace transforms us to live _____ (Titus 2:11-12).

Is the New Covenant Conditional or Unconditional?

- The New Covenant is both conditional and unconditional.
- Unconditional: God initiates the covenant based on His grace (Hebrews 8:6-13).
 - Salvation is offered freely through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Conditional: While salvation is a free gift, entering the covenant requires faith in Christ (Romans 10:9).
 - Remaining in its blessings requires abiding in Christ (John 15:4-6).

DEEPER STUDY...

Breakdown Ephesians 2:8-10:

- **Underline:** What is given.
- **Circle:** How it's received.
- **Box in:** What it's not from.
- **Draw a cloud around:** What it results in.

Study Revelation 19:6-9

- Circle all marriage-related terms

Concordance Activity

- Look up the word "covenant" in Strong's Greek Concordance (1242).
 - Find three verses in the New Testament where "covenant" (Diatheke) is used.
- Compare "covenant" in the Old Testament (Strong's Hebrew Concordance 1285 - Berith).
 - How does the New Covenant differ from the Old?



LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER...

Imagine being in a relationship where you keep messing up, no matter how hard you try to follow the rules. That's kind of what happened with humanity's relationship with God through all the previous covenants. From Adam's simple command to avoid one tree, to Noah's rainbow promise, to Abraham's nation-building agreement, to Moses's detailed laws – people kept failing to hold up their end of the deal. Even David's forever-kingdom promise and Solomon's wisdom couldn't fix our fundamental problem: we're just not capable of being perfect on our own.

Enter the New Covenant, which God first mentioned through Jeremiah, saying He would do something completely different. Instead of writing rules on stone tablets like with Moses, He promised to write His laws directly on people's hearts. Think of it like upgrading from a paper manual to having the knowledge downloaded directly into your brain – but for your spiritual life. This covenant isn't based on our performance but on God's promise to transform us from the inside out.

Here's where it gets really beautiful: Jesus used traditional Jewish wedding customs to explain how this New Covenant works. In ancient Jewish culture, a groom would propose (think Last Supper, where Jesus raised the cup of the "new covenant"), then go prepare a home for his bride (exactly what Jesus promised in John 14, saying He's preparing a place for us). Just like a bride-to-be would wait faithfully for her groom's return, we're now in that waiting period for Christ's return. When Paul writes about salvation through faith in Romans and Ephesians, he's basically describing our "engagement period" with Christ – we're saved by trusting in His promise, not by trying to earn His love through good behavior.

The good works that naturally flow from believers (as mentioned in Ephesians 2:10) aren't about earning God's favor anymore; they're more like a bride excitedly preparing for her wedding day. This explains why Revelation describes the church as the "Bride of Christ" and talks about the "marriage supper of the Lamb" – it's the ultimate celebration of this New Covenant relationship. Unlike the Mosaic Covenant's conditional "if you obey, then I'll bless," this one is all about God saying, "I'll transform you, and then you'll naturally want to follow Me."

What makes this covenant different from all the others is that it fulfills and completes them all. The intimate relationship lost in Eden? Restored. The worldwide blessing promised to Abraham? Fulfilled. The heart-level transformation hinted at in the Palestinian Covenant? Accomplished. The eternal kingdom promised to David? Established through Christ. Every previous covenant was like a rough draft pointing to this final, perfect version. It's not about trying harder to follow rules anymore – it's about being transformed by a relationship with God Himself.



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- "Like upgrading from a paper manual to having the knowledge downloaded directly into your brain" – Let's discuss this analogy of God writing His law on our hearts versus stone tablets. Can you share a personal experience where you noticed this internal transformation?
 - How was it different from just following religious rules?
 - What challenges do you face in distinguishing between genuine internal transformation and external conformity?
- Both ancient Jewish brides and modern Christians find themselves in a "waiting period." Looking at the wedding customs we discussed, how does understanding yourself as a "betrothed bride" change your perspective on current trials or decisions?
 - What does it practically look like to "prepare for the bridegroom" in today's context?
 - When have you struggled with the tension of living in this "already but not yet" period?
- The summary describes how every previous covenant was like a "rough draft" pointing to the New Covenant. Which of the previous covenants (Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, etc.) resonates most with your spiritual journey and why?
 - How does seeing these covenants as progressive steps rather than separate agreements change your understanding of God's character?
 - What aspects of the New Covenant fulfill or complete that particular "rough draft" covenant that speaks to you?

Closing Prayer...

Father, thank You for making this whole relationship thing so much simpler than we often make it. Instead of leaving us with an impossible checklist of dos and don'ts, You chose to change us from the inside out. It's amazing to see how Your plan unfolded through history - giving us glimpses through people like Adam, Abraham, Moses, and David - until You finally showed us the full picture through Jesus.

As we wait for Jesus to come back, help us remember that we're already Yours. Help us stop trying so hard to earn what You've already given us freely. Replace our anxiety with peace, our uncertainty with confidence, and our endless trying with simple trust. Keep our hope alive and our hearts ready for the day we finally see You face to face. Thanks for loving us like You do. In Jesus name, amen.



Homework: **Read Matthew 25:1-13**
The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Next Week: We will begin a new series:
The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit