

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-40; 32:36-44
Singing: 367:1, 3, 4 -- 422:1-2 – 71:1, 3 – 221:1-3

CoF 27 (2)

God's Promise to build His New Covenant Church

A. When did God promise to do this

1. From Jeremiah's perspective still 'future'
 - a. yet NT records its initial fulfilment: Acts 2:41-47; 11:19-21, 26; Heb. 8:7-13
 - b. God is still fulfilling it: John 10:16; HCat 54
 - c. Romans 11 speaks about God's work among Jews (Ezek. 37:1-14)

2. Jesus' public ministry is start of the fulfilment
 - a. He began His disciples 'new man' (John 1:3-51)
 - b. His first miracle is a 'sign of His glorious work' (John 2:11)
 - Luke 4:18-19; John 7:37-38; 8:31-32; 10:9-10
 - c. Next He cleansed the 'holy place of His Father's house' (John 2:13-16)

3. This introduction is followed with Jesus' revelations to Nicodemus (John 3)
 - a. we need exceedingly more than outward cleansing (vs. 3, 5, 8)
 - b. He rebuked Nicodemus for having failed to read the OT well (vs. 10)
 - Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Ps. 51:10; Ezek. 36:26 & Jer 31:31-36

4. After this private conversation, Jesus goes public in teaching (Matt. 5-7)
 - a. "It was said of old ... But I say unto you" (Matt. 5:21)
 - b. His teaching is not an 'addition to Judaism' (Matt. 9:21-22)

5. When gets challenged about when Kingdom of God come He points out it has already come: Luke 17:20-21!

6. "You must be born again" to be part of Jesus' Kingdom/Church

II. Why did God promise to do this?

- A. God promises this because the OT Church has utterly failed in their calling
1. Their calling: Ex. 19:3-6a – Deut. 4:6-8 (compare 1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6)
 2. The OT is the chronicle of their utter failure to be His holy people: Jer. 31:32
 3. Their failure had nothing (!) to do w/ their spiritual Husband Jehovah: vs. 32
 - a. God's placed Himself for the bar in Jer. 2:4-7; 11-12!
 - b. Who can be compared to Jehovah God, the Father of Israel?
- B. Summary: *The majority in OT Church were unregenerate unbelievers* while a small remnant according to God's election existed among them

III. What did God promise to do?

- A. To make a *new covenant* or a *new phase in His covenant of grace*
1. The difference: *it is spiritual instead of national* (Ezek 36:25-27; John 3:3)
 2. In NT church every member would be a 'saint united to Christ by faith through the work of the Holy Spirit within them' (CoF 27, 28)
 - a. the law written on their heart (Jer. 31:33; 32:39)
 - b. the soul in a spiritual relationship to God (vs. 33b)
 - c. the intimacy of experiential knowledge of God (Jer. 31:34;32:40)
 - d. the forgiveness of sins (vs. 34)

Reflection:

- A. Jehovah's promise is the best news for Christian Church in this age!
- B. If we seek for the revival of His Church, where does repentance need to start?