

A NEW COVENANT PROMISED

Old Testament Lesson #142

The prophet Jeremiah lived and struggled through the saddest and most severe time in Judah's great history. He told the people that destruction was coming to the kingdom. The temple would be destroyed, and the city burned by the Babylonians. All that the people had hoped for and believed in, he warned, would dissolve and vanish before their eyes.

This great destruction of Judah was a result of their disobedience. They had not kept the covenant that God had made with the nation under the leadership of Moses. They broke the covenant, even though God was a husband to them. They worshiped other gods. Therefore, God was to use Babylon to inflict the punishment upon them. The purpose of the punishment was to change the hearts of the people.

Previously, a handful of faithful men and women had been told by Jeremiah that if they went peaceably into captivity, they would be blessed while in Babylon. In addition, if they sought God's forgiveness after 70 years, their captivity would end, and God would re-establish them as a nation. In keeping with this promise of restoration, God made a "new covenant" with all the Jews, not just the southern kingdom of Judah. "The time is coming," God said, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel [northern kingdom] and with the house of Judah [southern kingdom]."

This new covenant would be different from the one established under Moses. That law had been written on stone tablets. This new covenant would be written on the hearts of the people. There would be no need to teach people about God in that day, stated Jeremiah, because they will all know him, and he will remember their sins no more.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- A covenant is a promise or an agreement between two parties.
- This new covenant is mentioned by the writer of the Hebrews in Hebrews 8:8-12. This passage is describing the closing of the Mosaic Age (that governed by the Law of Moses) and its replacement with the new covenant found in Christ.
- Jesus is described as the "mediator" of the new covenant (see Hebrews 8).

A New Covenant Promised

- I. Jeremiah knew that the people had broken God's covenant.
 - A. He told some faithful Jews that God would bless them in captivity.
 - B. He said that God would make a new covenant with all Jews, not just Judah.
- II. The covenant would be different from the one given to Moses.
 - A. It wouldn't be written on stone.
 - B. It would be written in the hearts of the people.
 - C. Then God would no longer remember their sins.

ANSWER KEY:

foot
sun
dog
tie
kite
star
moon
apple
flower
watch

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts."

"I will be their God, and they will be my people."

God made a new covenant with all of the Jews ... from the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

WORD TO KNOW
Covenant — a promise or agreement between two parties

Fill in the words that fit the pictures. Write the circled letters on the lines below.

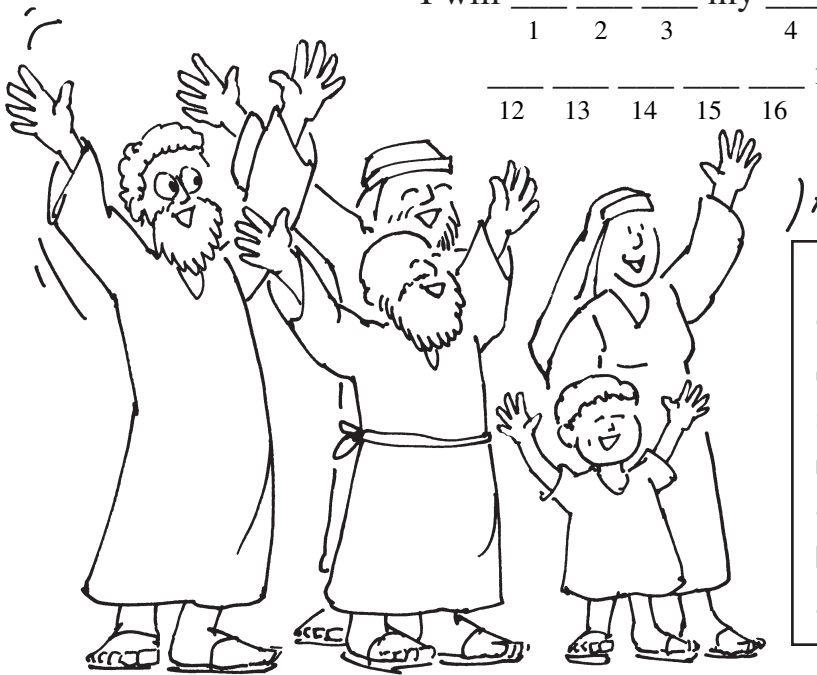
3 11 2 10

15 14 8 22 19 13 7 9

5 1 16 4 6 18 20 12 21 17

“I will _____ my _____ in their _____ and _____ it on their _____.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22



Use the code to find God's words.

♥ = A	■ = H	⊕ = O	* = V
⊕ = B	☆ = I	◐ = P	◆ = W
⇨ = C	✈ = J	📎 = Q	● = X
⊗ = D	✓ = K	! = R	○ = Y
⊗ = E	× = L	◆ = S	* = Z
□ = F	☆ = M	⊗ = T	
✂ = G	⊗ = N	▲ = U	

“ ☆ ◆ ☆ × × + ⊗ * ■ ⊗ ☆ ! ✂ ⊕ ⊗ ♥ ⊗ ⊗ * ■ ⊗ ○ ◆ ☆ × × + ⊗ ☆ ○ ◐ ⊗ ⊕ ◐ × ⊗ ”

Name _____

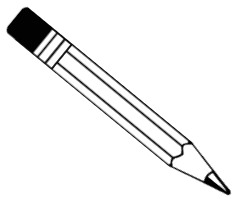
God's new promise to the people will not be written on stone tablets. It will be written somewhere else.

To find where, connect the dots.
 Then, trace the letters.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

ON HEARTS



Name _____