

Romans 11:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Analysis

For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins—kai hautē autois hē par emou diathēkē, hotan aphelōmai tas hamartias autōn (καὶ αὕτη αὐτοῖς ἡ παρ' ἐμοῦ διαθήκη, ὅταν ἀφέλωμαι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν). This continues the Isaiah quotation, echoing Jeremiah 31:31-34 (the New Covenant). God's covenant (diathēkē, διαθήκη) with Israel includes the promise to remove sins (aphelōmai, ἀφέλωμαι, "take away").

This is not hypothetical but certain: **when** (hotan, ὅταν), not "if." God will take away Israel's sins because He covenanted to do so. The new covenant promised heart transformation (Ezekiel 36:25-27), a circumcised heart (Deuteronomy 30:6), and the Spirit's indwelling. Israel's salvation rests on God's oath, not their merit. Paul's argument reaches its theological climax: Israel's future is secured by divine promise, not human achievement. God will finish what He started with Abraham.

Historical Context

Jeremiah 31:31-34 was written during Judah's exile, promising a future covenant where God would write His law internally and forgive sins fully. Jesus inaugurated this covenant (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:8-12), but its fullness for national Israel awaits the eschaton.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's covenant promise to 'take away sins' guarantee Israel's future salvation?
2. What is the relationship between the New Covenant inaugurated by Christ and its future application to national Israel?
3. How does this covenant promise demonstrate God's faithfulness despite Israel's historic unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	αὕτη	αὐτῶν	ἡ	παρ'	ἐμοῦ	διαθήκη	ὅταν
For	this	their	G3588	is my	G1700	covenant	when
G2532	G3778	G846		G3844		G1242	G3752
ἀφέλωμαι	τὰς	ἁμαρτίας	αὐτῶν				
I shall take away	G3588	sins	their				
G851		G266	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 27:9 (Sin): By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.

Isaiah 59:21 (Covenant): As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Isaiah 43:25 (Sin): I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Hebrews 10:16 (Covenant): This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Jeremiah 50:20 (Sin): In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

John 1:29 (Sin): The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

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