

"The Noahic Covenant"

Genesis 9:8-17

Introduction: Today as we come back to our study in the 1st eleven chapters of the book of Genesis we have come to a portion of the Scriptures which are often quickly read over but are rarely consider and so the Truth within this portion is often missed.

There is a wonderful application within these verses for our present lives today. So this morning we shall look at what is recorded here and then we will make the application.

In the text that is before us we must remember that this is a new beginning for Noah and his family. The old world has been destroyed by the global flood, Noah had been on the ark for over a year, and now he has stepped into a new life. God had pronounced 4 blessings upon Noah and his family in Genesis 9:1-7.

1. Family
2. Dominion
3. Food
4. Protection

After this God gave to Noah the promise of the covenant and the details are found in Genesis 9:8-17.

I. The Terms

Notice Genesis 9:8-9a

The first thing which we need to see about this covenant is that it is God's covenant and He established it with Noah.

This is very important to understand. The promises of this covenant are dependent upon the faithfulness of God and not Noah. When we think of a covenant or an agreement we think of 2 parties and each of the 2 parties have a responsibility to uphold their portion of the covenant. But that is not the case with this covenant. It did not depend upon what Noah did but it depended completely upon God and His faithfulness.

This is also seen in the covenant which God made with Abraham known as the Abrahamic covenant.

Genesis 15:7-12

⁷ And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

⁸ And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

⁹ And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

¹⁰ And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

¹¹ And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

Genesis 15:17-18

¹⁷ And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

¹⁸ In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Abraham did not get to walk between the animals which were divided because the covenant did not depend on Abraham's faithfulness but on God's.

The same was true for the covenant with Noah also. It was GOD'S covenant and He established it with Noah. THIS WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE APPLICATION.

II. The Recipients

Notice Genesis 9:9-10

Here we see that this covenant was not just for Noah but also for his seed that would come from him. It was also for all of God's creation.

But what I want you to see is that this covenant was not just for Noah and his family but also for us as well. This covenant is for the entire human race.

III. The Promise

Notice Genesis 9:11

Here was the promise of the covenant and it was that God would never again bring a global flood that would destroy all life on the face of the earth.

IV. The Token

Notice Genesis 9:12-16

The token would be the rainbow. God said that He would place His bow in the sky and it would be a sign to Noah and all that would come after him that God would never again destroy life with a global flood.

By the way, this is evidence the flood was global. It could not have been a local flood because they have happened over and over again and that would mean that God had lied in this covenant.

Let us now consider the meaning for Noah.

He has just stepped off of the ark after a he was in it for over a year. He was able to see the devastation from the flood all around him. When he boarded the ark there were people all around him. The world was full of people and now they were gone. The noises that once existed from the people around him were not silenced. The flood had swept them off into eternity.

The flood had now changed many things and one of the changes was the weather. Before the flood there was no rain for they were in a tropical climate with the canopy of water suspended over the earth. Before the flood the climate was the same over all the earth. But now it would be much different. There would be storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and strong winds.

Let us place ourselves in Noah's shoes for a moment. After what we had just been through and after all that was witnessed with the flood, consider what your greatest fear would be when the skies began to grow dark, when the thunder began to roll in the distance, when the lightening began to flash, and the rain began to fall. Your greatest fear would be another global flood. You would fear that you and you family would be swept away just as the people of Noah's day were.

Therefore, when the rains would come and the thunder would roll and the lightening would strike God would set the rainbow in the clouds to make sure that Noah knew God was faithful to His promise. The storms would not be like the great flood. The storms would

come but in the storms God would not drown the entire world. That rainbow would be in the sky to give comfort to Noah in the midst of the storms.

V. The Application

In order to understand the application here we need to see the spiritual picture in all of this. There is much more here than just a promise that we will not see a global flood. **Now the application is twofold.**

Let us back up to before the flood. Noah is a picture of a true born again believer. He was willing to forsake the world of his day and to believe the Word of God that there was a coming judgment upon the entire human race. He turned his back on the world as he entered the ark placing all of his faith in what God had told him. In the ark he was protected from the judgment of God which came upon the entire world. As he waited for the waters to recede he released 2 birds, the raven and the dove. The raven was a picture of the sin nature of the believer and as the raven was content to feed upon the dead carcasses we see a picture of how the sin nature within us desires to live on the corruption which existed in our old life before salvation. The dove pictured the new nature or the divine nature. The dove would not rest on the dead carcasses. He would only be content with new life. That is a picture of the Holy Spirit within the believer. He desires the things of God in our new life in Christ.

When the ark came to rest Noah stepped into a different world. It was the same earth but life would now be much different. This is also true of the believer. The moment we are saved we enter into a new life. Our surroundings are the same and our sin nature still exists but everything is seen in a different light. We have entered into a new life.

So as Noah steps from the ark we find the picture of the believer entering into his or her new life in Christ.

A. Application #1

When I read this passage and I consider the spiritual picture which is seen in Noah and his new life, I see that there would be storms which Noah would encounter but the rainbow was a sign of comfort for it was a reminder that the storms would not destroy Noah and his family and it was a reminder that God was always aware of what Noah was facing.

Application:

The same is true for our new life in Jesus Christ. There will be storms which we will encounter as we continue to pass through this old world but we can rest assured that the storms are not for our destruction but they are for our benefit. We are never alone in the midst of the storms.

No matter how dark the skies become and no matter how long the storms of life last we can trust in our Lord. He is with us and the storm will be used by Him for our good and His glory.

Isaiah 43:2-3a

² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

³ *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:*

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Nothing can separate us from the love of God. As we face the storms we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

These verses explain how we are more than conquerors because ALL THINGS work together for our good to shape us into the image of Jesus Christ.

B. Application #2

Let's get our minds back to Noah again. His greatest fear would be another global flood that would destroy him and his family. By the way the FLOOD was the judgment of God and Noah was sheltered from that judgment because he was in the ark.

Application:

The ark is a picture of Jesus Christ and Noah's protection in the ark is a picture of our protection in Jesus Christ.

But just as Noah had a fear that maybe he could do something that would bring the judgment of God upon him or his family could do something so it is with many new believers in Christ. There is the fear of somehow doing something which could cause us to lose our salvation and then eventually face the judgment of God.

But in the promise made to Noah we see the comfort of our security in this new life we have in Christ. The promise to Noah never to bring another global flood is a picture of how we are secure in Jesus Christ. That flood represented the judgment and Noah represents the born again believer. The promise of God never to bring a global flood again represents our security in Jesus Christ.

Let me go farther with this to help you to see this beautiful picture.

Remember the "covenant" with Noah was based completely upon the faithfulness of God. It did not rest on Noah's actions. It did not rest on Noah's faithfulness. It rested completely upon God's faithfulness.

This is a picture of how our salvation rests completely in the faithfulness of God.

Let me give you some verses that will support this very thought:

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

I used to struggle with that verse because it looks like the believer who walks after the flesh can be condemned. But that is not what is said. This verse speaks of our position in Christ. If we are saved we are walking after the Spirit.

Romans 8:8-9

⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Conclusion:

Noah did not need to live in fear and neither do we. We are forever secure in Jesus Christ. If you need a reminder just look in the storms clouds for a rainbow. It is a token of God's faithfulness.

Let me leave you with a thought from Revelation.

Revelation 4:1-3

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

² And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

³ And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.