

LESSON 156

Egermeier's Story:

Page 472 – The Last Supper with the Twelve

Memory Verse: John 13:35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” NASB

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:3-39; John 13

Teaching Resource:

New Testament Overview Section 4 The Last Supper
Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lessons 96-98

Object Lesson: What is a covenant?

Make an arrangement with one of the students. Tell them that if they will do some task for you that you will reward them. Explain to them that what you did was make an agreement with the student. That is what a covenant is. It is an agreement that one person agrees to do something, usually if some other person fulfills a condition. The covenants that God made with Israel differed from the agreement described above. God made promises to Israel that were not dependent on anything that Israel did.

Doctrinal Emphasis: The New Covenant

Key Theme: *The New Covenant guarantees the spiritual restoration of nation Israel.*

Throughout the course of God's dealing with the nation of Israel, He made agreements with them. He made four major covenants. We will review the first three, then look at the fourth covenant in more detail. The first covenant was the Abrahamic Covenant, found in Genesis 12:1-3. This covenant is the basis for the entire covenant program. Subsequent covenants usually expand upon some aspect of the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant. The three basic components of the covenant were a promised land, a nation, and a seed, which was Christ. The second covenant is the Palestinian Covenant, found in Deuteronomy 30:1-10. This reinforces the promise of the land given with the Abrahamic Covenant. The third covenant is the Davidic covenant. This covenant establishes an eternal kingdom for the nation from the line of David.

The final covenant between God and Israel in the Old Testament is the New Covenant. This is found in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Once again, we see that this is an unconditional covenant based on God's grace. The fulfilling of its provisions is not dependent upon any activity by nation Israel. The main component of the New Covenant is the spiritual restoration of nation Israel. The covenant describes forgiveness of sin and the spiritual regeneration of the nation. The forgiveness of sin requires a sacrifice, thus the work of Jesus Christ on the cross is necessary to bring about the forgiveness of sin. The fulfillment of the conditions of the New Covenant is a future event.

The question arises as to what application the New Covenant has to the church. There are five clear references to the New Covenant in the New Testament. These occur in Luke 22:20, I Corinthians 11:25, II Corinthians 3:6, Hebrews 8:8, and Hebrews 9:15. There possibly are other references as well. Luke 22 and I Corinthians 11 both make reference to the Last Supper, the topic of today's lesson. While it is clear that the original promise is made to nation Israel, the multiple New Testament references indicate there is some application to the church. As stated, the shed blood of Jesus Christ is necessary to bring about the forgiveness of Israel's sin. This same act of Christ also provided redemption for the church. Romans 11:16-24 describes the relationship of the church to Israel. Verse 17 describes how the church is grafted in among the native branches and becomes "partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree." This indicates that the promise, though made to Israel, will benefit the church as well. Thus, there is an application to the church now and to nation Israel in the future, in the Millennial Kingdom.