



## CONNECTING THE DOTS: NEW COVENANT

There is a cave north of Jerusalem on the road headed east. Today it's called "[Jeremiah's Grotto](#)." And it was from here that *the weeping prophet, Jeremiah*, penned his [Lamentation](#) over the fall of the city of Jerusalem. In the year 586 BC Babylon sacked the holy city and burned God's Temple. Jews who survived the siege were forced into exile. In shackles and chains they were made to evacuate the city and march off to Babylon. [Hope had died in Israel, and Jeremiah served as its chief pallbearer](#). How tough it was for this man of God to sit in the mouth of that cave and watch the friends he'd grown up with say good-bye to familiar streets, and the songs of the priests, and the Temple worship. Jeremiah witnessed the eviction of God's people from their homeland. No wonder he wept.

A thousand years earlier God revealed Himself to a man named Abram in the heart of Babylon... God made a covenant with Abraham. He would make him a great nation – in a new land - His Seed would bless the world. Through a covenant God made with Moses, He prepared the children of Abraham to occupy that land. He gave Israel a list of *blessings and curses*. If Israel obeyed *God's law and sacrifices*, God would bless them. If they disobeyed God, He would curse them... Leviticus 26 lists among those curses... "[I will scatter you among the nations... your land shall be desolate... you are in your enemies' land...](#)" *Now as Jeremiah sits in his cave writing and weeping...* The heirs of Abraham have come full circle. They're headed back to a land they thought they'd left for good.

It's hard to imagine the agony of the moment... *in that cave... along the road...* Yet in the midst of Jeremiah's weeping he was struck by a thought... He writes in Lamentations 2, "[This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness...](#)" In the midst of his sorrow it suddenly hits Jeremiah. In all her failures God had never given up on Israel - *and He wouldn't start now!* In fact, it was to Jeremiah that God delivered [a new covenant](#).

Amazingly, at their lowest of lows - the great God of grace reached out to His deflated people, Israel, with [another covenant!](#) *Can you believe it?* Every time we fall and can't get up, God rescues us with *new promises, new terms, new proposals...* And this wasn't just "[A](#)" **new covenant** it was "[THE](#)" **New Covenant** - the last and ultimate promise God makes to man. Jeremiah 31 refers to the NC as an "[everlasting covenant](#)." That means the rest of the Bible *and all human history* is the fulfillment of this covenant.

Since it was Jeremiah who saw the nation “croak,” a person with my sense of humor is tempted to say, “Jeremiah was a bullfrog” – but it would be better to say, “He was a bulldog.” *He refused to give up hope and faith.* Even in the midst of the enemy’s siege – as the walls of the city were being breached – God was revealing to Jeremiah a new day for His people, Israel. **Jeremiah 31-33** focuses on this great and **New Covenant**. The New Covenant includes three promises... **a re-gathering of Israel to the land God promised Abraham, a regeneration of the people’s hearts, and a re-establishment of the throne of David and the Kingdom of God.**

Unfortunately, we can’t read all three chapters in Jeremiah. But let me hit the highpoints... In chapter 32, God orders Jeremiah to purchase a field. He obeys. Forks over 17 shekels, and signs a deed. But Jeremiah is confused! *God is predicting a Babylonian take over! Jerusalem is about to be occupied by foreign armies. Why is God asking him to waste his money?* A time share in Iraq would make for a better investment property! God answers Jeremiah in 32:37, “**I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely.**” The parcel Jeremiah bought was a token of God’s promise to **re-gather** Israel. The Jews will return to Israel, and Jeremiah’s kin will build on his lot.

A **return to the land** was part of the NC. *But notice what’s next...* God promises a **regeneration of the people’s heart**. Jeremiah 31:33 tells us... “**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 in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**” The Law of Moses was written on stone tablets. But under the New Covenant God writes His Law on our hearts. His will gets internalized. God in-beds it in our nature. The Spirit etches His love into our heart of hearts.

Steve Nash is a talented, heady, gutsy basketball player. Having played basketball myself, I appreciate Steve’s love and passion for the game. What if I tried to play basketball like Steve Nash... I watched his videos, and tried to mimic his actions and skills. I’m afraid it would be a futile effort. *But what if somehow I was given Steve Nash’s heart?* It certainly wouldn’t make me a perfect replica – I wouldn’t be as good as Steve – *but I’d be a better Sandy!* Sharing Steve’s instincts would make me better. I still wouldn’t have his reflexes, or his legs, or his peripheral vision – but I’d have his heart, and that would take me a long, long way.

Understand, **a new heart is the miracle of the New Covenant!** God gives us *His heart*. We still occupy our body... that means we won’t be perfect. *But we receive God’s heart...* His love, His passion, His desires... and this goes a long, long way. We never become flawless, but we get better. The NC changes a person from **the inside out**. We become righteous not by *watching the how-to video, or trying to mimic the standard* – but by receiving God’s heart. The Holy Spirit’s purity and power makes us better.

And because of our **new heart**, *the New Covenant* gives us a **new part** to play – a new role in God’s purposes. Verse 34, “**No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD.**” Under the New Covenant we all become priests. At first, being a priest might not excite you... As a happily married man with a foxy wife the last thing I aspire to be is *a priest – at least in the Catholic sense*. But that’s not the kind of priest that Jeremiah has in view... The Jews had married priests, but they were of a special tribe. Only certain men at certain times could enter God’s presence and know God. But under the NC all this changes! *Everybody can assume this role...* Under the New Covenant, *all calls to God are*

now dialed direct. You don't need a go-between. *Can the confession. Burn the booth.* All God's people are now priests. We can go to Him whenever and wherever.

And finally, along with a **new heart**, and **new part**, we get a **new start**... "For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." The Mosaic Covenant dealt with sin in a limited, superficial way. *The Law revealed sin – the sacrifices covered sin – the blessings and curses motivated us not to sin...* But the Old Covenant never addressed the cause of sin. *It could never eradicate the selfish tendency of our hearts.* But this is where the NC excels! As an "everlasting covenant" the NC provides a permanent solution to sin. Rather than cover sin, it abolishes our sin. It blots it from God's memory. He doesn't think about it anymore.

Once upon a time, a lady in the church kept coming to the pastor with messages from God. The pastor was skeptical. One day he told her, "When I was in college, I committed a horrible sin. The next time you talk to God ask Him what it was, and if He tells you, I'll trust in your messages." Weeks went by without the lady bothering the pastor with a message from God. The next time he saw her, the pastor mentioned, "Well, I suppose God doesn't really speak to you, since He didn't reveal my sin." The lady fired back, "Oh yes, He does. But when I asked God about your horrible sin, God told me He know longer remembers what it was." Now that really is a message from God. His forgiveness is full and forever.

The NC promises a **return** to the land, a **regeneration** of the heart, and then the **re-establishment** of the kingdom to Israel and its throne to David. From his grotto Jeremiah saw the Jewish King, the descendant of David, hauled off into captivity... And what the Babylonians did to Zedekiah was so cruel! They slaughtered his sons before him, then plucked out his eyes with a hot poker - so the last sight he saw was the death of his sons. Jeremiah knew this threatened the Davidic Covenant. God promised David he would always have a son sitting on the throne of His Kingdom. With the Babylonian victory it seemed the covenant had been broken.

But in Jeremiah 33:15 God refocuses His promise to David. He says, "I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely... For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel.'" At that very moment, David didn't lack a man. Messiah was waiting in heaven. It's interesting how the NT begins, Matthew 1:1, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, *the Son of David...*" Though Zedekiah's lineage came to an abrupt end, another branch sprouted from David's family tree. Jesus was of the house and stock of David, and heir to his throne.

The NC promises Messiah will lay claim to all God's promises. Israel will be an everlasting, global kingdom that will rule the world in righteousness. In fact, God closes Jeremiah 33 by saying as sure as the day follows the night, God will fulfill the promises of the New Covenant. The sun will fail to rise in the morning, before *the blood relatives of Abraham*, fail to return to *the real land of Canaan*, and be *ruled over by an actual son of David*.

And not only did Jeremiah predict the NC, so do other Jewish prophets. Whereas Jeremiah wrote among the survivors in Jerusalem, Ezekiel lived with the exiles taken to Babylon. And he too wrote of this Covenant... Ezekiel 36:24, "I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land." That's the **re-gathering**. And after the **re-gathering** Ezekiel mentions the spiritual **regeneration**... "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. 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. I will put My Spirit with you and cause you to walk in My statutes..." And in Ezekiel 37:22 the prophet mentions the **re-establishment** of the kingdom. "I will make them one nation... one king shall be king over them... David My servant shall be king" Notice the order... God **re-gathers Israel to the land, regenerates their hard hearts, then re-establishes** the kingdom ruled by the Son of David.

Ezekiel 37 begins with a famous vision. The prophet sees a valley full of dry bones. Suddenly, the bones begin to come together. *The arm bone connects to the shoulder bone, the leg bone connects to the hip bone, etc.* After God assembles the skeletons muscle and flesh cover them. But they still have no breath. *And this is Israel today...* Jews have and are returning to their ancient land... **And they have muscle!...** In fact, if the US keeps depleting our military we might need to call on Israel for help. I saw this T-shirt in Jerusalem... "Don't worry America, Israel is behind you." As in Jesus' day, today Israel is a miracle. Dry bones have assembled. A strong nation exists - *but there's still no breath.* And before *the Kingdom can come to Israel, God's Spirit has to invade the people's hearts.* **Spiritual revival is a prerequisite for the coming of the Messiah and God's Kingdom.**

This was exactly the scenario in the first century AD. Under men like Zerubbabel, and Ezra, and Nehemiah many Jews came home from Babel. And Israel grew muscle. They rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple. Israel had been **re-gathered**, now they were expecting **the kingdom**.

And this was Nicodemus' mindset in John 3, when he came to Jesus by night. It was the first "Nick-at-Nite." Nick was a respected Jewish scholar, schooled in the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and all the OT. Nicodemus was thinking **New Covenant**. He had Kingdom expectations. *Understand his logic...* Israel had been **re-gathered** to their land. In his mind the renewed zeal for the Law exemplified in the movement of the Pharisees was proof of **regeneration** - the "new heart" promised by the NC.

In Nicodemus' mind, and in the Jewish thinking of his day, all that remained in the NC was for Messiah to overthrow Rome, and establish His kingdom. Jesus knew his mindset, and He answers the question before it's asked... "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Realize, this was a lesson in the NC. Jesus is saying, recall the three stages... the **re-gathering** to the land, and the **re-establishment** of the kingdom are the bookends - but in between there's a spiritual **revival**. Nicodemus had mistaken *religious zeal* for *regeneration*. Jesus is saying, "Hold your horses, Nicodemus! Rethink what you're calling "a new heart." **Self-righteousness isn't God's righteousness.**"

Jesus warns Nicodemus, in his desire for *the Kingdom*, don't skip over *regeneration*. "A new heart" is more than *moralism* or *legalism* or *religion*. You can be *moral* and *legalistic* and *religious*... You can major on the do's and don'ts. Mind your Ps and Qs. Cross your "T"s and dot your "I"s... And still be sinful to the core. Religious people are often the most proud. In fact, the Jews were proud of their pedigree. They were the children of Abraham – and Abraham was the chosen of God. They thought that alone made them righteous before God. But Jesus warns them, "It's not about your first birth. You've got to be born again!"

So what if you come from the right side of the tracks - and keep your nose clean – and play by all the rules – and follow the formulas... Rather than doing it for God, you could be doing it just to make yourself look good. Motivation is what matters to God. *What about love?* "A new heart" spawns love for God and love for others. The Pharisees were religion without love - *clean on the outside, but filthy on the inside.*

Jesus said *“You must be born again!”* That’s more than turning over a new leaf, or mending your ways. That’s not reformation, it’s transformation. New birth is becoming something different than you were before. Take a pig – you can dress him like a boy, and feed him like a boy, and treat him like a boy – but he’s still a pig. And the first time he gets around a mud puddle he’s going to jump right in. *You can’t betray your real nature. You can’t be something that your not...* and the same is true spiritually! To follow Jesus you’ve got to be reborn. You need a heart transplant. God takes out your *defiant nature* and replaces it with a *compliant nature*.

And to help him understand, Jesus takes Nicodemus back to the OT. He explains, *“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”* Jesus quotes Ezekiel 36. God will *“sprinkle clean water”* and *“put a new spirit within you”* – the NC produces a *new person*. *“That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again.”* Notice, *“Flesh is flesh...”* In other words, just trying harder, turning over a new leaf, isn’t enough... Our own goodness is never good enough. We have to be born of the Spirit. God alone can purify us from the inside out.

Jesus ends his conversation with a rebuke of Nicodemus. He tells him he’s a scholar - he should’ve known these truths. *“Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?”* *Jesus took the teacher to school...* And here was the point the Master was making to Nicodemus... *The New Covenant wasn’t ready to be fulfilled, not yet.* Messiah won’t sit on the throne of David, and set up God’s earthly Kingdom, until spiritual revival comes first. Before God’s Kingdom comes *tangibly* it first comes *spiritually*. Remember Luke 17, the Pharisee asked Jesus, *when will the Kingdom of God come?* Jesus replies, *“The kingdom does not come with outward observation... the kingdom of God is within you.”* You won’t see a political Kingdom, until God’s King rules in your heart, and the Jews are born again.

This is exactly what Jesus said at the end of Matthew 23. He’s on the Mount of Olives, looking out over Jerusalem, and Jesus sees the future. Through tears He predicts the destruction of Jerusalem. He quotes Psalm 118, *“Your house is left desolate, for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”* *Realize what Jesus is saying...* He won’t return to establish God’s Kingdom on Earth until Israel is ready to welcome Him as their Messiah. When they sing Psalm 118, and mean it, then He’ll come to rule.

Revelation 19 fast-forwards to that moment. Jesus is on war horse. He’s coming to Earth to judge the wicked and establish His forever Kingdom. And tatted down His thigh is a title - *“King of kings and Lord of lords.”* That’s how we’ll see Jesus when He’s revealed in all His glory. But right now, though Jesus is a king, He’s the *“King of hearts.”* The New Covenant requires the Messiah to rule over us spiritually, before He reigns politically.

All this was in Jesus mind the night before His crucifixion. He didn’t just come into the world to gain our forgiveness. *Jesus was far more ambitious!* In the upper room with His peeps, our Lord Jesus took the Passover Cup and gave it brand new meaning. He invited His disciples then and now, *“Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant...”* Drink that cup and you show gratitude for *a new heart* – you celebrate *your priesthood* and the intimacy you have with God – you rejoice that *your sins are blotted out forever* – and you toast your eternity in *God’s kingdom!*

And as with all God's covenants – the NC is dedicated with blood. Jesus held up a cup of wine in His hand, but the blood was on His mind. When Moses ratified the OC, he took the hot blood of a bull and sprinkled it on the people's **heads**. Now when you enter the NC the blood of Jesus gets *spiritually sprinkled* on our **hearts**. Hebrews 10:22 tells us to *draw near in faith*, “*having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience...*” The communion cup we drink today, speaks to us of a glorious NC!

So let me summarize the NC... Israel gets **re-gathered** to their land. The hearts of the people are **regenerated**... **Then** King Jesus returns to Earth to end man's rebellion, and **re-establish** *David's throne* and *God's kingdom*. Now it's time for a game of “**what if...**” I want to blow your mind! **What if** Israel, as a nation, had received Jesus as their Messiah in 32 AD – *would the dominoes have fallen?* Israel re-gathers, they get re-born - next comes the Kingdom. Would Jesus have returned in the first century? *I believe so!* At least, *I believe that's what the early Church believed!*

After Jesus' resurrection and before His ascension, He hung out on earth 40 days. It was Q&A for the disciples. And guess what question they ask? Acts 1:6, “**Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**” *Why that question?* **Well, connect the dots!** The kingdom was next on the NC checklist. **Re-gathering** - check. **Regeneration** - well, the disciples had been born again.... All that was left was the coming of the Kingdom.

Jesus' answer is interesting. “**It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses...**” Notice, Jesus didn't say God's kingdom was right around the corner, but He didn't say it wasn't. You could call His answer “**a definite maybe.**” Timing is the Father's business. Power is the Spirit's business. Witness is our business. *So, don't stick your nose in somebody else's business.* But when we see how the disciples preached, it was as if they believed the Kingdom and Jesus' Second Coming were on the immediate horizon.

At Pentecost, Peter stands up in the power of the Holy Spirit and quotes Joel 2. It's a prophesy, not just about the Spirit being poured out on Israel... But Joel also talks about the End Times judgment - “**blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD...**” In Peter's mind Jesus had gone to heaven for a few days of R&R, but it wouldn't be long before He came back to punish the evil men who crucified Him. Once Israel receives their Messiah, He'll turn on the wicked Romans.

A few days later in Acts 3, Peter preaches to the Jews again, and here's his invitation... “**Repent... and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things...**” In essence, Peter tells them, “**Repent, so God will send Jesus and the restoration of all things...**” In his mind the conversion of Israel would've brought Jesus back, and launched the restoration of all that sin had defiled.

Peter was preaching in the Temple. He's calling out the Jewish leaders, and offering to Israel “**times of refreshing.**” Our salvation guarantees us the same, *one day* - but Peter's offer to the Jewish nation was for *that day!* Perhaps this is what Peter meant in 2 Peter 3:12 when he spoke of “**hastening (or speeding up) the coming of the day of God...**” Peter thought if the nation Israel was “**born again**” the kingdom would come at that time.

People say, “But what about the rapture, the Antichrist, his one-world government, his desecration of the Temple, his demand to be worshipped... *all that the Bible predicts before Jesus’ second coming?* Well, history reveals that ancient Rome had parallel fulfillments for all the above... *Roman rule was global... Any of the emperors would’ve made a dandy Antichrist... An abomination in the Temple was even in the works..* In 40 AD, the Emperor Caligula dispatched a legion of soldiers to Palestine, with a statue of his likeness. Orders were given to erect it in the Temple’s Holy of Holies, and require the Jews to worship his image. The reason it failed was he died while it was in route, and the ship turned back.

Imagine though **the great what-if...** *Peter preaches on Pentecost, the nation Israel repents, the rapture occurs, the world is plunged into Great Tribulation, and Jesus returns to make all things new in or around 40 AD...* You don’t have to agree - and I know it’s speculation - but I believe if the Jews had accepted the offer of a New Covenant, God was prepared to set in motion the end time prophecies, and establish His kingdom at that time.

Instead, Israel rejected the covenant Jesus made with His own blood, and sentenced herself to remain under the curse of the Mosaic Covenant. This was an epic tragedy for the Jews, *very, very good turn of events for you and me...* *Israel’s unbelief became an opportunity for the Gentiles.*

Last week we spoke of the amazing prophecy in Daniel 9. The chapter puts Messiah “*on the clock.*” It predicted to the very day when Jesus would appear to Israel... *If you weren’t here grab a CD or check out the podcast.* According to Daniel, 70 weeks of 7 years, are set aside for the nation Israel. And six purposes are to be accomplished in that 490 year period. If you go back and read Daniel 9 carefully you’ll see that that only one of the six objectives has actually been fulfilled. On the cross of Calvary Jesus made “*reconciliation for iniquity,*” but He’s not yet made “*an end to sins,*” or “*brought in everlasting righteousness,*” or “*sealed up vision and prophecy.*”

According to Daniel, 483 years occurred from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls to the coming of Messiah to Israel. The prophecy was fulfilled to the day - when Jesus made His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem After the 69 weeks Messiah is “*cut off*” or executed. That happened in 32 AD with Jesus’ crucifixion. Daniel 9 mentions another event that occurs after the 69 weeks... The fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, came 38 years later. The crucifixion and the fall of Jerusalem come after the 69 weeks, but before the 70<sup>th</sup> week of 7 years. That means there’s a gap in the prophecy.

An unspecified period of time exists between the coming of Messiah to Israel and the final seven years when Jesus will right all wrongs. As Daniel puts it “*finish the transgression...*” or literally, “*snuff out man’s rebellion.*” This final seven years is what the Bible calls “*The Great Tribulation.*” It’s the final judgment when God shakes all that can be shaken. Global cataclysms rock the planet... *And two goals get accomplished in this time.. A wicked world is punished, and Israel will be purified.* In fact, it’s the fulfillment of these end time events that finally open the eyes of Israel.

Zechariah 12:10 tells us that when Jesus returns to planet Earth, Israel will be ready for the NC. “*And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced. Yes, they will mourn for*

Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” Romans 11:26 predicts that in the end, “All Israel will be saved.” In other words, every Jew alive at the time will believe in Jesus and enter the NC.

So, let’s *put it all together...* Jesus came to initiate a NC with Israel. It was paid for on the cross, and offered to Israel by the Apostles. But He’s still waiting for the Jews to accept its terms - *and receive a new heart! But once Israel bites, Jesus will return to end the revolt that started in Eden, and set up His kingdom on planet Earth...* Right now the dry bones are assembled. Even flesh and muscle have been attached. But the breath of the Spirit is still absent. For the most part, the Jews remain in unbelief... Imagine, God’s dilemma... *He’s got a good covenant, but no takers...*

It’s like a single guy planning the ultimate date night... *Starry sky, soft music, candlelight dinner on a rooftop, luxurious setting, a gourmet meal...* But your date backs out at the last minute. *What are you going to do? Let it all go to waste? Not hardly.* You’ll pull out your little black book and call your second choice... or third ... or even fourth choice if need be! And this is exactly what God did! *Literally, this is what He did!*

Don’t be offended that you were God’s second choice. Paul told the Romans, the Gospel comes “to the Jews first, then to the Gentiles.” After the rebellion at Babel, God’s plan of redemption became a family business, “Abraham and sons.” Through Israel, He’d win back the world. *And now He’s doing it...* This is the mystery not seen in God’s previous plans. All the covenants from Abraham, to Moses, to David targeted Jews. Even the New Covenant was intended for Israel... until they rejected God’s offer - *and in His grace, God opened the party to us miserable Gentiles.*

Remember the parable Jesus told about the man hosting the banquet. Everyone he invited had an excuse why they couldn’t come. So he told his servants to bring in “the poor, and the maimed, and the lame, and the blind.” Don’t be offended, but that’s God’s description of us. We’re the one’s nobody wanted – *the poor, maim, lame, blind* – but God included us! Don’t be too proud to think of yourself among the down-and-out - in need of grace. The people God rejects are folks who think they deserve His love. The *proud* and the *self-righteous* are the people who miss out.

When the Jews rejected the NC, God opened it up to “whosoever wills.” *Yo, I can be a whosoever!* That’s me. *I’m a “whosoever will.”* I’m not too proud to be a candidate for grace. I don’t mind receiving blessings I can never earn. I’ll jump at the chance to enter into such an amazing covenant.

And that’s what God is hoping... God has always targeted Gentiles for salvation, but now while He waits on the Jews, *He’s actively pursuing us.* God’s plan today is to take Gentiles from all nations, and tribes, and races and bring them together into a **New Covenant Community**. Jews and Gentiles as one people. *He’s practicing for heaven! He calls it the Church.* And that’s what we’ll discuss in our final installment of “**Connecting the Dots.**” In two weeks, we’ll look at **The New Covenant and the Church.**