

THE NEW DEAL

JEREMIAH31:31-34

The message today is about a time in the history of the United States and the nation of Israel; a time when both of these nations were under attack and in grave danger. They both were in a depressed state of being and both were looking for a new way out, through the help of a man made initiative.

My brothers and sisters, we are all aware of the Great Depression which started in 1928. In the election of 1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for president of the United States promising “a New Deal for the American people.” So, my brothers and sisters as we look at the United States briefly, we see that he was promising new programs in social, economic and political opportunities.

When he became president the plan was put into motion and was very successful, and the president spoke to the nation using the radio, a new invention of the time. It was to be the first of 30 such chats which became known as “Fireside Chats” with the people. It all happened 75 years ago, only eight days after his inauguration...

My brothers and sisters I need you to know that this New Deal was not the first such event. Because as we backtrack a couple of millennia, we find Jeremiah ,the one called weeping prophet of Israel ,who could have also been called the child prophet and the nation of Israel going through a great depression of their own.

Jeremiah tells us that the Lord spoke to him as a child, “The word of the Lord came to me, saying, before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart I approved you as a prophet to the nations. (Jeremiah1: 4-5.) But now he and his countrymen were now under the thumb of foreign and godless powers such as the King of Babylonia .had control of Judah.

But, my brothers and sisters, God delivered a spiritual New Deal of his own, through the words of Jeremiah, to the people of Israel .A deal of the heart.

So we hear a word from the Lord God in Jeremiah 31:31-34 which says:

“I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah It will not be like that I made with their ancestors.” 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 will be my people.”

But what had happened? Well, Jeremiah tells us that the country was in social decay, spiritually, economically, politically, wars and captivity dominated the world scene. We see that God’s word was deemed offensive and men were seeking men rather than God; that they were seeking other gods, who were enemies of God.

So this question was asked by God:

What fault did your fathers find in me that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. (Jeremiah 2:5)

We see that religious faith had vanished like vapor in the wind in Judah. The Israelites in the south had been conquered by the Babylonian Empire and one year later the northern kingdom was defeated. But, we also see that, if the nation had repented the pending judgment would have been postponed at the hands of the Babylonians.

There are two kinds of people here those who trusted in God and those who didn't. The people of Judah were trusting in false gods and military alliances, instead of God and they were barren and unfruitful. (Isaiah 30:1-3) Then there were those who remained faithful and keep praying and calling upon GOD.

But my brothers and sisters, I want you to know that despite this spiritual darkness, God promised a new deal, speaking with the kind of clarity and compassion, we have come to know and love from him. Because God's faithfulness shines brightly in bringing hope for today and strength for the future, because we are assured that He is always with us.

My brothers, what boldness; my sisters, what intimacy; church, what sincerity and creativity in covenant-making. In other words, what a deal; a new deal from the Lord GOD, not to default on the old deals, but to create a new deal. A deal of the heart, yes a deal of the heart and mind.

Jeremiah 17:9 tells us, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. But at the same time God tells us that he knows that our heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked but who can know it better than him.

He also says, I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.

So, God also warns us to watch out for man who will use our hearts for ill gain. "Cursed is the one who trust in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord". (Jeremiah 17:5)

The Hebrews used the various body parts of a person as a way of locating organs of the body. The heart and the brain are the two main body parts that connect us to GOD. The heart being the organ of love and will, the brain being the organ of reason and intelligence so when we let them go we let God down.

But, GOD wants to give us a new deal that is above all other deals. Notice the difference between what we call the great depression of the children of ISREAL and the New Covenant.

- *The first was based on law; the second on grace.*
- *The first was on works; the second on faith.*
- *The first was set in stone; the second in the chambers of the heart.*

- ***In the first, GOD writes the law and we obey it or else; in the second, GOD writes the law, and then helps us to obey it, through Jesus Christ and THE Holy Spirit.***

My brothers and sisters, in other words, GOD, speaking through Jeremiah, says to us, “Have I got a deal for you”!

Most of us at some point in our lives are looking for a new deal. We’d love a second chance...at love, a new relationship, a new career, and more faith.

We’d also love to start the day over sometimes too..

BUT, GOD’S good news message for us today is, “This the day that God has made so rejoice and be glad in it.” This is the moment to cash in on a great new opportunity. This is the moment to come to God.

We’re not expected to live in perfection; we’re expected to live in faith. We’re not expected to live for ourselves, we’re expected to live for GOD Through Jesus Christ.

My brothers and sisters, what are some other provisions of this new covenant? They are, the new deal of amnesty, we call it forgiveness .GOD promises to remove our sins as “far as the east is from the west,” and to remember them no more.

Another is the new deal of trust and intimacy. GOD promised to be faithful to us, and to embrace us as his children.

THE APOSTLE John wrote, “See what love the Father has given us, that we shall be called children of GOD.1jn.3:1

My brothers and sisters, I want you to know that the new deal has the power for living. GOD now offers us the strength to conquer sin; the power to move forward and beyond the past, to a new life.

I also want you to know that this new deal is a deal of responsibility. It’s not a deal for free loaders or free riders. But faith based work, telling others about Jesus.

Because JEREMIAH LETS EVERYONE KNOW THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO WORSHIP and follow God’s WORD.THAT GOD does not FAIL, THAT HIS WORD ENDURES FOR EVER.THAT HIS PROMISE IS GOOD ALWAYS. Do you believe that His word is good forever.

But the people would not listen to the man of GOD. Therefore they went into exile for 70 years .But things did not change much. Do I have a witness?

Isaiah 1:2-3 tells us what the Lord says, “I have reared children and brought them up, but they rebelled against me. The oxen knows his master, the donkey knows his owner’s manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”

I ask What was the purpose of this New Deal of God's?

It was to save the world from itself. Because Jesus said, "I did not come to judge the world, but to save it." (jn.12:47) So the purpose of his coming was to save us from all of our sins and disrespectful living .To save us from missing heaven and going to hell.

My brothers and sisters we have a lot of trouble going on in the world now as back then, and I hesitate to say that there are many, who like the people back then, who have rejected the New deal, but to say to you that I have no problem with that, would not be the way of the Cross. Because God doesn't want any of us to die and miss out on heaven.

So, let me give you a little advice. What if someone come up to you and claimed to be God, and you only had three options? You follow me.

- *The first one, you could say, He's an idiot. He doesn't know what he's talking about. He's crazy.*
- *The second one, you could say, He's a con man. He's a crook .He's a fake. He's just trying to get my money. How many of you would agree that there are a lot of religious con men in the world?*
- *But, the third option could be that he is telling the truth. He's telling you that he is who he says that he is, and if he is ,then he is God. This would mean that I would have to bow down and worship him. I have to obey him .Is that true?*
- *There are no other options. I hear like you do people saying, I don't believe Jesus was God. I think that he was a good religious, moral teacher. But, I want to tell you that could not be an option. Because no good moral teacher would claim to be God. Good teachers don't walk around saying, "I'm God, you must worship me."*
- *This forced a decision. People at the time said, "We've decided He's not God so we're going to kill him".*
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- *Jesus said, "I am God" .And He say I am the Savior of the world too and as Savior of the world is how he allowed himself to be put to death. But as God is why He rose three days later.*
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- *Philippians 2 says, "Christ was truly God. But He gave up everything and became a slave when He became like one of us. He even died on the cross. Then God gave Him the highest place and honored His name above every name, so at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Those in heaven on earth and under the earth."*
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- *Let me tell you then, when Jesus died and they dropped Him low, three worlds lost their equilibrium: earth, heaven and hell. The chickens went to roost at high noon and midday looked like midnight. But three days later He woke up and got up. Didn't He get up. He got up .Didn't He get up. I heard Him say, when he got up, "All power in the Heaven and the Earth is in My Hands."*

My brothers and sisters let me tell you that this new deal was confirmed by

the Lord Jesus Christ on the night that he was betrayed.

- *When he took the bread, and blessed it after giving thanks broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, “THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.”*
- *Then he took the cup, saying, “THIS IS MY BLOOD, DRINK YE ALL OF IT”. It is the new covenant in my blood. The cup signifies a new covenant with his followers, a New Deal that brought the forgiveness of our sins, as well as a deep , personal and intimate relationship. (MATT.26:20-30)
What a deal!*

My brothers and sisters, just what kind of deal do you want to broker with God?

Whatever it is, it is no doubt already covered under the provisions of the New Covenant, and symbolized in the cross toward which we have all been traveling on this journey.

I believe that we can gather as one people, at the supper table, loved , forgiven and intimately connected. All of God’s children. There’s no better deal than that .Do you believe it?

What passion? What love? What purpose? What power? Who are you willing to make a deal for?