

The Covenant with

Noah

A
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Teaching Series

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Lesson 4 Outline: *God's Covenant with Noah*

I. The Background of the Noahic Covenant

1. The BIG PICTURE of Genesis 1-9

*There were two cataclysmic changes that took place in the early chapters of Genesis. . .

→ *The FALL* (Genesis 3)

→ *The FLOOD* (Genesis 6-9)

2. The TRANSITION PERIOD of Genesis 3-5

*The Emergence of 2 Lines:

→ The ungodly line: *Cain and his offspring*

→ The godly line: *Seth and his offspring*

→ The biblical story line (Noah's 3 sons; Isaac and Ishmael; Jacob and Esau)

*The EFFECTS of SIN and the GRACE of GOD:

→ The *EFFECTS of SIN* (Gen.5)

→ The *GRACE of GOD*:

*In the faith of His people (Gen.5)

*In the outpouring of His Spirit (Gen.4:26)

3. The IMMEDIATE CONTEXT of Genesis 5-6

*The Lineage of Noah and Preface to the Flood (Gen.5)

→ Remembering the time-frame of Genesis 5

→ Methuselah (5:25): “when he is dead it shall be sent”

→ Lamech (5:28): “overthrower”

→ Noah (5:29): “rest”

*The Sons of God and the Daughters of Men (Gen.6:1-4):

→ *Unlikely* interpretations:

*Fallen angels

*Tyrannical kings

→ *Likely* interpretation:

*The believing line of Seth intermingling with the unbelieving line of Cain

II. An Overview of the Noahic Covenant

*The covenant with Noah is the *first stage* in the Covenant of Grace:

I. The Covenant of Works with Adam

II. The Genesis 3:15 promise of a Redeemer:

A) *The Noahic Covenant*

B) The Abrahamic Covenant

C) The Mosaic Covenant

D) The Davidic Covenant

E) The New Covenant

*The covenant with Noah contains the first usage in Scripture of the term “covenant”

*The first use of the word “grace” is also here in the context of the covenant with Noah (6:8)

*The covenant with Noah records two covenants (Gen.6 with Noah; Gen.9 with his family)

*The covenant with Noah includes both the temporal and the eternal

III. Addressing the Debate about the Noahic Covenant

1. An INTRODUCTION to Kuyper's View:

*Kuyper basically denies that the Noahic Covenant is part of the Covenant of Grace

2. A SUMMARY of Kuyper's View:

*The covenant with Noah isn't about *redeeming* grace—but rather about *common* grace

*God doesn't make *gospel* promises to God's people—but *temporal* promises to all mankind

3. The REASONS for Kuyper's View:

*The covenant in Genesis 9 is made to all Noah's sons, through whom would come all men

*The covenant in Genesis 9 isn't just made with Noah and his sons—but also with the animals

4. Our RESPONSE to Kuyper's View:

*Answering his FIRST objection:

→ We can't separate the covenant of Genesis 9 from the covenant of Genesis 6

→ And the covenant in Genesis 6 isn't made to all without exception—but all in the ark

→ It's clear in Genesis 6 that God isn't addressing *all* people—but His *redeemed* people

→ God isn't actually addressing *all* humanity—He's actually addressing a *new* humanity

*Answering his SECOND objection:

→ Scripture teaches that *all creation* has been effected by the fall (Gen. 3:17; Rom.8:20)

→ When God sent the flood; though mankind alone was wicked, the animals perished too

→ So then: though man alone sinned, still, in both the *fall* and the *flood*, all creation suffered

→ It's the same thing in the Covenant of Grace: *In a sense*, all creation is comprehended. All creation suffered sins' consequences, and one day healing will also extend to all creation.

→ Man has been cursed by the fall; but all creation also groans for glory (Rom.8:19ff)

5. Our CONCLUSION:

*The *temporal* elements were there—but they were there to teach us about *the eternal*

*Isaiah 54:9-10 binds together the Noahic Covenant with the Covenant of Grace

*Kuyper's mistake: forgetting how the temporal and eternal go together in the Covenant of Grace

*Not just with Noah: We see the same in God's covenant with Abraham, at Sinai, and with David

*God's covenant with Noah did preserve the earth for redemption—but it also did so much more!

IV. What we learn from the Noahic Covenant

1. The BACKDROP of the Covenant of Grace (Gen.6:5,11-12): *We see why we need salvation*

*Man's corruption is *INWARD*: “intent of the thoughts of his heart” (v5)

*Man's corruption is *PERVASIVE*: “every intent. . .was only evil” (v5)

*Man's corruption is *CONTINUAL*: “only evil continually” (v5)

*Man's corruption is *UNIVERSAL*: “all flesh had corrupted their way” (vv11-12)

2. The AUTHOR of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn about the character of God*

*He is *TENDER-HEARTED* (6:6)

*He is *JUST* (6:7)

→ God defines justice

→ God upholds justice

→ God is still a God of justice

*He is *FAITHFUL*:

→ He is faithful to uphold the judgments He threatens (2Pet.3:5-7)

→ He is faithful to uphold the promises He makes:

*His promise of *preserving the earth* (Gen.8:22)

*His promise of *saving His people* (Gen.3:15)

3. The NATURE of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn how God saves sinners*

*Salvation is *BY GRACE* alone (6:8-9)

→ Noah found favor with God (v8) before he was a righteous man (v9)

→ Noah was a sinner saved by grace

*Salvation is *THROUGH FAITH* alone (Heb.11:7)

→ Noah became heir of the righteousness that is by faith

→ Noah was saved through gospel faith in gospel righteousness

*Salvation is *IN CHRIST* alone: *We see this in . . .*

→ Noah's NAME (5:29)

*Points us to Christ, *our true sabbath rest* (Heb.4)

→ Noah's ARK (chapters 7-8)

*Points us to Christ, *God's only way of salvation* (1Pet.3:18-22)

→ Noah's HEADSHIP (6:18-19; 7:1; 23)

*Points us to Christ, *our covenant representative* (Rom.5:12-21)

→ Noah's OFFERING (8:21)

*Points us to Christ, *the lamb of God* (Jn.1:29; Eph.5:1-2)

→ Noah's PROPHECY (9:26-27)

*Points us to Christ, *the seed of promise* (Gen.3:15; 11:10-32; Lk.3:36)

4. The SUBSTANCE of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn of what we have been given in Christ*

**PEACE with God:*

→ Genesis 9:10,12 (cf. Isaiah 54:9-10; Romans 5:1)

**The BLESSING of God:*

→ Genesis 9:1 (cf. 1:28; Eph.1:3ff)

5. The BASIS of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn why God lavishes His grace on sinners*

*Genesis 8:20-9:19 is one unified passage of Scripture

*God's covenant blessings (9:1ff) were *based on* Noah's sacrifice of atonement (8:20ff)

*God would bless Noah and his sons despite their sin (8:21)

*It wasn't God's disposition towards sin that changed—but His disposition towards sinners

→ Christ's blood is the only basis of our *peace* with God (Col.1:20)

→ Christ's blood is the only basis of the *blessing* of God (Rom.4:6-8; Gal.3:13-14)

6. The **STABILITY** of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn about the security we have in Christ*

* God calls His covenant an “everlasting covenant” (9:12,16; cf. Jer.32:40)

* Comparing Genesis 8:20 with Jeremiah 33:20-21,25-26

* Stopping the sun and moon. . .and defying time and space

7. The **SCOPE** of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn who salvation is for*

* It is for *COVENANT CHILDREN*:

→ Genesis 6:18; 7:1; 9:9ff

→ God's covenant extends to the whole household

→ Application: pray for your children and your children's children

* It is for *INGRAFTED FOREIGNERS*:

→ Apparent in *NOAH'S BLESSING* (9:27; cf. 10:1-4; Is.66:19)

* Japheth's offspring are outsiders who become Shemites by embracing the God of Shem

→ Typified through *NOAH'S ANIMALS* (6:19-20; 7:7:2-3)

* The truth *promised* in Scripture (Rev.5:9; 7:9)

* The truth *pictured* in Scripture:

→ The prophecy of Isaiah (43:20-21)

→ The vision of Peter (Acts 10:10-12)

COVENANT	3 FOLD FORMULA DESCRIBING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE COVENANT
The Noahic Covenant	“Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you. . .of all that comes out of the ark.” (<i>Genesis 9:9-10</i>)
The Abrahamic Covenant	“I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you. . .and every male among you. . .who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants” (<i>Genesis 17:7,12</i>)
The New Covenant	“For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself” (<i>Acts 2:39</i>)

8. The SIGN of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn about the picture of God's promise*

*The rainbow was God's covenant sign (9:12-17)

*Covenant signs declare covenant promises to covenant people

*Covenant signs are tangible pictures of God's eternal promises

*Covenant signs and the sacraments:

→ When *we* see the sign, God remembers (9:14-15)

→ When *God* sees the sign, God remembers (9:16)

→ Application: We may forget God's promises—but God never forgets

9. The FRUIT of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn about the heart of the Christian life*

*What Genesis 6:9 doesn't mean and what it does mean

→ Noah wasn't perfect, but he was a man who truly walked with God

*What was it that characterized Noah's life?

→ Not primarily that he preached about God but rather that he walked with God

*What does it mean to live a life worthy of our calling (cf. Eph.4:1-3)?

→ Not about what we know or what we do but *who we are*

→ We glorify God by knowing and loving and walking with Him

10. The **REQUIREMENTS** of the Covenant of Grace: *We see how grace and obedience fit together*

*In the Covenant of Grace, obedience is **COMMANDED**:

→ God gives His people commands to obey (Gen.9:3-4; cf. v1,7)

*In the Covenant of Grace, obedience is **LIBERATED**:

→ God's covenant promises are never based on our obedience (Gen.9:1-7)

*In the Covenant of Grace, obedience is **CRUCIAL**:

→ There are still earthly consequences for sin for believers (Gen.9:5-6)

11. The **PRIVILEGE** of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn about the mission God has given us*

*Genesis 9:1 and the mission of God:

→ Genesis 9:1 points us both *back* to Genesis 1:28 and *forward* to Matthew 28:18-20

	PEACE	BLESSING	MISSION
God's charge to Noah (<i>Genesis 8:20-9:1</i>)	Peace through blood of atonement (8:20-22)	"And God blessed Noah" (9:1)	"Be fruitful & multiply and fill the earth" (9:1)
Christ's charge to us (<i>John 20:19-26</i>)	"Peace to you" (20:19,21,26)	"Receive the Holy Spirit" (20:22)	"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (v22)

→ God sends out Christians who still struggle with sin (Gen.8:21; 9:1; Matt.28:17)

→ We don't do missions to earn God's blessing but in response to God's blessing

12. The **OUTCOME** of the Covenant of Grace: *We learn of the sure hope we have in Christ*

*When Noah stepped out of the ark, he entered into a new world (8:13)

→ Points us partially to *THE NEW BIRTH*: Regeneration (2Cor.5:17; Gal.6:15; Eph.2:15)

→ Points us particularly to *THE NEW EARTH*: Glorification (2Pet.3:3-13; Rev.21:1-8)

*No lives will be lost on the voyage home to glory:

→ Because it is God's *promise* (Gen.8:17-19; Jn.6:39; Rom.8:29-30)

→ Because it is God's *purpose* (Gen.7:2-3; cf. Eph.2:4-7; 2Thess.2:14)

V. A Few Final Applications from the Noahic Covenant

1. There are WARNINGS here:

*A warning to *THE WORLD* of the judgment to come:

→ Jesus' declaration in Luke 17:26-27

*A warning to *THE CHURCH* of the judgment to come:

→ Scriptures' reminder in Genesis 9:20-27 (cf. Matt.7:21-23)

2. There are COMFORTS here:

*God's disposition towards His afflicted people in the ark (Is.54:9-11)

→ God is not unmoved by our sufferings and trials

→ And His promise is that one day soon He will bring us home to glory