Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant

Lesson 5, 1st Quarter, Feb. 12-18, 2022

Sabbath Afternoon – Friday 12

Memory Text:

"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant which was established upon better promises." KJV — Hebrews 8:6

"The terms of the "old covenant" were, Obey and live." "A man do, he shall even live in them." Galatians 3:12 (Amplified). "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the words of this law to do them." Deuteronomy 27:26. "The new covenant" was established upon "better promises"—the promise of forgiveness of sins and of the grace of God to renew the heart and bring it into harmony with the principles of the law. "This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel. After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33, 34. PP 372, 373

Sunday - February 13

The Need of a New Covenant

Hebrews 7:11-19

Why was a new covenant needed?

"Under the new covenant, the conditions by which eternal life may be gained are the same as under the old covenant. Before the fall of the old covenant, there were many offenses of a daring, presumptuous character, for which there was no atonement specified by law. In the new and better covenant, Christ has fulfilled the law for the transgressors of law, if they receive him by faith as a personal Saviour. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." Mercy and forgiveness are the reward of all who come to Christ, repenting of their sins, and taking away their sins. In the better covenant we are characterized by the blood of the Lamb." Christ,Letter 276, 1904; 7BC 951.10

Monday - February 14

New and Renewed

Hebrews 6:4-6; Deuteronomy 6:4-6; 30:11-14; Jeremiah 31:31-34

What is the nature of the new covenant?

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more." Jer. 31:31-34.

"We old "covenant" or agreement between God and His people was based upon the promises of the people, as we read, "And it came to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: and all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." Blessed shall thou be in the city, and blessed shall thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and the store. Blessed shall thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shall thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall cause your enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against you one way, and flee before them seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon you in your storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto Himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways." Ibid.

"And all the people answered together and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord." Deut. 28:1-9; Ex. 19:8.

This first covenant reaches from the time it was ordained the Israelites were set free and together of the twelve tribes as a kingdom, to the time when the Israelites were in Babylon, validity has been persistently negated by the New Testament Scriptures. The law was violated by both the Old and New Testament churches, until Christ, who, in the act of fulfilling their promise, has broken God's commandments. Yet, Christ's people have broken "the covenant that God made with their fathers" by the very act of making the Lord's new deal subject to fulfill, the promise. The prophecy, therefore, is fulfilled in a other time than today, when both "Israel and Judah" shall be gathered, with the scattered established in everlasting righteousness. Then "they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord." Jer. 31:34. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jer. 31:31-34.

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This new covenant, you see, is to go into effect in the gathering time. Then shall all God's people know the Lord, from the least unto good and evil. Then shall they know what is the Lord's will and what is the Lord's will shall be able to perform and good and to do that will. Then shall God's people know the Lord, from the least unto good, as they have nothing to do with God's people." Ibid.

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, was a very good king. He had been a very good king and lived in a wonderful palace. But as soon as he had gone into his palace, he had pride in his heart of Israel and Judah, and he had made his own desires and ways left him and the Israelites were in Babylon. Yet, in the Bible, Daniel 4:16, So with God's people: just as soon as they had left the Israelites palace, and writes it in their hearts, just than you would have thought that God's people would have left and they would disappear. No longer will God's people need to say, "Know the Lord to do good, evil is present." "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Rom. 7:24.

Verse 34 - "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jer. 31:34. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Tuesday - February 15

The New Covenant Has a Better Mediator

Hebrews 8:1-6

Why is Jesus a better Mediator of the covenant?

"The blessings of the new covenant are grounded purely on mercy in forgiving unrighteousness and sin. Jesus Christ specifies, I will do thus and thus unto all who turn to Me, forsaking the evil and choosing the good. "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." All who humble their hearts, confessing their sins, will find mercy and grace and assurance. Has God, in withdrawing mercy, for ever ceased to be just? Has He dishonored His holy law, and will He henceforth pass over the violation of it? God is true. He changes not. The conditions of salvation are not changed. The law of God is for all who will obey God's laws..." TBC 901.9

Wednesday - February 16

The New Covenant Has Better Promises

Exodus 24:1-8; Hebrews 10:5-10

In what ways should we expect better things?

Jer. 31:31-33 - "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people."

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Brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least will not come the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Note that the sinners and those who are ignorant of God shall no longer be among God's people. Certainly a change is coming, the present order, from the least will not long continue, the sinners will be put away forever. And how glad we ought to be that if we now repent, our sins will be forgiven and forgotten, and that no one will ever remind us of them!

Verses 35, 36 – "Thus saith the Lord, which ordaineth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is His name: If those ordinances depart from before Me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me for ever."

Here is God's bonafide guarantee against doubt and unbelief. As certainly as the doubters cannot change the ordinances of the heavens, just that certainly shall God's people once again become a Theocratic nation.

Thursday - February 17

The New Covenant Has Solved the Problem of the Heart

Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26, 27

Compare the new covenant promises of Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26, 27. How are they related and when will they be fulfilled?

Here (Jer. 31:31-34) is a promise of a new covenant, a new covenant. It is not the kind God made with our predecessors in the day they came up out of Egypt, the day He wrote the commandments on tables of stone and thus to keep them. Instead He makes a new covenant, a covenant to write them on our very hearts. Then every one of us will consequently know Him without having to be taught.

Take notice, though, He is not to make a new law, but a new covenant, a new contract for keeping the law. The difference is that rather than His writing the law on tables of stone, He will write it on the fleshly tables of the heart, the seat which the law of sin now occupies.

This covenant, you see, is to be made with both the house of Israel and the house of Judah, – with all God's people.

The scripture, remember, does not say that we cannot keep the law while it is written on the tables of stone, but it definitely says that we can, for those who broke the law are reproved for so doing. We can, therefore, even now inconveniently keep the commandments though they be still written on stone. For convenience sake some Christians wish the law were abolished, and some make themselves believe that it has been abolished, although the only law that has been abolished is the ceremonial, sacrificial law, the shadow of the Lamb of God.

What difference would there be whether the law be written on stone, or on our hearts? – The experience of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon reveals the answer.

Had the king by force been made to live with the cattle, in a stable or in a field, he would have committed suicide if possible. But as soon as God took his human heart away from him, and put the heart of an ox in him, the king was perfectly contented to be with the cattle, and altogether discontented to live in his palace.

Were the same thing done to anyone of us, our desires would be the same as the king's. In like manner, when the stony heart is taken away from us, and the heart of flesh with the law of God written on it put in us, we shall then find it altogether too inconvenient to sin, and most delightful to keep the commandments of God. And so you need not fear having to struggle to keep the law of God in the Kingdom, as you do here. You will then be perfectly contented to live a sinless life. In fact you will want to sin no more than you would now want to die.

Wonderful indeed! but when may we expect this miracle to take place? To find the answer to this question, we need connect Jeremiah's prophecy with Ezekiel's prophecy of the same event:

Jer. 31:8 – "Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither."

Ezek. 36:24-28 – "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God."

The records from both prophets clearly point out the time in which this miracle will be performed on the hearts of all God's people. Both prophets make it as clear as can be made, that this change of heart takes place in the Holy Land, Palestine, at the beginning of the kingdom which God promises to set up "in the days of these kings" (Dan. 2:44), not after their days. He moreover says that He will take us from among the heathen and gather us from all countries and take us into our own land (Ezek. 36:24), the land in which our fathers dwelt (Ezek. 36:28). "Then," at that time, says Inspiration, not before, will He sprinkle clean water upon us, cleanse us from all filthiness, and from all idols. Also, a new heart will He then put in us (Ezek. 36:26). He will give us His Spirit and cause us to comply with His statutes, and to keep His judgments (Ezek. 36:27). Read these scriptures for yourself and see if they say all I am trying to tell you they say.

Friday - February 18

Further Study

"What a God is our God! He rules over His kingdom with diligence and care, and He has built a hedge—the Ten Commandments—about His subjects to preserve them from the results of transgression. In requiring obedience to the laws of His kingdom, God gives His people health and happiness, peace and joy. He teaches them that the perfection of character He requires can be attained only by becoming familiar with His word. CT 454.1

"It is written in the prophets: 'O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.' Isaiah 54:11-14. CT 454.2

"This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.' Jeremiah 31:33, 34. CT 454.3

"And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Micah 4:2. CT 455.1

For further studies, feel free to contact:

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