

The Glory of Christ and the New Covenant

1. Introduction/Review.

- a) *Reflection on Luke 24 (=Jesus on the Way to Emmaus).*
- b) *As we've walked through the Scripture/covenants, hopefully Luke 24 is being seen.*
 - i) Scripture is God's Word written that unfolds for us his eternal plan centered in Christ.
 - ii) Starting in creation, the story begins.
 - iii) After sin, there is a word of promise in seed-form (Gen 3:15).
 - iv) *Covenants.* Backbone of the storyline. How God's plan/promise progresses – reveals.
 - a) God's plan/Scripture does not come all at once, but over time *through* covenants.
 - b) In those covenants, God enters into relationship with people – but he also reveals, teaches, prepares, anticipates (=typology) – all that which will come in Christ.
 - c) And as we walk through Scripture/covenants, important to follow the 3 contexts.
 - v) *By time we get to the Davidic Covenant, God's plan/promise has come into focus.*
 - a) Through the Davidic king, God's rule/kingdom will be restored – 'Adamic role.'
 - b) Davidic king = son to Yhwh (=Father). Takes on the role of Israel.
 - (1) Israel's role – through them blessings to the nations (Abrahamic).
 - (2) *Central Idea: Adam → Israel (=corporate) → Individual (=Son, King).*
 - c) Extent of kingdom – All of humanity (2 Samuel 7). Everlasting kingdom.
 - d) Sin and all of its effects will be restored. Obedience will result.
- c) *But there is a problem—none of these realities are ever realized!*
 - i) All of the previous covenant mediators are *not* obedient sons... *including kings.*
 - ii) Israel has failed; David has failed; the Davidic kings have failed.
 - iii) In fact, in the Prophets the Davidic dynasty is pictured as a tree cut down (*Isa 11*).
 - iv) A growing problem/tension arises through the covenants.
 - a) God will keep his promise, but he also demands an *obedient* covenant partner.
 - b) How can God keep his promise, yet not also judge? He cannot deny himself.
 - c) *Answer:* God must act in grace to redeem *and* simultaneously *provide.*
 - d) *This is precisely the message that is found in the Prophets. God the promise-maker must also become the promise-keeper and provider.*
- d) *Procedure: 2 steps.*
 - i) *1st:* Look at the New Covenant (NC) promise in its OT context (OT Prophets).
 - ii) *2nd:* How Jesus, because of *who he is* and *what he does*, inaugurates the New Covenant, and brings all of God's promises to pass, which we receive in him *alone.*

2. The Message of the Prophets Predicting the New Covenant.

- a) *Prophets? Writing Prophets (=Major/Minor).* Covenantal location? All post-Davidic.
- b) *Overall Message?*
 - i) *1st:* Judgment upon Israel, Davidic kings, etc. Curses of the covenant – exile.
 - ii) *2nd:* *Hope.* God will keep his promises all the way back to Genesis 3:15. But how?
 - a) *1st:* LORD himself will come and save (Isa 40-48; 59:14ff; Ezk 34, 37).
 - b) *2nd:* LORD will redeem save us *through another David* (Ezk 34; Isa 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1ff; 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 52-53; 55:3; 61:1-3; Ezek 34). But the LORD himself must provide another son, a better Son (Ps 2, 110).

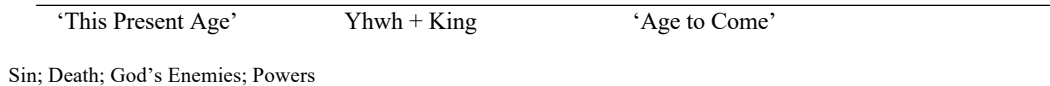
- iii) *All of it becomes part of the New Covenant Promise/Hope/Anticipation.*
 - a) New Covenant is *not* just one more covenant, added on to the previous ones.
 - b) It is the covenant which the previous covenants are leading us to.
 - c) As we trace out the covenants, *all of the promises, structures, patterns, teaching, anticipation*, they lead us to the promise that *God will act, God will provide.*

c) **The New Covenant Promise/Anticipation in its OT Context.**

- i) ***Some OT promises/expectations, patterns, teaching, in the Prophets.***
 - a) *The LORD + Davidic King → David’s greater Son, dawning of God’s kingdom.*
 - b) *New Exodus (Isa 11, 40), New Temple (Ezekiel); New Jerusalem (Isa 2, 4, 56-66).*
 - c) *Salvation for the people of God. Judgment upon God’s enemies (Isa 61).*
 - d) *Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (=Ezk 36, 37; Joel 2; cf. Num 11).*
 - e) *The creation of a new heavens and new earth (Isa 65:17; 66:22; cf. 11:6-9).*

ii) ***OT Redemptive-Historical Timeline.***

New Creation; New Covenant; New Temple; New Exodus
Spirit; Judgment; Salvation; Davidic King (=Kingdom)



iii) *Jeremiah 31:29-34 – An Important New Covenant Text.*

- iv) *What is “New” about this New Covenant (NC)? 3 features.*
 - a) *1st: NC is no longer a ‘mediated’ covenant – Structural Change (vv 29-30).*
 - b) *2nd: NC is no longer be ‘mixed’ covenant community—Nature/Scope Change.*
 - c) *3rd: NC leads to a complete forgiveness of sin (v 12). This is key!*

3. **How our Lord Jesus Christ Fulfills and Ratifies the New Covenant.**

- a) *1st: How Jesus brings the full forgiveness of our sins because of who he is, what he does.*
 - i) *All OT hopes and expectation are centered in Christ. He the “Servant of the Lord.” He is David’s greater Son, true Israel, Abraham’s literal seed (Gal 3:16), ultimately the promised seed of Gen 3:15. Even more: He is the LORD, God the Son incarnate.*
 - ii) *2 complementary paths.*
 - a) *Jesus is the Son – Messianic – human, seed of the woman.*
 - b) *Jesus is the Son – eternal Son, one with the Father.*
 - iii) *Example: Matthew (=all the Gospels and the entire NT).*
- b) *2nd: How Jesus creates a new people, the church, by his person and work.*
 - i) *The Church is **covenantally new** and constituted as a **regenerate people**.*
 - ii) *Why? Because the Church is to be comprised of those who have experienced new birth, justification, are found “in Christ” and no longer “in Adam.”*
 - iii) *The Church is “structurally” different than Israel and no longer “mixed.” See Heb 8.*

4. **Concluding Reflection: “The Glory of Christ and the New Covenant.”**