



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Jeremiah; Lamentations Sermon Series  
Supports Session 8: Redeems  
Sermon Title: "Granted"  
Passage: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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### Connection to Session 8

God works to redeem those who turn to Christ.

### Introduction/Opening

In many Mexican restaurants, servers bring chips and salsa to the table and afterwards take our order. The chips and salsa provide a foretaste of what is coming. Receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord is like the experience of His future kingdom described in Revelation 21-22. What we have now in Christ is great, but there is so much more to come.

In Jeremiah, the Lord promised Israel a new covenant. In Christ, the Lord offers this new covenant to the church and Gentiles (Matt. 8:11; Rom. 9:24-26,30; 2 Cor. 3:5-18; Eph. 3:6; Heb. 8:8-12; 10:16-17). Jesus's crucifixion settled this new covenant with all believers (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 10:1-8).

F.B. Huey explained that in the ancient world, two parties could make different types of agreements. One was a treaty where the stronger party placed obligations on a weaker party. Another was a contract between equal parties that mutually agreed to obligations. A final agreement was a grant. A grant was "between parties of unequal power in which the stronger obligated himself for the benefit of the weaker party without reciprocal demands."<sup>1</sup> It is with this third type of agreement that God approaches us.

### Outline

#### 1. The Lord grants Victory (Jer. 31:31-33).

- a. The Lord promised that the new covenant would not have the same weak impact upon believers that the old covenant did. The old covenant was good, but it could not empower sinners to obey it. Its most outstanding feature was its failure. Paul lamented this in Romans 7. The new grant comes with a new heart God empowers to obey (vv. 31-33).
- b. Bill Hull and Brandon Cook note that most of believers approach Christianity from a human paradigm instead of a Jesus paradigm. The human paradigm says "If you do A, B, and C, God will give you X." We have the idea that if we pray, read the Bible, and attend church, God will make us close to Him, give us heaven, or bless us. The Jesus paradigm says "In Christ, God has freely given you X. Now you can do A, B, and C."<sup>2</sup>

- c. Once we come to Christ, God instantly makes us alive, raises us up, seats us next to Christ, qualifies us for an inheritance, delivers us from darkness, and transfers us into the kingdom. Once we turn to Christ, these become settled, past tense guarantees never to be reversed (cf. Eph. 2:1-5; Col. 1:12-13).
- d. Because of Christ, we do not seek victory. We stand in it.

## 2. The Lord grants Knowledge (Jer. 31:34).

- a. We may know about a person, but their spouse, children, and close friends know them personally. This same thought goes into the covenant described in Jeremiah 31:31-34.
- b. The Lord promised, “No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them”—this is the LORD’s declaration” (v. 34).
- c. The Lord has thoughts about our lives, futures, families, and He is willing to share these if we know Him. In salvation, “we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16).

## 3. The Lord Grants Forgiveness (Jer. 31:34).

- a. The Lord grants forgiveness to those who turn to Christ. J. Leo Green wrote, “God will not only forgive, but also forget—the only thing in the Bible which he is represented as forgetting and that which we would most like for him to forget—our sin!”<sup>3</sup>
- b. Imagine walking with someone in life and eternity who never thinks about our guilt and sin. Imagine walking with someone who treats us as if we have never failed Him. The Lord promises to be this person to anyone who turns to Christ.
- c. Others may be unwilling to forgive us, but God gave His only Son Jesus Christ to secure forgiveness, and forgetfulness, for us.

## Conclusion

It is impossible to oversell Jesus Christ because in Him, we can have tomorrow’s life today! Anyone can access heaven’s victory, knowledge, and forgiveness now by turning to Christ. In Christ, “the forces of the future world stream” into our current life and world.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>F. B. Huey, [Jeremiah, Lamentations](#), vol. 16, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993), 281.

<sup>2</sup>Bill Hull and Brandon Cook, *The False Promise of Discipleship: Rescuing Discipleship from the American Gospel by Asking the Right Questions* (NP: HIM Publications, 2022), Location 181—743, Kindle.

<sup>3</sup>James Leo Green, “Jeremiah,” in *Broadman Bible Commentary* vol 6 (Nashville: Broadman, 1971), 154.

<sup>4</sup>David J. Bosch, *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1991), 41.

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