

**Rob Smith – Guest Speaker**  
**House of Christ's Love Church**  
**October 5, 2014**

## **The Noahic Covenant**

Alright, we are in week #3 of our Series titled, Covenant, and over the last two messages we have looked at the Covenants God made with Adam BEFORE THE FALL, called the Edenic Covenant, and then two weeks ago we took a look at the covenant God made with Adam AFTER THE FALL, called the Adamic Covenant.

**Today we're going to take a look at the Covenant God made with Noah**

**Let me give to you a little history and background that will lead up to this covenant that we're taking a look at today.**

Noah lived at a time when the whole earth was filled with violence and corruption but he didn't allow the evil standards of his day to rob him of his fellowship with God. Gen. 6:9 tells us that 'He stood out as the only one who "walked with God" and that he was "a just man, perfect in his generations" And so because of this, The Lord singled out Noah from among all his contemporaries and chose him as the man to accomplish a great work.

When God saw the wickedness that prevailed in the world (Gen. 6:5), He told Noah of His intention to destroy the ancient world by flooding the earth and He instructed Noah to build an ark in which he and his family would survive this great flood. And Noah believed God and "according to all that God commanded him, so he did" (Gen. 6:22).

And because he did this, Noah is listed among the heroes of faith. "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" (Heb. 11:7).

With full trust and confidence in God, Noah started building the ark. During this time, Noah continued to preach God's judgment and mercy, warning the ungodly of their approaching doom. Peter reminds us of how God "did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly" (2 Pet. 2:5).

Noah preached for 120 years, apparently without any converts. People continued in their evil ways and ignored his pleadings and warnings until the flood overtook them. When the

ark was ready, Noah entered in with all kinds of animals "and the Lord shut him in" (Gen. 7:16), cut off completely from the rest of mankind.

Noah was grateful to the Lord who had delivered him from the flood. After the flood, he built an altar to God (Gen. 8:20) and made a sacrifice, which was accepted graciously, for in it "the Lord smelled a soothing aroma" (Gen. 8:21).

Noah is the connecting link between "the world that then was," which "being overflowed with water, perished," and the earth which now is "reserved unto fire against the day of judgment of ungodly men" (2 Pet. 3:6, 7). He lived in both worlds, was preserved from the awful judgment which swallowed up the former, and he was given dominion over the latter in its unspoiled state. A period of sixteen centuries intervened between the covenant of works which God entered into with Adam and the covenant of grace which He made with Noah. And as far as we know from Scripture, no other covenant was instituted by the Lord during that period of time.

**Turn with me if you would to Genesis 9:1-17, and let's read about this covenant.**

### **Read Genesis 9:1-17 (NKJV)**

*"So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. <sup>3</sup> Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. <sup>4</sup> But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. <sup>5</sup> Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.*

*<sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds man's blood,  
By man his blood shall be shed;  
For in the image of God  
He made man.*

*<sup>7</sup> And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;  
Bring forth abundantly in the earth  
And multiply in it."*

*<sup>8</sup> Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: <sup>9</sup> "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants<sup>[b]</sup> after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."*

<sup>12</sup> And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: <sup>13</sup> I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; <sup>15</sup> and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup> And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

## Let’s take a look now at the breakdown of this passage to see God’s Provisions in this covenant

The Covenant begins with God giving Noah some....

### 1. (1-4) Instructions for living in a new world.

a. **Be fruitful and multiply:** The world Noah entered from the ark was significantly different from the world he knew before. God gave Noah the same kind of mandate He gave Adam in the beginning of creation (Genesis 1:28), since Noah essentially began all over again.

b. **Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you:** And, even as Adam received instructions for eating (Genesis 1:29-30, 2:15-17), so does Noah. Yet now, Noah receives specific permission to eat animals, permission Adam was not given.

i. We don’t really know why God changed this from the covenants before but Perhaps it was because the earth was less productive agriculturally after the flood, because of the ecological changes.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> instruction was that

c. **The fear of man and the dread of man shall be on every beast of the earth:** If man now ate animals, then God would help the animals. For their protection God put in them a fear of mankind.

i. Again, presumably before the flood, man had a completely different relationship with the animals. God did not put this fear in animals because man did not look to them as food.

d. **But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood:** God also commands Noah that if animals are eaten, there must be a proper respect for the **blood**, which represents the life principle in the animal (Leviticus 17:11, 17:14 and Deuteronomy 12:23).

i. The importance of the idea of **blood** in the Bible is shown by how often the word is used. It is used 424 times in 357 separate verses (in the New King James Version).

- ☐ Blood was the sign of mercy for Israel at the first Passover (Exodus 12:13)
- ☐ Blood sealed God's covenant with Israel (Exodus 24:8)
- ☐ Blood sanctified the altar (Exodus 29:12)
- ☐ Blood set aside the priests (Exodus 29:20)
- ☐ Blood made atonement for God's people (Exodus 30:10)
- ☐ Blood sealed the new covenant (Matthew 26:28)
- ☐ Blood justifies us (Romans 5:9)
- ☐ Blood brings redemption (Ephesians 1:7)
- ☐ Blood brings peace with God (Colossians 1:20)
- ☐ Blood cleanses us (Hebrews 9:14 and 1 John 1:7)
- ☐ Blood gives entrance to God's holy place (Hebrews 10:19)
- ☐ Blood sanctifies us (Hebrews 13:12)
- ☐ Blood enables us to overcome Satan (Revelation 12:11)

The Covenant continues by

## 2. (5-7) God giving to man the right and responsibility of capital punishment.

a. **Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning:** According to God's command, when a man's blood is shed there must be an accounting for it, because **in the image of God He made man**. Because man is made in the image of God, his life is inherently precious and cannot be taken without giving account to God.

i. **By man his blood shall be shed** means because life is valuable, when murder is committed the death penalty is in order.

ii. In its original languages the Bible makes a distinction between *killing* and *murder*. Not all killing is murder, because there are cases where there is just cause for killing (self-defense, capital punishment with due process of law, or killing in a just war). There are other instances where killing is accidental.

iii. The Bible also consistently teaches that the punishment of the guilty is the role of human government (Romans 13:1-4) in order to restrain man's wickedness. It also teaches that the guilt of unpunished murder defiles a land (Numbers 35:31-34). As Luther said, "God establishes government and gives it the sword to hold immorality in check, lest violence and other sins proceed without limit." (Boice)

b. **From the hand of every beast I will require it:** To see the strength of God's command, He even requires a reckoning for the life of man from **every beast**. God does not condone unlawful killing of any kind.

c. **Be fruitful and multiply:** This point was repeated because it needed emphasis. The earth badly needed repopulating.

The third part of this covenant is where God specifically speaks of the covenant

### **3. (8-11) God makes a covenant with man and with all of creation.**

a. **I establish My covenant:** This covenant was made with mankind (**you and your descendants after you**), and even with the animals (**every living creature that is with you**). God promised He would never again destroy all with a flood or cover the earth with a flood.

b. **Never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth:** God did not believe He did something wrong or was too harsh in the flood. He made the promise because He did things in the post-flood world to guarantee that the exact evil conditions of the pre-flood world would never be precisely duplicated. These things included the imprisonment of the angels who sinned with human women (Jude 6) and shortening the life span of man.

i. However, when things again become *similar* to the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37), God will destroy the earth - but by fire, not by flood (2 Peter 3:1-7).

Now in the last part, God gives to us a sign of His Covenant...

### **4. (12-17) The sign of God's covenant.**

a. **I set My rainbow in the cloud:** Because the blanket of water vapors was broken up in the flood and the water cycle of the earth changed after the flood, this may be the first occurrence of a rainbow. God used the rainbow as a sign to Noah and all generations that He would be faithful to His covenant.

**b. It shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth:** Every time we see a rainbow, we should remember the faithfulness of God and every one of His promises. He even says His covenant of peace with us is just as sure as His covenant with Noah and all generations.

*i. For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has mercy on you. (Isaiah 54:9-10)*

**c. I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant:** The other mentions of a **rainbow** in the Bible are set in the context of God's enthroned glory (Ezekiel 1:28; Revelation 4:3 and 10:1). It is amazing to see God, in His glory, setting so close to Himself a reminder of His promise to man.

*i. In Revelation 4:3, God's throne is surrounded by a green-hued rainbow. The rainbow is a reminder (in the midst of such supreme sovereignty) of God's commitment to His covenant with man.*

## **Conclusion**

The Noahic Covenant is an unconditional covenant because it does not depend upon anything Noah or his descendants had to do to fulfill the covenant. The promise is based upon God's faithfulness alone. Because of God's faithfulness to always do what He says He will do, we can know today with certainty that there will never be another worldwide flood as there was in the days of Noah, no matter how wicked mankind becomes. Neither the wickedness nor the righteousness of mankind affects this unconditional covenant. There is no "condition" under which God will go back on His promise.

This covenant shows to us just how much God loves us!! It shows to us that there is a reason for our hope and it shows to us that we too can have a new Beginning!!

## **Pray**