

Orlando Bible Students—Special Study—February 24, 2013
Prophecies of the Kingdom—Jeremiah 31:1-16, 22-34

General references: Expanded Bible Comments; Vol. 1, pp. 107-113; Heb. 8:8-12, 10:16,17, 12:22-28

Time will not permit a consideration of all the verses included in our title, so we will focus on some of the key points of the prophecy. Verse 1 sets the tone of the entire passage, when God says, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people." This is the focus of the prophecy. One other point to keep in mind: This prophecy and some of the references refer specifically to Israel and Judah, however, the fulfillment in the kingdom will extend to the entire world of mankind.

1. Verse 9: What is meant by the phrase, "I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble?" Is. 41:18, 43:20; Joel 3:18; Is. 40:4, 42:16, 45:2; Prov. 4:10-12; Is. 8:14,15; Rom. 9:31,32, 11:11,15
2. Verses 10,11: Who is overseeing Israel, both as to their scattering and their gathering? How has God redeemed and ransomed Jacob, and who is "him that was stronger than he?" Zech. 7:14; Ezek. 36:24; Is. 47:4; Hos. 13:14; Luke 1:68,69; Hos. 13:14
3. Verses 15,16: Matthew quotes verse 15 as prophetic of Herod's decree that all children age 2 and under be slain during the time shortly after Jesus' birth. What joyful outcome does Jeremiah add to this prophecy in verse 16, and to whom will this outcome apply? Matt. 2:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:26
4. Verse 23: What does Jeremiah say will be spoken about Judah and its cities during the kingdom that has been missing for so long? Is. 9:7; Jer. 23:5; Ob. 1:17; Zech. 14:20,21
5. Verse 27: The phrases "seed of man" and "seed of beast" give indication to us that the New Covenant relates to what aspect of God's plan? Is. 45:18; Hos. 2:18-23; Rev. 21:3
6. Verses 29,30: What important principles are shown in these verses that will be in force as a result of the kingdom arrangement, and how do they contrast with man's present condition? Rev. 20:12, 22:14; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12
7. Verses 31-34: This is the first reference in the scriptures, and the only one in the Old Testament, to the term "New Covenant." It is the basis, though, for numerous usages in the New Testament, in particular by Paul in the book of Hebrews. What are meant by the key components of the New Covenant listed below:
 - a. Law in their inward parts, and in their hearts. Ezek. 36:26
 - b. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Rev. 21:3
 - c. They will teach no more, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me. Hab. 2:14
 - d. I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. Ex. 34:6,7; Is. 43:25