

## The New Covenant

Today is the first lesson being broadcast from my house. This is a new frontier. Growing pains are to be expected.

Today's lesson starts with a detour concerning the Passover meal.

**Mark 14:12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples \*said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?"**

**Mark 14:13 And He \*sent two of His disciples and \*said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him;**

**Mark 14:14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'**

**Mark 14:15 And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; prepare for us there."**

**Mark 14:16 The disciples went out and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.**

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**Mark 14:17** When it was evening He \*came with the twelve.

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**Mark 15:1** Early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate.

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**John 18:28** Then they \*led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.

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**John 19:13** Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

**John 19:14** Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he \*said to the Jews, “Behold, your King!”

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There are many websites on the internet that allow a user to browse the news for free while being bombarded with advertisements. But, on some of those websites, occasional articles are special and are labeled “premium content.” Those require a paid membership to access. The following content about Galilean time is, perhaps for some, something akin to premium content. It is, of course, free as is all the teaching from Spring Valley Bible Church. But it is something, that when understood, may solve a question lingering in your mind. That question is, How could Jesus celebrate the Passover meal in the upper room and then subsequently, the Jews in Jerusalem are having their lambs slaughtered at the Temple in preparation for their celebration of the Passover meal while Jesus is going to the cross? Were there two separate celebrations or was Jesus jumping the gun so he could be crucified on the Passover?

D. A. Carson in his commentary on Matthew explains the problem: “More important is the problem of the relationship between the Synoptic Gospels and John. The Synoptics seem to indicate that Jesus and his disciples ate the Passover meal the evening before the crucifixion (see esp. Mk 14:12-17; 15:1-25, and par.), whereas John seems to suggest that the Passover lamb was slaughtered at the moment Jesus was being put to death, which would, of course, mean that he and his disciples did not eat the Passover at the Last Supper (see esp. Jn 18:28; 19:14).”

“The question is of more than chronological interest, for quite apart from harmonization of disparate historical records, the meaning of the Lord’s Supper is affected by its connection with Passover.”

D. A. Carson goes on in his commentary to explain that there are several options to defend the historicity of the Passover supper.

The following paragraph is taken from Robby Dean’s website/lesson on 1 Corinthians:

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"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread." So here he is going to go back to Luke chapter 22:14 and what took place on the night before Christ went to the cross. On that particular night the Galileans (Jesus and the disciples were all Galileans) would celebrate the Passover meal—the night before. They went on a Calendar system that went from midnight to midnight and the Judeans went on a calendar system that went from sunset to sunset. So for the Galileans, the time that they would celebrate the Passover would be on the night before, whereas the next night would be when the Judeans would celebrate Passover. This is how Jesus could legitimately eat the Passover meal with the Galileans the night before He goes to the cross, and at the time He is on the cross the Jewish priests in Jerusalem were slaughtering the Passover lamb for the celebration of the Passover in Jerusalem that evening. Jesus and the disciples sat down (covered in details in John 13) and ate the Passover meal, and it is the "night He was betrayed." <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-corinthians-menuitem/message/2002-1stcorinthians-065/read>.

This points to the fact that within cultures there are subcultures. In this case, Galileans had a slightly different culture from the Judeans. All through the gospels Jesus is going back and forth between Judea and Galilee because there were Jewish populations in both. But, as is especially noteworthy in the gospel of John, the Pharisees and Sadducees dominated the culture in Judea. Not so in the north in Galilee. That in itself is an interesting story.

While dealing with differences between Galileans and Judeans, I ran across an article on the Gospel Coalition website on just that: the differences between Galileans and Judeans:

1. ***“Racially*** the area of the former Northern Kingdom of Israel had had, ever since the Assyrian conquest in the eighth century B.C., a

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more mixed population, within which more conservative Jewish areas (like Nazareth and Capernaum) stood in close proximity to largely pagan cities, of which in the first century the new Hellenistic centers of Tiberias and Sepphoris were the chief examples.

2. ***Geographically*** Galilee was separated from Judea by the non-Jewish territory of Samaria, and from Perea in the southeast by the Hellenistic settlements of Decapolis.
3. ***Politically*** Galilee had been under separate administration from Judea during almost all its history since the tenth century B.C. (apart from a period of “reunification” under the Maccabees), and in the time of Jesus it was under a (supposedly) native Herodian prince, while Judea and Samaria had since A.D. 6 been under the direct rule of a Roman prefect.
4. ***Economically*** Galilee offered better agricultural and fishing resources than the more mountainous territory of Judea, making the wealth of some Galileans the envy of their southern neighbors.
5. ***Culturally*** Judeans despised their northern neighbors as country cousins, their lack of Jewish sophistication being compounded by their greater openness to Hellenistic influence.
6. ***Linguistically*** Galileans spoke a distinctive form of Aramaic whose slovenly consonants (they dropped their aitches!) were the butt of Judean humor.
7. ***Religiously*** the Judean opinion was that Galileans were lax in their observance of proper ritual, and the problem was exacerbated by the distance of Galilee from the temple and the theological leadership, which was focused in Jerusalem.”

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This is actually information taken from R. T. France's commentary on Matthew and quoted or paraphrased by the Gospel Coalition. I first ran across R. T. France from his work on prophecy, in particular, "Jesus' use of the Old Testament." Obviously, he is a respected commentator among conservatives.

What is the Gospel Coalition?

The Gospel Coalition in their own words:

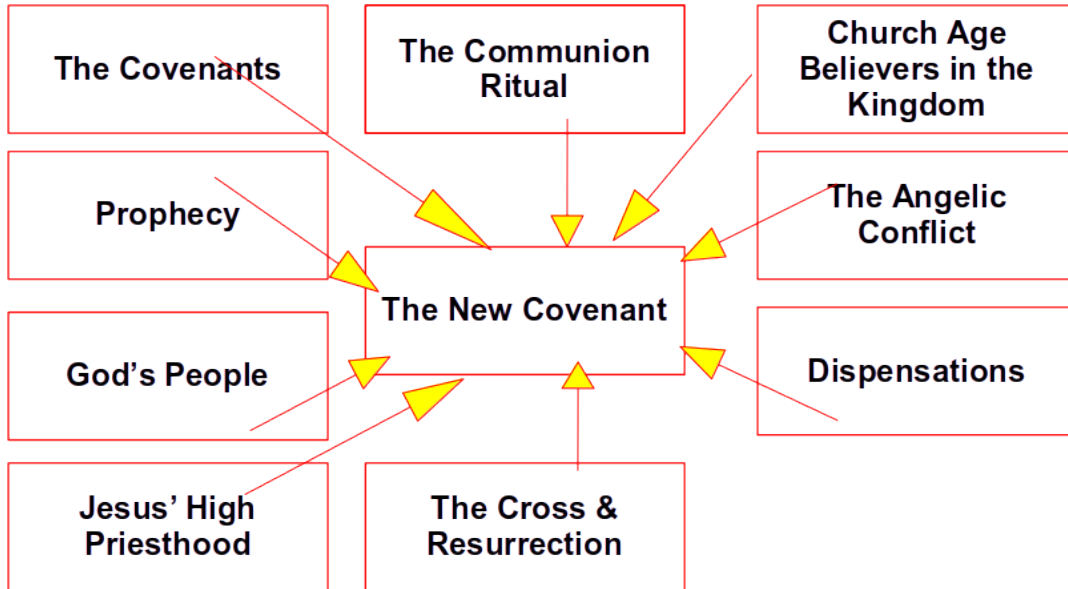
"We are a fellowship of evangelical churches in the Reformed tradition deeply committed to renewing our faith in the gospel of Christ and to reforming our ministry practices to conform fully to the Scriptures. We have become deeply concerned about some movements within traditional evangelicalism that seem to be diminishing the church's life and leading us away from our historic beliefs and practices. On the one hand, we are troubled by the idolatry of personal consumerism and the politicization of faith; on the other hand, we are distressed by the unchallenged acceptance of theological and moral relativism. These movements have led to the easy abandonment of both biblical truth and the transformed living mandated by our historic faith. We not only hear of these influences, we see their effects. We have committed ourselves to invigorating churches with new hope and compelling joy based on the promises received by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone."

When they say "Reformed" tradition, that means they follow Covenant Theology. As I emphasized last week, they are believers. Where we differ is on the concept of dispensations and the difference between Israel and the Church.

Now, leaving the detour behind, let us move forward with today's lesson. Last week we were talking about the New Covenant. Just a short review.

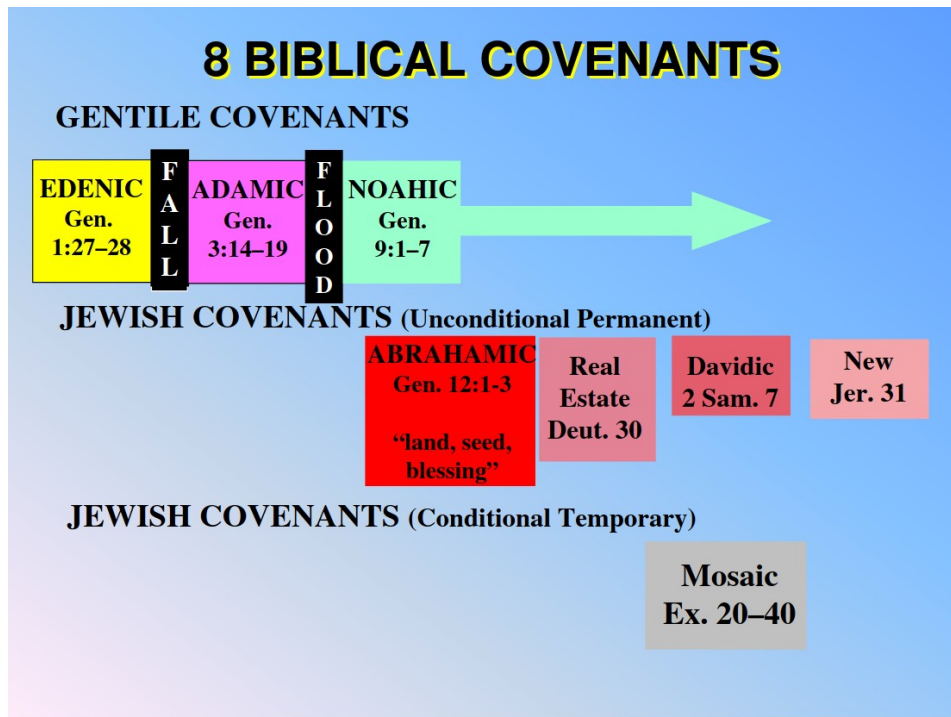
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There are many concepts and doctrines that connect to the New Covenant. It is beyond this series of lessons to cover them all.



Just an illustration of the Fabric of Scripture

So where does the New Covenant fit among the other covenants?



From Robby Dean's lessons on Hebrews 8

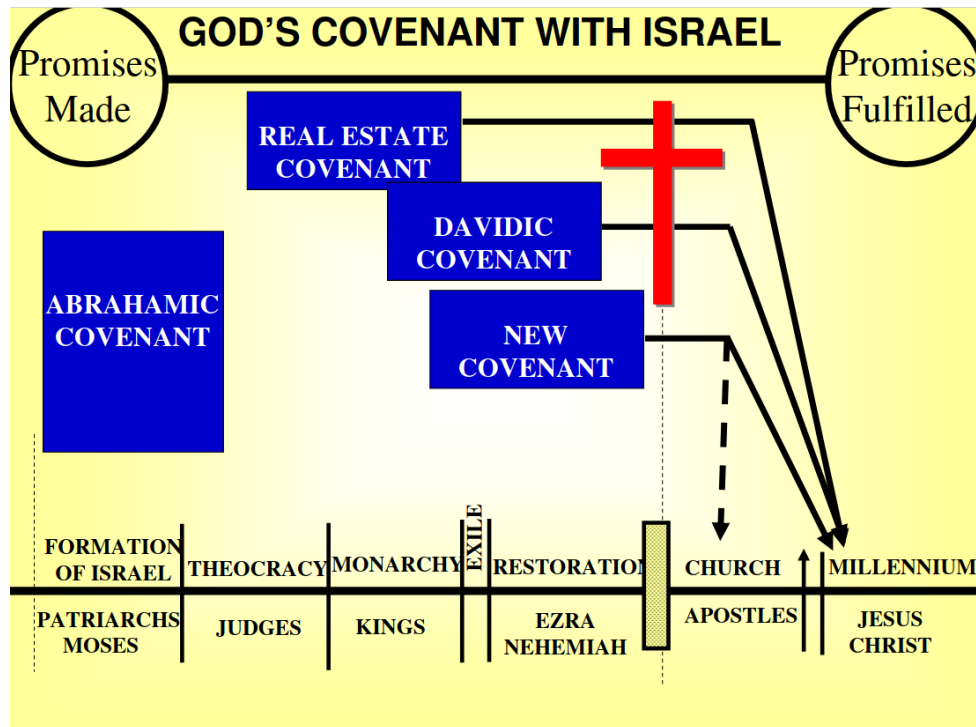
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From Herman's teaching of 1 Corinthians:

### There Are Basically Seven Covenants Between man and God.

- 1 Adamic covenant – promise of Salvation
- 2 Noahic covenant – no more destruction of the world by flood
- 3 Abrahamic covenant – unconditional; given to nation of Israel
- 4 Mosaic covenant – conditional
- 5 Palestinian – unconditional promise of the land of Israel
- 6 Davidic covenant – unconditional promise of king in line of David
- 7 New Covenant to Israel

Herman spent several weeks on the New Covenant in 2017. It is good to review it since over time there has been much confusion over it.



<https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/slides/2005-Hebrews-112.pdf>



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***Some key points on the New Covenant***

***1. Scriptures***

“Jeremiah 31:31-34 That's not the first time chronologically that there it is an indication that God is going to give Israel a better covenant. It is referenced in a number of other passages in the prophets. But this is the only place in the Old Testament where it is called “New” Covenant.”

Isaiah 49:8

Isaiah 54:10

Isaiah 55:3

Isaiah 59:21

Isaiah 61:8-9

Jeremiah 32:37-41

Jeremiah 32:39-40

Ezekiel 11:19

Ezekiel 16:60-63

Ezekiel 18:31

Ezekiel 34:25

Ezekiel 36:25-28

Ezekiel 37:21-28

Hosea 2:17-20

Amos 9:13-15

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I am fairly certain that the New Covenant is referenced obliquely in other passages as well. As in Isaiah 42:6, for instance.

### **2. Persons**

“Who are the persons involved? What is very clear in the Jeremiah passage and the Hebrews passage (It doesn't change the wording at all.) God says:”

**Jeremiah 31:31 (KJV) 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:**

“I didn't hear "with the church" in there. I didn't hear Peter. I didn't hear Paul. I didn't hear John. It's with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah.” [quoted from Robby Dean]

Summary: The parties to the New Covenant are God and the houses of Israel and Judah.

### **3. Importance**

“The importance is that this New Covenant provides for the regeneration of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom, and the fulfillment of all other covenants and promises to them. Part of the New Covenant secures them in the land so it's not just isolated to that spiritual regeneration. So it's going to provide for all these things. It's the culmination of everything that has been going on from the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12. It all points to that and when that New Covenant is enacted at the return of Christ at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom that's when all these promises, all these prophecies, everything finally comes to fulfillment in relationship to Israel.”

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## **4. Provisions**

### ***Summary of those 10 provisions:***

1. The covenant was made with the nation of Israel (Jer. 50:4-5)
2. The covenant is in contrast to the Mosaic Covenant, which depended on the obedience of Israel for its fulfillment (Jer. 31:32)
3. The major portion of the covenant will be fulfilled after the Great Tribulation (Jer. 30:7)
4. The New Covenant will take the place of the Mosaic Covenant and will be written "in their hearts" instead of on tablets of stone (Jer. 31:33).
5. The New Covenant will feature great spiritual blessings for the people of Israel (Ezek. 36:26-30)
6. The New Covenant will reveal the glory of God so that it will no longer be necessary to witness to others (Ps. 72:19; Jer 31:34)
7. The New Covenant will feature forgiveness, grace, and blessings (Jer. 31:34).
8. In the covenant God promised the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28-29)
9. There will be universal knowledge of Jehovah among the people of Israel (Jer. 31:34).
10. The covenant includes a promise that Israel will obey God and have a right attitude toward Him forever (Jer. 32:39-40).

## **5. Confirmation**

Robby Dean references several passages to confirm what is said in the Jeremiah chapter 31 verses concerning the New Covenant.

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Just a reminder. You may ask why study Isaiah's treatment of the "Suffering Servant" Songs. The answer is that there are many connections from these "songs" (or more properly poems) to the New Testament. There are some key points listed above that must be considered when dealing with the New Covenant.

Let us start with the central passage in Jeremiah chapter 31 since it is the only place it is called "New."

**Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,**

Herman said:

"Behold, days are coming," Future tense; future to Jeremiah. In context this refers to the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST to set up His Millennial Kingdom declares the LORD, YHWH "when I will make." The Hebrew word used here means to 'cut' cut a covenant and as stated in The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament: "The most important use of the root is 'to cut' a covenant A covenant must be cut because the slaughter of animals was a part of the covenant ritual", therefore, the shedding of blood, which is related to the making of the New Covenant by Jesus Christ on the Cross. Behold days are coming declares YHWH when I will cut a new never seen or done before covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, that is with the whole nation. There are no 'lost tribes' of Israel."

**Jeremiah 31:32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them**

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**by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.**

Here the covenant is referring to the Mosaic Covenant. There was nothing wrong with the Mosaic Covenant. The problem centered on the people and their inability to stay out of sin. This issue is addressed in the New Covenant.

**Jeremiah 31:33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

**Jeremiah 31:34 They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”**

This passage should sound familiar. It was referenced by Jesus at the “Last Supper.”

**Luke 22:20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup**

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**which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.**

In Luke it is referred to as the “new” covenant.

**Matthew 26:27** And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you;

**Matthew 26:28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

**Mark 14:22** And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

**Mark 14:24** And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

The description of the same event in Matthew does not use the term “new” but does call it the covenant. Neither does Mark.

A Summary from my perspective. Repetition is helpful when learning new material. But just a repetition of the same points over and over is less helpful than to see it from a slightly different perspective.

New Covenant Summary Points:

1. **Biblical**: It is revealed in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Some covenants taught by Covenant theologians are inferred but not revealed in Scripture. The New Covenant is specifically mentioned in Scripture:

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**Jeremiah 31:31** “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

**Luke 22:20** And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

2. **Parties:** God, party of the first part made a covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, party of the second part. In other words, it is made with a United Israel.

**Jeremiah 31:31** “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

**Jeremiah 50:4** “In those days and at that time,” declares the Lord, “the sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be the Lord their God they will seek.

**Jeremiah 50:5** They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.

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3. **Need:** The Mosaic Covenant was conditional and temporary. It provided for maximum blessing *if* Israel was obedient to the Lord. Due to the existence of the sin nature and no counteracting spiritual power, the people were unable to meet the criteria of obedience. But God in His grace was going to provide a way that Israel would be obedient and actually take possession of the Land, have a king to sit on David's throne and have the maximum promised blessings. The Mosaic Covenant was needed from a human perspective to prove to humans that they cannot meet God's righteousness apart from the enabling ministry of God the Holy Spirit. The New Covenant fulfills this for the Jews in the Millennial Kingdom. We may not fully understand how God is going to do this: human beings with a sin nature plus a special endowment of the Holy Spirit (indwelling + constant filling) which will keep them from turning away from God. There is perhaps a sense in which, when God kicks Satan and his cosmos diabolicus off the earth, that He replaces it with Jesus' "cosmos spiritualus." I just made up that term. But, I can think of no other short description of what Jesus Christ will set up in the Millennium.

**Hebrews 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.**

**Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.**

**Galatians 3:24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.**



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**Galatians 3:25** But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

**Romans 11:25** For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

**Romans 11:26** and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”

**Romans 11:27** “This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”

4. **Mediator:** Jesus Christ is the mediator. Blood must be shed and death is required.

**Hebrews 9:13** For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,

**Hebrews 9:14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

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**Hebrews 9:15** For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Not part of this lesson, but referred to by Robby Dean is the fact that with the New Covenant is the requirement for a New Priesthood and a new High Priest, Jesus Christ.

5. **Heritage**: The New Covenant is the culmination of covenants to Israel. The Abrahamic Covenant has three paragraphs: land, see, blessing. The Land/Palestinian Covenant deals with Land; The Davidic covenant deals with the seed and the New Covenant deals with the blessing.
6. **Provisions**:
  - A. **People**: The New Covenant is between God and the nation Israel. It does not include Christians or Gentiles in the Millennium.
  - B. **Obedience**: Jews will be regenerate survivors of the Tribulation who will be “changed” so that they will be obedient in righteousness. The weakness of the Mosaic Law was not the Law itself nor with God. The Mosaic Law demanded a righteousness that man on his own cannot produce. God will do something to the believing Jews at the end of the Tribulation which will empower them to always be obedient to God’s righteousness. This will be the same as or at least similar to but better than what Christian believers have today: Indwelling of

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the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit. The Christian today can chose to be filled by the Holy Spirit by faith or not. The Jews in the Millennium will always choose to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As a result, blessings that Israel missed out on in the Jewish Age will be fulfilled in the Millennium. God ensures their obedience and hence their continual blessing. When man, as a result of Adam's fall and as a result our sin nature cannot meet the righteousness of God, He will make a new Jew who can. When man failed, God acted without perverting His Righteousness to ensure the promises He made to the Jews will be kept. Wow!