

Jeremiah 32:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Analysis

God promises an 'everlasting covenant' that cannot be broken. Unlike the Mosaic covenant which Israel broke (31:32), this covenant is secured by divine initiative and power. Two key promises:

1. 'I will not turn away from them, to do them good' —God commits to perpetual beneficence toward His people
2. 'I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me'—God will work internally to secure their faithfulness.

The covenant's permanence rests on God's unchanging commitment and His transforming work in human hearts.

This is the doctrine of eternal security grounded in divine preservation. God keeps believers from falling away not by external constraint but by internal transformation. He puts His fear in our hearts—creating genuine reverence, love, and loyalty—so that we do not want to depart from Him. We persevere not because of our strength but because of His preserving grace. Philippians 1:6 says, 'He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.'

The everlasting nature of this covenant means no subsequent apostasy can nullify it. The Mosaic covenant could be broken; the new covenant cannot. Not because it has no conditions (faith and repentance are required), but because God Himself

secures those conditions in His people. He ensures we meet the conditions by changing our hearts. This is the gospel: God saves us and keeps us saved.

Historical Context

The old covenant was conditional—'if you obey...then I will bless.' Israel repeatedly failed, breaking the covenant. The new covenant is also conditional (believers must believe), but God secures the condition through regeneration. Jesus is the covenant mediator who perfectly kept its terms on our behalf (Hebrews 8:6; 9:15). His blood ratifies the everlasting covenant, guaranteeing its permanence (Hebrews 13:20).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise 'I will not turn away from them' provide assurance of salvation for believers?
2. What does it mean that God 'will put my fear in their hearts'—how does this internal work secure our faithfulness?
3. How does the everlasting nature of the new covenant differ from the breakable old covenant, and why does this matter for our assurance?

Interlinear Text

וְכָרַתִּי י	לָהֶם	בְּרִית	עוֹלָם	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא
And I will make	H0	covenant	an everlasting	H834	H3808
H3772		H1285	H5769		
אֲשׁוּב	מֵאֲחֵרֵיהֶם	לְהַיְטִיב י	אֹתָם	וְאֶת	
with them that I will not turn away	from them	to do them good	H853	H853	
H7725	H310	H3190			
יִרְאָתִי	אֶת	בְּלִבָּם	לְבַלְתָּ י	ס וְ	
my fear	but I will put	in their hearts	H1115	that they shall not depart	
H3374	H5414	H3824		H5493	
מֵעָלַי:					
H5921					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 36:26 (Parallel theme): A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

1 Peter 1:5 (Parallel theme): Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Isaiah 55:3 (Covenant): Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Jeremiah 24:7 (Parallel theme): And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

James 1:17 (Good): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Ezekiel 39:29 (Parallel theme): Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 50:5 (Covenant): They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.

Hebrews 13:20 (Covenant): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

2 Samuel 23:4 (Parallel theme): And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

Hebrews 7:24 (Parallel theme): But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.