

## *The Big Picture:*

### **The Promise of Something New (Jeremiah 31:31-34)**

#### ***From David to Jeremiah***

- During David's lifetime there was turmoil in his family.
  - After his death (c. 971 BC), his son Solomon took the throne, expanded the kingdom, and built the Temple in Jerusalem
- Solomon's unfaithfulness to God led to his kingdom undergoing civil war and being divided after his death (c. 931 BC)
  - Rehoboam, Solomon's son, ruled in Judah (south)
  - Jeroboam I ruled in Israel (north)
- The Divided Kingdom
  - Israel (North): 931-723 BC; Capitol: Samaria
    - 19 kings from various lines
    - Ended with the fall of Samaria to the Assyrians (c. 723 BC)
  - Judah (South): 931-586 BC; Capitol: Jerusalem
    - 20 kings, all from David's line
    - Ended with the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians (c. 586 BC)
- Jeremiah was born during the end of the Assyrian reign in Judah (c. 650 BC)
  - He was a prophet to Judah, warning of coming judgment from God in the form of the Babylonian Empire
  - Into the midst of this judgment, God spoke words of hope
  - They had abandoned Him, but He was still holding out His promise to redeem them
    - God promised to restore Israel (Jer. 31:1-22) and Judah (v. 23-26)
    - And then promised to bring about something new for both (v. 27-40)

#### ***Something New (v. 31-32)***

- God declares that He will establish a new covenant with His people
- It will be like the old covenant
  - A reference specifically to the Mosaic covenant
- The need for something new was not rooted in some failure on God's part, but rather a failure by the people
- God's been like a faithful husband to them
  - They have been like an unfaithful wife (see Hosea)

#### ***Something Different (v. 33-34)***

- The main difference between the Mosaic covenant and the new one will be the role of obedience
- The Law will move from an external code to an internal reality
  - Placed upon the heart and mind by God Himself
- It will be marked by God's act of forgiveness
  - For God to dwell within His people, their sins must be dealt with

#### **The Need for Something New**

- The Mosaic covenant put the onus of obedience upon the people, and they failed
  - But that was, in part, its purpose, to show us our sinfulness and inability to be righteous through our own striving (Rom 3:20)

- Instead, God promised to make a covenant where obedience is due to God at work in us
  - Immanuel/God with us theology
- This is accomplished through the work of Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Heb 9:15; Rom 8:1-4)

***So What?***

- Jesus is the one who allows us to be part of God's promises by dealing with our sins
  - Do we know Him and the forgiveness He offers?
- God's promise was to work in us to make us faithful to Him
  - Are we working with Him through His Spirit?

**Meditation Verse:** *Jeremiah 31:33*