

**GOD'S NEW COVENANT IN ISAIAH****Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 52:13–53:12; 54; 56:1-8; 59:15b-21; 61**

**Memory Verse:** *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all* (Isa. 53:6 ESV).

**Background Helps:**

We continue our study of God's covenants in the Prophets, but this week we come to a major turning point: God's *new* covenant. As we have seen over these past months, mankind as a whole (descendants of Adam and then Noah), as well as God's specially chosen people, Israel (descendants of Abraham), failed to keep the covenants God made with them. Israel rebelled repeatedly against the covenant God made with the nation through Moses (the old covenant). The prophets now introduce the promise of a *new* covenant.

Already in our previous lessons, we have anticipated this new covenant, especially (by way of contrast) in our study of the old covenant that God made with Israel through Moses. The definitive statement of this new covenant will come in next week's lesson in Jeremiah 31:31-34 (cf. Heb. 8:6-13). However, in this week's lesson, based on several passages in Isaiah, we will already encounter prophecies of this new covenant: see especially Isaiah 42:6; 49:8; 54:10; 59:21; and 61:8. In these passages the "new covenant" is referred to as God's "covenant of peace" (54:10) and an "everlasting covenant" (61:8; cf. 55:3).

Several of these prophecies occur in the "Servant of the LORD" prophecies of Isaiah: 42:1-9 (partially quoted in Matt. 12:15-21); 49:1-13 (partially quoted in Acts 13:46-47); and 52:13–53:12 (quoted repeatedly in the New Testament). Other passages in our daily readings are also quoted in the New Testament, for example, Isaiah 59:20-21 in Romans 11:25-27 and Isaiah 61:1-2a in Luke 4:16-21.

**Lesson Helps:**

A possible lesson aim: My students will learn about Isaiah's prophecies of the new covenant, so that they will decide to be a party to the new covenant by faith in Jesus Christ.

As teacher, you can choose between one of two approaches in handling this material:

1. Survey all or most of Isaiah's prophecies of the new covenant, showing their fulfillment in Jesus Christ in the New Testament. This more extensive approach could work with teen and adult classes.
2. Focus on just one or two of Isaiah's prophecies of the new covenant, showing the fulfillment in Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Isaiah 52:13–53:12 is regarded by many as the high point of the entire Old Testament. While this passage does not actually use the word "covenant," its prophecy of the sacrificial sufferings of Christ shows the basis of

the new covenant. Also, this passage includes the memory verse (Is. 53:6). This approach could work with either adult or children's classes.

**Home Assignment:**

 Read Jeremiah 3:6-18; 11:1-13; 14:19-22; 22:1-9; 31:27-40; 32; 34:8-22; 50:1-5

 Memorize Jeremiah 31:34b ESV.