



**METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY**  
**ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES**  
For the week of Dec 5 – Dec 11, 2015  
Lesson #11: **Jeremiah**

## SABBATH – The Covenant

(Memory Text) **Jeremiah 31:31** “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:”

This “new” covenant is really the same covenant the only difference being it is built upon better promises.

(Hebrews 8:6) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

### What is and is not the Old Covenant

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. So this covenant would be between God and his people. God will ask his people to do something (obey his voice and his words) and if the people agree then a covenant is established.

Here God proposes to Moses his covenant for Israel

(Exodus 19:3-6) And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; 4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Moses delivers the words of the covenant to Israel and they accept and the covenant is made

(Exodus 19:7, 8) And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him.

8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord.

Many Christians today believe that the Old Covenant that vanished away was the Ten Commandments. While the Ten Commandments are referred to as a covenant – they are not THE covenant made with Israel.

Here are several comparisons showing that the Old Covenant is not the Ten Commandments

<b>The Old Covenant</b>	<b>The Ten Commandments</b>
Was faulty (Heb. 8:7)	Are holy just and good (Rom. 7:12)
Built upon poor promises (Heb. 8:6)	Full of promise (Eph. 6:1-3)
Will vanish away (Heb. 8:13)	Is established (Rom. 3:31)

Did the covenant made with Israel exist beforehand? It must have if it is called the everlasting covenant. Here is proof positive quotes that show that the same covenant made with Israel was made previously with others.



(1 Chronicles 16:14-18) He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.  
15 Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations;  
16 **Even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac;**  
17 **And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant,**  
18 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;

Very plainly this covenant existed before it was given to Israel and it's the same covenant.

(Deuteronomy 29:12-15) That thou shouldest enter into covenant with the Lord thy God, and into his oath, which the Lord thy God maketh with thee this day:  
13 That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and that he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and **as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.**  
14 **Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath;**  
15 But with him that standeth here with us this day before the Lord our God, and also with him that is not here with us this day:

Read the full chapter of Deuteronomy 29

## SUNDAY – God's Covenant With All Humanity

---

The lesson highlights the covenant God made with humanity after the flood.

(Genesis 9:8-16) And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,  
9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;  
10 And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

Notice that God establishes this covenant even with all the creatures and animals – not just humans. This shows that God even cares about the animals. Now what is this covenant God establishes with mankind and all the living creatures?

11 And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.  
12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:  
13 **I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.**  
14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:  
15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.



16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

The sign that God is keeping his covenant (his promise) is the rainbow. A rainbow is an amazing sight that we take for granted. It's no accident that the Devil has taken this beautiful promise and sign, the rainbow, and made it the symbol for the homosexual lifestyle.

So no matter how evil and violent men may get God has promised that he will never bring a worldwide flood again. Thus, as lesson brings out, this covenant doesn't have any stipulations. God has just said he will not do this again.

### The Father's Throne

The Ancient of Days' throne has a rainbow that we will be able to see

(Revelation 4:2, 3) And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and **there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight** like unto an emerald.

### Like Father, Like Son

Jesus too has a rainbow

(Revelation 10:1) And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and **a rainbow was upon his head**, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

This angel is none other than Jesus. He is the only one worthy to open the little book (vs. 2).

## MONDAY – The Covenant With Abraham

---

Abraham was saved by faith.

(Genesis 15:6) And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for **righteousness**.

God had just promised Abraham a son from his own loins and Abraham was about 84 years old and it says Abraham trusted God at this time and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

According to Genesis 17:24 (which is about 15 years after Abraham was justified by faith) he was circumcised. He was 99 years old at this time.

The question is: Did the external act of circumcision save or justify Abraham in any way? No, we just read that he was justified before he was circumcised. But in the New Testament the Jews made the literal and external circumcision the litmus test of salvation for belonging to God's people. This external act was considered all important.



## Sabbath School Lesson Notes – December 12, 2015

Paul confirms that Abraham was justified by faith before he was circumcised.

(Romans 4:9, 10) Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

Abraham's circumcision was only an external and visible sign of something that had already happened --- his justification.

(Romans 4:11, 12) And he received **the sign** of circumcision, **a seal** of the righteousness of the faith **which he had yet being uncircumcised**: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but **who also walk in the steps of that faith** of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

The deeper meaning of circumcision was already found in the Old Testament:

(Deuteronomy 30:6) And the LORD thy God will **circumcise thine heart**, and the heart of thy seed, **to love the LORD** thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

(Deuteronomy 10:16, 17) **Circumcise** therefore **the foreskin of your heart**, and be no more stiffnecked.

17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

From the New Testament

(Philippians 3:3) For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

(Romans 2:28, 29) For he is not a Jew, which is one **outwardly**; neither is that circumcision, which is **outward** in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the **spirit**, and not in the **letter**; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Circumcision was clearly established as a Jewish institution - it was established **after sin** and according to the Jerusalem Council its observance is no longer required.

### **BAPTISM takes the place of circumcision**

(Colossians 2:11, 12) In whom also ye are circumcised with **the circumcision made without hands**, in putting off the body of the **sins of the flesh** by the circumcision of Christ:

12 **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also **ye are risen with him** through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.



## Sabbath School Lesson Notes – December 12, 2015

Question: Is the **external act** of baptism necessary and important or is it **simply enough to accept Jesus** into your heart?

The New Testament “appears” to make the **external rite** of baptism a condition for salvation. But as we read the Bible texts on baptism we see that the external ceremony - though very important - is not sufficient.

(Mark 16:15-17) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that **believeth** and is **baptized shall be saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

One must “believe” and be baptized. What good would it do to be baptized if you don’t believe? But baptism in of itself does not save.

The Spirit of Prophecy (Ellen White) agrees with the Bible that the external rite of baptism is essential but not sufficient.

(The Desire of Ages, p. 181) It is the **grace of Christ** that gives life to the soul. **Apart from Christ**, baptism, like any other service, is a **worthless form**.

(Child Guidance, p. 499) Baptism **does not make** children Christians; **neither does it convert them**; it is but an **outward sign**, showing that they are sensible that they should be children of God by acknowledging that **they believe** in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and will henceforth live for Christ.

Like circumcision, baptism is very important but it does nothing to save the soul. Baptism, like circumcision, is an outward sign of something that has already happened inwardly – a changed heart for Christ.

The same could be said for Sabbath observance. The keeping of the Sabbath itself does not save us. We must have faith in Christ and his righteousness and then when we keep the Sabbath this too, like baptism and circumcision is an outward sign of an already changed heart for Christ.

### Heirs According to the Promise

(Galatians 3:27-29) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

If we want to be Abraham’s seed then we must have faith in Jesus just as Abraham did. Where you are born, what your last name is, or even if you have the literal blood lineage of Abraham running through your veins does nothing to gain entrance into heaven. It is only by faith and faith in a person. That person is Jesus the Messiah.

Remember: Christ does the saving. Justification is his work alone. We cannot add anything that will help us to be justified. Sanctification is our work. We must co-operate with Jesus and allow him to do that good work in our



lives. Allow him to purge our bodies of the sins that we so love and always respond to the calling of the Holy Spirit when he reproves us (John 16:8).

### TUESDAY – The Covenant at Sinai

---

As we have already learned in Sabbath's lesson the Old Covenant is not the Ten Commandments and it did not begin with Israel at Sinai, but was also made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. A covenant is an agreement between two parties.

#### The confirmation of the covenant

A common gesture to confirm an agreement between two parties is a handshake. It is a good gesture that both agree on what is being proposed, and are promising to uphold that agreement.

The Old Covenant at Sinai was confirmed (ratified) by the shedding and sprinkling of an ox's blood.

(Exodus 24:4-8) And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

5 And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord.

6 And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.

8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, **Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.**

Notice that the covenant the Lord made with Israel was "concerning these words" – meaning of the agreement to obey the Lord.

In verse 7 Israel says "All that the Lord hath said will **we** do, and be obedient." It's important to take note that Israel was planning on doing this work all by themselves in their own strength.

When we attempt to do God's will in our own strength what happens every time? Complete failure. And wasn't this the case with Israel? It was just days later they were dancing around a golden calf.

The Old Covenant was faulty and would vanish away and a new one would be needed, not because God messed up, but because the people did.

(Hebrews 8:7, 8) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

8 **For finding fault with them**, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:



The Old had to be replaced by the New Covenant because the people did not keep their end of the agreement. They entered the agreement from the start too self-confident. They said “We can do it.” They never sought for God’s help in obedience to his law.

Did they fail because God’s requirements are too strict and man cannot help but transgress and sin?  
(Philippians 4:13) I can do **all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

### WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY – The New Covenant: Parts 1 and 2

---

Jeremiah 31:31-34 is highlighted in the context of this lesson.

31 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Is this covenant only going to be made with literal Israel?

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:

Jeremiah reiterates that the problem in the Old Covenant was not with God but with the people. It says “my covenant which they brake.”

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

God is promising them, giving them assurance that He will provide the strength for them to obey the covenant.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Why will they not have to teach them to “know the Lord?” Because it will be in their heart (the mind). God is going to, through the Spirit, convict every man of sin. Even today doesn’t every person on planet earth know that it is wrong to kill and steal?

The New Covenant experience isn’t a mere form of going through the motions like the Pharisees did. It is making God a part of us. Doesn’t he promise to implant his divine nature into us?

(2 Peter 1:4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Why do we have a hard time believing God’s promises? If God is God (and he is) then let our faith reflect that he is God and is able to perform what he has promised to do.



## Sabbath School Lesson Notes – December 12, 2015

The lesson includes a Spirit of Prophecy quote that is definitely worthy of repeating here for those who may not have the lesson book.

(Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 372) The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth “the fruits of the Spirit.” **Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked.**

By God’s grace, she says, that we will live in obedience to His law when it written upon our heart and we will be able to walk as He walked. How did Jesus walk? Did he sin even once? Then we can believe his promise that he can do this same work in us that we won’t anything to do with sin anymore.

Notice the underlined sentence in the above quotation: *“Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth “the fruits of the Spirit.”*

When we walk as Christ even walked and are living in obedience to the law of God by His grace bestowed upon us then our hearts are renewed and the Spirit will bring forth (that means we will start to have these qualities) “the fruit of the Spirit.”

(Galatians 5:22, 23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

We should desire such qualities of character. No doubt these are describing Jesus and how he was and is. Just a little bit ago we looked at 2 Pet. 1:4 where God promises to impart His divine nature into us. Let’s continue reading what Peter describes as that divine nature that can be implanted into us:

(2 Peter 1:5-8) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;  
6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;  
7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.  
8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sounds very familiar doesn’t it? It’s like the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5. Notice the next verse which is very key for us today as Seventh-day Adventists.

9 But he that lacketh these things is **blind**, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.



## Sabbath School Lesson Notes – December 12, 2015

Does that word “blind” ring a bell? Jesus says of the last church...

(Revelation 3:17) ...and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and **blind**, and naked

If God describes his last church as “blind” then this must mean that we are lacking (or don’t have) the fruit of the Spirit. In other words our hearts haven’t been converted. The law hasn’t been written on our hearts. Jesus has not imparted his divine nature into us because we won’t allow him. We won’t meet the conditions of the New Covenant. We are as guilty as Israel of old in breaking the everlasting covenant. Brother, sister – we have to realize that in this condition we are lost.

This is why many of our churches are dancing around the golden calf and are celebrating victory of nothing. We have not the Lord in our hearts. This is why Jesus is knocking and knocking and knocking on the door of our hearts (Rev. 3:20) He begs to come in but we can’t hear him because of our music that is blaring? Or is it because our eyes are so focused on television? Whatever the case may be we can now sober up and open the door. Peter gives us this admonition.

(2 Peter 1:10, 11) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Make your election and calling sure. By doing so we reserve an entrance into the gates into the city and are able to partake of the tree of life (the fruit).

(Revelation 22:14) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

This group has the law written upon their hearts and in the next verse is the group that does not. They are commandment breakers.

15 For without (meaning they’re on the outside of the gates of the city) are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

God’s promise to Laodicea is this:

(Revelation 3:21) To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

We have something to do --- overcome and keep his covenant. We must overcome this world, the Devil, sin, temptations, appetite, etc... We can only do it by his might. Everything we do should be done by the motivation to please and glorify Jesus.

(Philippians 4:13) I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me.