

Title: The New Covenant

Text: Hebrews 8:7-13

Will you take your Bibles and turn to Hebrews chapter 8 and beginning at Vs 7. Hebrews chapter 8 beginning at Vs 7. There are notes in your bulletin. I encourage you to take them out and follow along with me as we study the Word of God together. We have been talking about THE NEW COVENANT. The prediction of this covenant is mentioned in chapter 8. For the first 7 chapters the writer has been exalting the AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST OVER EVERYTHING. Including the Old Testament Priesthood. The natural transition, then, is to next deal with THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST. Or, his death on the cross for us. Under the terms of the New Covenant. A covenant is a will, a testament, a contract. And for a will to be enforced it requires the death of the testator. That is the whole issue of the new covenant.

The New Covenant is now enforce. It was predicted in the O.T. in the book of Jeremiah, which we will be examining today. And some of that prediction relates to events that are yet to take place in this world.

However, the New Covenant has definitely been put into force. Because the testator has died. Jesus Christ is the one who is involved in the New Covenant. And his death on the cross puts the covenant into force.

So, we now can participate in the effects of that covenant. Even though the full realization of the benefits of that covenant will not be seen until the future.

Beginning at Vs 7 of chapter 8 where we left off last week, we read...

(Read vs. 7-13)

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER IN A MOMENT OF PRAYER

Father, thank you once again for your Word. We praise you that you have exalted it above your name. This is the truth that will set folks free. We thank you for the evidence, here, that Jesus Christ died and put into force a new covenant available to all who would call upon his name. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the power of the Gospel of Christ that changes lives. Thank you for sins forgiven...We thank you in Jesus name..Amen

In examining chapter 8 in which the New Covenant is predicted, we discover in the first six verse that (1C) it was based on the pattern of the Old covenant. I want to remind you of that. That when God gave this instruction to Moses, according to Exodus chapter 25 verse 40, on the mountain, God gave him instruction about the Tabernacle, the Priesthood, the sacrifices, the whole thing. And it was a pattern. It was something that had a deeper truth. The deeper truth is related to Jesus Christ.

So, the New Covenant was actually in the Old Covenant. It is based on the pattern of the Old Covenant. If you don't see Jesus and the effects of the cross in forgiveness under the old Covenant of Moses, you didn't read it right. For Jesus said in Luke 24:44, "that all of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms are concerning me." He opened up people's understanding when He was here on earth and showed them the scriptures concerning Himself. The entire O.T., the Old Covenant, deals with Jesus Christ. So, the New Covenant is based on the Pattern of the Old.

(2C) Then secondly, in Vs 7 through 13, the New Covenant is based on the problem with the Old Covenant. And that is that it was not sufficient to guarantee God's plan of forgiveness and eternal life. It was never intended, the law was never intended to save anyone. The law was a school master to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith.

Now, in looking at this problem with the Old Covenant, as to why it was not enough, we look at several things.

(1D) First of all, we see this in the need for a new covenant. The simple point is: if we need a new covenant then obviously there is something wrong with the old.

Turn back, please, to chapter 7 verse 11 and remember that he said the same thing about the Old Testament priesthood. As it relates to the coming of a new Priest after the order of Melchizedek. There is only one Priest after the order of Melchizedek. And that is Jesus. There are many Priests after the order of Aaron, or the sons of Levi.

In Chapter 7 verse 11 it says "Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it, the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?"

Christ was not of the tribe of Levi. He was of the tribe of Judah. But he is a Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

The point is that there was something wrong with the O.T. priesthood. And the simple fact --we need another priest. That is the same point here in chapter 8 verse 7. If the first covenant was enough, then why did God predict a new covenant? Which he predicted in the Old one.

Now, many people who follow the old covenant, or the Old Testament, and don't want to involve themselves with the new, say, that the Old Testament is enough. It doesn't need anything else. That God's plan is complete.

No it is not. It is impossible to argue that. Because it is not just the book of Hebrews that says the new covenant is going to come. It is simply quoting what the Old Covenant already predicted. That a new covenant would one day come in the future.

(2 ) Now, the second thing that I want you to notice in verses 8 to 12, is that we see there was a problem with the Old Covenant by simply examining the nature of the new Covenant. Discovering that it is entirely different in many areas than the old covenant.

Remember, your Bibles are divided into two parts. The old Testament and the New Testament. Old Covenant and New Covenant. The way the Bible actually divides itself is taught here in Hebrews in chapters 8 and 9. It is the ground work of why we call 39 books the Old Covenant. And why we call 27 books the New Covenant. That is what is being discussed.

In look at the nature of the new Covenant, I want you to see, first of all in Vs 8, as to its coming. The Bible says in Vs 8, quoting Jerimiah 31, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

The Coming days...Now, when are these days coming?

Take your Bibles and turn to that Prophecy in Jeriamah 31. The book of Jeremiah chapter 31 beginning at Verse 31. The prophecy of the new covenant which is found in the old one. In Jeremiah 31 verse 31.."Behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

When are those days? What time is being referred to?

Vs 32.....(Read Vs 32-34)

That is almost quoted that way in Hebrews. WHEN IS THIS EVENT GOING TO TAKE PLACE? "Days are coming" is a frequent statement among the prophets. The days are coming. When is that day?

Jeremiah prophecied just before the Babylonian captivity. As a matter of fact he lived into the days of the captivity. But he predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, the overcoming of the land of Palestine by Babylonian

Jeremiah the prophet also refers to a future day when after they came into captivity they would again be returned to their land. And there was a future day coming when God would establish a new covenant.

Now, I would like to share with you just three facts out of this context of Jeremiah to maybe help you understand when the new covenant was to be established for the nation of Israel.

Turn, please, to Jeremiah chapter 30 verse 3. Jeremiah 30 verse 3. Vs 3 says, "For, behold, days are coming( there is our phrase again) declare the Lord, when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah. The Lord says, I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to there forefathers, and they shall possess it."

This prophecy of the people of Israel returning and being gathered to their land and possessing it has not yet occured. (PHASE)

People say, "Now, wait a minute. The people returned to the land after the captivity."

Yes..50 thousand in the first group. And a few thousand in the second group. But, no they have never possessed the land that God promised to them. Which goes from the river Euphrates to the river of Egypt. They have never possessed that land since the days of king David.

Even to this day, Israel is dwelling in a false security in the land of Palestine. They do not possess the land that God promised to them.

But, the Bible teaches that days are coming when they will. And they are fast approaching.

(2 ) There is a second thing that is predicted in these days coming event. In Jeremiah 30 verse 7 it says.."Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it.'

When is the time of Jacob's distress or trouble? The Bible teaches that there will be a time of great tribulation on this world such as the world has never seen. And that Israel as a nation will be hated by all nations. And when all seems hopeless, and everyone is turning against Israel, the Bible says that the Lord, himself, will return in power and great glory. And he will defeat all the nations of the world.

The Bible says that the covenant will come in those days.

So, I know, first of all, that Israel must be regathered to the land. And possess all of the land that God promised them. And number two, I know that it will follow the time of Jacob's trouble.

Now, in the book of Daniel we learn that that is going to occur in what Daniel says is the 70th week. But inbetween the 69th week of Daniel and the 70th two events must take place.

(1 ) One, the Messiah must be cut off. Or, die.

(2 ) And two, the city and its temple must be destroyed.

And remember that Daniel prophesied after the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem. Yet, he predicts that there is going to be another destruction of Jerusalem before the time of Jacob's trouble comes. That prophecy was fulfilled when Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D.

But, obviously the 70th week of Daniel which refers to a 7 year period has not yet happened.

When it happens then you will know that God's covenant will be established with Israel. So, that even must also take place.

Now, let's jump down to Vs 16.."Therefore all who devour you( speaking to Israel) shall be devoured;.....(Read rest of Vs 16 and 17)

The promise here is for the complete wipe-out of all nations who has been against Israel. That complete wipe-out will not happen until the end of the Tribulation period.

Thus, the New Covenant of God for Israel, coming in "those days", Those days referring to the day when Israel will be <sup>gathered</sup> gathered to the land, they will possess all the land that God promised them, they will also, according to the Bible experience great tribulation, such as never in any period of history. And also God will return in a moment in which all seems hopeless. And will destroy the nations of the world. THAT IS SOON UPON US.

And I don't need to remaind you as an audience that what is happening in the M<sup>d</sup>dle East and how the whole world is now focusing its attention on it. Whether it is for oil, or for the wealth that is located in Israel, no matter what it is for, whether it is for its strategic possions, for its relationship to the rest of the nations, the whole world is looking that way right now.

Many people said that Israel's friends would never desert her. Yet, it only took a little oil embargo to have many of them forsake her in one moment of time. Don't kid yourself. The Bible teaches that He will bless those who bless Israel, and cruse those who cruse her.

God, one day, will defeat all the nations of the world. F<sup>o</sup>r every last nation on earth will sturn its back of Israel. That is exactly what the Bible predicts. And I hope that you as an individual will not be a part of that kind off thing when it comes.

I don't even intend on being here. (Ha)

Chap<sup>e</sup>er 8.. And I wasn't referring to my death. Just in case you were wondering. Hebrews chapter 8, once again.

"The days are coming." The question might be in your mind as it is in many Bible teachers. And I am not going to ignore it this morrowing. I am going to deal with it. I believe it is a major problem in Bible interpretation. The ~~problem~~ problem is that if the New Covenant is coming in those days and these events must trainspire, then how in the world do we, living in this day, participate in the New Covenant?

How can we say that by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and his death on the cross, that we will be saved, when that new covenant, which is his death, the death of the testator, according to the Prophecy to Israel, is not in force until the second coming of Christ in Power and great glory? That is a good question. And there are different ways of answering that problem, which we will look at in a moment.

(1 ) Now, first of all, we dealt with the coming of this new covenant. It is definitely different from the Old Covenant.

(2 ) Secondly, let's deal with its contrast to the Old Covenant as mentioned in Vs 9. And there is a specific statement there that you should notice or underline. Vs 9 says.. "Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt;"

And here is the statement: "For they did not continue in my covenant."

The point is simple: That covenant was conditional. But the new covenant is not conditional. It is unconditional. And in that we have a great contrast. God's new covenant is not like the old one. Because in the old one, you had to fulfill it. If you disobeyed God's laws ..bang...his promises were null and void. It was conditional...

"If my people do this, then I will....

And if you didn't, I will bring judgment.

As a matter of fact, Israel and all nations of the world are experiencing judgement as a result of violating the old covenant.

Do you know what will happen to a nation, least you think for a moment that I am not putting full value on the Old Covenant, I want to show you that there is nothing wrong with the Old Covenant. It is good.

Some people read this and say, "Wait a minute, it says that it is has fault...Vs 8. So, people says there was fault in the Old Covenant.

OH NO...The word does mean "without blame." But it never deals with a "thing". It deals with people. There was not one fault in the old covenant itself. The fault lies in people's ability to fulfill what the old Covenant commanded them.

In other words, the only inadequacies that would be a part of the old Covenant is that it could not insure that people would live up to it. It was all conditional.

Now, God knew that we couldn't live up to the old covenant. But, that doesn't change God's moral law. It is still exactly the way he says it in the O.T.

Now, let me give you an illustration. You cannot violate the old Covenant, It is still in force in a sense. Israel is paying the price of violating the Old Covenant. And did in both the Babylonian and Roman persecutions. So, also, every nation in the history of the world that has violated national their agreement to the moral fabric and content of the law has always been destroyed. That is why America, in this day, is walking on very thin ice. Because our law code is established on Biblical morality. And when the nation decides that they no longer when to submit to that code of morality, when they change its laws, which God even uses those words in the O.T., when it changes its laws, God tells you exactly in the Old Covenant what will happen to that nation. DO YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN? God will use another nation to defeat it in battle.

That is predicted in the O.T. And no nation of the world has ever escaped that judgement of God. You see, there are spiritual issues as to why nation rise and why they fall. Spiritual issues.

So, we don't violate the goodness, the perfectness, the standards of the old covenant by saying that it doesn't matter, God has a new covenant.

The point is that it was inadequate in insuring and making secure that the people would follow it. God knew we would follow it. Paul said, "By the law is the knowledge of sin." When I read the law I find out how bad I am. And you can get down right depressed, discouraged and defeated. THANK GOD FOR THE NEW COVENANT. The new covenant deals with absolute forgiveness and security. That when I am in Christ I have nothing to worry about. There is a heaven awaiting for me. Not that I deserve it. For I can't ever meet the terms of God's old covenant. But, heaven is waiting for me because of the new covenant.



For someone made me a beneficiary of his will. And he has now died.. And it is now enforce. And the terms are absolutely unbelievable. I just must believe that it is true. And I will receive everlasting life. It is fantastic, when you stop and think about it.

The new covenant is absolutely in contrast to the Old covenant in terms of its condition. The Old Covenant is Conditional. The new Covenant is unconditional.

There is one little phrase in Vs 9 you might have problems with. The last phrase says "And I did not care for them."

The Old Testament in Jeremiah said, "though I were a husband to them." It seems to be a change from "though I were a husband to them" to "and I did not care for them." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

The point is that God didn't care in terms of being upset. You see, he gave an Old Covenant. And the people were to follow it. But when the people didn't follow it, God, literally didn't care .

Now, that is not talking about compassionate, loving care for people. It is talking about "anguish care". It didn't blow God's plans. And all of a sudden he had to have a council in heaven and say, "What do we do now?" "People didn't follow the old covenant."

NO! In the Old Covenant was the New Covenant. So, God wasn't taken by surprise. And he didn't care in that sense. He wasn't upset. He wasn't disributed over it. He knew just what he was going to do.

As a matter of fact, our disobedience, strange as this may seem, our disobedience only points the way to Jesus Christ. It is amazing. But that is the truth. The more you sin, the more you reveal your need a a sufficient saviour. And a substitute for yourself. The more you try to run your life in your own strength, the more you will reveal your deep need of salvation. And so we find here tremendous new conditions in the New covenant.

( ) Now, let's look at the character of this new covenant as God discribed it in verses 10 and 11. There are three things here. Three things that are very different from the old.

(1 ) Number one, Vs 10...God's rules, his laws, would be placed into their minds and their hearts. Now, that is a difference. God's rules would be placed into the minds and hearts of people,.

You see, up untill the New Covenant those reules were recorded by Moses. And they were outside of the individual. And the individual was expected by his performance to live up to them. Now, there is a change in the New covenant. God says that he is going to take those rules and laws and he is going to put them right into you mind and heart.

I say to you that that is the O.T. discription of what we call regeneration. Which means: "Born again."

Now, let me illustrate: In Ezekiel...please turn there...Ezekiel chapter 36. This may not be your favorite devotional book. But it is filled with prophecy and exciting things. Ezekiel 36 verses 25 and 26. ~~and 27~~ Now, what I want to show you is what God is talking about is regeneration. Being born again..... Vs 25 says...(Read Vs 25-26)

Fantastic...One ~~say~~ <sup>highly</sup> a Jewish ruler came to Jesus. And this man was concerned about the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, "except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

This man, whose name was Nicodemus, said, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

Jesus said, "unless one of born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

Now, he told a Jewish leader that he had to be born again in order to participate in the Kingdom. Which ever Jew thought of as the new covenant. God's rule and reign on earth. But, he has to be born again in order to be part of it.

Now, Jesus said, "unless one of born of water and the Spirit." And dear friends, I have heard all kinds of views.

This is talking about Baptism. Right! You have to be born by baptism and what?...Friends, it does not say "Baptism." If it was baptism, why didn't it say so? Besides, this is a Jewish ruler he is talking to.

Could it not be since he was a Jewish ruler and a Pharisee, that he, like every one of them knew the Old Testament, well. And would know that Jesus is referring to something that he already knew and understood?

Absolutely. I believe Jesus was referring to Ezekiel 36. Then I will sprinkly clean water on you and you will be cleane. And this is found in the new covenant. And the personal presenace of God's Holy Spirit. Jesus said that ruler, Nicodemus, you will be born of water..absolutely cleansed. And born of the Spirit of God. And then you can enter the kingdom of God.

My friends, that hasn't changed. Right today, you and I , if we ever hope to participate in God's futrue, we have to be born again.

And it involves cleansing from our sin. And the presenace of the Holy Spirit within us. Now, why do we need the Spirit of God in us? ANSWER: Because in the New Covenant, God said that he would cause you to fòllow his rules, and statues and judgments and rquirements. And so God puts the Holy Spirit into you, by way of the new birth, so that you will automatically as you yield to the spirit of God, you will fulfill the law.

Paul says that in Romans 8:4: "in order that the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

There is nothing wrong with the law. God's old covenant. But it was conditional to the point of the new covenant. At the new comenant you are born again, when you believe Christ's death on the cross was sufficient for your sins. So, now you are beneficiary of the new covenant. And God puts his spirit within you. So that you will be caused by God to do his will.

Fantastic. Now, do you understand why the chhristian is challenged to walk in the Spirit? Because there is no way you can do what God wants you to do,...Paul said it so well..."The things that I want to do, I cann't do. The things that I don't want to do, I jdo." "Who is going to deliever me from this state?" ANSWE: The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed me from the law of sin and death.

When you become a new born christian, you have God's Holy Spirit. That is what regeneration is all about. The Holy Spirit comes into your life He quickens your spirit which has been dead because of sin, and now that Spirit, that responder to God comes alive. And you are now alive to God through Jesus Christ our lord.

That is in the New Covenant. God will put His laws inside of you. And now you will want to follow God's will. Because of the impression and leading God's Holy Spirit. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the son's of God, said Paul.

Now, back to Hebrews, again. In Hebrews 8 verse 10 the first thing<sup>is</sup> that God will put his rules and laws in our minds and hearts. Which means that obedience will come out of an inward desire. Not from outward requirements. As it was under the Old Covenant.

(2 ) Number two, in terms of a difference..between the old and new covenant, the last phrase of Vs 10.."And I will be their God. And they shall be my people." The point is: that his relationship to them would be made sure.

God taught in the O.T. that the relationship of people to God..Meaning: "MY PEOPLE"..was all related to their responding to the Old Covenant.

In the book of Hosea, it says that when Israel went and committed spiritual adultery and followed other gods, the Bible says, that God said to them..' you will no longer be my people."

So, we are talking about a relationship to God. Under the Old Covenant: insecurity...You never know whether you are in or out.

In the new Covenant..absolute security. And it is based upon the death of Jesus Christ. You are not in and out of the New Covenant. You are not a christian one day, and not one the next. Maybe in practice and action. But not in position. You are either in it, or you are not in it. It is one or the other/. And it is all based on what Jesus has already done at the cross. You see, the point is that there is no way that I could sin, now, and have the old covenant bring its judgement upon me, since I have already accepted the new covenant. And this is based on two things...

(1 ) Number one, There isn't any sin that I have ever committed in the past, present, or future, that Jesus hasn't already paid for. Because if there is then he wasn't a sufficient saviour. He was limited. And his atonement for me at the cross wasn't complete.

No! every sin that I have ever committed or ever could commit, has already been paid for.

(2 ) And the second thing that is involved is that our Lord when He died satisfied all of the righteous demands of the law. The law can not exercise against me its penalty. WHY? Because when Jesus died he paid for everything the law demanded.

You say, "How could one man pay for the whole thing for everybody? Answer: He was not mere man. God with His infinite life in human flesh was substituting himself for all the human life which He created. That is why to believe that Jesus is Lord means to believe that He is God manifested in the flesh. And therefore, sufficient to pay for your sin and mine. I do not have to live under the fear and the guilt and the penalty of the law. Jesus paid for it. This is an entirely new contract. And my relationship to God is that I am his and He is mine...PRAISE GOD!

And nothing can change that. Why? Because it is based on the character and contract of God. It is not based on my performance. If it were, I would probably break the contract before I left this building. We are not in and out like that. We are secure in Jesus. Absolutely.

(3 ) Now, number three, as to what is involved in this new covenant. This third thing is found in Vs 11. It says, "And they shall not teach every one his fellow citizen, and every one his brother, saying, know the Lord, for all shall know me."

The point here is that God's revelation will be evident to all men. Today, not all people accept that revelation of God. They don't want God's revelation. Yet, the Bible says that the day is coming under the new covenant when every last participate in that covenant will all have a personal knowledge of God....

Do you know how? By the indwelling Holy Spirit. God puts his spirit in us so that we now can know God. ISN'T THAT GREAT?

Now, a lot of people are trying to know God. And they are having a difficult time. The reason is: you don't have the Holy Spirit.

You see, unless you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you do not have the Holy Spirit in you. So, in all your screech and desire to know God, you are going to find a very difficult thing. You are just not going to be able to discover Him. But, the moment you have God's Holy Spirit, you will then have in you God's means whereby you will know Him personally.

And I tell you....this new covenant is tremendously different from the old one.

(3 ) Number three, in terms of examining the problem with the old covenant

(4 ) Fourth, Vs 12, dealing with God's compassion. Vs 12 says, "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more."

Two things are said in that verse about God's compassion.

(1 ) One, "I will be merciful to their iniquities.." (2 ) And two, their sins I will remember no more.

At times I have a hard time believing the love and grace of our Lord. Especially when we seem to violate his terms. You know, one of the things that impresses me, as I study the scripture, is that I deserve judgement. I see it on every page....The Bible reminds me that I sin and I need to face the fact that I am accountable to a God who really, if He wanted to, could judge me. And yet, on the other hand I see this amazing contrast that God by way of his nature is so long suffering and so merciful that he forgives the one who turns to him in faith.

It really hits me that the God who has every right to judge us and to punish us for what we have done. Yet, by way of His nature forgives those who come to Him in faith. That really amazes me..

The response of God towards iniquities: MERCIFUL. What does that mean: It means that he is holding back what we really deserve. That is definitely different from the old covenant. In the old covenant you would be judged.

But not in the new covenant. God is holding back from you what you really deserve.

And in terms of his remembrance. Listen, in the old covenant God says, "I will remember this against you." What does the new covenant say? "I will remember thier sins no more."

What a wonderful statement of assurance. Here is a God who not only says that he is merciful with our iniquities, but he will remember our sin no more. He completely forgets our sin. Doesn't that just fell your mind with joy?

(3 ) One final thing out of Vs 13. And ~~j~~ that is that we see the problem with the old covenant in the necessity of the old covenant remaining in force. I don't see how anything could be clearer to those who still want to follow the old covenant. Vs 13 says.."When He said, a new covenant, He has made the first obsolete."

Now, I didn't say: that people made that obsolete. God says that He made it obsolete. Now, people say, "Well that means obsolete from ~~the~~ the standpoint of time." NO! It means obsolete from the standpoint of quality.

People say..NO! There was the old covenant, That is obsolete. Now, we have a new covenant. But we should still follow the old one.

Oh, No , you shouldn't. The word "obsolete" means don't away with from the standpoint of nature and quality. And he emphases that truth by going on to say "But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear."

The question might be..."Now, wait a minute. If Jesus died on the cross and Hebrews is written several years later, why didn't Paul say that it was already gone? Why is near or ready to disappear?

Answer: This whole section of Hebrews 8 and 9 is built on the problem that the Jews had in the early days with the Temple and the sacrifices and the O.T. Priesthood still going on in Jersuae11m

You see Hebrews was written before 70 A.D. The point is ..God is going to show you how decayed it is. And how obsolete it is .....

And how it is ready to disappear because it is near the time when it will disappear. Namely..70 A.D. And from that point until this, there has been no priesthood operating in Jerusalem. There has been no Temple. That has been no sacrifice. Nothing.....

Now, you cannot leave without knowing the problem that I present earlier. Do you remember what it was? The days are coming when the New Covenant will be established with Israel. But that is after they come back to their land. That is after they possess their land, go through the tribulation and Christ returns

So, how do we say that we participate in that new covenant today?

Well, there are four possibilities.

(1 ) One, some people say, "Israel is not meant at all. That Israel is the same as the church. So, the church replaces Israel. They would not see a future coming of Christ in the sense of the tribulation. They believe He is coming. But they see the church as a fulfillment of Israel. A lot of Bible teachers teach that.

Now, I will not use the word "balony"...But, I would use the word "inconstant.....(HA)

(2 ) Two, some people see Israel alone. They don't see Christians getting saved throughout this book. And they are nuts. I read all the time that people are getting saved after the death of Christ. Do you think it was just saying to people: "Now, I know you made a decision, but you are going to have to wait until the end of the tribulation to really know."..NO! that is not the way it is. We know that people got saved. And we know that they knew it. So, it is not that view.

(3 ) Some people deal with this problem by saying that there are two covenants. There is a covenant for Israel. And there is a covenant for the church. My only problem with that is that it doesn't say that there are two,. Only says that there is one. NEW COVENANT

(4 ) The fourth and the best answer and the correct one...is..that it is mainly Israel and we Gentiles who are getting saved ought not to ever forget that.



You know in Romans 11, Paul says , "the Gentiles are like a wide olive branch, which are grafted into the true olive tree."

And he reminded us that God's covenant..God would establish a new covenant when all Israel will be saved The deliverer, namely Christ, will come out of Zion and take away their sins.

The only way that you and I participate in the New Covenant is through the Jews. That is the only way.

Now, there is only one way that you can be a true participant of the Jewish inheritance. And that is either through marriage or by birth. And as I have said so many times, what a blessing to know that you have come in both ways. Because the Bible teaches that when you by faith believe in Jesus as the Christ the Messiah, and you believe that He died for you and that He arose again, the Bible teaches that you are a son of God by faith. You are married to Jesus Christ. I am married to a Jew who is in the line. And I am also born into the line by the contract of the New Covenant. The spirit of God has come into my life. And I have been born again. Thus I participate in all the blessings of God reserved for those who by faith believe in Him.

Praise God for this wonderful privilege to be part of His family. I am a son of Abraham. I am looking forward to Jesus returning for me. And I believe He died for me. And I hope you do to...

LET'S CLOSE IN PRAYER