

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #74  
3/19/2008

Following Armageddon Comes the Millennium: Part 10  
19:21-20:10

When God tells us about His “**new covenant**” with the nation of Israel in Jeremiah 31:31-37 He is telling about something that will be fulfilled in **the Millennial Kingdom**:

*“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

*Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they broke, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord:*

*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

*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: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. 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.”*

This “**covenant**” is so drastically different in several ways from God’s previous covenant, made with Israel through Moses, that we need to analyze it point by point.

**First**, notice when it was given that it was something in the future, a specific time in the future. The words “*the days come*” — “*after those days*” refer to the last days. Their use in these verses follows their uses in preceding verses, vv. 27 and 29, which clearly refer to God’s plans for Israel in “*the last days.*” We have seen in earlier lessons that “*the day,*” “*those days,*” “*the day of the Lord,*” and “*that day*” are well-known expressions God uses many times to refer to “*the last days,*” a period of time which includes first, **the Tribulation Period**, and second, **the Millennial Kingdom**.

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jeremiah 31:32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they broke, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord: Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 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:

Jeremiah 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 forever.

Jeremiah 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.

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**Second**, God said, *“I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.”* This *“covenant”* was to be something “fresh, a new thing.” Then God explained: *“Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they broke, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord.”*

The reference was to **the Mosaic “covenant,”** the commandments of right and wrong, the statements of heavenly truth that God, Himself, had written on tablets of stone. The words of blessing and cursing produced by either obedience or disobedience to these commandments are listed in Deuteronomy 28:1-68. Then, in Deuteronomy 29:1, God specifically identified them as His **“covenant:”** *“These are the words of the covenant, which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb.”* This covenant was an external one, written on tablets of stone, but God had intended for the Israelites to internalize them: *“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart”* (Deuteronomy 6:6).

Though they were external, God told them how to internalize them as we discover when we read the following: *“And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates”* (Deuteronomy 6:7-9). These words were among the very last instructions the Israelites received from God through Moses just before they crossed over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Then, after the death of Moses, and once again just before they crossed over the Jordan, God gave them similar instructions which would have resulted in the internalization of these external commands had they been obeyed: *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”* (Joshua 1:8). It is clear that God intended for them to become internalized because that was the only way the Israelites could live by them and thereby allow God to pour out His blessings upon them. **The specific commands contained in the Mosaic Covenant, if internalized into the mind and heart, would have enabled the Israelite to receive God’s blessings designed to make them prosperous.** History is filled with descriptions of their failure to obey which resulted in their manifold failures in the land.

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**Third**, therefore, this *“new covenant”* is to be not only new, but also different — it is not to be given in an external fashion at all, but will be internalized from the very giving of it. With this *“new covenant”* God will by-pass the matter of presenting it externally and, instead, write it directly upon the heart and mind of those Israelites who become subjects in His Millennial Kingdom.

God says, *“...this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people”* (Jeremiah 31:33).

The matter of God's law being written on the heart of man is not a totally new concept because God had previously written His law on the hearts of men. Indeed, in a sense, every man has had God's law written on his heart: *“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: WHICH SHOW THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another”* (Romans 2:14-15). While all men have had God's law written in their hearts, the Jew also had it written on tablets of stone which he could read and with which he could choose to saturate his mind. **It was both internally instinctive and externally visible.**

**The external presentation of the law amplified, explained and applied it to the specific situations of life.** This gave the Jew a great advantage but it also placed upon him in a greater burden of accountability to God: *“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God”* (Romans 3:1-2). However, because of the inherited sin nature of every man makes him vulnerable to Satan's evil work of temptation, man is involved in a spiritual war (2 Corinthians 10:3; James 1:13-15). As Paul continued in his explanation of the plight of the Jew, he pointed out that every man, both Jew and Gentile, rejects God's law, both that which is written in his heart and upon tablets of stone, and goes down the path of rebellion and depravity away from God (Romans 3:9-19).

In Revelation 20:3 God tells us that He removes Satan from exercising his evil influence upon man by **“binding him in chains and casting him into the bottomless pit until the thousand years are fulfilled.”** Thus, when an Israelite enters the Millennial Kingdom in his natural body, which still has a sinful nature, he is not vulnerable to being seduced by Satan into rebelling against the Lord. Each Israelite in the Millennial Kingdom will instinctively know and choose to be obey God's commands as a governing principle of his life for God will have written His laws in each one's heart.

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**Fourth**, God makes it extremely clear that when He tells us about the **“new covenant”** He is referring to the nation of Israel and that the covenant He made with Abraham to produce a nation out of His descendants continues and abides as long as this universe continues to exist as it is now known:

*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: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. 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”* (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

God tells us the following in Revelation 21:1: **“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”** Though it is beyond the understanding of most of us, the present heavens, earth and universe will come to an end, **“pass away,”** and be replaced by **“a new heaven and a new earth.”** Until that happens, God will honor and uphold His covenant with Abraham to establish a nation out of his descendants known as the nation of Israel, and that that nation will exist on this earth until this earth no longer exists. In the context of His promise God has also told us about His **“new covenant”** with Israel in which He describes a critically important characteristic of life in our **Lord’s Millennial Kingdom** on this earth, the last phase of this earth’s existence.

However, God’s **“new covenant”** with Israel suggests more than just a description of life in **the Millennial Kingdom**. It also presents a prophetic precursor to **our Lord’s last Theocracy** on this earth **prior to the Millennial Kingdom**, that which in the New Testament is called **“the kingdom of heaven”** and **“the kingdom of God”** on earth. As we examine our **Lord’s Spiritual Theocracy** in our next lesson we will see our Lord fulfilling some of the same aspects in our lives today that He will fulfill in the life of Israel in **the Millennial Kingdom**.