

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The word of God for this morning is found in Jeremiah 31:31-34.

"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah -- 32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 "But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

So far our text. Dear fellow redeemed.

Would you be surprised to know that you and I have made a covenant between each other? When I received the call letter on behalf of God through you we came under a covenant. A covenant in its simplest terms is a promise that is made between two parties. In the covenant that we made with one another I promised that I would preach the word of God to you. And you promised to provide for my physical and spiritual needs.

In actuality we have made and will continue to make covenants all of our lives. The day that we got married we made a covenant with our spouse. We promised to love them and be with them forever in the way that God prescribed.

We make a covenant with our employers when we promise that we will do a certain type and amount of work. The employer promises to compensate you in the way that was agreed upon.

Contracts are made every day in the business and legal world. I promise this, and you promise that.

What child hasn't tried to make a covenant with their parents? 'I promise I won't do it again!' we said in the hopes of not being punished.

In all the examples that I gave, these covenants can and are broken. Preachers fall prey to Satan and teach the wisdom of man. Husbands and wives commit adultery breaking their promise of marriage. Contracts in the business world are broken and the parties go to court over it. And that child a minute after he or she gets done pulling on the heart strings of their parents are back doing the exact same thing they just got done doing.

What about God? He has made covenants with us as well. Has God kept His end of the bargain? Do we need to take God to task on account of His dealings with us? Since a promise has been made to us by God we should to review that contract to see if God has fulfilled His end of the bargain.

But as you will see my dear friends, God has been true to the covenants He made with us because **“God’s covenant is set apart from all others.”**

The Lord in our text for today speaks of more than one covenant. A new covenant and one that He, **“...made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.”**

This particular covenant is one that we will never be under in its totality. This covenant was particular to the children of Israel. The Lord setup this particular covenant with them so that all things might come to pass in regards to the Messiah. The Lord promised that Jesus would come from a certain part of the world. He promised that Jesus would be put to death in a certain way. It was imperative that the Lord provide a way for all this to come to pass. That is true in regards to both covenants. But there is something that is very different about the covenants as well.

In this first covenant Jehovah spoke to the children of Israel this way. Exodus 18:23 **“If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.”** Exodus 23:22 **“But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.”** Lev. 26:14 **“But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments...”** Lev. 26:15 **“And if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, *but* break My covenant...”**

But our text says that Israel did disobey. They broke the covenant of God. Why then did Jehovah continue on with this contract to have His Only Begotten Son take on flesh and die? Because even if we are unfaithful He cannot be unfaithful to His promises that He has made with man. And because God was faithful He made sure to have a remnant of the people have faith in His promise of the coming Messiah. That is why **“God’s covenant is set apart from all others.”**

Rom. 9:27 **“Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut *it* short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth.” 29 And as Isaiah said before: “Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah.”**

And because of that remnant that God Himself preserved He was able to go forth for the sake of all mankind and declare that, **“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”**

Do you notice something that is different about this covenant? It lacks all of the ‘ifs’ that were in many of the other covenants. **“If you do this thing...” “But if you indeed obey His voice...”** And there are many more examples of this.

No where do we find that mankind needs to obey the voice of the Lord for the Father to lay on His Son all the sins of mankind. This is called universal justification. Romans 3:3 **“For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?”** Even if someone doesn’t believe it doesn’t destroy God’s faithfulness in what Jesus did for all of us.

But we also know, Romans 3:23,24 **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”**

Jesus had all the sins of mankind laid upon Him on the cross. Every single person who will ever be conceived. Every sin of every person. They are paid for by what Jesus did for us. Because everyone fits into the covenant He made. He said that He would forgive iniquities and sins. All of us here fit into that group. Romans 5:12 **“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”**

In a certain way, in a very special way, what a wonderful thing it is to know that you’re a sinner. Because it includes all of us in the covenant of the One and only God.

But you need to find yourself doubly blest. Not only has Jesus died for your sins, He Himself has called you to believe and reap the benefits of His sacrifice for all mankind.

Eph 2:8,9 **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”**

Without faith in what Jesus has done for all of mankind one remains in his sins. 1 John 1:8 **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”**

God has called you to believe that your sins have been laid upon Jesus Christ. Only moments ago you confessed your sins and had the blessings of God’s covenant declared to you. He has called you to reap the benefits of His Son. Your sins are forgiven!

Promises, something we have all made and broken. Promises, something made to us and broken. But when we consider the promises of God we know that He has been true to everything He has promised to us. And because of that we can not only see that **“God’s covenant is set apart from all others”** but believe by His grace that it was meant for all mankind and for all of us here today.

When you are weighed down with sin review God’s promise to you and see that He is true to His word, to His covenant of forgiveness and mercy.

See that by sending His Only Begotten Son that He is a God who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Demand that He fulfill His promise to you that He forgive your sins in the contract that wasn’t signed by the hand of a sinful man, but signed by our perfect God in the blood of Jesus Christ and be at peace. Amen.