

“God’s Covenant With Noah”

Genesis 9:8-17

CONTEXT IN GENESIS

1. The flood narrative is recorded in Genesis chapters 6-9.

- The world descended into moral depravity because of Adam’s sin. 3:1-7
- There would be perpetual warfare between good and evil. 3:15.
- A world of sin. 6:5-6

2. God pronounced Judgment on the whole world. 6:7

- He would bring a world-wide catastrophic flood. 6:17

3. God announced that He would save Noah and his family. 6:18

- God made a covenant and kept his promise. 8:1: God remembered Noah
- Only those in the ark escaped the devastating judgment of God.

4. After the flood... Noah built an altar and offered a burnt offering. 8:20

- Man’s nature is the same before and after the flood. 8:21

A COVENANT OF PRESERVATION. Genesis 9:8-17

1. Once again, the idea of covenant is included in the text. v.8-9, 17

- A covenant is a special relationship; is a bond in blood, sovereignly administered.

2. This covenant is with every living creature (mankind and animals). v.10

- In 6:18 God’s covenant was exclusively with Noah.
- Now it is extended to his descendants (offspring) and to all creation. v.9-10

3. The promise is to never again destroy the earth through a worldwide flood. v.11

- God promises to withhold judgment. → See 8:22... “a covenant of preservation”

4. God gives a sign for this covenant – the “my bow in the clouds”. I.e., a ‘rainbow’ v.12-13

- Heb. word for “sign” here means a visible object that reflects a spiritual reality. Ref. Rom. 4:9-11

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RAINBOW. v.14-17

1. Signified in its creation.

2. Signified in its shape.

- The “bow” was a weapon of war (a bow and arrow).

3. Signified in its position.

- God literally hangs up his weapon (the bow).

4. Signified in its meaning.

- “I will remember” v.15. “I will see it and remember” v.16 Ref. 8:1: God remembered Noah
- God promises to withhold total and complete judgment on the world... until the Final Judgment.
- God is NOT saying He will never bring judgment, but that He won’t bring total judgment until the end. ... giving opportunity to trust Him and escape from judgment.

A NEW WORLD ORDER AFTER THE FLOOD

1. There are still to lines of humanity: the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman.

- Two “Kingdoms”... the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman.

2. Man is commanded to preserve life by protecting it.

- Man is commanded to protect life even by taking it in the case of murder. 9:5-6

3. No one (particularly God’s chosen ones) will be cut off as a result of a prior generation’s sin.

4. The world awaits... not only judgment—but redemption!

- A new heavens and a new earth...
- Rev. 4:3: A rainbow around the throne of God in heaven