

AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD

Jeremiah 31:33-34 -33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Here God speaks of a "NEW COVENANT" that He will make with His people Israel, where He God, "will write His very law upon their hearts." His people will furthermore "all know me" and that "their sins and iniquities I will remember no more."

The writer to the Hebrews makes reference to this tremendous promise of God, saying that indeed, it has come to fulfillment in the church, through the Lord Jesus Christ. We have become partakers of this wonderful promise by the work of Christ (Hebrews 8:10-12)

Now think about the tremendous statement that God is making in this promise.

"I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it;

Is the law of God written upon your heart. Do you desire to love and to please your God above all things. Is the commandment written on your heart, "THOUGH SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME, I AM THE LORD?" Is it written indelibly upon your heart? **I trust that it is, that you do desire to love Him and to serve Him, with all of you heart and your mind and your soul.**

Now just imagine, how did that happen? Did you just decide one day that you were going to love God? Did you just decide in the great capacity of your earthly wisdom that you were just headed down the wrong path and you needed to make a little adjustment? Or was it God who like the nation of Israel in:

Exodus 19:4 - 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself.

Did God bring you through the fiery trial and captivity of sin, being in slavery to its lusts and desires, and did not God set you free from sin and write His very law upon your heart? And this is His promise –"I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it." This is the work of God's grace. He has written His law upon your heart and put the fear of Him within you for your good, that you might be a people to the praise of His Glory. God is working in you friends, for the sake of His glory. Listen to God again speaking through Jeremiah in:

Jeremiah 32:38-41 - 38 "And they shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good, and for the good of their children after them. 40 "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.41 "And I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul. (NAS)

Friends, these are the works of God. Should we not be exceedingly grateful and thankful to our God for the wonderful work of grace that HE has wrought in our hearts. HE has called us, HE has given us our sight, HE has set us free, and HE has given unto us His

very great and precious promises, that we may fear Him, and walk in His ways and love Him and serve Him. The work of God's grace in our hearts is awesome and marvelous. How HE has broken the chains of slavery to sin and led you to freedom and liberty in Christ, and how we have benefited over and over again from the abundant provision of His peace and love and mercy and kindness.

And Ezekiel's testimony is the same:

Ezek 11:19-21 -19 "And I shall give them one heart, and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.

The point I am making is that these are the WORKS OF GOD, AND THEY ARE MARVELOUS IN OUR SIGHT(Psalm 118:23). HE has drawn us to Himself, and filled our hearts with the praises of His glory, and carried us in His arms of love and mercy all along the way.

He is to be praised and glorified and magnified above all else. He is the great God mighty and awesome, the Savior of our souls and the provider of all that we have. He is the judge of the living and the dead, and all men and women will one day give account to Him.

So He has written His law upon our hearts! What does this mean? One commentator said this,

“ The compulsion of the law will be replaced by the willing consent of the heart and mind, for the new covenant is one of the Spirit rather than the letter. The effect will be the realization of the unchanged ideal and plan of a close relationship between the Lord and His people. To KNOW the Lord implies a close binding union through the covenant.”

The compulsion of the law is replaced by willing consent, because now we “KNOW the Lord.” We are bound to Him by love, and His desire is written upon our hearts.

Barnes comments,

“**Verse 33.** The old law could be broken (Jer 31:32); to remedy this God gives, not a new law, but a new power to the old law. It used to be a mere code of morals, external to man, and obeyed as a duty. In Christianity, it becomes an inner force, shaping man's character from within. **Verse 34.** [I will forgive their iniquity] The foundation of the new covenant is the free forgiveness of sins (compare Matt 1:21). It is the sense of this full, unmerited love which so affects the heart as to make obedience henceforward an inner necessity.

His power is an inner force shaping our character. Wow! The Spirit of God is at work in our hearts to shape us, and mold us, and transform into the image of His Son. It is the sense of this full, unmerited love, which so affects the heart as to make obedience henceforward an inner necessity. We are so compelled at the wonder of God's grace, that in our hearts we must obey. Driven by His love and grace, we now freely submit to His Lordship out of hearts filled with gratitude.

Now think of the tremendous extent that God has gone to, to be reconciled to us.

- God has given power in the new covenant to obey His law.
- He has written it upon our hearts.
- He has entered into binding relationship with us so that we have even come to personally know Him and interact with Him.

- He has sent His one and only Son to the earth to bear the punishment and penalty for the guilt of our sin.
- He has cancelled the debt of our sin and disobedience, so that “our sins and iniquities He will remember no more.”

What else does He need to do to prove the great extent of His love for us. God has done these things, and to that we are eternally grateful. As if that were not enough, listen to the magnitude of this statement:

And I will be their God,

And I will be their God. Now this statement may not mean much if it were coming from any other god, because all other gods are really no gods at all (Acts 19:26). They promise fulfillment, but deliver destruction. They lie and do not speak the truth.

Listen to David’s testimony of false gods;

Ps 115:4-8 - 4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; 6 They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; 7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. 8 Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them.

But this statement has come from the One true and living God. The One who created everything that is in existence, the provider and sustainer of all things. Now He has promised to be OUR God. He belongs to US as OUR God. Now imagine the tremendous assurance and comfort we can have in this promise.

Friend, are you under the guilt of sin? There is a promise for you!

Ex 34:6- 6 "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

The Lord is merciful and gracious. He will forgive the guilt of your sin if you will just repent. He is gracious. **God is more willing to pardon than to punish.**

Friend, are you troubled about the circumstances you find yourself in? There is a promise for you!

Ps 34:19 - 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous; But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Listen to the words of Thomas Watson the great Puritan writer;

Are we in great trouble? There is a promise that works for our good, "I will be with Him in time of trouble." (Psalm 91:15) God does not bring His people into troubles and leave them there. He will stand by them, He will hold their heads and hearts when they are fainting. And there is another promise, "He is their strength in time of trouble" (Psalm 37:9) OH! Says the soul, I shall faint in the day of trial." But God will be the strength of our hearts; He will join forces with us. **Either He will make His hand lighter, or our faith stronger.**

Friend, do you fear that you won't be able to pay your bills, or support your family, or have what you need? There is a promise for you!

Ps 34:10 - But they who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.

The Lord will provide for His people. David also said, I never saw the righteous begging bread. God will care for you, He will provide for you every good thing that you need and more. You are His kids, and He loves you and cares for you!

Friend, are you downcast or depressed? There is a promise for you!

Ps 5:11-12 - 11 But let all who take refuge in Thee be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And mayest Thou shelter them, That those who love Thy name may exult in Thee. 12 For it is Thou who dost bless the righteous man, O LORD, Thou dost surround him with favor as with a shield.

Jesus is our joy. He is the peace that fills our hearts when we trust in Him. If God is for us who can be against us? He is all that we need to be totally and continually fulfilled. He is the God of all comfort. He will comfort your soul!

Ps 16:11 - 11 Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; In Thy presence is fullness of joy; In Thy right hand there are pleasures forever.

Friend, are you weighed down with cares of this life? Have the cords of death entangled you? Is your situation more than you can bear? Have your dreams been shattered on the rocks at the turning and tossing of the sea? Are you tired of bearing the weight of this life? Are you constantly under the stress and pressure of this world? Have you been hurt by someone close? Have family members disappointed you? Have you lost someone dear? Has life not turned out the way you hoped it would?

Friend, there is a promise for you!

Ps 18:2-3 - 2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.

There is more in the promises of God to comfort than cares in the world to perplex.

Even in the midst of all your troubles, God is working an exceeding great purpose in your life. You can trust Him friend, He will care for you. Listen to His promise;

Rom 8:28- 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Again Thomas Watson writes;

What will satisfy or make us content if this will not? All things work together for good. The expression "work together" refers to medicine. Several poisonous ingredients mixed together, being tempered by the skill of the apothecary, make a sovereign medicine, and work together for the good of the patient. **SO ALL GOD'S PROVIDENCES, BEING DIVINELY TEMPERED AND SANCTIFIED, WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BEST TO THE SAINTS.** He who loves God and is called according to His purpose, may rest assured that everything in the world shall be for his good. Why should a Christian destroy himself? Why should he kill himself with care, when all things shall sweetly concur, yea, conspire for his good? The result of the text is this. **ALL THE VARIOUS DEALINGS OF GOD WITH HIS CHILDREN DO BY A SPECIAL PROVIDENCE TURN TO THEIR GOOD.** **Psalm 25:10** – "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant." If every path has mercy in it, than it works for good.

And I will be their God,

What a promise? He will be all that we need! Will you let Him. Will you let Him be YOUR GOD? The choice is yours today. He can be for you the God of all comfort, or He can be YOUR JUDGE on the day of disaster. Won't you accept His love and kindness?

In closing I want to deal with this one last statement;

And they shall be My people

Oh friends, what glorious words. We shall be HIS PEOPLE. A people belonging to God. His treasured possession. Now it is one thing for us to make a commitment to God, for Him to be our God. But it is entirely another thing for God to make a commitment to us, that we should be His people. God keeps his promises! More than that He is the greatest power and authority in all the universe. He has the ability to make good on every promise He has made. He shall be my people. We belong to Him.

Paul puts it this way in Romans 8;

Rom 8:31 - 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written,

"For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long;
We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Friends, we are His people. There shall be nothing to harm us, or make us afraid for He is the good shepherd and He cares for his sheep. He will protect us, He will provide for us, and He will fulfill our every longing. He is our God and we are His people.

John 6:39-40 - 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 10:27-30 - 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

There will be nothing to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. He is our God and we are His people.

Revelation 21:2-7

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. " 5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." 6 And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

AMEN!

Leanne has another wonderful hymn for us.

Ps 95:1-7

O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. 3 For the LORD is a great God, And a great King above all gods, 4 In whose hand are the depths of the earth; The peaks of the mountains are His also. 5 The sea is His, for it was He who made it; And His hands formed the dry land. 6 Come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. 7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you this week as you walk with Him. May He bless you and your loved ones, may He grant you clean hands and a pure heart!

Deut 26:17-19

17 You have today declared the LORD to be your God, and that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice. 18 And the LORD has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments; 19 and that He shall set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD your God, as He has spoken. "