

**Title: A Look At The "NEW COVENANT" In Preparation For
The Breaking Of Bread**

Speaker: Dr. Wesley G. Rowe

Calvary Bible Church

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I Corinthians 11:23-26.

v. 23, "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you; The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,

v. 24, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.

v. 25, In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

v. 26, For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Truths All Christians Should Know About The "New Covenant"

1. The "New Covenant" is referred to in Scripture by various names:

"New Covenant" (Lk. 22:19; I Cor. 11:25; II Cor. 3:6; Heb. 9:15, 12:24); the "everlasting covenant" (Jer. 32:40; Heb. 13:20); a "better covenant" (Heb. 7:22) and a "superior covenant" (Heb. 8:6).

2. The "New Covenant" was spoken of in prophecy in the Old Testament.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

V. 31, "'The time is coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

V. 32, It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I led 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.

V. 33, 'This is the covenant I will make with the house 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.

V. 34, No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, '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.'

There are other passages in the Old Testament that continue to speak about this "New Covenant" that would come into effect some day: Jeremiah 32:36-41; Ezek. 11:17-21; 36:24-28; 37:24-28.

3. Under the terms of the "New Covenant", God promised many benefits:

A. God promised to put His law inside the hearts of his people.

**"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts"
(Jer. 31:33a).**

NIV Study Bible: "Internally, in contrast to setting it before them externally, . . . so that it effectively governs their lives, in contrast to the ineffectiveness of merely presenting it in writing, though inscribed on durable stone."

"I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me" (Jer. 32:38); "I will inspire them to fear me so that they will never turn away from me" (Jer. 32:40).

B. God promised to completely wipe out sins once for all!

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jer. 31:34).

C. God promised firm and mutual commitment between Himself and His people.

"I will be their God" and "they will be my people" (Jer. 31:33, 32:38).

The true and living God would be championed by His people and God's people would be championed by God.

D. The true and living God promised that He will not be a "stranger" to His children. He promised that His children would embrace Him as the ONLY God.

"No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD (Jer. 31:34).

NIV Study Bible: "When the Lord has done his new work, there will no longer be among his people those who are ignorant of him and his will for human lives. True knowledge of the Lord will be shared by all-young and old, the peasant and the powerful."

E. God promised that He would re-gather the Jews to the land of Israel and once there they would worship and serve Him faithfully.

"I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place (Israel) and let them live in safety . . . I will assuredly plant them in this land" (Jer. 32:37, 41).

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says, 'I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again. They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will be careful to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezek. 11:17-20).

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God" (Ezek. 36:24-28).

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says,: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezek. 37:21-23) (see also Ezek. 37:24-28).

- F. God promised to set up His throne in Jerusalem and bring all nations, Jews and Gentiles together, there to worship and serve Him faithfully.**

"At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts" (Jer. 3:17).

"Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you, declares the LORD. Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling" (Zech. 2:10-12).

"This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isa. 2:2-4).

4. Jesus proclaimed that the "New Covenant" was coming into effect through His death. (Matt. 26:26-30; Mk. 14:22-26; Lk. 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-25).

Lk. 22:19-20, "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' 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.'"

I Cor. 11:23-25, "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you; The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

Hebrews 12:22-24, "But you have come . . . to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant."

The Apostle Paul tells us that the Apostles (and all Christians) are "ministers of the 'New Covenant'" (II Cor. 3:1-6).

"God has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant . . ." (II Cor. 3:6).

5. While not all the promises of the "New Covenant" are in effect today, some glorious portions of the "New Covenant" are in effect today for the Christian Church. Christians today are the recipients of the "spiritual blessings" promised to Israel while the "physical blessings" are yet to come.

A. Through Jesus, the mediator of the "New Covenant", there is **ALREADY, NOW**, full, final and free forgiveness of sins

AND . . .

through Jesus, the mediator of the "New Covenant", there is **ALREADY, NOW**, assurance that God's people through faith will obey God's commands through the power and prompting of His Spirit that lives within them.

Hebrews 9:15, "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance-now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."

Hebrews 10:11-18,

V. 11, "Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

V. 12, But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. . . .

V. 14, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

V. 15, The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says, :

V. 16, 'This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.'

V. 17, Then he adds: 'Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.'

V. 18, And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin."