

**Genesis 9:11-13** I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” [12] And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: [13] I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

**INTRO:** God commanded Adam, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...” (Genesis 1:28). His design was for the earth to “be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14). Instead, God declared in the days of Noah that the earth had been filled with violence (Genesis 6:13). Therefore, God destroyed the world with the flood. And He preserved His promise to Adam and Eve, that He would raise up her offspring who would put Satan beneath His feet, by rescuing Noah in the ark and by graciously establishing a covenant with Noah and all his posterity. This is the Noahic Covenant revealed in Genesis 9.

**DOCTRINE:** The Noahic Covenant was established by God with Noah. It obligates fruitful multiplication, threatens death, promises preservation, and is sealed by a sign.

We will divide this doctrine into 5 points for instruction.

1. The parties
2. The obligations
3. The threatening
4. The promise
5. The sign

Then, sixthly, we will look at 5 ways the Scriptures teach us to use this doctrine.

## I. THE PARTIES IN THE NOAHIC COVENANT ARE GOD, NOAH, AND ALL NOAH’S POSTERITY

**Genesis 9:9-10** “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.

The Noahic Covenant applies...

**I) PARTICULARLY TO NOAH AND HIS OFFSPRING**

**II) GENERALLY TO ALL OF CREATION**

**Notice:**

1. Like the covenant of works cut with Adam, this covenant is between God and all of humanity (believers as well as unbelievers)

## II. THE OBLIGATION OF THE NOAHIC COVENANT IS FRUITFUL MULTIPLICATION

**Genesis 9:1** And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

The Noahic Covenant obligates you to...

**I) FILL THE EARTH**

**Genesis 9:1** “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

**II) RULE THE EARTH**

**Genesis 9:2** The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.

**III) SUSTAIN YOURSELF FROM THE EARTH**

**Genesis 9:3** Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.

**IV) RULE WITH TREMBLING (UNLIKE THE WILD BEASTS)**

**Genesis 9:4** But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.

**Leviticus 17:11-12** For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, No person among you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood.

**Notice:**

1. Like the covenant of works cut with Adam, there is an obligation to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.
2. Unlike the covenant of grace, this obligation is physical and temporal, not spiritual and eternal.

### III. THE THREATENING OF THE NOAHIC COVENANT IS DEATH

**Genesis 9:6** “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

**NOTICE:** This applies to man and beast.

**Notice:**

1. Like the covenant of works cut with Adam, the threatening is death.
2. Unlike the covenant of works, the threatened death is exclusively temporal not eternal.

### IV. THE PROMISE OF THE NOAHIC COVENANT IS PRESERVATION

**Genesis 9:11** I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

**NOTICE:** No condition. The promise is gracious and unmerited.

God’s preservation is twofold...

**I) NEGATIVELY: GOD WILL NOT DESTROY THE EARTH WITH WATER**

**Genesis 9:11** never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.

**II) POSITIVELY: GOD WILL SUSTAIN THE EARTH**

**Genesis 8:22** While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

**Notice:**

1. Like the covenant of grace, the promise is gracious and unmerited.
2. Unlike the covenant of grace, the promise is temporal and not eternal.
3. This is not *the* covenant of grace, it is a covenant of common grace, between God and all humanity, pertaining only to this life.

### V. THE SIGN OF THE NOAHIC COVENANT IS GOD’S BOW IN THE CLOUDS

**Genesis 9:12-17** And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.

**SINCLAIR FERGUSON** “The word used in the book of Genesis is not rainbow, it is war bow: the bow of war, the bow of battle. It is a picture of God, after hostility has ended and He has established a new creation, flinging His bow of judgment into the skies as a reassurance to Noah. “Now that there is reconciliation, you may enjoy the peace that you have with Me. You can be sure that there will never again be this kind of judgment on the earth—until, of course, the cosmic final judgment of all at the end of time.” . . . If you think about the rainbow as God’s military bow transformed into an ornament of great beauty that hostility has ceased, and that there is no arrow in the bow, the only place the arrow could have gone was into His own heart.”

**CHILDREN** Have you ever seen a rainbow?

**DOCTRINE:** The Noahic Covenant was established by God with Noah. It obligates fruitful multiplication, threatens death, promises preservation, and is sealed by a sign.

### VI. WHAT DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND TO PROPERLY USE THIS DOCTRINE?

**I) GOD PRESERVES THIS WORLD FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SON**

**Genesis 8:21** And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

**Ephesians 5:2** ...Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**USE:** Praise Him!

## **II) GOD WILL NEVER DIVORCE HIS PEOPLE AND REVOKE THEIR INHERITANCE AGAIN**

**Isaiah 54:9** "This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you.

**USE:** Comfort yourself with this glorious truth.

1. God will never divorce His people again
2. God will never revoke His peoples inheritance again
3. God will never remove His worship from His people again

**CHILDREN** Can you imagine what your life would be like if God forbid you to worship Him?

## **III) GOD HAS PROVIDED AN ARK FOR ALL HIS NOAHS**

**1 Peter 3:20-21** because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**USE:** Go to Him! Seek your refuge in the Son, and exhort all those under your charge to do likewise.

## **IV) GOD KNOWS HOW TO RESCUE THE GODLY FROM TRIALS**

**2 Peter 2:5,9-10** if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;... then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

**USE:** Use this truth for motivation to cast all of your anxieties before him.

**USE:** Use this truth for warning, lest you presume upon His kindness.

## **V) GOD WILL REMEMBER HIS ETERNAL COVENANTS FOREVER**

**Revelation 4:3** and around the throne was a rainbow

**REDEMPTION** The Son was faithful unto death, and He shall see His offspring resurrected and brought to Him!

**ADAM** Adam was unfaithful unto death, and all who will not kiss the Son will perish in him.

**NEW COVENANT** Christ was faithful to fulfill all righteousness, and all who trust in Him shall live eternally in Him!

**USE:** Use this truth to embolden you to march forward with confidence. God will remember His eternal covenants forever!