

God's Law of Love in Our Hearts

International Bible Lesson

Jeremiah 31:29-37

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“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33—KJV).

“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33—NRSV).

The Old Covenant that the house of Israel broke included the moral law of God, often called “the law of love” as further defined by the 10 Commandments. God gave the moral law to people because He loves and wants us to love God and others as He does. Jesus perfectly demonstrated the law of love on earth. God gave the moral law as the 10 Commandments to the house of Israel partly because after 400 years of slavery they needed to learn how to govern themselves according to just and loving laws. They had been enslaved to the whims of autocratic owners and self-centered rulers who always told them arbitrarily what they could and could not do. Since the house of Israel broke the Old Covenant, God told Jeremiah that He would make a New Covenant with them. In the New Covenant, God would take the same moral law of love and write it on their hearts instead of on stone tablets. When God sent Jesus the Messiah into the world, God made the New Covenant. After Jesus died and rose again, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit into His followers to write the law of love on their hearts. The Holy Spirit helps God's people know how to obey the law of love in situations impossible to include in a law book. Thus, God's people truly love God instead of “trying” to love God; they obey God because they love God.

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Thinking Further

1. What kind of an effect can the sins of the parents have on their children?
2. What did God mean when He told Jeremiah “all shall die for their own sins”?
3. Who did God say that He would make His New Covenant with? Why is that important? Where can we learn the most about the New Covenant?
4. What did God say that the Israelites had done with the Old Covenant?
5. What did God say that He would do in the New Covenant?