

## THE CONDITIONS OF THE COVENANT WITH GOD

### Jeremiah 11:1-10

**Introduction:** Any relationship needs to have what we call “maintenance.” What that means we have to keep up on the things that could go wrong and keep them up so they don’t break down. Anyone who has worked around machinery knows that there needs to be a regular maintenance of things like greasing moving parts so they do not get steel rubbing against steel and eventually break and cause a costly repair bill. We do this with our automobiles. If you do not change the oil on a regular basis the engine will eventually fail and you would be out a large amount of money to replace the engine.

If we do not maintain our relationships and keep them where they do not break down we will find that those relationships will last longer. I have always been impressed with people who stay married for long periods of time. For instance my older sister and her husband recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. That did not come about by just simply living together. There were times early in the marriage that they had to make adjustments in some area of conflict that needed resolution or their relationship would not have lasted as long. Many marriages fail because there is little desire to keep the communication lines open and be able to set their own desires aside to keep from conflict that could become volatile. Just recently there was a man in Houston who killed his girlfriend and her children because they had an argument and were not able to resolve the matter. The man decided there was only one solution and that was to exterminate the problem.

Many Christians seem to do that in their relationships with each other and also with God.

We need to remember that our  
There are some important matter involved in a covenant. The definition is an agreement between two (sometimes more) people to do something or in some cases not to do something. It is usually an agreement to cooperate in this agreement in harmony and mutual responsibility. There are several types of covenants that one can enter into.

## 1. The Recognition of a Personal Relationship with God,

**Jeremiah 11:1-4.** Notice that God said that if they would obey God's voice then they would be God's people and He would be their God. Did you ever consider that God desires to have a relationship with you, probably more than you want a relationship with Him? If you remember Adam and Eve in the garden they were hiding from God and He sought them out. God said "Were art thou?" (**Genesis 3:9**). Sinners do not want to be in the presence of the Living God. Yet, if we understand the scripture it should be understood that God desires to walk with us. In our text we find that God makes an interesting comparison of the people of the past and the ones He was addressing through Jeremiah. Look at **Jeremiah 11:3-4 (KJV)** <sup>3</sup> And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed *be* the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant, <sup>4</sup> Which I commanded your fathers in the day *that* I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall **ye be my people, and I will be your God**. What God is saying to the people of Judah is "don't be like your forefathers who turned away from God and chose other gods to worship. God gives two alternatives: (1) "obey my voice" and (2) "do them." (**Jeremiah 11:4**). That should not be too difficult. This text brings to our attention some things important in a relationship.

**a. Distractions should be avoided.** One of the problems with idolatry is that it draws one away from the Living God. Remember **Colossians 3:5 (KJV)** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness, which is idolatry**. One does not have to have a "graven image" or a Plaster of Paris image in their yard or on their mantle to be called an idolater. Anything that is more important to you than your relationship with God can become an idol. That could be a job, an IRA, a hobby, involvement in another organization, a vehicle (land or water) and we could go on. I think you get the idea. Can I ask you a question? What is standing between you and being the spiritual person you are designed to be if you have Jesus as your Saviour and the Holy Spirit dwelling in you? I have used this illustration before but

it fits here. Marilyn and I decided a long time ago that there was not going to be anything to stop us from being exposed to the teaching of the scripture and fellowship with other believers. If family came to visit on Sunday they would either go to church with us or stay at our house until we returned from church. They eventually got the message, don't visit Jerry and Marilyn on Sunday unless you bring clothes to attend church. What does it take to distract you from the things that will help you develop your relationship with God?

**b. Decisions are necessary.** This is a natural follow-up to what we have already seen. The first action that God says over and over is “[obey my words.](#)” Look at **Jeremiah 11:2, 3, 6, 8, 10.** Now look at **Jeremiah 11:4, 7** which says “[obey my voice.](#)” There is a choice for the people that they need to do two things. (1) Hear and (2) obey. Go to **Deuteronomy 4:6 (KJV)** [Keep therefore and do \*them\*; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.](#) The context is important. **Note Deuteronomy 4:4-3, 7-9.** God is calling His people to hear and do the commandments of the covenant because the results are important. There will be *wisdom* and *understanding* and the “nations” will take notice. What God is saying is that your obedience has an effect on those who see your lifestyle. One of the factors that comes with being a believer and follower of the Living God is that there is wisdom and understanding distributed to those who believe. There is a principle in the scripture that we dare not overlook. When God was giving instructions to Moses to build the Tabernacle in the wilderness God did something for the workers who had responsibility of oversight and construction of the Tabernacle. Look at **Exodus 31:2-4 (KJV)** <sup>2</sup> [See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:](#) <sup>3</sup> [And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in \*\*wisdom\*\*, and in \*\*understanding\*\*, and in \*\*knowledge\*\*, and in all manner of workmanship,](#) <sup>4</sup> [To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass. This is repeated in \*\*Exodus 35:31 \(KJV\)\*\* And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in \*\*wisdom\*\*, in \*\*understanding\*\*, and in \*\*knowledge\*\*, and in all](#)

manner of workmanship. Now here is the principle. A person who is filled with the Spirit of God will have two ingredients in their life that is important, “wisdom” and “understanding.” But notice that there is another ingredient that accompanies *wisdom* and *understanding* and that is *knowledge*. There are some important verses connected with this concept.

**Job asked two questions: Job 28:12 (KJV) But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?** Then he asked: **Job 28:20 (KJV) Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?** Both *wisdom* and *understanding* are defined in the book of **Job**. Look at **Job 28:28 (KJV) And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;** and to depart from evil **is understanding**. Look at **Job 38:36 (KJV) Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?** Look at **Psalms 111:10 (KJV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.**

If I understand the Bible, every believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling *in them*. Then there needs to be a demonstration of that presence. Did you ever wonder why you did not have *wisdom* and *understanding*? This comes with a relationship with the God of the Bible.

God wants to manifest Himself to the world and did you know how He has chosen to do that? By the life of a believer. Now let's wrap this all together. Look at **John 14:23-26 (KJV)**  
<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, **he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. <sup>24</sup> **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:** and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. <sup>25</sup> These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Is there anything that Jesus said that you are not obeying? Do you love Him?

Having *wisdom, understanding* and *knowledge* will keep you out of jail, motivate you to pay your bills, keep you away from something that will dominate and ruin your life like drugs and alcohol. They will keep you in line with the Bible and you will want to listen to what God has said and you will want to obey His voice.

## **2. The Reality of the Promise of a Wonderful Future, Jeremiah**

**11:5.** The promised land, “a land flowing with milk and honey,” was a type of the future promise to the NT believer of heaven. One of the things that is so wonderful about the word of God is that we do not have to wonder what God wants to do for us. If you read the passages in **Deuteronomy** where God told Israel what he was going to do for them when they get to the “land flowing with milk and honey, you find that God was going to spoil His people. Listen to what God was going to do for His people in **Deuteronomy 6:10-11 (KJV)** <sup>10</sup> *And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,* <sup>11</sup> *And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full.* Again in **Deuteronomy 8:7-9 (KJV)** <sup>7</sup> *For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;* <sup>8</sup> *A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;* <sup>9</sup> *A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.*

God was telling them there was not anything that would be lacking for them to enjoy what God had prepared for them. God wanted them to understand what He was going to do for them. All they had to do was obey the commandments and do what God had told them to do.

Did it ever occur to you that these things are material things that will not last forever? They were temporal. Things that would be for this life only. Yet there is a place you and I can count on that God has prepared for us who believe Him and have

trusted His Son Jesus Christ for eternal life. We have something far better than a land flowing with milk and honey. We have a promise of a place that has been prepared by God for us. Jesus told His disciples in **John 14:1-5 (KJV)** <sup>1</sup> Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. <sup>4</sup> And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Jesus loves us and has a place prepared for us, just as God had a place prepared for Israel. Have you considered the benefits associated with being a Christian? Look with me at some places in the New Testament.

- **Ephesians 2:4-7 (KJV)** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, <sup>5</sup> Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) <sup>6</sup> And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: <sup>7</sup> That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
- **1 Peter 1:3-12 (KJV)** <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: <sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: <sup>9</sup> Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls. <sup>10</sup> Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: <sup>11</sup> Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ

which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. <sup>12</sup> Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

### **3. The Responsibility of Proclaiming the Word of God, Jeremiah**

**11:6.** Why we do not live in light of the provisions of God.

Because God gave us a responsibility similar to the people of Israel.

#### **a. The Responsibility of the People of God in the Old Testament.**

- 1)** God told the people that they are to tell their people/family the things that God had done for them. **Exodus 10:2 (KJV)** And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; **that ye may know how that I am the LORD.**
- 2)** David faced the giant Goliath and said, **1 Samuel 17:46 (KJV)** This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.**
- 3)** Solomon dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem and made this declaration about the people of God and what God was doing among them. He said in **1 Kings 8:58-60 (KJV)** <sup>58</sup> That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers. <sup>59</sup> And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require: <sup>60</sup> That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, *and that there is none else.* God wanted the people of Israel to be related to Him in

a way that the whole world would know about the God who provided for them and dwelt among them.

**b. The Responsibility of the People of God in the New Testament.** In like manner God wants us to be related to Him in a way that we might be a witness, one who tells others of what God has done for us.

**1) Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)** <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

**2) Acts 1:8 (KJV)** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Is there any doubt that God has a purpose for us as a result of our relationship with Him?

**4) The Result of Failure to Walk with God, Jeremiah 11:6-14.**

**a. Plot to Overthrow the Rule of God, Jeremiah 11:9-10.**

**b. Product of Rebellion, Jeremiah 11:11-13.**

**c. Prohibition of Prayer, Jeremiah 11:14.**