

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020 - REFORMATION SUNDAY

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NRSV) A New Covenant

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband says the LORD.

³³I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

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

³⁴I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

A contract is an agreement that is between two parties. Each party is in a position to negotiate.

A covenant is a promise that is given by one party to another.

Adam and Eve – God came seeking, provided a covering, provided a substitute, and promised the victory – Genesis 3: 15

Noah – Genesis 9: 11 – Never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth

Abraham – Genesis 12: 2 – I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing

Moses – Leviticus 16: 30 – On this day atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; from all your sins you shall be clean before the Lord

David – 2 Samuel 7: 16 – Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever

Jeremiah – a New Covenant

Psalm 46 (NRSV) God's Defense of His City and People

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

The basis for "A Mighty Fortress"

David went up to the stronghold – 1 Samuel 24: 22, 2 Samuel 5: 17 – Masada?

Psalm 61: 2 – Lead me to the rock that is higher than I – cf. The Narrows in Zion National Park

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

¹⁰"Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Cf 1 Kings 19: 12 – God appeared to Elijah not in an earthquake, wind, or fire, but in a still, small voice

Romans 3:19-28 (NRSV) Righteousness through Faith

²⁰ “No human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now . . . the righteousness of God has been disclosed . . . ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

²⁴ They are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.

²⁶ He himself is righteous and he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁸ A person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Grace is –

G – God’s Gift that is

R – Received by Faith – It is

A – Available to All – It

C – Comes through Christ – And it

E – Extends for Eternity

GRACE – God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense

John 8:31-36 (NRSV) True Disciples

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

What the Jews were saying was simply not true. They were deluding themselves. They had been slaves at many times in their lives – to the Egyptians, the Syrians, the Assyrians, and the Babylonians. And at the time they were speaking, they were occupied by Rome.

Map showing Israel’s incredibly strategic location.

When have you made a statement that simply was not true – you were deluding yourself?

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Sin is not just what I do. It is what I am in bondage to.

Cf. LBW Brief Order – “We are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.”

If sin was just something I do, all I would need is a good example and a pep talk.

Since it is what I am in bondage to, I need a Savior.

Cf. video re the Exodus.