

What are the Biblical Covenants?

May 7, 2023 ▪ Cal Robertson ▪ I Peter 2:9-10

1. God's Covenant is His relationship with His people.

2. It is the source of our confidence, joy, and purpose.

God's covenants in the Old Testament:

- Covenant with _____ and all the world
- Covenant with _____
- Covenant with _____ (Mosaic Covenant)
- Covenant with _____ (Davidic Covenant)

God's New Covenant - Jesus

- A covenant of _____.
- A covenant of the _____.
- An everlasting covenant of _____.

Recap:

1 Peter 2:9–10

^[9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ^[10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (ESV)

Jeremiah 31:31–34

^[31] “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ^[32] not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ^[33] For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares 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] And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some types of contractual agreements you have made?

Read & Discuss: Jeremiah 31:31–34

1. According to this passage how does the new covenant, prophesied in Jeremiah, offer a better hope than the existing covenant that the Israelites were in? What does the first covenant teach us about God? What might it teach us about ourselves?
2. Verses 33-34 speak of not needing to teach one another and everyone knowing the Lord. How should we understand Jeremiah’s intended prophetic meaning? (Do we still need to teach others about God?) How might we treasure this aspect of the new covenant?
3. What is the significance of God remembering our sin no more as verse 34 says? How then should we think of our past sin? How should this truth impact our intimacy with God?

Read & Discuss: 1 Peter 2:9–10

4. Take a moment and discuss the highlighted focus in each of the several descriptions of the Church as identified in verses 9 and 10. How do the descriptions form an identity for us as believers? How should that identity shape our daily choices?
5. From this identity transformation Peter describes several expected behavioral outcomes in the chapters and verses that follow. What are some of Peter’s expectations? What expectations should we have of ourselves as members of this new covenant?
6. We often focus on forgiveness when sharing the Gospel, how might we help potential believers have a healthy expectation for the transforming life that the new covenant brings to us?

Apply: How can we celebrate well what God has done in his people through this new covenant?

Pray: Ask God to enable our Neighborhood Church family (and believers everywhere) to have a healthy biblical understanding of our new covenant relationship with Him. Pray our understanding overflows in worship to God and testifying to others about what God has done for us.