

The Noahic Covenant

Bible Study #4 in the Covenants Series

The Noahic Covenant is a Universal Covenant with the earth, animals, and man. It also has within it, the Covenant of grace.

In a Covenant of Grace:

1. God makes the terms of the covenant
2. A promise(s) is/are made by God in the covenant He initiates
3. There is willing obedience from those in the covenant (God is the author of faith)
4. There is a seal to the covenant

The flood was the most cataclysmic event in human history. It was also the most destructive of human life in history – killing all but 8 people.

Noah is the connecting link between the world that was overflowed with water and the earth that now is, reserved unto fire against the day of the great judgment.

- Noah lived in both worlds.
- He saw the evil that caused God to destroy the former world.
- He then saw the evil that was in his own heart and the hearts of the 8 who were saved from the water. **Gen. 6:5-8**

Genesis 6:5-8 -- Phillip Everson in his commentary gives us a 3 point outline

1. The Sight – v. 5.
2. The Sorrow – vv. 6-7
3. The Special Favor v. 8

Here we see God's unmerited favor being bestowed on Noah in the midst of a judgment declaration – **6:8 – Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. v. 8.**

Heb. 11:7 -- ⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Here we see three things

1. The saving of his household.
2. By building the ark, he condemned the world.
3. Noah became the heir of righteousness – by faith

The Covenant of Grace is founded on the Covenant of Redemption. The New Covenant is the final expression of the Covenant of Redemption.

Noah was like the new Adam – in that all of us in the world are related to him – but in no way has Noah become our Federal Head.

Everyone is either in Adam or in Christ – the two Federal Heads.

Genesis 6:17-22 – Noah did all that God commanded him.

Notice in verse 6:18 – for the first time we read the word “covenant” in the Bible.
God’s covenant with Noah is specifically referenced by name 7 times in chapter 9.

Chapter 8 shows the subsiding of the waters.

Now, there is a new earth – in many ways different from the previous world.

The last 3 verses of chapter 8 go with chapter 9. 8:20-22; 9:1-11

Noah builds an altar.

This is the first time that the word “altar” appears in the Bible.

(That does not necessarily mean there were no previous altars).

The Features of the Noahic Covenant (in place until the end)

A universal covenant and also foreshadows the Covenant of Grace

The features that relate to the earth itself 8:20-22

1. We see the heart of man and the heart of God – and from God’s “heart” He promises to never curse the ground again.
2. God will never again strike down every living creature again.
3. 8:22 – the earth will go on with the change of seasons – summer and winter -- planting seeds and harvesting – cold and heat – day and night. So the first 3 features we see point to God “re-creating” the earth, and promising that these things will continue.

The Features that relate to Noah and his Family

1. Be fruitful and multiply – as was said in the garden – and the provision of food, not just fruits and vegetables – but also meat (but not blood). **9:1-3**
2. We see the dominion principle again – remember the dominion principle was before the fall. Here it is established once again.

The Stipulation of the covenant

The sanctity of life **9:4-6**

The reason is given – man is made in the image of God.

This relates today to violence of all kinds and abortion.

The Promise of the Covenant

There will never again be an extinction event caused by a flood. **9:7-11**

The sign of the Covenant

The rainbow. **9:12-17**

In our day we see the cultural appropriation of the rainbow