

From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 9:1-17

"The Covenant Promise" – May 1, 2022



Introduction

God relates to His people by covenants. You see it through scripture. We, as humans, don't always live up to the promises that we make that shape our communities and relationships. We have the wounds to prove that. It can be painful. But praise be to God that when He makes a covenant, He keeps His word. He is faithful. He keeps His promises to the end - 100% of the time. God's love is an unfailing covenant love that we can count on.

When sin entered the picture in Genesis 3, things became very, very dark very quickly. The world became so corrupt that it began to unravel. In God's mercy, He provided a safety net for the world by making a covenant with Noah. In preserving the world in His covenant with Noah, God is building a stage upon which He will carry out His plan of redemption for a fallen world.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. God's provision for a fallen world Vs. 1-7
2. God's promise for a fallen world Vs. 8-17

Read & Discuss

1) Read vs. 1-7

In verse 1, God blesses again. He follows the blessing with a command to be fruitful and multiply. This is an echo of [Genesis 1:28](#). We are created for God's glory, and we are called to fill the earth with image bearers to reflect God's glory.

When Moses wrote Genesis, his point was that after the flood, God didn't abandon His original plan. God told Adam to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with His glory. He tells Noah the same thing. In Genesis 9, we see a re-creation.

How will God fill the earth with His glory if mankind is still sinful after the flood? He makes provision for:

- Threats from Animals (Vs. 2) God hardwired animals to fear man.
- Threats from Hunger (Vs. 3-4) God gives them everything to eat. God is also the Giver and the Sustainer of life - even the life of an animal. This instruction lays the foundation for the Bible's teaching on atonement.
- Threats from Lawlessness (Vs. 5- 6) God authorizing people to establish a government.

God's provision in Genesis 9 shows us that God greatly values life. Moses wrote Genesis to help the children of Israel to move from fear to faith. God valued their life, but there was a reckoning for their sin. However, God's heart is still to bless.

Are you struggling with fear? Does anxiety in your life cause you to struggle to trust God? Do you see God's blessing in your life? How do you view governmental authority? Do you make it a practice to pray for elected officials? How can you start that this week?

Additional Reading: Romans 12:14-21; Romans 13; Mark 10

(For more on the topic of the Christian and government, see the July 12, 2020 Sermon from Romans 13 on [God and Government](#) on our YouTube Channel.)

2) Read vs. 8-17

The first time we see God mention a covenant with Noah is in [Genesis 6:18](#). He establishes it here in chapter 9. We can look at three things.

- The parties included in the covenant: This covenant is universal. - It is for "every living creature" and "all flesh."
- The sign of the covenant – the bow: The sign is for God. The word for "remember" means that God is faithful to keep His word.
- The promise of the covenant: a promise of preservation. It is a covenant of common grace not a covenant of redemption.

We take a lot of things for granted. We forget that tomorrow is a gift - life is a gift. It is not owed to us. We should thank God. Sin is so terrible, so offensive, so wide-spread that it deserves God's judgement. We are only alive now because of God's mercy and grace. But one day, God will judge.

We should never be content with just preservation. It's a tragic way to live life. What is the way of salvation? How can we avoid God's righteous wrath? In [Genesis 8:20](#), we have a sign post. The animals offered could not take away sin permanently. Only Jesus could.

Can you recount the ways in which God has been faithful to you? What do you need to do or what changes do you need to make to live a life that goes beyond just "preservation?" With whom do you need to share the Good News of God's plan of redemption?

Additional Reading: 2 Peter 3:5-9; Hebrews 9:26

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Psalm 139 "Know the God Who Knows You"
--