

The Noahic Covenant

Saturday, September 21, 2024 10:12 AM



Good morning Arising Church!

We could not be more thrilled to be here for week 2 of the covenant series.

Is anyone in here excited about what the Lord is doing in our midst?

Good! You have reason to be excited, remember Psalm 25:12-14

- **Psalm 25:12-14:** "Who is the man who fears the Lord?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
13 His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
14 The friendship (SOD) of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.
- The Lord is making known to us His covenant...He is revealing to us His secrets...He is treating us like friends...
We fear the Lord and the Lord alone in this house and so He is instructing us in the way that we should choose...He is causing our souls to abide in well-being...and He will cause our offspring to inherit everything that He has in store for them. Amen?!

Hebrews 6:13-17

Now when God made his promise to Abraham, since he could swear by no one greater, he swore by himself, **14**saying, ***“Surely I will bless you greatly and multiply your descendants abundantly.”*** **15**And so by persevering, Abraham inherited the promise. **16**For people swear by something greater than themselves, and the oath serves as a confirmation to end all dispute. **17**In the same way God wanted to demonstrate more clearly to the heirs of the promise that his purpose was unchangeable, and so he intervened with an oath...

Truly every word that God speaks is covenant...it is trustworthy forever...but anytime that He specifically uses this language...it is to secure the recipient

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- Last week we covered the creation covenant...how many of you learned things you didn't know in that message?
- How many of you were encouraged to see that the beginning of the Bible is God bringing man into a covenant that He made with all of creation...right off the bat doesn't this reveal His desire for relationship with us?
- Then when Adam transgressed that covenant and deserved death, the covenant making covenant keeping God arrives on the scene, covers Adam and Eve's nakedness, curses the serpent, speaks the messianic prophecy and then fathers Adam and Eve with truth and discipline. He does not abandon them but explains to them the consequences and guards the way back to the tree of life.
- Plan A was not Adam never failing...God's plan all along was for Adam to be

fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it...and He has been hard at work since the beginning to ensure that we reach the goal.

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- In the end, He still uses man to fulfill the original calling and through Jesus Christ, the better Adam, makes for Himself a people who can dwell forever with Him as He subdues evil and fills the earth with sons made in His image.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:45-49:** "The first man Adam became a living being" the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. **46**The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. **47**The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. **48**As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. **49**And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man."
- Our prayer is that you remember the covenantal truth that we spoke about last week: God does not abandon you when you fail, He remains faithful.
- When we fail, when we sin, God does not abandon us, but like any good Father He does discipline us and there are consequences when we sin, which brings us to our next covenant that the Lord makes 1700 years later with another man, who although he is not born into it like Adam,...he **becomes** the father of everyone on earth.

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- This is the Noahic Covenant.
- We get to watch cause and effect play out on a global scale over the course of 1700 years from Adam to Noah.
- Adam's own son murders his brother. This is a grim beginning to the story contrasted against the hope of the promised son who would crush the head of the serpent. But as we continue in the narrative, we see hope in another son, Seth, to replace righteous Abel.
 - **Genesis 4:25 ESV:** "And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."
- Ultimately righteous Noah will come through this line, more on that later.
- The Scriptures follow two lines from Adam in Seth and Cain as the Bible flies through 17 centuries of man. Things go from bad to worse in Cain's line. Look at the names given to the descendants of Cain down through his offspring:

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Cain's Line: Sinful Offspring

Cain -	<u>Possessed</u>
Enoch -	<u>Disciplined</u>
Irad -	<u>Wild Ass</u>
Mehujael -	<u>Smitten of God</u>
Methushael -	<u>Who Demands His Death</u>
Lamech -	<u>Poor; Made Low</u>
Jabal -	<u>Which Glides Away</u>
Jubal -	<u>He That Runs</u>
Tubal-cain	<u>Thou Will Be Brought of Cain</u>

- Cain's offspring group together in a city rather than filling the earth.
- Cain's offspring take on multiple wives going outside of what God's intent for man was.
- Cain's offspring murdered as their father did.
- We see a picture of possessed children in need of discipline, a bunch of wild asses running around smitten by God, avenging themselves resisting God's humbling and ultimately running away from God's instructions... just like their father Cain.
- In addition to this rebellion in man, the heavens join in.
- Do you all remember last week how we discussed Ephesians 1?
 - **Ephesians 1:9:** "making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."
- Ultimately God's plan was to unite the heavens and the earth, but man wasn't the only thing reaching out to take what he wasn't supposed to with horrific consequences...there was rebellion in the heavens as well, and it resulted in an unholy union...

Nephilim

- **Genesis 6:4 (NIV):** "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown."
- These Nephilim, or giants were those who according to the book of Enoch taught

- new levels of Evil to the people. Drugs, violence, vanity, sexual immorality
- We actually have acquired an ancient cave painting that is surprisingly detailed of one of these rebellious giants teaching these smaller men and women horrific evils of sexual misconduct and other wicked practices:

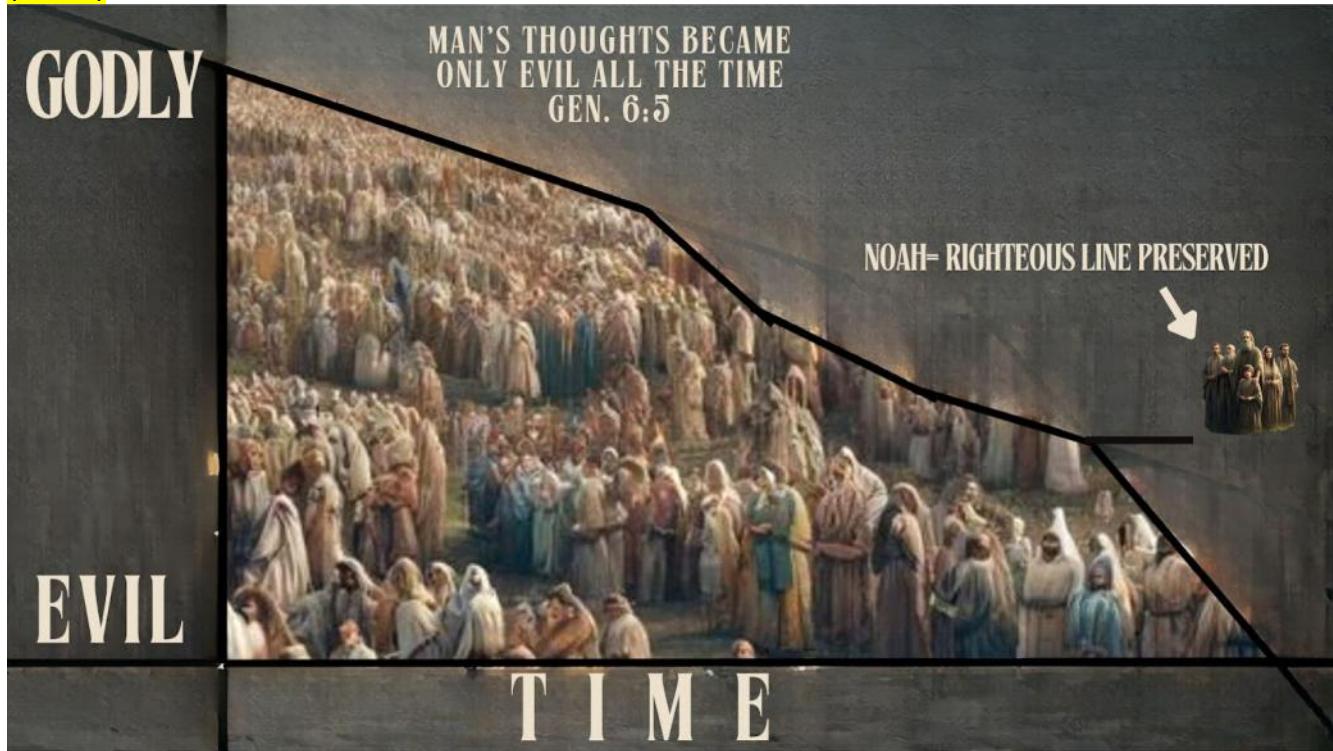
- (WAIT TO SHOW SLIDE UNTIL WE FINISH THE WHOLE PARAGRAPH)



- Not only were there rebellious giants on the earth but look at what Genesis 6 continues to say about the condition of the world.
 - **Genesis 6:5:** The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.
- The ONLY thoughts in the hearts of men were EVIL. ALL THE TIME!
- That is wild! Sounds eerily similar to today. While we may not have 30 foot tall giants that are half spiritual being, half man, we definitely have demonically possessed undisciplined wild asses running around training people to do evil attempting to instill fear in those that oppose them. In that way, the spirits of the Nephilim are still very present to this day.
- Remember this scene we are painting for you today is the consequence of one man's sin.
- How bad did things have to be for world destruction to be the only acceptable solution?

- Let's remember THE PROMISE given by God when Adam and Eve sinned:
 - **Genesis 3:15 ESV:** "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
- Although this is a horrific scene we have painted regarding the similarities to the times of Noah and our world today, it is necessary to remember the **same promise** that was given to Adam.
- The seed of Eve, the mother of all the living, would ultimately crush the serpent's head.
- This is the world that Noah lives in...a world over-run with sin and wickedness.
- We have shown that Jesus was a better Adam, but so is Noah.
 - Adam was surrounded by Eden, yet he still chose to sin and was removed from the Garden, causing separation from God
 - Noah was surrounded by wickedness, yet chooses righteousness and God brings him close and protects him with the Ark.

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- Adam is the father of all mankind, and they were all wiped out except for Noah and his family, and then Noah becomes the father of all mankind.
- Noah offers a convicting challenge to us:
 - *Are you the man who is surrounded by righteousness and goodness and still chooses wickedness?*

- Are you the man who can be surrounded by wickedness and still choose goodness?
 - Men like Noah can be surrounded at a pagan workplace by faithless speech and slander...
 - Men and women like Adam and Eve can at a church surrounded by the Spirit of God and His word in other people and begin to cause division and slander.
- But, we're going to be like Noah:

- Genesis 6:8 (NIV): "But Noah found **favor** in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a **righteous** man, **blameless** among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth."
- Noah finds favor and is righteous and blameless
- Noah was certainly born a sinner, something Adam was not!
- But despite being born a sinner, he found favor with God
- Clarify grace as the empowerment (eph. 2 "not from yourselves" must be empowerment from God that can include instruction, but also can include faith, power to heal, power to cast out demons...it must be defined as something outside yourself so that people realize God makes up the difference between what you have right now to accomplish what He is instructing you to do and what is actually needed)



- You should remember from Foundations this is the first mention of grace!

- Think of this in light of how Paul explains Grace:

- **Ephesians 2:8–10 (NIVUK84):** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no-one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
- Favor in the eyes of God was the empowerment and help to make it through judgment. And the way that favor is demonstrated is by instruction through the Word of God. He is given instructions and obeys them.
- Remember this is the first mention of grace, so the way that future generations would understand God's favor or grace would be receiving empowerment to obey the Word or instruction of God by faith, even through judgment.
- Noah, despite being surrounded by only wickedness ALL THE TIME; chose righteousness and was blameless.

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This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Gen 6:9

Righteous
6662. צָדִיק sadiq
An adjective meaning just, righteous . The term bears primarily a moral or ethical significance. Someone or something is considered to be just or righteous because of conformity to a given standard...or in a religious context, that they were in accordance with God's standards (Gen 6:9).
Blameless
8549. תָּמִימָם tāmiyim
An adjective meaning blameless, complete . In over half of its occurrences, it describes an animal to be sacrificed to the Lord, whether a ram, a bull, or a lamb.

Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament Copyright © 2003 by AMG Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Jesus also completed his work on the cross which brought about salvation for the world restate James 2:22 possibly with Jesus

- Righteous here means: obeyed God and lived in accordance with His standards
 - Adam was instructed to Fill the earth and Subdue it
 - Noah could not fully subdue the wickedness in the world, BUT HE SUBDUED THE WICKEDNESS IN HIMSELF!

- Blameless: he was uncontaminated by the world around him
 - He was not altered by the wickedness around him, but was pure and his deeds ultimately were found to be complete.
- These are all qualities Adam was supposed to possess, and opportunities that he was afforded, but forfeited for momentary pleasure.
- These are the qualities that Noah found, and possessed that gave him the opportunity to preserve mankind.

- It's important that we jump ahead a little here so that we can all track together through all of this.
- Keep what God said to Noah in mind:
 - **Genesis 6:17-18:** "I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. **18**But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you."
- The world was condemned and judgment was coming. Noah received the warning from God about things that hadn't happened yet, although the signs were all around him.
- There is something special and specific about the language...He said...I will establish my covenant with you and you will enter the ark..."I will" is obviously future language...we thought He was just referring to chapter 9 after the flood is done, but He says, I will establish my covenant with you and you will enter the ark.
- As Noah is about to build this ark over the course of roughly a century, God is establishing His covenant with Him.
- As Noah builds, the covenant He has with God is also being built up and confirmed.
 - Consider **James 2:22** "You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did."
- We actually get a picture of an ark being completed and Noah's faith being made complete at the same time.
- His completed faith brought about salvation for his family against the backdrop of total depravity in the world.
 - **Hebrews 11:7:** "By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his

household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."

- He immediately got to work in faith and obedience and his family was saved through the judgment.
- There was a strong contrast between Noah a righteous man of faith and a world that was full of evil.
- God clearly demonstrates His ability to preserve the righteous while administering judgment.
 - **2 Peter 2:4-9:** "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; **5**if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; **6**if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; **7**and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless **8**(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— **9**if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment."

- This is a principle on full display in the establishment of the covenant with Noah.
- There can be a sea of wickedness, and God knows how to spotlight a single vessel worth saving.
- This is the context of the Noahic covenant.
- Let's examine the Irreducible minimums of this covenant.

The Parties:

- As we dive deeper into this covenant, we want to draw special attention to the parties involved as part of the irreducible minimums.
- Keep in mind the backdrop of darkness that is the world Noah and his family were living in.

- **Genesis 6:18 ESV:** "But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you."
- The **promise** of an established covenant is originally given to Noah ALONE.

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- There is a point at the beginning of all of this where all that we have is a man of faith who finds favor with God...God speaks and the man listens.
- God gives instructions and a man of faith obeys.
- Noah is following God into a complete mystery...but God's intention is not just to save Noah. God's plan is ultimately to redeem all of mankind...but He starts with a righteous man and look at what He says once the flood waters have resided.

○ **Genesis 9:8-11 ESV:** "Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 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. 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." 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."

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- Although the Covenant was promised to Noah, the covenant was established with:
 - Noah (Gen. 9:8)
 - Ham, Shem, and Japheth (Gen. 9:8)
 - Noah's Offspring (Gen. 9:9)
 - All Living Creatures (Gen. 9:10)
 - And the Earth Itself (Gen. 9:13)
- This is important to note, that this covenant is to all mankind (He says, the covenant I make with every living creature for all future generations!). The Covenant God made to Noah, his sons, and their offspring includes us Today. The implications of this are MASSIVE as we will discover later.
- You, by default, are a part of this Noahic Covenant God Established long ago before you were even a twinkle in your parent's eyes.
- So let's make something crystal clear...God takes a man of faith who is going to follow His instructions and makes a promise with him to establish a covenant that will save his family but ultimately that covenant will extend to the whole world!!! The whole world is going to be blessed through this man and his family and the blessings of this covenant will extend throughout all the generations? And included in this covenant is provision, protection, and promises for the land as well? If you are not seeing a foreshadowing of Abraham and Israel in this then let us spell it out for you...this is a foreshadowing of Abraham and Israel!

- God, is the faithful, covenant-making, and covenant-keeping God!
- We will see that He is the One who has continually kept His covenant with mankind as we go through the terms of this specific covenant.
- Next, the terms of the Covenant: which include blessings, curses, boundaries, expectations, and promises.
- You are going to see that the terms of the Noahic Covenant include much of the same language from the covenant He makes with Creation.



- These covenants are not exclusive, they are not opposed to one another but rather build upon one another and flow from one source! After the flood, God builds up humanity through Noah, he becomes the father of all mankind, like Adam, as we mentioned. The Lord made a covenant with creation and HE has not and will not break His covenant. God continues to carry out the plan He had from the beginning.
 - **Psalm 89:34 (NIV):** "I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered."
- So the terms of the Noahic covenant cannot be void of what was already established in the Creation Covenant
- **(you are going to see this the entire covenant series by the way, God doesn't remove His words, he confirms, he does not annul, he complements; he does not**

void he adds to; he does not abolish he fulfills. This is TRUE COVENANT THEOLOGY).

- Look at this slide and see how the Creation Covenant is reestablished with Noah

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Creation: Genesis 1:28-30; 2:16-17

Ge 1:28-30 "God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground— everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

2:16-17. "And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Noahic: Genesis 9:1-4

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. 2 The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. 3 Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. 4 "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it.

- In both covenants, he *blessed them* and spoke his words to them
- In both covenants they are to be fruitful and increase in number
- In both covenants there is a relationship between mankind and the animals.
 - In Creation, Man ruled over the fish, birds and creatures on the ground, we know from Genesis 2:20 that he named them all. But there was no fear or animosity between man and animals
 - In the Noahic, animals will fear mankind, it says dread will fall on them all. Why? The next verses tells us
- In both covenants, food is provided
 - In Creation; seed bearing plants and fruit will be food
 - In Noahic; animals become food. This is why they are afraid of you, because you are now a threat to them. You know this to be true, you try and come near an animal in the wild it runs away.
- Why would God add this dynamic of fear and dread into mankind and animals?
- We are suggesting it is because God's words in Genesis 3 would remain true to man's need to work for food.

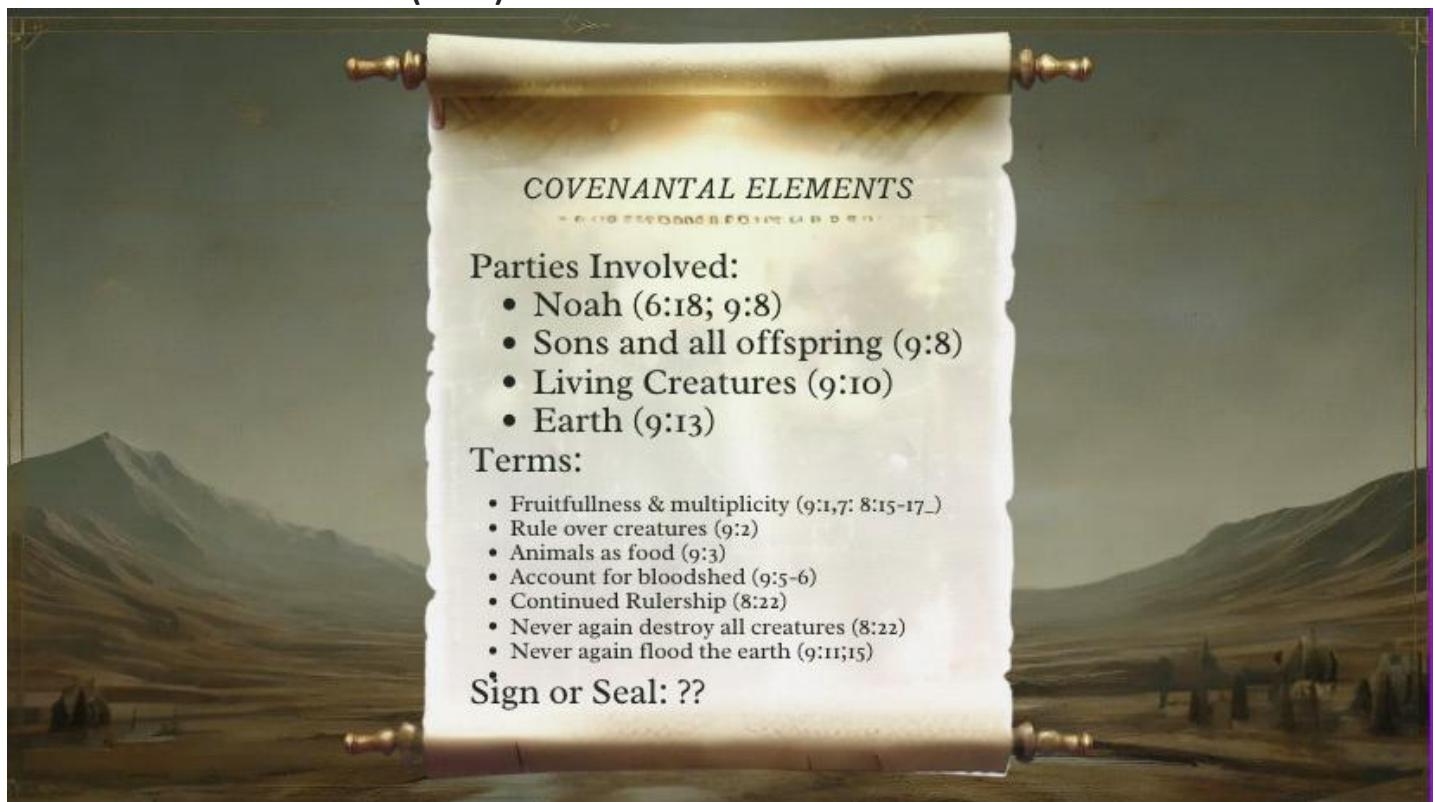
○ **Genesis 3:17-19 (NIV):** "To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You

must not eat from it,' ‘Cursed is the ground because of you; **through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.** ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹**By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground**, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’”

- In Genesis 3, one of the consequences of sin was that man had to work hard, sweat, and through pain eat and survive. If animals were not in fear of mankind, there would be no painful toil in killing them, no sweat in chasing them down.
- Lastly, in both covenants there was a restriction: something there were told NOT to eat
 - In Creation, it was the tree of knowledge of good and evil
 - In Noahic, it was blood
- There is something sacred about blood, man was not supposed to eat it, and this is continued in the term of the covenant that when a life of a man is taken, there must be punishment.
 - **Genesis 9:4–6 (NIV):** “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵**And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.** ⁶“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.”
- Mankind is made in the image of God, thus it is wrong to take human life. But, when man or animal takes human life, their life must be taken.
- We find it fascinating that God entrusts man with the supreme responsibility of taking another man's life, if his actions deserve it.
- He gave this responsibility to Noah, after Noah watched God do that very thing, bring death to all of mankind.
- Despite the depths of wickedness mankind could reach, as was just proven, God still entrusts the righteous with more.
- This term is also given because it goes against the original design and mandate for mankind to multiply, not remove.
- God designed us to have children, to reproduce, to multiply, expand; when we take human life, it is the opposite of our design. Genesis contrasts it in this way, read the entire passage:
 - **Genesis 9:4–7 (NIV):** “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵**And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.** ⁶“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be

shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. **7As for you, be fruitful and increase in number;** multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

- This is why abortion is so specifically evil. It is taking a human life; and cutting off the natural design of man to multiply.
- In simply comparing what is said to Adam and Noah, a large portion of the terms of the Noahic covenant becomes clear:
 - **Fruitfulness & multiplicity (9:1,7: 8:15-17)**
 - **Rule over creatures (9:2)**
 - **Animals as food (9:3)**
 - **Account for bloodshed (9:5-6)**



- But, just as in the creation covenant, the covenant with Noah did not just include Noah and his sons, but also the earth. Thus, the other terms! Let's look at the last few terms:
 - **Continued Rulership (8:22)**
 - **Genesis 8:21-22 (NIV):** "The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. ²²"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."
 - In the creation covenant, God sets up rulership, yet again, God does not

annul or change, he confirms and compliments!

- For just a moment we want to focus on some of the language
- There is something so fascinating about these verses, in response to the sacrifice Noah makes, God is pleased by the aroma and says these words in his heart...
- Why would it say "²¹The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart:"
- We would like to propose two things are happening:
 - 1) His heart is pleased by Noah and his sacrifice, in contrast to his heart being in pain in 6:6
 - **Genesis 6:6 (84NIV):** "The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain."
- The Lord is pained by sin, but he is pleased with righteousness.
- Every person individually contributes to things that fill the heart of God with pain; and people can also contribute to things that fill God's heart with gladness. Here, in His mercy He seeks to preserve a family through whom he could save mankind.
 - **Ecclesiastes 7:29 (NIVUK84):** "This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."
- Man was created as an upright being but went in search of many schemes that are outside of the Creator's design and that fill His heart with pain!
 - *If we have this perspective of Sin, it should charge us to take such bold stances against wickedness like Noah did*
 - 1) The Lord is saying this in his heart, to himself, as an everlasting oath and covenant promise.
 - **Hebrews 6:13 (NIV):** "When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself."
- This is going to come up again in a later message, but this is the manner in which God makes covenants, he swears by himself, because he is the only being that is able to completely keep a covenant, to be completely true to his word, and continually faithful in every way.
- Regardless of whatever other Covenant Theology you have heard, YHWH is Covenant Making, and Covenant keeping
- Then we have the last term:
 - **Never again flood the earth or destroy all creatures (8:21;9:11:15)**
 - God restates this promise and covenantal term three times, once in chapter 8 in his heart, as an oath to himself,

- **Genesis 8:21 (NIV):** "And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."
- And then twice to Noah and his sons.
- **Genesis 9:10–11 (NIV):** "Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. **I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.**"
- It is here that the Covenant that was established with Noah in chapter 6, is established again, confirmed, with not only Noah but also his sons, descendants, and living creatures.
- He has already sworn this by himself in his heart, and now he is sharing this promise and covenant term.
- He is going to tell them again in verse 15 when he gives them the seal.
- What we want to focus on is something timeless about God's covenant keeping character that we must model: When he has spoken a promise, the matter is decided and there is no going back.
- It is in this moment, God swears by himself, and speaks the covenant to Noah, his family and all creation, that he will never again destroy all living creatures and flood the earth. Seems simple enough, but it was only a few chapters ago, that mankind had gotten so wicked, so depraved, so evil all the time that the **ONLY SOLUTION** was to wipe it out.
- God has now vowed that total annihilation cannot be the solution again, and he makes this vow before any more humans are born, or before the rest of history plays out. He makes a promise, a covenant, and we can see throughout History he has kept that promise, he has kept that covenant because there has never again been a global flood, and there was never again total annihilation of creatures and man on the earth.
- *Do you have the same resolve to make a promise, a covenant before you know all the future possibilities?*
 - *Marriage - oath to stick with them no matter how difficult it gets*
 - *Team - oath to support and work alongside no matter how difficult it gets*
 - *The Lord - oath to worship, adore and follow no matter how difficult life becomes*
- **Like each covenant we are going to study: there is a seal or a sign, for the Noahic covenant, the seal is a rainbow.**



- It is heresy and wickedness to use this seal as anything other than the seal of God's mercy in the midst of judgment.
- In Hebrew, the word is merely BOW.
- His bow being hung in the sky shows that if the earth becomes full of wickedness again, and IT DOES. God is still faithful to his covenant and will not destroy the earth, he will in fact save it again, but not by destroying it completely, but by sending his Son, a descendent of Noah, Shem, Abraham, and the rest: he will save the righteous in the midst of judgment, if they come to him.

As judgment comes on this world, the wicked will suffer as a result of the consequences for their sin, but the righteous will also suffer.

Noah suffered with the work he had to do, with the rocking in the boat, through the storms, through watching God's judgment be poured out on the earth...but the waters that took the lives of the wicked lifted him and his family to safety while God purged evil from the earth. The waters that destroyed the wicked preserved Noah's family.

From the book of Hebrews we realize that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, and they were condemned who shut their ears to his words and to the warnings of the Lord.

Jesus Himself compares the last days before His return to the days of Noah...Noah was surrounded by darkness, by wickedness everywhere but was diligent in following the Lord's instructions.

The question has never truly been whether or not God would be faithful to those who cry out to Him...of course He will...the real question is will He find faith in you?

Luke 18:7-8

7And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

8I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

If the creation covenant takeaway was that God does not abandon you when you fail...the charge we have for you is when everything is falling apart all around you, you don't abandon Him!

He is the ark, the refuge in the storm...but in any chaotic situation you can miss the boat and drown in your sinful state.

In Matthew chapter 24 Jesus is answering questions about the last days for His followers. He speaks of a time when the love of most will grow cold, when many will turn away from the faith and betray and hate each other because of the increase of wickedness...

Consider this portion of the passage where He compares these times to the days of Noah:

Matthew 24:36-39 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

39and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Although the message of Jesus' return will have been preached to the whole world, many people will shut their ears and close their eyes to the coming judgment...they will be surprised when God follows through with what He has promised. Jesus goes on to tell His followers that they must be ready...by doing what they know they are supposed to be doing.

This is what Noah was doing...and he completed his task...he finished the work God gave him to do and it became salvation for his family through terrible times and they were delivered from the wickedness on the earth.

1 Peter 3:20

to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

We are going to have be patient in waiting for Him to bring justice...obeying His instructions and doing righteous deeds

Revelations 6:10-11a

They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

11Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer

Marriage

Team

Children

Finances

The Lord



Hebrews 7:25

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Romans 5:9

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!