

The Millennium

The Future, Session 9

The new covenant and Israel

- Israel currently is under the old covenant, but will enter a new covenant with God
 - Jer 31:31-32
 - ³¹ “The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.
- Sins are forgiven
 - Eze 37:23, “They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them.”
 - Zech 3:9(b), “... I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.”
 - Did the old covenant provide for people’s sins being forgiven?
 - Purposes of the Law: (1) identify sin (Rom 3:20; 7:7); (2) require judgment for sin (Rom 2:12); (3) show that it’s impossible to become righteous by human effort (Rom 3:20); (4) show that humans need a savior (Gal 3:24)
- He’ll be their God, dwell among them
 - Jer 31:33, “I will be their God, and they will be my people.”
 - Eze 37:26(b)-27, ²⁶ “I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”
 - How will this be different than under the old covenant?
- Transformed spirit, new nature
 - Jer 31:33, “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.”
 - Eze 36:26-27, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh... and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”
 - How will this be different than under the old covenant?
- God’s Spirit in them
 - Eze 36:27, “I will put my Spirit in you.”
 - Eze 37:14, “I will put my Spirit in you and you will live.”
 - How will this be different than under the old covenant?

Blessings of the new covenant

- These are blessings Israel will receive under new covenant as described in Old Testament; written specifically to Jews
- People back in the land, united
 - Jer 32:37, “I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them.... I will bring them back to this place.”
 - Eze 37:21-22, ²¹ “I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.”
 - Eze 37:25, “They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where

your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever."

- At peace, live in safety
 - Isa 2:4, "He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."
 - Jer 32:37, "I will ... let them live in safety."
 - Zech 14:11, "It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure."
 - According to these passages, why will Israel be at peace?
- Land transformed
 - Isa 2:2, "In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it."
 - Zech 14:10(a), "The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place...."
 - "Arabah" (Heb, n, *arabah*): desert plain or desert plateau; i.e., a raised, flat area
 - Zech 14:8, "On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter."
 - What seas are east and west of Jerusalem?
- Cities & ruins rebuilt
 - Isa 60:10(a), "Foreigners will rebuild your walls...."
 - Isa 61:4, "They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated."
 - Jer 30:18, "This is what the LORD says: 'I will restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents and have compassion on his dwellings; the city will be rebuilt on her ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place.'"
 - Eze 36:33, 35, ³³ "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt...
³⁵ [People will say] the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited."
- Land & livestock productive
 - Jer 31:12, "They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD – the grain, the new wine and the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more."
 - Eze 34:27(a), 29, ²⁷ "The trees of the field will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops ²⁹ I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations."
 - Eze 36:35(a), "They will say, 'This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden.'"

- Eze 47:12, “Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”
- Mic 4:4, “Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.”
- Will we be involved in restoring the land?
- Prosperity, wealth
 - Isa 60:11-12, ¹¹ “Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations – their kings led in triumphal procession. ¹² For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined.”
 - Isa 61:6(b), “You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.”
 - Isa 65:22(b)-23(a), “... my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain”
 - What role might we have in Israel’s prosperity?
- Healthy human life
 - Isa 65:20, 23, ²⁰ “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.... ²³ They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them.”
 - Eze 37:22, “They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever.”
- Nations come to Israel
 - Isa 61:5, “Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.”
 - Mic 4:2(a), “Many nations will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’”
 - Zech 14:16-17, ¹⁶ “Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain.”
 - What does the Feast of Tabernacles represent?
 - Why will the nations be required to observe the Feast of Tabernacles?
 - How serious will it be for a nation to have no rain for a year because no one went to Jerusalem for the Feast?
 - What role might we have in the nations coming to Israel?
- Everlasting blessing
 - Jer 32:40-41, ⁴⁰ “I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.”
 - Eze 37:26, “I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant.”

- Israel's blessings under the new covenant pertain to earthly, human life

The Mystery of Christ

- Eph 2:14-16, 19
 - ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility....
 - ¹⁹ Consequently, you [Gentile believers] are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.
- Eph 3:4, 6, ⁴ "In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ...." ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."
 - Rom 11:11, "Again I ask: Did [Israel] stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious."
 - Rom 11:26, "... all Israel will be saved."
 - Rom 11:29, "... God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."
 - Have Gentile believers replaced Israel in God's plan?
 - When did we Gentiles enter the new covenant?
 - When will the survivors of the nation of Israel enter the new covenant?
- Old Testament, written to Jews, describes "a new covenant"
 - Jer 31:31, "'The time is coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.'"
- New Testament describes "a new covenant" available to all who believe, including Gentiles
 - Lk 22:20, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."
 - 2 Co 3:6, "He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant."
 - The gospel is the good news that we can enter covenant relationship with Almighty God, because he paid the price for our sin which had separated us from him

A Puzzling Aspect of the New Covenant

- Different provisions
 - Old Testament, written to Israel, describes a new covenant
 - New Testament, written to all believers of Jesus (us), describes a new covenant
 - Are there two new covenants, or a single new covenant with different provisions for two people groups, or does one new covenant treat all covenant people the same?
- Unique features in New Testament description of new covenant
 - Personal dwelling space

- Jn 14:2, “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”
 - “house” (Gk, n, *oikia*): (1) house, building; (2) household, family
 - “rooms” (Gk, adj, *monē*): (1) room; (2) home, dwelling place; (3) a hospitable area within a house or building
 - “place” (Gk, n, *topos*): place, a particular portion of space
 - Does this imply we’ll have our own “living” space? Where will it be?
 - Why might God give us our own space if our bodies are like Jesus’ after his resurrection?
 - Will some of us appreciate that more than others?
- Treasures
 - Mk 10:29-30, ²⁹ “... no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields – and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.”
 - According to this passage, when will they receive 100 times as much?
 - Have we become members of a large spiritual family?
 - Mt 6:20; Lk 12:33 – Jesus urged us to store up for ourselves “treasures in heaven” instead of on earth
 - Mt 19:21; Mk 10:21; Lk 18:22 – Jesus told a rich man to sell everything he owned and give it to the poor, then he will have “treasure in heaven”
 - “treasure” (Gk, n, *thesauros*): treasure, accumulated wealth of any kind
 - What value might treasures or riches have for us during the millennium?
 - 2 Co 9:11, “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”
 - Kingdom principle: generosity; be generous with what you have
 - How might this principle be relevant to us during the Day of the Lord?
 - Why does God have treasures? What does he do with them?
 - Kingdom principle: serving others, not advancing or enriching ourselves

Conclusion

- During the Day of the Lord, when Jesus reigns over the entire world for 1,000 years, the new covenant he initiated will include the nation of Israel and Gentile believers
- Jews will live an extravagantly blessed human life in the physical realm on earth
- Gentile believers will live in both the physical and spiritual realms during the millennium, live supra-human lives like Jesus when he was resurrected, rule the world with him

**New Covenant Blessings
During the Day of the Lord**

Israel Described in Old Testament	Believers in Jesus Described in New Testament
<p>National Blessings Land transformed Cities rebuilt Live in peace & safety National unity</p>	<p>National Blessings (not relevant)</p>
<p>Blessings That Change Their Condition Sins forgiven Holy Spirit in them New “heart” God’s law in their minds & hearts God’s words in their minds & mouths</p>	<p>Blessings That Change Our Condition Currently: Sins forgiven Holy Spirit in us New “heart” Future: Transformed bodies, like Jesus Removal of “flesh” – sinful tendencies</p>
<p>Blessings That Change Their Relationship with God God dwells among them Peace with God</p>	<p>Blessings That Change Our Relationship with God In Jesus’ & Father’s presence in every respect</p>
<p>Personal Blessings Gathered to the land Blessed physical existence Healthy, extended human life; children Personal property (homes, land, crops, livestock) Prosperity, productivity, wealth</p>	<p>Personal Blessings Reign with Jesus over the world Personal dwelling place Treasures</p>
<p>Governance David rules over them</p>	<p>Governance Report directly to Jesus</p>