

COVENANTS

PART 4—NEW COVENANT

I. REVIEW

Definition: “A *covenant* is an agreement enacted between two parties in which one or both make promises under oath to perform or refrain from certain actions stipulated in advance.”¹

II. HISTORICAL TIMELINE

III. THE NEW COVENANT(S)

*Major Texts Dealing with a New Covenant*²

- Everlasting Covenant:
Jeremiah 32:36-41, 50:2-5; Ezekiel 16:59-63, 37:15-28; Isaiah 55:1-5; 61:8-9
- Covenant of Peace:
Isaiah 54:1-10; Ezekiel 34:20-31, 37:15-28
- Promise of a New Heart/Spirit:
Ezekiel 11:18-21, 18:30-32; 36:24-32 (cf. Isaiah 59:21)
- New Covenant:
Jeremiah 31:31-34
- References in the New Testament:
Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 8:8; 9:15; and 12:24

Jeremiah 31:27-40

²⁷ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. ²⁸ And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. ²⁹ In those days they shall no longer say: ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ ³⁰ But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

¹ George E. Mendenhall and Gary A. Herion, “Covenant,” ed. David Noel Freedman, *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (New York: Doubleday, 1992), 1179.

² This list is adapted from Peter J. Gentry and Stephen J. Wellum, *Kingdom through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants* (Wheaton: Crossway,).

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, 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 within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

³⁵ Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the Lord of hosts is his name: ³⁶ If this fixed order were ever to cease from my presence, says the Lord, then also the offspring of Israel would cease to be a nation before me forever. ³⁷ Thus says the Lord: If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will reject all the offspring of Israel because of all they have done, says the Lord. ³⁸ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when the city shall be rebuilt for the Lord from the tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. ³⁹ And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah. ⁴⁰ The whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Wadi Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate towards the east, shall be sacred to the Lord. It shall never again be uprooted or overthrown.

- Identification of the Covenant Giver
- The Historical Prologue
- The Stipulations
- The Provision for Deposit and Periodic Public Reading
- The List of Witnesses to the Treaty
- The Blessings and Curses
- The Ratification Ceremony (cutting a covenant, Genesis 15)
- The Imposition of the Curses

Jeremiah 3:16-18

¹⁶ And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the Lord, they shall no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the Lord.' It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; nor shall another one be made. ¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer stubbornly follow their own evil will. ¹⁸ In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your ancestors for a heritage.

Malachi 3:1 & Mark 1:2-8

Luke 22:14-20

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' ¹⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' ¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'