



Why Church? Jeremiah 31:31-34



This prophecy by Jeremiah to the Jews was made in the 6th century BC.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah —

32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

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How was God a husband to Israel?

1. He chose Israel
2. He redeemed Israel
3. He made a covenant with Israel
4. He prepared a place for Israel
5. He gave Israel many descendants

How did Israel break the covenant?

Israel broke the covenant by worshipping idols. (Jeremiah 2:5; Ezekiel 23:37)

Jeremiah 2:5

5 Thus says the Lord: "What injustice have your fathers found in Me, that they have gone far from Me, have followed idols, and have become idolaters?

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Ezekiel 23:37

37 For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them.

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God compared their sin of idolatry to a woman being unfaithful to her husband. He called their idol worship, adultery.

What was God's solution to Israel's sin?

God said He would make a new covenant with Israel. In this new covenant, He would...

- He would change their heart
- He would cleanse them of their sins

They broke the first covenant. Because of His mercy, He would make a new covenant with them that was better than the first one.

70 years after the exile to Babylon, the people of Israel were allowed to return to their land.

About 540 years later in the city of Jerusalem, Jesus was having His last meal with His disciples. After the meal, Jesus took a cup of wine and had them all drink it.

Jesus said to them

Matthew 26:28

For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

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That night, Jesus was arrested, condemned, and then tortured. The next day He was executed on a cross.

Through His death, God atoned for the sins of the world.

Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. 50 days after His resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in those that received Him.

Through His death, resurrection, ascension, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31-34. (Hebrews 8:8-13)

God used a descendant of Abraham to be a blessing to the whole world. The new covenant was not exclusive to the Jews. It was inclusive and applied to anyone that believed This new covenant fulfilled the promise that God made to Abraham.

Genesis 12:3

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

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Jesus called the members of the new covenant His church.

Matthew 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

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Jesus predicted that after His death, resurrection, and ascension, He would return to earth. When He returned, He would complete what was promised in the New Covenant.

In parables about His return, Jesus compared himself to a groom that was returning for his bride. (Matthew 25:1)

In the epistles, the apostles compared Jesus to a groom and called the church His bride. (Ephesians 5:22-33)

How is Jesus a husband to the church?

1. He chose the church
2. He redeemed the church
3. He made a covenant with the church
4. He is preparing a place for the church
5. He will give the church many descendants

The apostles compared the church to woman betrothed to a husband who had left her to prepare a place for her. One day He would return for her and complete what He had promised.

The apostles used this analogy to encourage the church to prepare itself for the return of Jesus.

How should we prepare ourselves?

- We should be faithful to Jesus (1 John 3:3)

1 John 3:3

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

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The church should be faithful to Jesus.

The church is faithful by keeping itself undefiled. The church should flee from idolatry. It should avoid false teachers. It should not be subject or slaves to any sin.

We should be faithful to Jesus!

- [We should be faithful to one another. \(2 Cor. 11:2\)](#)

2 Corinthians 11:2

2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

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The analogy is never used to refer to one person.

One Jew is never called God's bride. One disciple of Jesus is never called the bride of Christ. In the new covenant, the analogy is used to refer to the church.

The church should be faithful to one another. We should help one another be faithful to Jesus.

The members of the church should prepare the bride for Jesus just as bridesmaid's serve a bride and prepares the bride for her husband.

In a Jewish wedding, the main event was not the entrance of the bride but the coming of the bridegroom. A woman was betrothed to a man by the acceptance of a dowry by the father. This was a binding an agreement that could only be broken by the unfaithfulness of the woman. The man would then begin his preparations for the marriage. There was a home to prepare. When the all was prepared, His coming would be announced with the sound of a trumpet and a shout.

In the meantime, the bridesmaids would serve the bride and prepare the bride for the coming of the groom. There last official act was to light the way for the groom to find the bride.

We should be faithful to one another!

- [We should be faithful to the world. \(John 13:34-35\)](#)

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

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The church should be faithful to the world. We are faithful to the world when we model for the world the love of Jesus. As we show our love for Jesus by loving one another, the world knows we are His disciples.

When I see a woman that really loves her husband, it gives me a great deal of confidence that her husband is the real deal.

The same confidence in Jesus develops in the world when the world sees how we love Him. They see that love by how we love one another.

We should be faithful to the world!

Why Church? We are the bride of Christ!

1. He chose the church
2. He redeemed the church
3. He made a covenant with the church
4. He is preparing a place for the church
5. He will give the church many descendants

Invitation

Are you a member of the bride, Christ's church?

Are you being a faithful member of the bride, Christ's church?

- Are you being faithful to Jesus?
- Are you being faithful to one another?
- Are you being faithful to the world?