

# The WordSeekers : XtremeXplorationSundays Bible-Study Notes

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April 24, 2005

“The New Covenant”  
Or, “Staying in the Spiritual No-Spin Zone”

**FOCAL VERSES: Jeremiah 29 - 33**

**Observation** ‘Satellite-Level’ Jeremiah Chapters: 29 - 33

**Chapters 29** is a message to the Exiles who have been in Babylon for about five years, a message that they shouldn’t listen to the false prophets who were saying that the exile would be very brief and all the treasures of the Temple would be returned. They were to “build and plant” for the long haul and to make the best of the situation.

**Chapter 30- 33** contain the prophesy and promises of the restoration. These chapters are also known as the Book of Comfort or Consolation.

***Discuss the Book of Jeremiah timeline in this timeframe.***

The study verses occur in 603 B. C. 3 years after the first siege of the strongholds near Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

Interesting note is that Daniel and Ezekiel were now in exile in Babylon as the elite of the Israelites were taken first.

Zedekiah is now nearing the end of his reign as king of Judah, having been put there by Nebuchadnezzar.

There is political and national turmoil during these chapters as surrounding nations vie against one another with the country of Judah a prime geographical country in the middle.

***Read the section verses.***

**Ask: What is a covenant?**

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### Covenant

#### Background

To “cut a covenant”. From the Hebrew, ‘karat’: cut ‘berit’: covenant  
During that time it was the custom to cut up animals and then for the parties involved in the agreement to walk between the cut up animals to show their allegiance to the pact.

#### Covenant Types

##### Between Men

David and Johnathan  
Spouses (Prov. 2: 16, 17)  
Countries  
King and his subjects (Saul and Israel)

##### Between God and Men

1. animal sacrifices
2. an oath
3. promised blessings for obedience
4. curses for disobedience

#### Biblical Covenants

##### Universal or General Covenants

1. Edenic Gen. 2: 15 – 17 God charged Adam to, basically, populate and manage the earth. It was terminated b/c of man’s disobedience.
2. Adamic Gen. 3: 14 – 21 covers the conditions of mankind until sin is removed from us. Pain in child birth, Satan is judged, 1<sup>st</sup> prophecy of the coming Messiah, ground will contain weeds, physical changes will come upon man.
3. Noahic Gen. 9: 1 – 19 includes the Adamic covenant stipulations with one exception: the principle of human government whereby sin and violence will not be tolerated.

##### Theocratic Covenants (pertaining to God)

1. Abrahamic Gen. 12: 1 – 3 unconditional and is the basis for all other covenants. ‘National’ and ‘personal’ stating the promises of God to His people and to Abraham as ‘the father of all nations.’
2. Mosaic Gen. 19: 5 – 8 conditional “If you will obey ...then you shall be a special treasure.” Basically, The Law. Written on two stone tablets.
3. Palestinian Deut. 29: 10 – 15, 30: 11 – 20 covers the aspects (1) legal aspects which are immediate and conditional and (2) grace aspects which are future and unconditional—still unfulfilled as God will someday regather His people and reestablish them in the land He has unconditionally promised them .
4. Davidic 2 Sam. 7: 4 – 17 God promises three things (1) a land forever (2) an unending dynasty and (3) an everlasting kingdom.
5. New Covenant Jer. 31: 31 – 34 in contrast to the Mosaic covenant in that it accomplishes what the Mosaic covenant could only point to, that is, the rebirth of man b/c of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection.