

The Call to the New Covenant - Tim's notes

(For syllabus and resources for this Jeremiah series type bit.ly/nlncmu into any browser.)

Getting Started:

Share a time when you went to great effort to fix something that was broken.

Practicing God's Presence exercises

Last week: Prayer 01: Flash Prayers

This week: Wisdom 02: Identity in Christ

Rewire your brain by meditating on what God's Word says is true about you. Put one of these next to your bed. Read them every night at bedtime, make it part of your prayers.

- I am a child of God. (John 1:12)
- I have been accepted by Christ. (Romans 15:7)
- I am no longer a slave, but a child and an heir. (Galatians 4:7)
- I have been set free in Christ. (Galatians 5:1)
- I am God's workmanship created to produce good works. (Ephesians 2:10)
- I have been made complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:10)
- God loves me and has chosen me. (1 Thessalonians 1:4)

(For more see Tim's [Identity in Christ](#) list or pgs 128-134 in [Boa/Abel's book](#).)

The Call of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31.23-34)

Let's ask God to speak to us through scripture this morning.

Context:

How many exiles went to Babylon? Check out [Babylonian Captivity Demographics](#).

23-26:

Can you think of other biblical characters whom God spoke to in dreams? – *Joseph's dreams of the cupbearer and the baker (Gen 40), Pharaoh's dreams of feast and famine (Genesis 41:1–36), The Midianite's dream of defeat in Gideon's story (Judges 7:13–14), Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue (Daniel 2)*

27-30:

What insight can we find in this section about the nature of discipleship? – *Life includes times of joy and flourishing, and times of conviction and discipline. This is life, and God says it is good.*

How do you understand verses 29-30?

31-34:

What metaphor do you see in this passage? – *Nuptial Metaphor, v32.*

How do you understand the Old Covenant? – *1) It revealed God's holy character of patience, grace, and justice. 2) It revealed what God expected from the Israelites. 3) And it revealed Israel's inability to live up to their promises, despite sincere intentions and daily animal sacrifices.*

Connecting to life:

How do you understand the New Covenant of the New Testament? – *The pillars of the New Covenant are 1) Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. 2) Pentecost. 3) And the first century New Community (church). Some details:*

- *The New Covenant is the relationship toward which the Old Covenant points.*
- *In the NC, Jesus' death replaces the daily animal sacrifices for sin.*
- *Jesus becomes our High Priest - our intermediary with God.*
- *The Spirit of Jesus enters the believer, transforming receptive hearts to beat more and more like Jesus' heart. In this way, God writes the Law into the believer's heart (Jeremiah 31.31-34).*
- *The example of the first century New Community is the first example of women and men, children and parents, slaves and masters, and Gentiles as well as descendants of Abraham/Sarah living out the New Covenant.*

Here's a link to an [article](#) I wrote recently on living a New Covenant Christian life. Without ever mentioning either the Old or New Covenants, the article illustrates the beauty of the New Covenant.

Session objective: To understand the foundation of the Bible's teaching on the "new covenant".

Wrap up: PGP reminder → Prayer → let's worship together!

Jeremiah 31:23-34 New Living Translation (NLT)

23 This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: "When I bring them back from captivity, the people of Judah and its towns will again say, 'The Lord bless you, O righteous home, O holy mountain!' 24 Townspeople and farmers and shepherds alike will live together in peace and happiness. 25 For I have given rest to the weary and joy to the sorrowing."

26 At this, I woke up and looked around. My sleep had been very sweet.

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27 "The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will greatly increase the human population and the number of animals here in Israel and Judah. 28 In the past, I deliberately uprooted and tore down this nation. I overthrew it, destroyed it, and brought disaster upon it. But in the future, I will just as deliberately plant it and build it up. I, the Lord, have spoken!

29 "The people will no longer quote this proverb:

'The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children's mouths pucker at the taste.'

30 All people will die for their own sins—those who eat the sour grapes will be the ones whose mouths will pucker.

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31 "The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. 32 This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord.

33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

The Call to the New Covenant - handout

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How do you understand the Old Covenant?

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