

The New and Everlasting Covenant –

Teaching Notes

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A New Covenant

⚡ Jer 31:31 "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."

α Mat 15:24 "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

To Whom Belong

α Rom 9:3-5 "For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God."

Without Christ

α Eph 2:12 "At that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."

For Israel

- ❖ If the New Covenant is explicitly called out in scripture for Israel,
- ❖ and Yeshua was only sent to gather the lost sheep of Israel,
- ❖ wherein do we find that God has entered any covenant with the Gentiles?
- ❖ Let's find out.

The Earth Defiled

- ✂ Isa 24:5 "The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant."
- ❖ What is the everlasting covenant?

All Things

- α Joh 1:3 "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."
- α Joh 1:10 "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him."

Christ—The Everlasting Covenant

- ❖ Christ is the everlasting covenant.
 - Gen 1:26 "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."
 - Rev 13:8 "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

The Natural Law

- ❖ Because creation was made through Christ, all humanity is born with the natural law of Christ on their hearts.
- ❖ To Israel, God further gave His written law—the Torah—and He gave them the Old Covenant.

All Have Fallen Short

- ❖ Because we have *all* fallen short of both God's natural and written law,
- ❖ The earth is defiled under its inhabitants.
 - Rom 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

To The Jewish People

- ❖ The Lord has declared that He will make a new everlasting covenant with all His creation.
- ❖ To the Jewish people:
- ⚡ Isa 61:8-9 "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, And will make with them [Israel] an everlasting covenant. Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, And their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, That they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed."

To The Gentiles

- ❖ And to the Gentiles the Lord declared:
- ⚡ Isa 55:1-5 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters... Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the Lord your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you."

Fellow Heirs

- α Rom 5:8 "Even so through one Man's [Christ'] righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life."
- α Eph 3:6 "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel."

Same and Equal Covenant

- ❖ The everlasting covenant, which is Christ, is the same and equal covenant that was promised through Abraham to both Jew and Gentile.
 - Gen 17:4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you [Abraham], and you shall be a father of many nations."
 - Gal 3:8 "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, In you all the nations shall be blessed."

His Covenant With Each

- ❖ God has made his everlasting covenant with each—His sovereign work of salvation amongst the nations.
- ❖ There is now full equality between Jew and Gentile.

Does Not Require

- ❖ God does not require the Gentiles to become Jewish to enter the covenant,
- ❖ And He does not require the Jews to relinquish their unique identity either.

Uniquely Created

- ❖ We have each been uniquely created in the image of Christ,
- ❖ one people of God comprised of every tongue, tribe, nation, and people on the face of the earth, to worship Him with the diversity of culture, language, and ethnicity He has given each of us.

Christ—The Mediator

- ❖ Christ is the mediator of this new everlasting covenant to both Jew and Gentile.
- ❖ To the Jew, we are under the *new* everlasting covenant (emphasis on new), free from the condemnation and judgment of the Old Covenant—the written law.
- ❖ To the Gentiles, you are under the *new* everlasting covenant (emphasis on everlasting), free from the condemnation of the natural—unwritten law of sin and death.

Replacement Theology

- ❖ Believing that the church is the replacement for Israel, the Gentiles have tried to find their identity in Christ either inclusively through a Jewish lens (trying to become Jewish),
- ❖ or exclusively through a Gentile one (trying to fully separate from their Hebraic foundation).
- ❖ Neither is accurate.

The Commonwealth of Israel

- ❖ The church is not comprised of just the nation of Israel.
- ❖ The church is Israel, plus the Gentile nations joined to her.
- ❖ Paul refers to this as the “commonwealth of Israel.”

A Cultivated Olive Tree

- ❖ Paul uses the analogy of a cultivate Olive tree to illustrate this great mystery.
- ❖ The tree is comprised of natural branches (Israelites), and wild ones (the Gentiles), who have been grafted in contrary to nature.

Christ—The Branch

- ❖ The tree is Christ,
- ❖ and the root is the fathers, the foundation of the church, connecting both the Jew and Gentile to Abraham—the father of many nations.
 - Rom 4:6 “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”
 - Gal 3:29 “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Full Equality

- ❖ Now we see why there is full equality between Jew and Gentile.
- ❖ God has sovereignly established his everlasting covenant with each.
 - Gal 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

We Do Not Lose Our Identity

- ❖ Paul was not saying that we lose our identity in Christ.
- ❖ He was declaring that we will discover it,
- ❖ the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham, that we would become one new man

(one new humanity) and one people of God comprised of every tongue and tribe.

❖ This is the church.

The Hour Has Come

α ^{Joh 17:1-3} "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

α Amen!