

Wednesday night bible class: An OUTLINE shared by Roberta Heard-(**Jeremiah 31: 35-37**)

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Topic: “A New Covenant Promised (Jeremiah 31:31-40)”

Introduction

- Brief background/rationale for transitioning from the **Old Covenant** to the **New Covenant**.
 - ✓ Infallible Priesthood to a priesthood that will last forever, after the order of Melchizedek. (**Psalms 110:4**) and (**Hebrews 7:11**). The old priesthood could not bring salvation to mankind due to sin and the animal/blood sacrifices. This process would only roll sins forward once a year. Whereas, Christ our new Priest had no sins, died, and sacrificed his blood only one time for the sins of the world.
 - ✓ Change in the priesthood necessitated a change in the Law. (**Hebrews 7:12**)
 - ✓ Summarize some weaknesses of Judah. Read: (**Isaiah 1:1-10**); (**Numbers 14:13-17**) and (**Deuteronomy 9:4-6**). **Judah’s behavior toward God.**
 - **Rebellious Nation, provoked God to Anger, stiff-necked; did not know God, evildoers; made golden images and had become a corrupt nation. More importantly, they broke their Covenantal relationship with God.**

I. Salvation and Redemption- (Jeremiah 31:35-37)

- a. Discuss **prophetic** and **figurative** language as referred in phrases such as:
 - Sun for a light by day (**Guide for leading God’s people as they traveled by day. Example/ Crossing the Red Sea**).
 - Moon and stars for a light by night (**Guide for leading God’s people in a fiery pillar of cloud by night as they traveled. Example/Crossing the Red Sea**).
 - Divide the sea when the waves thereof roar (**Degree of punishment given to Judah and Nations for breaking the Covenant: God’s judgement on a nation for breaking the Covenant**). Supporting scriptures: (**Exodus 13: 17-22**), (**Nehemiah 9:7 -19**); (**Numbers 14:13-17**); and (**Isaiah 5:25-30**)

These scriptures reference how God had great patience and compassion with Israel and how he led them in times of need throughout the Old Testament. An example- Crossing the Red Sea. God was provoked by the behavior of Israel (**Numbers 14:11-12**). God wanted to smite them, strike them and disinherit them. He used avenging nations to punish them for breaking the Covenant (**Isaiah 5: 25-30**). God used Babylon to avenge Israel. They were casted, scattered and removed. However, God’s arm was stretched out, which means if Israel repented, they were given another chance. In (**Isaiah 13:1**) there was also a proclamation against Babylon.

Babylon was the rallying point of rebellion against God after the flood. The nation Babylon displayed too much pride and showed a degree of arrogance (Genesis 11). God used the Assyrian nation to avenge Babylon. The avenging nation roars against Israel and other nations like a roaring lion of the sea. (This figurative language implies the degree of punishment Israel and other nations received as a consequence for disobeying God. The avenging nations were:

- Assyria, Babylon, Medes/Persian, Greece, and Rome.

II. God's Saving Grace (Jeremiah 31:35-37)

- a. Israel will cease to be a Covenantal **Nation** forever before God because they broke the Covenant.
- b. A marvelous promise, God will **preserve** Israel (**Isaiah 1:9**). God left a very small **remnant** of His people.
- c. God will build a new nation with Israel. He did not destroy **Judah** like Sodom and Gomorrah. He **annihilated** those cities (**Genesis 20:23**). Judah's covenantal relationship died with God when they broke the covenant.

III. Conclusion/Summary

- A New Covenant has been inaugurated; the **Old Law/Levitical Covenant** being "obsolete". All nations are included in the New Everlasting Covenant. (**Hebrews 8:13**).
- Christ is the mediator of this new and better Covenant, which was established on better promises. (**Hebrews 8:6-9**).
- All who trust in him have had the law written in their hearts in regeneration and their sins completely forgiving (**Jeremiah 31:31-35**) (**Hebrews 8:12**) and **Romans 10:4**).
- We must trust in Christ and experience the promised blessings of the New Everlasting Covenant made with Israel (**Hebrews 8:10-12**).
- Remember, God made "**PROMISES**" to **Father Abraham**
 - **God promised to (1) make Abram a great nation; (2) bless him and make his name great; (3) bless those who bless Abram and curse those who cursed Abram and (4) and in Abram all families of the earth shall be blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3)**
 - Those Promises **cannot** be **Disannulled** by the old Levitical Covenant. (**Galatians 3:16-17** and **Hebrews 6:13**).

NEW INTERACTIVE STUDY OUTLINE ON JEREMIAH 31:35-37

The Apocalyptic/Symbolic Forecasting of God's Plan To Save Mankind (Transition From Old Covenant to New Covenant)

Jeremiah 31:35-37

35. Thus saith the LORD (**through signs, symbols and codes**), which giveth ordinance **1)** the **sun for a light by day**, ordinance **2)** **moon and of the stars for a light by night**, and ordinance **3)** which **divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar**; The LORD of hosts is his name:

36. If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then **the seed of Israel (descendants)** also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

37. Thus saith the LORD; If **heaven (rulers)** above can be **measured (judged)**, and the **foundations (broken covenant)** of the **earth (lay people)** searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the **seed (descendants)** of Israel for all that they have done (**broke the covenant and sinned**), saith the LORD.

CONTEXT-New Covenant

SUBJECT MATTER -The Old Covenant Broken

I. Verse 35-Signs, Symbol and Codes

- a. **1st ordinance** The sun and moon-light by day
- b. **2nd ordinance** The moon and stars by night **The way God lead His people**

Exodus 13:17-22

17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

18 But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

20 And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness.

21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Numbers 14:13-14

13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

14 And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.

Nehemiah 9:7-12;19

7 Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;

8 And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou art righteous:

9 And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red sea;

10 And shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day.

12 Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them.

19 Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.

c. **3rd ordinance** Sea divided when waves roar- divided the nation-because they broke the covenant God sent an avenging nation to punish them-Babylon takes them into captivity-**Isaiah 5:25-30**

Nehemiah 9:11

11 And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.

Assyria sent to Northern Kingdom of Jerusalem **2 Kings 17** during reign of Hoshea (last king Of Northern Kingdom) and **Babylon** sent to Southern Kingdom **2 Kings 24** to destroy them.

He sent the avenging nations to destroy them who had broken the covenant, but not cease them to be a people. He left a **remnant** of believers-**those who didn't break covenant**, to carry on. **Isa 1:9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.** If not, they would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah- annihilated-**Gen 19:23-25**

23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.=the city Lot escaped to when left Sodom.

24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

II. Verse 36-Ordinances depart-Israel cease to be a nation- avenging nation sent to roar like the sea and punish them. **Isaiah 5:30**

- a. Old covenant broken and covenantal relationship done away with
- b. Judgment will come upon Israel
- c. Change to covenant-FNS taken away (favorite nation status)

III. Verse 37-Heavens measured-Foundation of the earth searched out

- a. Old covenant rulers-judged
- b. Lay people-judge-broke covenant
- c. The seed/Israel- casted off
- d. For all they have done-sinned-broke covenant-lost FNS

Isaiah 1:2 and Isaiah 1:10 are talking about the same thing.

In conclusion:

Israel was judged, God punished them by sending an avenging nation, Babylon, to punish them for their sin-breaking the covenant, they won't cease, but their favorite nation relationship will cease forever. **Romans 11:1-2** says Has God cast away His people? God forbid. God hath not cast away His people He foreknew. **Verse 4** says God said He has reserved 7,000 who had not bow to Baal. So as was done then He has a remnant left, (**Verse 5** Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace), therefore all Israel was not destroyed, they didn't cease from being a nation. What ceased was they favorite nation relationship they had with God.

All the signs, symbols and codes of Jeremiah, Numbers, Daniel, Nehemiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah etc. were telling how God lead His people Israel/Hebrew Nation. But at a point they angered Him by not trusting in Him, breaking the covenant relationship He had with them, rebelling against Him and allow sin to take over and thus they must be judged and punished from the rulers to the lay people.

Three things they had done: **1)** forsaken the Lord **2)** provoked The Holy One to anger **3)** gone away backward

Now He will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah. Not according to the covenant that He made with their fathers which they brake. A covenant that He will place in their inward parts and write in their hearts. God will be their God and they, His people. They will all know Him from the least to the greatest-**lay people-rulers**. Sins forgiven and remembered no more.

Ezekiel 37:15-26-make ONE STICK

15 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

16 Moreover, thou son of man, **take thee one stick**, and write upon it, For Judah SK, and for the children of Israel NK his companions: then **take another stick**, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions:

17 And **join them one to another into one stick**; and **they shall become one in thine hand**.

18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

19 Say unto them, **Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.**

20 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

22 And I will **make them one nation** in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and **one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:**

24 And **David** (reference to **Christ**-David is dead) my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd- **Christ**: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant **David** shall be their prince for ever.

26 Moreover I will make a covenant-**New Covenant** of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary-**the church** in the midst of them **for evermore**.

Transition of Old Covenant to New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:35-37

I. Thus saith the Lord

- . Sun for a light by day
- . Pillar of a cloud by day [Ex. 13:31-22; Num. 14-13; Neh. 9:12, 19]
- . Moon and stars for a light by night
 - Fiery pillar cloud [Ex. 13:21-22; Num. 14:13-14; Neh. 9:12, 19]
- . Divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar
 - Isaiah 51:15**
 - Israel's Judgement; Avenging Nations----Isaiah 5:25-30

II. Departing of the ordinances

- . Sun for light by day, moon and stars for light by night; divideth the sea when
 - the waves thereof roar
- . Seed of Israel---cease being a nation forever
 - Loss of favored nation status

III. Fate of Israel---The Lord speaketh

- . Heaven can be measured--rulers of Sodom...rulers of Judah/Jerusalem
- . Earth search out beneath--lay people of Gomorrah...lay people/non rulers of
 - Judah/Jerusalem
 - Reference Isaiah 1:1-2, 9-10
- Seed of Israel cast off for all that they have done.
 - Broke the Covenant

As we continue through Jeremiah 31 we learn how and why God judges the nation of Israel.

In Exodus 13 we read where Moses leads the people of Israel out of Egypt after 430 years. The Lord is with them throughout this journey. V.21 specifically describes how the lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to lead them the way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light; to go by day and night. This prophetic language is also referenced in **Numbers 14:13-17** and **Nehemiah 9:7-19**.

Dividing the sea when the waves thereof roar (which is also mentioned in **Isaiah 51:15**), as he did with the Red Sea, is prophetic language referring to the avenging nations **The nations will be sent to wreak God's vengeance on the Hebrew people**. Why? Israel has cast away the law of the Lord. They have broken the covenant. **Isaiah 5:25-30** speaks of the manner in which the nations invade Israel. The anger of the Lord is kindled against his people. He will lift up a sign to the nations **from a far and from the end of the earth**. **They will come with speed swiftly**. **They will roar** like young lions and take hold of their prey. ****God will hiss for the fly (Israel) call for the bee (Assyria) in the land of Assyria. Isaiah 7:18****.

If the afore mentioned ordinances (sun, moon, stars sea) are departed before the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease being a nation forever. Does this mean Israel will be annihilated and no longer exist? No! What it means is Israel will lose favored nation status. God pronounced judgement on Israel. **2 Chronicles 34:24-25** and **2 Kings 22:16-17** reads, **thus saith the Lord, Behold I will bring evil upon this place and the inhabitants thereof. **Because they have forsaken me and have burned increase unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore, my wrath shall be poured out upon this place and shall not be quenched.**

According to **Jeremiah 31:31-34** God will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. They broke the old covenant which was made with their fathers. This new covenant will not be on stone but will be in their inward parts and it will be written in their hearts. God says, I will be their God and they will be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more.

If we refer to **Isaiah 1:1-2** and **1:9-10**, we will see that the **heavens and the earth is used in prophetic language**. Because the subject matter in verse 1 is Judah and Jerusalem, the context in which **heaven and earth** is used cannot be the physical heaven and the physical earth.

If heaven can be measured is the rulers of Sodom thus the rulers of Judah/Jerusalem.

The earth searched out beneath is the lay people of Gomorrah thus the lay people/non rulers of Judah/Jerusalem.

Has Israel been cast off? God forbid-says Paul to the Romans in Romans 11:1-2 & 2:11-15. Israel has temporarily been laid aside because they broke the covenant. Through their sins salvation comes to the Gentiles. **The casting away of them is the reconciling of the world (v.15). This is what's referred to in ** Hosea 2:23 when God says Thou art my people and they shall say Thou art my God.**

In summary, the people of Israel broke the covenant God was not pleased. He sent avenging nations to wreak His vengeance on them. Israel was not annihilated like Sodom and Gomorrah but lost favored nation status. This old covenant will cease to exist, and a new and better covenant will be made with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Sins will be forgiven. It will be an everlasting covenant, an everlasting kingdom and an everlasting city.

A New Covenant Promised

Jeremiah 31:31-40 / *verses 35-37*

A NEW COVENANT...BECAUSE ISRAEL BROKE THE COVENANT

[Jer 31:35](#)

Thus saith the LORD, which giveth 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:

[Jer 31:36](#)

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.

[Jer 31:37](#)

Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

PROPHET CONFIRMED

[Jer 1:1](#)

The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that *were* in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:

[Jer 1:2](#)

To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

[Jer 1:3](#)

It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.

[Jer 1:4](#)

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

[Jer 1:5](#)

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

[Jer 10:10](#)

But the LORD *is* the true God, he *is* the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

[Jer 10:11](#)

Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, *even* they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

[Jer 10:12](#)

He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

[Jer 10:13](#)

When he uttereth his voice, *there is* a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

[Jer 10:14](#)

Every man is brutish in *his* knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image *is* falsehood, and *there is* no breath in them.

[Jer 10:15](#)

They *are* vanity, *and* the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

Jer 10:16

The portion of Jacob *is* not like them: for he *is* the former of all *things*, and Israel *is* the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts *is* his name.

I. GOD'S REBELLIOUS PEOPLE / COVENANT BROKEN

- DEUT 9:6 "for thou art a stiffnecked people
- DEUT 31:27 "for I know your rebellion...
- EX 32:1-10 A GOLDEN CALF
- ISA 1:1-10 JUDGEMENT ON JUDAH

II. NEW COVENANT

- HEB 10:1-4 THE LAW CAN'T MAKE PERFECT
- HEB 10:5-23 HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

III. NEW COVENANT / ASSURANCES OF GOD

❖ A DIVINE OATH

- JER 30:18-24 "THUS SAITH THE LORD"

❖ CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW COVENANT

- JER 31:33 REGENERATION
- JER 31:33 RESTORATION
- JER 31:34 GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- JER 31:34 FORGIVENESS OF SIN

IV. THUS SAITH THE LORD - FIGURATIVE / PROPHETIC LANGUAGE

❖ GOD'S PROVISION / GUIDANCE

- JER 31:35 SUN FOR LIGHT BY DAY / ref: EX 13:17-22 *verse21*
- JER 31:35 THE ORDINANCES OF THE MOON / STARS FOR LIGHT BY NIGHT

ref: EX 13:17-22 *verse21*

- NUMBERS 14:13, 14

❖ GOD'S JUDGEMENT / DISCIPLINE

- JER 31:35 DIVIDE THE SEA WHEN THE WAVES THEREOF ROAR

ref: ISA 5:25-30, 51:15 / JOB 26:12 / NUMBERS 14:13-17

The Lord brought Israel out of Egyptian bondage, providing them the giver of the Law, Moses, to lead them. With Pharaoh in hot pursuit, the LORD provided them a way of escape. The LORD told Moses to lift his staff and stretch his hand out over the Red Sea. The LORD divided the sea and the Israelites crossed over on dry ground. The LORD provided for Israel. The LORD fed them, HE provided them with water in the desert. The LORD stayed with Israel, leading them in the pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night **EX 13:17-22 / NEH 9:19** - THEY WOULD MURMUR, THEY WOULD BREAK THE COVENANT.

The LORD GOD, to discipline them would send "HIS" servants the avenging nations to chastise Israel and Judah. Assyria would plunder and carry away the Northern kingdom - Israel, with Hoshea being its last king - **2KINGS 17 (verses 1-6, 23) / HOSEA 13:16**. Following behind her sister, the Southern kingdom of Judah would receive its judgement from the LORD. Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king would take Judah captive - **2KINGS 24 (19, 20)**. Judah's last king was Zedekiah aka - Mattaniah - **2KINGS 24:17** Breaking the covenant would bring punishment for the Israelites, but the LORD wouldn't annihilate them. Those that remain true and faithful to the LORD are HIS remnant. **ISA 1:9** shows how blessed and secure it is to be HIS remnant - **JEREMIAH 46:27,28**. The horrible end suffered by Sodom and Gomorrah came because of sin, a complete disregard of What Saith the LORD - **GEN 19:24, 25**.

The Israelites broke the covenant with the LORD, their sin separated them from a right relationship with GOD. The Avenging Nations that GOD used for HIS purpose, they would come swiftly, they would be prepared and capable for war and fierce and intimidating. These Avenging Nations would be all consuming - **ISA 5:25-30**.

GOD's sovereignty is absolute! HE made all things, which includes a better covenant. GOD planned BEFORE the beginning of time, all things after the counsel of HIS will - **EPHESIANS 1:11 / 1:4**. HIS righteous dominion over the *"heavens and the foundations of the earth"* is full of grace - **ROMANS 11:2-5 / 26-27**.