

Government, Grace & Guilt

I. Slide1 Intro:

- A. Slide2,3 Article from last week I saw: *Owners of Noah's Ark replica sue insurance company over water damages.*
- B. We have some pretty important things laid out in this chapter.
 1. What makes human life precious? Is God for or against the death penalty? What is the Noahic Covenant? What does God think about Drunkenness? Can we kill animals for their meat? What is a covenant?

II. Slide4 GOVERNMENT (1-7)

- A. God blessed Noah - as a representative of humanity.
- B. (2) Emphasizes *humanity's authoritative role* as stewards of the animal kingdom & to govern himself.
 1. God established **government** because man is basically a sinner and must be kept under control.
 2. So here we have the establishment of new rules & a new covenant.
(remember, this predates the Law)
- C. Slide5 Animals - now **fear** man. Provide **food** for mankind. **But** their **blood** is not to be consumed.
- D. (3) **Meatatarian/Carnivore** - man moves from a plant-based diet only (1:29), **now meat** is added to man's menu. **Yeah!**
 1. Just drain the blood properly.
 2. **Kill animals for food, no problem. Murder humans, big problem.**
- E. (6) Establishes the principle of **capital punishment** as the consequence for the intentional murder of an innocent human life. This crime results in the forfeiture of one's own life.
 1. This principle is based on people being **divine imagers**.
 - a) **As humans** we are more than *biological life*. Our dogs are not made in the image of God....**WE ARE. We are the crown jewel of His creation.**

2. We are representations of God on earth.
 3. Taking an innocent human life was viewed as **murdering God** in basically.
 4. The sanctity of human life was reaffirmed in the ordaining of human government in Romans 13.
- F. (7) **increase** - swarm the earth. **Swarm the earth...NOT** stay in 1 place ch.11.

III. Slide6 **GRACE** (8-17)

- A. (9) **Bow** - קֶשֶׁת (qešet). The Hebrew word used here is most frequently used of **an archer's bow**. The mention of a **cloud** indicates it is a **rainbow**.
1. **But** the **military connotation** may still be present. The rainbow may symbolically signify **God's war bow** - God's wrath via water has ended and He has **hung up His bow**.
- B. **Rainbow** - *a bridge of beauty the joins heaven and earth.*
1. Promise to not destroy again? **Nope**, just not with **water**. **Next time? Fire**.
 2. The rainbow is a product of sunshine and storm, and its colors remind us of the **many-colored grace of God** (1Pet.4:10).
 - a) The **rainbow** appears to be a **bridge** between heaven and earth, reminding us that **in Christ**, God bridged the chasm that separated man from God.
- C. **Covenant** - *what are other visible tokens and pledges which seal covenants?* (rings/wedding; bread & cup/communion)
- D. **Noah** saw the rainbow **after** the storm. **Ezekiel** saw a rainbow **in the midst** of the storm. **John** saw a rainbow **before** the storm.

IV. Slide7 **Covenants...**

- A. **God's** eternal plan for **man** is found in the **Scriptures** in the **covenants/promises** He's made.
1. **His promises are Yes & Amen**. And, **He cannot lie**.
- B. **Theologians** have come up with **2 ways** of looking at this: **Theological Covenants** aka **Covenant Theologians**. **Or**, **Biblical Covenants** aka us **Dispensationalists**.
1. The 1st places **the plan of salvation** as the primary purpose of God.

2. The 2nd sees obviously **the plan of salvation** as an important aspect of His eternal purpose, **but not His total plan**.
- a) This view teaches that God's plan for history is to **reveal His Glory**, & He does this **not only by saving men** but also by fulfilling His purpose & revealing Himself through His dealings w/Israel, w/the church & w/the nations.¹

C. **Slide8 Theological Covenants** - AKA, **Covenant Theologians** see **3** basic theological covenants:

1. **Covenant of Works** – When Adam & Eve were created they stood in a moral relationship w/God, their creator.
2. **Covenant of Redemption** – **Between God the Son** (I promise to provide the redemption) & **God the Father** (I promise to accept the sacrifice).
3. **Covenant of Grace** – Christ is the mediator of the covenant & the representative of those who trust in Him.
 - a) This view **blends** Gods plan for **Israel** & Gods plan for the **church**.

D. **Slide9a Biblical Covenants** - AKA, **Dispensationalists/Ages**

E. *The method according to which God carries out his purposes towards men is called a **dispensation**.* [note: these were made w/people as a **whole**, **not** w/individuals]

F. They see distinctions in various stages in human history, which are revealed in the dispensations (or ages).

1. Not that God **changed His mind** on how to deal w/man, **but** instead **purposefully altered how** He was going to deal w/man *in diff time periods*.
2. **Conditional** – God will do His part, when the human requirements **are** met.
3. **Unconditional** – It may include certain human contingencies, **but** God **will** certainly do **His part, in His time & in His way**.

G. **Slide9b** Of the **8** Biblical Covenants only **2** (Edenic & Mosaic) were *conditional*.

1. **Edenic** – (**conditional**) **Dispensation of Innocence**. [Gen.1:26-31]
 - a) **Life & blessing, or death & cursing** were *dependent on* Adam's faithfulness.
 - b) Adam & Eve failed & disobeyed by eating the fruit, **thus** the penalty of death for disobedience was imposed.

¹ Chafer & Walvoord; Major Bible Themes; pg. 141

- c) **Ended** in the fall of man.
2. **Adamic** - (**unconditional**) **Dispensation of Conscience**. [Gen.3:16-19]
 - a) God declares to man what his lot in life will be. (**serpent** cursed. **woman** pain in childbirth & submission to husband. **man** work 6 days sweat of brow. **earth** cursed)
 - b) **Continues** still today.
 3. **Noahic** - (**unconditional**) **Dispensation of Human Government**. [Gen.9:1-18]
 - a) Introduces *new principles of human government* as a means to curb sin (i.e. capitol punishment)
 - b) **Continues** still today.
 4. **Abrahamic** - (**unconditional**) **Dispensation of Promise**. [Gen.12:1-4]
 - a) The promise that **he personally** would be blessed. **A great nation** would emerge through him (Israel). **And** through him a blessing **to the entire world**.
 - b) **Continues** still today.
 5. **Mosaic** - (**conditional**) **Dispensation of Law**. [Ex.20-31]
 - a) To Israel. If they were *obedient* God would bless them, *disobedient*/curse them.
 - b) **God** anticipated they'd fail, yet promised He wouldn't forsake them. **Terminates at the cross**.
 6. **Palestinian** - (**unconditional**) [Deut.30]
 - a) Unconditional covenant regarding Israel's **final** possession of **the land**.
 - b) Even though kicked out a few times ultimately Abraham's seed **will** possess the land.
 - c) **1st phase** has returned to the land in 1948, **but ultimate promise** in the future.
 7. **Davidic** - (**unconditional**) **Dispensation of the Kingdom**. [2 Sam.7]
 - a) The promise of an *unending royal lineage, a throne, & a kingdom forever*.
 - b) Ultimate fulfillment in **millennium**.
 8. **New** - (**unconditional**) **Dispensation of Grace**. (to the church)
 9. **1st to Israel** - Jer.31:31-33 *Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

10. **2nd to the Church** – This was given to **the church** at the Lord's supper, *This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

- a) **The New Covenant** or **New Testament** was an agreement ratified by the shed blood of the redeemer.
- b) It is also called the **Better Covenant**, because it is **of Grace**.
 - (1) **The Law was written on stone.** The New Cov **on our hearts**.
 - (2) **The Law required animal sacrifices.** The New Cov provided the perfect & final sacrifice... **The Lamb**.
 - (3) **The Law was of works.** The New Cov is **by faith**.

H. Our God is the covenant keeping God. *It's not a contract but a covenant based on love.*

I. **Covenant** = an agreement which brings about *a relationship of commitment* between God & man.

V. Slide10 **GUILT (18-29)**

- A. Here we have a postscript to the flood story. **Noah's Failure**.
- B. From Noah's 3 sons descended *all the world's people*.
- C. Noah tries his hand at **agriculture**, **no problem**. Planting a **vineyard**, **no problem**. **Drinking** of his fruit, **no problem**. Getting **drunk**, *big problem*.
- D. (21) Here we have **Noah**, this seasoned saint, *the preacher of righteousness* (2 Pet.2:5) getting drunk as a skunk.
 1. **Man had not changed at all; with the opportunity to start a new creation, Noah acted like a pagan.**
 2. 1st time **Drunkenness** is mentioned.
- E. (22-24) **the nakedness of his father** - it may not be about Noah being nude, **but** an incident that greatly insults Noah.
 1. Seeing dad naked, is hard to **unsee** & may cause a **mind-stain**, **but** there is no law against it. **So what did Ham do that was so wrong?**
 2. Ham's offense could be explained as **voyeurism**, **castration of Noah**, **sodomy**, **or incestuous rape of his mother**.

3. The Hebrew phrase for *uncovering the nakedness* actually refers to *sexual intercourse with a man's wife*.
- F. (25) *Canaan* must have been involved with his dad in some way. *Shem* would have God's blessing (i.e. *shemites/semites*). *Japheth* (the Gentiles) would multiply & would worship the God of Shem.
- G. **Ham** should have *grieved* over his fathers sins, *not gloated* over them. (poss *told with delight*, to his brothers)
1. *His brothers* did what *love* *always does...covers all sin*.
 - a) Prov.10:12 *love covers all sins*. Prov.12:16 *a prudent man covers shame*.