

Jeremiah 33:25-34:5 + 34:8-13

Jeremiah points out how Israel had NOT kept the covenant with God and therefore would receive chastisement.

But God promises to keep the words of the covenant and his own promises, foretelling the return from captivity of Israel, even as they're about to be overrun by the Babylonians.

Jeremiah 34:5 - "for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD"

This is another guarantee of God's faithfulness to Israel, and thus to his promise to Abraham

Jeremiah 34:8-13 - This passage shows how the same kind of sacrificial practice detailed at Abram's Horror of Great Darkness in Genesis 15 became a typical form of "cutting" a covenant. Animals were split in two, and the participants agreed that they would die like those animals should they break the covenant.

In this case everyone had agreed to release from bondage all slaves during the Jubilee Year. Jeremiah indicates the same kind of sacrifice happened when Israel agreed to this, part of the covenant of the law at Sinai.

Also, before entering the Promised Land, all males were circumcised, because they had not been keeping that part of the covenant of Abraham in the Wilderness. (Joshua 5:3).

Earlier, Moses had not circumcised his son, and for this God was about to kill him:

Exodus 4:24-26 - "And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. But Moses' wife, Zipporah, took a flint knife and circumcised her son. She cast the foreskin at his feet and said, 'Now you are a bridegroom of blood to me.' So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision."

At any rate, circumcision is related to the peculiar sacrifices of animals split in two that Abraham offered. Not keeping the covenant means ending up like the sacrifices.

Circumcision = sacrifice = death to self

Circumcision of the heart expressed in baptism is the mark that makes a believer a "living sacrifice." Alive, but dead to self, to sin, to the Law.

Colossians 2:11-14 - "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the

operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross”