

The New Covenant

The Prophecy

In the 13th year of the reign of King Josiah, around 625BC, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Jeremiah, saying:

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.” *Jeremiah 23:5–6*

‘I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.’ Jesus. He is our righteous Branch, the Lord and Savior promised throughout history. The genealogies recorded in the Books of Matthew and Luke show the lineage of Christ from Adam to Abraham and through David, to the time of His birth. This was important because the nations of Judah and Israel followed their bloodlines meticulously, and they knew that the Messiah would come from the ‘house of David.’

In verse six, the Hebrew text for the word LORD is Yēhovah (Jehovah), which clearly refers to God. The King described here is called, ‘The Lord Our Righteous Savior’ signifying his deity. (See *John 13:13, Mark 12:35–37*)

The Prophecy

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.” *Jeremiah 31:31*

This new covenant would first be with Israel, but it would not follow the old covenant that God made with Israel in the Sinai desert. The ‘Sinai Covenant’ gave Israel the law, the sacrifices, and the choice of blessing or curse. (see *Exodus 19*). The ‘old covenant’ would vanish (see *Hebrews 8:8–13, Hebrews 12:24*); but the new covenant promised in *Jeremiah 31:31* would be fulfilled with the birth of Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant. In *Mark 14:24*, Jesus acknowledges that He is the Covenant:

And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”