

		<p>sermon notes</p> <p>January 3, 2016 Covenant Renewal Pastor John Speight</p> <p><small>LISTEN, GET NOTES + SHARE AT CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/MEDIA</small></p>
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The Prophet Jeremiah

- Born in approximately 643BC
- Began his ministry in 627BC when he was 16 years old.
- Lived in the Southern Kingdom called Judah.

Context: Why Jeremiah Wrote

- 722BC – Assyrian army conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Vast numbers of people were killed and the remaining residents marched into exile to Nineveh.
- Judah (Southern Kingdom) allowed to exist another 100 years although the Assyrians controlled the land.
- 627BC – Babylonians staged a revolt against the Assyrians which set off a chain reaction causing the Assyrian empire to fall and the rise of the Babylonian empire.
- The Babylonian army did not invade Judah. For first time in 100 years, Judah was free.
- Under Assyrian rule, Jews had been worshipping Assyrian gods along with Yahweh (God).
- Josiah, new king of Judah, sought to turn Judah back to God.
- Jeremiah knew God would not tolerate His people worshipping idols and if they failed to worship God alone, invasion was inevitable.
- 586BC – Babylonian army laid siege to Jerusalem for 18 months finally breaching the walls. They tore down the Temple, burned homes and businesses, killed the king, and marched the remaining citizens to exile in Babylon.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV)

*"The time is coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.*

*³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers
when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.*

*³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after that time," declares the LORD.*

*"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

*³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another,
'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD.*

*"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."*

Renewing Our Covenant With God

Prayer of Confession

God our Father, You have shown us the way to life in Jesus: We confess with shame our slowness to love Him more and our reluctance to follow Him. You have spoken and called us, but we have failed to listen. You have shown us Your glory, but we have been too blind to see. We have received countless blessings, but have given You little thanks. We are unworthy of Your changeless love.

God, have mercy on me according to Your overwhelming love and kindness. Forgive me, Lord, and cleanse me of my sin. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.

The Covenant Renewal

And now, let us commit ourselves in covenant to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

The Covenant Prayer

**I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.**

**And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.**