

GOD'S OLD AND NEW COVENANTS IN JEREMIAH**Jeremiah 3:6-18; 11:1-13; 14:19-22; 22:1-9; 31:27-40; 32; 34:8-22; 50:1-5**

Memory Verse: *“For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”* (Jer. 31:34b ESV).

Background Helps:

Jeremiah provides a clear contrast between the old covenant (enacted through Moses), which the people of Israel (and Judah) violated again and again, and the new covenant, which Jeremiah prophesied that God would make with his people in the future. Observe:

1. Israel's violation of the old covenant: Jeremiah 3:6-11; 11:1-13; 22:1-9; 34:8-22
2. God's promise of a new covenant: Jeremiah 3:12-18; 31:27-40; 32:36-44; 50:4-5

Lesson Helps:

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

Perhaps this lesson could be divided into two parts:


1. A brief review of the old covenant. Quickly highlight some of the Ten Commandments and notice how Jeremiah accuses the people of Israel of violating the old covenant. Ask, “How successful are we in obeying God's commandments, especially in our own strength?”
2. Concentrate your lesson on the new covenant that God promised for the future, especially reviewing the provisions of this covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34 (a covenant which Jeremiah specifically contrasts with the old covenant in v. 32):
 - “I put write my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts”
 - “I will be their God, and they shall be my people”
 - “They shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest”
 - “For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”


Notice that the first three provisions are based on the fourth (“*for* I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”). The book of Hebrews makes plain that the sacrifice of our great high priest, Jesus Christ, is what makes possible this forgiveness of our sins (Heb. 8:6–10:18) and, therefore, our participation in the other blessings of the new covenant.

Conclude your lesson by inviting your students to become a party to this new covenant (or to reaffirm their present status as a covenant partner). Perhaps you could encourage them in prayer to draw near to God by faith in Jesus Christ (see Heb. 10:19-22). Specifically, invite them to pray

something like: “Father, I draw near to you today by faith in the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ.”

Home Assignment:

 Read Ezekiel 11:14-21; 34; 36:16–37:28

 Memorize Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV.