

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020 - REFORMATION SUNDAY

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

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

<sup>32</sup>It 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.

<sup>33</sup>I 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.

<sup>34</sup>I 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

<sup>1</sup> God 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*

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

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

<sup>10</sup> "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**

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

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

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

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

<sup>28</sup> 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**

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

<sup>33</sup> 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?*

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

<sup>36</sup> 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.*