

THE NEW COVENANT IN EZEKIEL 36

The New Covenant inaugurated by the blood of Jesus is grounded in the Old Testament Scriptures, especially as noted in Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36. It was directed to Israel and ultimately has a full and complete fulfillment in relation to Israel, but the Church taps into the spiritual (not the physical) blessings of the covenant.

Ezekiel 36:24–28 (NKJV)

24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:29–36 (NKJV)

29 I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.

30 And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.

31 Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations.

32 Not for your sake do I do this," says the Lord God, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"

33 'Thus says the Lord God: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.

34 The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.

35 So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

36 Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it."

Ezekiel 36:37–38 (NKJV)

37 'Thus says the Lord God: "I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock.

38 Like a flock offered as holy sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.'""

Provisions of the New Covenant Include:

1. Restoration to the land – Ezek. 36:24
2. Cleansing from sin – Ezek. 36:25
3. A responsive new heart – Ezek. 36:26
4. God's indwelling Spirit that causes obedience – Ezek. 36:27
5. Relationship of My people/your God – Ezek. 36:28
6. Material prosperity and fruitfulness – Ezek. 36:29-36
7. A large population restored to Israel – Ezek. 36:37-38

The New Covenant was only promised in the Old Testament. It was not ratified or inaugurated in the days of Jeremiah or at any other time prior to the time of Christ. Ratification of the OLD Mosaic covenant involved ratification with a blood ceremony, as seen in Exodus 24 (cf. Ex. 24:6, Heb. 9:18-22). Likewise, the New Covenant was ratified with blood, as seen in the cross of Jesus Christ (cf. Heb. 9:15, 13:20).

When Jesus (at the Last Supper) announced in Luke 22:20, "*This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you*", the ONLY new covenant that the apostles would have known about was that stated in Jer. 31:31 and other related Old Testament passages.

There is only ONE New Covenant. It was given in reference to Israel. It was ratified by the blood sacrifice of Christ. And the Church gets to participate in it. We are grafted in, and thus, we are BLESSED (cf. Rom. 11).