

The Original Futurist

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah (Jeremiah 31:31, *Revised Standard Version*).

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-37

Song: "There Is a Green Hill Far Away"

Writers of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries such as Orwell, Verne, and Wells based their novels on predictions of life in the future. But consider how their fantasies have been eclipsed by the realities of the computer, space travel, and heart transplants.

However, the revolutionary prophesies of one writer, about 26 centuries earlier, have held up perfectly. Through Jeremiah, God forgives Israel for the broken Sinai Covenant, looks ahead to a homecoming for the remnant, and foresees a new covenant based on forgiveness and love. Thankfully, the New Testament, foreseen in the book of Jeremiah, became a reality under God's forgiving hand and His Son's sacrifice.

When I visited the Sistine Chapel, I saw Jeremiah staring down at me from the ceiling, along with other major biblical figures (and God himself). The great prophet looks exhausted and sad. Perhaps Michelangelo was depicting Jeremiah as the author of Lamentations rather than the exciting prophet of the new covenant in Jeremiah chapter 31.

Who am I to criticize the greatest painter/sculptor the world has known? But I do wish he'd painted his Jeremiah a little more upbeat. He proclaimed a bright future for God's people.

Lord, whose example of forgiveness to Your people stands as a model for us, help me through "forgive and forget" situations with an admired friend. In Christ, amen.