

## **The New Covenant**

### **A Series on Understanding the Bible's Framework**

By 600 B.C., through unending unfaithfulness and covenant infidelity, the nation of Israel (now split into Northern and Southern Kingdoms) was reckoned to have irretrievably broken the Mosaic Covenant; they were to be expelled from the Land. With Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of the Temple and unable to make atonement, how will God's people ever possess their inheritance of the Promised Land?

1. Learning about a biblical author provides context to his perspective of God's word. Use a Bible dictionary to look into the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. In this instance, notice their historical background: when and where did they exist and what is happening to the kingdom they are prophesizing to? It is significant to observe that God used these three prophets to reveal His New Covenant that replaces the Old Covenant that the people broke and could not keep.

2. Study all of the verses pertaining to the New Covenant: Isaiah 59:21; 61:8-9; Jeremiah 31:31-34; 32:40; Ezekiel 34:25-31, 36:25-28; 37:26-28. What does God promise in the New Covenant?

3. Why did God make the New Covenant (Ezek 36:22-25)? What implications does this have to you (Lev 20:6; 1 Pet 1:16)?

4. Who is associated with the New Covenant (Ezek 37:21-28) and what is its significance? Notice that Isaiah develops the concept of the righteous sufferer as the Suffering Servant (Isa 42:1-7; 53:3-8); what is its significance?

5. Within the context of the New Covenant (Isa 61:8-9), what does God love? Use any resource that can help you parse the meaning of that term. How does this help you a glimpse into the relationship between the Old and New Covenants?

6. Given that the New Covenant was made with the Jews, how is it that Gentiles are spiritually blessed as well? Survey the New Testament with references to the New Covenant: Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:14-20; Romans 11:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:2-6; Ephesians 1:7; 2:11-16; 3:5-6; 4:32; Colossians 1:14; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 7:22; 8:6-13; 9:11-22; 10:16-18; 12:24; 13:20.