

# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE 11.13.22

## The Noahic Covenant | Genesis 8:20-9:17

*from the series, Worldview Matters: Studies in Genesis 1-11*

The world of Genesis 8-9 is different from the world not only of Genesis 1-2, but also of Genesis 4-6. The post-flood world is different from the pre-flood world. The lives of men are shorter, rain now falls, and the human race now consists only of Noah and his family.

### MAIN IDEA: God keeps his promises.

While Noah knew that God keeps his promises in Genesis 6, he would likely double-down on that belief by Genesis 8. In this passage, we see the grace of God in Noah's life through the Noahic covenant. We see that God is a promise-keeper.

There are several covenants throughout the Bible: the Adamic covenant, the Mosaic covenant, the Abrahamic, the David, and the New Covenant of Christ. The Noahic covenant is an unconditional covenant—God will do it regardless of what Noah does.

### 1. The promise he gives (8:20-22)

Noah's life had a priority of worship. He got on the ark and led his family on the ark. His priority is not first to build a house or farm a field, but to build an altar. To worship should be the lead foot of your life. We build the altar, not merely the tent. I am right with God when I worship God. It pleases the Lord to see and do this.

### 2. The provision he provides (9:1-7)

God provides a number of blessings in this passage. Three moral orders are in view:

1. Procreation (v. 1) They are to "be fruitful and multiply." God made man in his image and each man procreated in each generation.
2. Prominence (v. 2-3) Man has a new level of dominion over the animal world. Previously, humans were vegetarian—there was no carnivorousness. Now they will eat the flesh of animals as well.
3. Protection (v. 4-7) Capital punishment is introduced. Part of the new world is a keen awareness that when a man kills another man, it is going to require his life. Murder is a crime against man and God. We emphasize the sanctity of human life. We see a stressing of the moral order in all areas of life.

### **3. The picture he shows (9:8-17)**

The rainbow is not just for man but with every creature. Never again will the earth be destroyed by flood. God keeps his promises—that's the meaning of the rainbow. He not only makes promises, but he keeps his promises both for our good and for his glory. The language used is that of a weapon, a bow. God has used a weapon against creation. Now he is hanging it up. He will not use it again against his people.

In the gospels, Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper--this is a sign of the new covenant. Paul explains in 1 Corinthians that the shed blood of Jesus is the promise to redeem his people.

### **Application**

Noah's world is our world. Noah stepped off the ark into a new, unfamiliar world. He learned over time that God is a promise-keeping God. Our tomorrow is a new world. Events may change our world. We may have never been there before. But we can remember to trust the promises of God. Rely on the provision of God. Have a keen sense of spiritual awareness to see pictures of his grace.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. How can you make worship the priority of your life? How would this change your day-to-day experience?**
  
- 2. How do we see God's blessings in the moral order he provides?**
  
- 3. At what point(s) in your life have you had to trust God? How did he help you to remember that he keeps his promises?**



**COATS BAPTIST**  
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