

08

JEREMIAH 31:23-34

THE NEW COVENANT



THIS WEEK'S focus

On television today, there are tons of shows dedicated to “flipping” houses—taking aging or deteriorating homes, gutting them, putting new equipment and decor in, and selling them at a higher price. These houses have been restored—but that restoration made them better than they ever were before. The people of Judah needed a similar restoration. God had given them good laws and teachings, but they had failed to obey His teachings or live in close relationship with Him, and their sin led to their destruction. Jeremiah prophesied about a day when God’s teachings wouldn’t be etched in stone, but upon the hearts of His people. This was fulfilled when God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life, die for our sins, and rise again. Now God’s Holy Spirit lives in us, giving us the power to obey God’s good and loving commands. In Christ, we’re restored to a greater place than we’ve ever been.



CENTRAL truth

God's restoration makes us better than we've ever been.



EXPLORE scripture

JEREMIAH 31:23-34

JEREMIAH 31:23-26

23 This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: “When I restore their fortunes, they will once again speak this word in the land of Judah and in its cities: ‘May the LORD bless you, righteous settlement, holy mountain.’ 24 Judah and all its cities will

live in it together — also farmers and those who move with the flocks — 25 for I satisfy the thirsty person and feed all those who are weak.” 26 At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been most pleasant to me.

JEREMIAH 31:27-30

27 “Look, the days are coming” — this is the LORD’s declaration — “when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of people and the seed of animals. 28 Just as I watched over them to uproot and to tear them down, to demolish and to destroy, and to cause disaster, so will I watch

over them to build and to plant them” — this is the LORD’s declaration. 29 “In those days, it will never again be said, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ 30 Rather, each will die for his own iniquity. Anyone who eats sour grapes — his own teeth will be set on edge.

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

31 “Look, the days are coming” — this is the LORD’s declaration — “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32 This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt — my covenant that they broke even though I am their master” — the LORD’s declaration. 33 “Instead, this is the covenant I will make

with the house of Israel after those days” — the LORD’s declaration. “I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them” — this is the LORD’s declaration. “For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JEREMIAH 31:33

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JEREMIAH 31:23-26

DWELL

God's people had become a scattered, food-deprived, dehydrated flock. Yet, God promised a day when Jerusalem would become a "righteous settlement" and a "holy mountain" filled with His rescued, regathered flock. All the weary would be fed. All the thirsty would drink freely. God wasn't done with Jerusalem and He wasn't done with Judah. There are times we might feel unsettled or unsatisfied, but Jesus is the Good Shepherd who settles, feeds, and fills all who come to Him. Through prayer, worship, listening, and receiving His grace in His presence, we can be settled and satisfied each day.



What do verses 24-25 teach us about God's care for His people?



Knowing God's desire to care for us, how should we pray when we're in need?

MEMORIZE

- Write Jeremiah 31:31 in a journal each day this week
- and read it aloud 2-3 times. If you'd like, you can
- decorate the margins with doodles related to the verse.

PRAY

- Thank the Father for His desire to care for your needs.
- Ask Him to fill the spiritual, relational, and physical needs you have in His perfect way.

day 2

JEREMIAH 31:27-30

DWELL

The people of Judah didn't think their current situation was their fault; they blamed past generations. But God's people needed to take responsibility for their own sin. Their restoration was only possible through their repentance. Blaming doesn't produce blessing. We all must admit how we've sinned against God and others, repent, and receive His loving and willing forgiveness. We can't control what others do, but we can control how we come to God.

↓ How can other people's sinful choices impact our lives?

→ Why is it important for us to forgive others, confess our sins, and receive forgiveness from God?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 31:33 on a note card and post it somewhere you'll see it regularly, or save it as the lock screen on your phone. Say it aloud 2–3 times whenever you see it.

PRAY

If you are holding anything against someone who has sinned against you, see if you can talk to God about forgiving that person and receive His comfort and encouragement. Confess any sin of your own that you're made aware of, and receive God's loving and willingness forgiveness.

day 3

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

DWELL

Tablets and scrolls would no longer be the notepad that God would write His good and loving laws on. Through trust in Jesus, the Spirit of God comes within us and paints the laws, life, and love of God on the canvas of our hearts and minds. From within, we are given the ability to know Him, serve Him, love Him, fear Him, and enjoy Him. Through Christ, the Creator forever becomes our Father and we become His forever sons and daughters.

← God's people received this promise of a new covenant when they were in a terrible situation. How do you think this promise made them feel? Why?

→ In what areas of your life do you need to be led and empowered by God's Holy Spirit the most?

MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of Jeremiah 31:33 aloud as you can remember.

PRAY

Be honest and tell God where you need His strength and encouragement the most. Ask His Holy Spirit to empower and lead you in God's will.

day 4

HEBREWS 12:4-11

DWELL

Proverbs 12:1 says, “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but one who hates correction is stupid.” We tend to want everything in our lives to be easy and enjoyable. However, the greatest athletes, soldiers, musicians, and farmers all have a rich past of being corrected. Obviously, we’re not always right. We don’t always have the right attitude, and we don’t know everything. So we need discipline, correction, and teaching to become who God has created us to be. God’s Word, the Holy Spirit, and the leaders God puts into our lives bring the correction we need for our highest good in Him.

← How did the exile help God’s people to grow in their relationship with Him?

↔ How can God’s loving correction help you grow in your relationship with Him and with others?

MEMORIZE

Ask 2–3 people today if you can practice reciting Jeremiah 31:33 for them.

PRAY

Thank the Father for His loving correction and discipline. Ask Him to continue to correct you for your benefit in His plans.

day 5

REVELATION 31:1-4

DWELL

Jerusalem’s historic restoration points to a greater restoration: the new Jerusalem that John saw visions of. This new Jerusalem won’t be built with human hands—it will be a city made by God. It will descend from new heavens and exist on a new earth. Pure and holy fellowship with God—the relationship with Him that humans lost through sin—will be restored. Jerusalem will be immeasurably better than it ever was, and we will be in a better state than we’ve ever been. Restoration is coming, and it’s going to be better than anything we’ve ever seen or imagined.

↑ What does this passage teach us about God’s commitment to fulfill His promises?

↔ How does this passage give us hope for our sinful and broken world? How should it impact how we live as we wait?

MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of Jeremiah 31:33 on note cards or scraps of paper, and mix them up. See if you can put them in the correct order from memory.

PRAY

Thank the Father that He will restore all things and make all things new. Ask Him to fill you with hope that will strengthen you to serve Him and others today.