

Sept 14, 2014



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The day of the Lord shouldn't be a fearful day for Jesus' followers. Our King will return to make all things right and to rule forever. We wait for that time with great anticipation. It is our "blessed hope"

#### POEM FOR THE WEEK:

And for the hope of His return,  
Dear Lord, Your name we praise;  
With longing hearts we watch and wait  
For that great day of days! —  
Sherwood

*Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*

(Titus 2:13 NKJV)

*From "Our Daily Bread", Aug 12, 2013)*

Series: Sustaining Hope

UNIT: The Days are Surely  
Coming

### NEXT WEEK

A NEW FUTURE  
(Jer 32:1-9; 14-15)

## Hope For the Future

Jer 31:31-37

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson how as Christians we can always have **Hope for the Future**. The **study's aim** is to consider the meaning of the covenant and to understand how the new covenant, in contrast to the old covenant, puts God's law on people's hearts and empowers them to obey it. The **study's application** is to assure believers in Jesus Christ that they can obey God and grow spiritually. In establishing His new covenant, God has given us His Spirit to apply His Word to our lives.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

Covenants in the Bible also feature agreements that express or imply obligations and benefits between parties. The Old Testament sometimes speaks of covenants made between two people, such as the one between Laban and Jacob (Genesis 31:43-53). The most important covenants in the Bible, though, are those between God and people. They are both like and unlike human-to-human covenants in various ways. This week's lesson will address God's covenant with Old Testament Israel and look at his promise through Jeremiah of a new covenant—a better one. The first mention of covenant in the Bible is in reference to promises the Lord made to Noah (Genesis 6:18; 9:8-17). This is followed by other God-to-human covenants: with Abram (Abraham) and his descendants Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 15:18; Exodus 2:24; 6:5), with the people of Israel after their departure from Egypt (Exodus 19:3-6), and with King David (Psalm 89:3). The covenants after Noah reflect the progress of the people of God from a family group headed by Abraham to a developed nation with a king, land, capital city, and temple. As such, these covenants are interrelated while having distinctive elements. There is a big picture to keep in mind: the God of Israel was known as the one who kept his covenant (Deuteronomy 7:9; Nehemiah 1:5; Daniel 9:4). This distinguished him from the fictitious gods of other nations, gods who were fickle and might withhold blessings on a whim. Their worshippers believed these deities needed constant appeasement, even by means of the horrible act of child sacrifice. The God of Israel, by contrast, promised sure blessings in exchange for faithful obedience to the clearly established terms of the covenant. To obey God's commandments was to keep the covenant. Unfortunately, the kings and people of Israel and Judah frequently disobeyed, thereby violating the terms of the covenant. We should note God's covenants to be one-sided affairs in a couple of ways. First, God establishes the terms of his covenants; there are no give-and-take negotiations in this regard. Second, God always keeps his side of his covenants. Humans may fail, but God's promises are always true. The weakness of the covenant to Old Testament Israel was never on the part of God, but on the part of the covenant people. The relentless cycle of sin, sorrow, supplication, and salvation proved that people needed a new covenant. Jeremiah 31 mostly speaks of a time of restoration. Such restoration was not to come until after 538 BC, the year the exile ended. The prophet pictures this restoration as a great parade of the "remnant of Israel" returning from all directions. This throng is not a victorious army, but includes pregnant women, the blind, and the lame, all weeping with joy (31:7-9). This sets the tone for Jeremiah's broader vision of a new covenant.

*(Adapted from NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

### Practical Points from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

1. God's mercy is evident in His dealings with Israel; He is not through with them (Jer. 31:31)
2. The new covenant is not dependent on Israel (or us) keeping the Mosaic Law (vs. 32)
3. Knowing God is not a matter of memorizing and observing outward laws and rituals (vs. 33)
4. Only God's forgiveness effectively deals with the problem of sin (vs. 34)
5. The fulfillment of God's promises is secured by His power and faithfulness (vss. 35-36)
6. Human sin does not invalidate God's faithfulness to Israel or to us (vs. 37)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### HOPE IN THE NEW COVENANT PROMISED (JER 31:31-32)

#### *Future renewal (31)*

God renews into salvation (Ps 80:3)

God renews from suffering into eternal glory (1 Peter 5:10)

God renews one's spirit into a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

God renews one's way of life (Eph 4:22-24)

God renews strength (Isa 40:31)

God renews the inner being (2 Cor 4:16)

#### *Past failures (32)*

Failure because there is none good except God (Mark 10:18)

Failure because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)

Failure because we are not without sin (1 John 1:8)

Failure because of relying on earthly powers (Isa 31:1)

Failure because of not forsaking evil ways and thoughts (Isa 55:6-7)

Failure because of having a mind hostile to God (Rom 8:7)

Failure because of turning away from God (Ps 14:2-3)

### HOPE IN THE NEW COVENANT DESCRIBED (JER 31:33-34)

#### *In the minds and hearts (33)*

Commands in the heart (Prov 3:1)

Truth in the inner parts (Ps 51:6)

Holy Spirit in us (Ezek 36:27)

God working in us (Phil 2:13)

Attitudes of our minds made new (Eph 4:23)

Renewing of the mind (Rom 12:2)

We have the mind of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 2:16)

#### *In the knowing of God (34)*

Knowing God is having eternal life (John 17:3)

Knowing God through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 4:6)

Knowing God is the beginning of understanding (Prov 9:10)

Knowing God through spiritual revelation (Eph 1:17)

Knowing God through Church training (Eph 4:13)

Knowing God through spiritual wisdom and understanding (Col 1:9)

#### *In the forgiveness and forgetting (34)*

Forgiveness and forgetting because our sins have been blotted out (Isa 43:25)

Forgiveness and forgetting because of God's redemption (Isa 44:22)

Forgiveness and forgetting because belief in Jesus (Acts 10:43)

Forgiveness and forgetting because God has removed our sins (Ps 103:12)

Forgiveness and forgetting because of repentance (Acts 3:19)

### HOPE IN THE NEW COVENANT'S ETERNAL COMMITMENT (JER 31:35-37)

#### *Commitment that uses the power of God (35)*

Use of God's power because it is able to resurrect (1 Cor 6:14)

Use of God's power because it allows us to stand against Satan's schemes (Eph 6:10-13)

Use of God's power because it is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9)

Use of God's power because it is reserved for those who believe (Eph 1:17-21)

Use of God's power because He works in us (Eph 3:20)

Use of God's power because it is what His kingdom is all about (1 Cor 4:20)

#### *Commitment that will never be forsaken (36)*

Never forsaken because God promises to be with us to the very end (Matt 28:20)

Never forsaken because The Holy Spirit will be with believers forever (John 14:16)

Never forsaken because God will never forsake His people (Deut 31:6)

Never forsaken because the righteous are not forsaken (Ps 37:25)

Never forsaken because God will never forsakes His faithful ones (Ps 37:28)

#### *Commitment that can never be broken (37)*

Never broken because God's love never fails (Romans 8:35)

Never broken because God's word never fails (Matt 24:35)

Never broken because God does not violate His covenants (Ps 89:33-36)

Never broken because out of God's great love He blesses regardless of our rebellion (Ps 106:43-45)

Never broken because God always redeems His people of the covenant (Ps 111:9)

Never broken because God upholds His people and makes them a light to others (Isa 42:6)