

What is Covenant Theology?

February 6, 2022

Harvest Fellowship PCA

Part IIIb Covenant with Noah

An Overview

Covenantal Framework & Noah

Covenant Map (notional with arrows)

Covenant with Noah

Two Covenants?

Part -1 Ante-Diluvian (Before the Flood)

Part -2 Post Diluvian (After the Flood)

What does it mean to me?

References

FRAMEWORK – Covenant of Redemption

Covenant of Works

Between God and man, requiring
perfect, personal obedience,

OFFERING LIFE

AND

THREATENING DEATH

Covenant of Grace

Between God and the ELECT, requiring FAITH,
Offering FORGIVENESS

AND

ETERNAL LIFE

Secured by God's promise

(or oath) (e.g. John 3:16)

Today's topic:

Of NOAH – and TWO Covenants?

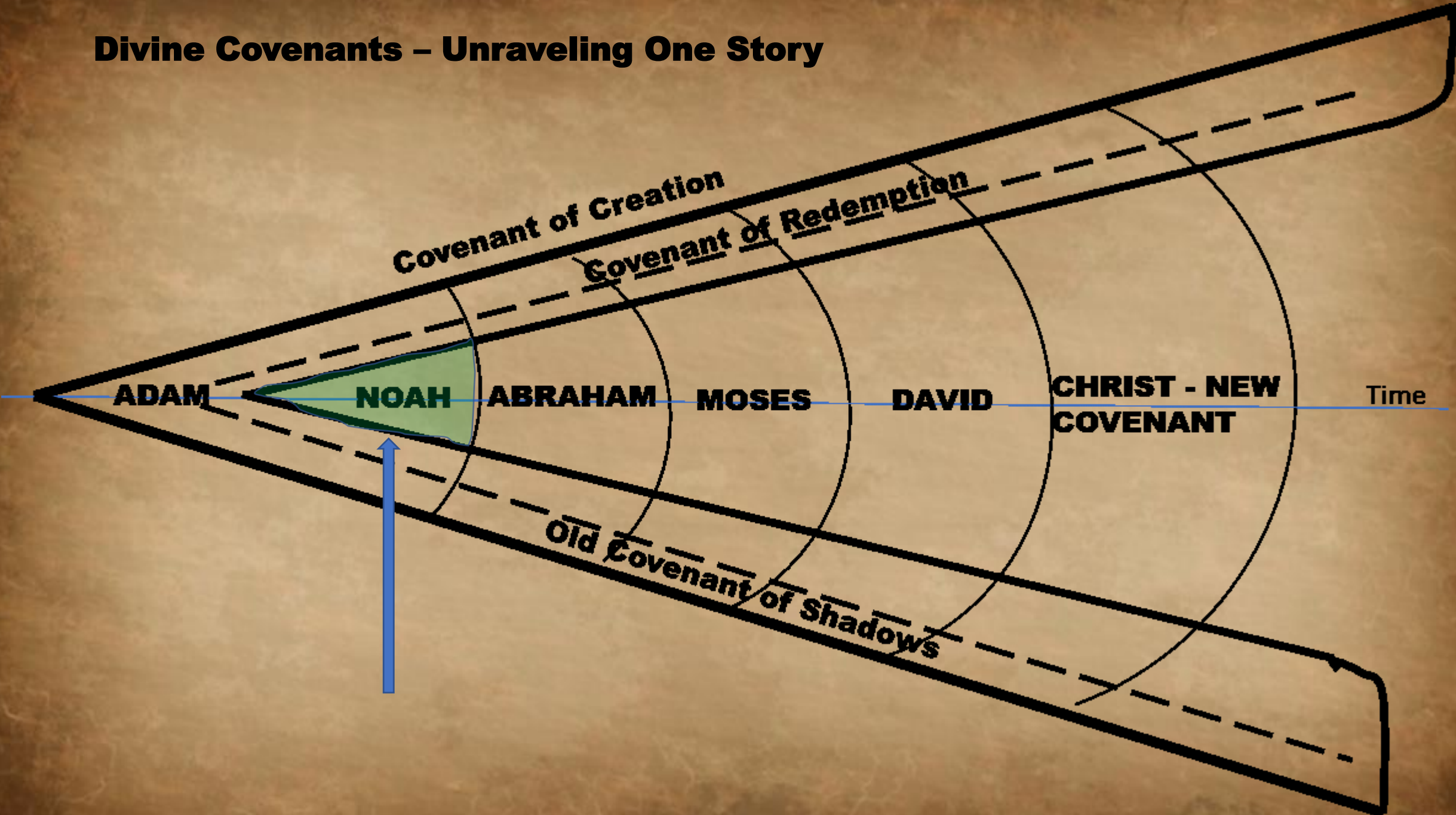
Part -1 Ante-Diluvian (Before the Flood)* – of Covenant of Works

Part -2 Post Diluvian (After the Flood)* – of Covenant of Grace

(*working terminologies and ideas)

Reference: Elements attributed to Rev Richard Phillips ; Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

Divine Covenants – Unraveling One Story



Reference: O Palmer Robertson: "Christ of the Covenants pg 62-63

An Overview

Four Key Passages on the Covenant with Noah

1) Genesis 6;17,18 - 22 (before the flood “Ante-Diluvian”)

The calling of Noah out of his “generation” (6:9) God establishes a covenant with Noah, to save him and his family and animals

2) Genesis 8: 20 – 22 (after the flood “Post-Diluvian”)

Noah builds an altar to the LORD, and God establishes a covenant of promises that affect him, his family, the unborn generations and animals.
...a “new creation”...

3) Genesis 9: 1 – 7

The covenant with Noah- BLESSINGS to pursue the mandate replenish his kind; multiply and have dominion over the earth – and partake of animals for food to

Command/ Curse –to not murder; blood shed is blood required – Genesis 9:5

4) Genesis 9: 8 – 15

- The sign of the covenant- the BOW in the SKY – GOD binds HIMSELF on a promise, to never again destroy the earth with a flood

Context

1) Genesis 6; The calling of Noah out of his “generation” (6:9) God establishes a covenant with Noah

1) God saw extreme evil (and depravity); Genesis 6:1,5,11

- “sons of God took the daughters of men as their wives (vs 1 – 2)
- “Every thought and intent of the heart of man was evil continually..” (vs 5)
- “the earth was corrupt ..and filled with violence...(vs 11)
- God decreed that the every living thing that breathes must be “blotted out”; This includes man and animals (vs 7, 13)..

2) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord...HE was a righteous man, ..He was blameless in his generations. HE walked with GOD. (Gen 6:8-9)

POINT – It is not his attributes that favored him but GOD’s GRACE (

KNOW: wording “walked with God” is similar to Enoch

Enoch – God took him instead of dying a physical death (Gen 5: 22)

Noah – God “called” him from his generation to save him and mankind (Gen 6)

- of the familial line of Seth and PRESERVE God’s promise of a seed to crush serpent’s head (Genesis 3: 15-16, Luke 3: 36-37)

Noahic Covenant (Part 1) Ante-Diluvian

God initiated the Covenant , by calling Noah **“out of his generation”** (Genesis 6:8 – 9)

In the same manner God called Abram out of an idolatrous city of Ur (Genesis 12:1)

It is not explicit , word for word , but the idea is the same...

- 1) Noah believes GOD and practices **RADICAL Obedience** by
BUILDING AN ARK (Gene6: 15 – 16) “300 cubits ...30 cubits (450 ft X 45 ft X 45 ft)
- 2) IT MIGHT have taken Noah 120 years to build the ark (I,e time span between 5:22 – 7:6)
or 120 years is the lifespan for one man.
BUT it was still “before the flood” , where humans lived to from 400 – 900 years
- 3) Noah possibly conveyed the warning to the peoples around him of God’s coming judgement in the
form of a deluge (implied in Genesis 6:3)
He “preached” for 120 years...and NO CONVERTS, except his family!
- 4) Noah OBEYS GOD in ALL the details of what God instructed him to do (Genesis 7:5)
- We don’t read of any doubt or (argument to disobedience i.e. Jonah 1)...
- 5) In the New Testament, Noah’s RADICAL OBEDIENCE is part of the accolade of “Heroes of Faith”
Hebrews 11: 7
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.

Noahic Covenant (Part 1) Ante-Diluvian

THE RESULT of that OBEDIENCE:

5) In the New Testament, Noah's RADICAL OBEDIENCE is part of the accolade of "Heroes of Faith"

Hebrews 11: 7

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.

Recall: What is Faith?

From verse 1 – 2 of Hebrews 1:

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

² For by it the people of old received their commendation.

Covenant with Noah (Ante-Diluvian (Before the Flood))

- **Biblical Reference (Genesis 6:8-9)**

⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD...

⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

¹⁷ For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.

Covenant with Noah (Ante-Diluvian (Before the Flood))

- **WHAT does it mean to ME?**

I am no different from Noah's "GENERATION". It continues

Romans 1:28 - 34 ²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

b. The PRESERVATION Piece:

Romans 5:8, 10 ..." ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.....¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ..."

WHAT ELSE DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

After the Flood (Post Diluvian) period and God's Covenant with Noah....



Noahic Covenant (Part 2) (Post Diluvian)

Comments and Implications of the Covenant with Noah (Post-Diluvian)

- Context- (Genesis 7)
 - All flesh that breathed died in the flood. This included men, women, children and animals (Gen 7:21)
 - When Noah, his family, and all the animals were in the ARK, GOD SHUT THE DOOR to the ark (7:16).
 - This is indicative of God's reassurance of safety for those HE chooses to keep.
 - It rained 40 days and 40 nights
 - The waters took 150 days to begin receding.
- Context- (Genesis 8)
 - God remembered Noah
 - God made a wind to blow over the earth and the waters subsided. God closed "the deep";- waters that flowed out of the deep, "Windows of heaven were closed", "Rain from the heavens were restrained". (Gen 8: 1 – 2)
 - At the end of 150 days, the waters had abated (Gen 8:3).

Noahic Covenant (Part 2) (Post Diluvian)

2) Genesis 8: 20 – 22 (after the flood “Post-Diluvian”)

**Noah builds an altar to the LORD, and God establishes a covenant of promises that affect him, his family, the unborn generations and animals.
...a “new creation” ...**

3) Genesis 9: 1 – 7

The covenant with Noah- BLESSINGS to pursue the mandate replenish his kind; to multiply and have dominion over the earth – and partake of animals for food

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Noahic Covenant (Part 2) (Post Diluvian)

Passages:

- God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 8: 20 -22)
- ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, **“I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”**

Noahic Covenant (Part 2) (Post Diluvian)

Passages:

- **God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9: 1- 7)**

- ¹ And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

² The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.

³ **Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.**

⁴ **But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.** ⁵ **And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.**

⁶ **“Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.**

⁷ And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

Noahic Covenant (Part 2) (Post Diluvian)

- There is a Provision and RESTRICTION in the first part of this COVENANT with Noah

THIS COVENANT is Unconditional; a “Royal Grant”, A Covenant of Grace

Provision

- a. Go and multiply and replenish the earth ..again.. (Genesis 9: 1)
- b. You may eat any of the animals in your dominion (Genesis 9: 2 – 3)

Restriction

1. DO not eat an animal blood while there is life in it. (Genesis 9:4)
2. DO NOT MURDER (I will require a reckoning (i.e. life for a life”)

Each man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)

Question

Is this scripture section sanctioning Capital Punishment?

Who carries it out? Why?

Ref: Romans 13, II Peter 2:13 - 14

Noahic Covenant (Part 2) (Post Diluvian)

Passages:

- God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9: 8 – 15) (continued)

⁸ 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**.

¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,

¹⁵ **I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.**

Noahic Covenant (Part 2) (Post Diluvian)

Passages:

- Some Observations and comments
 - a. This Covenant is a Divine Covenant – It is initiated by God toward Noah (Gen 9:9, 11,12, 13, 17).
“..and behold I am establishing a covenant with you AND your offspring after you..”
 - b. This covenant is not local to Noah only but UNIVERSAL in scope.

It is a covenant between

- 1) God and Noah
- 2) God and Noah's seed after him
- 3) God and every living creature
- 4) It affects those who are
 - unborn
 - those who don't understand its meaning
- 5) God and all flesh

Noahic Covenant (Part 2) (Post Diluvian)

- **Some Observations and comments**

- c. It is an unconditional Covenant**

- 1) It cannot be annulled by unbelief**
 - 3) It is an expression of “COMMON GRACE”**

- d. This covenant is MONERGISTIC**

- 1) It is God's initiative – No conditional element**
 - 2) Saying it another way - It is not contingent on any of man's actions (not synergistic)**
 - 3) The sign of the BOW (Rainbow) is irrevocable (it cannot be reversed or cancelled because of any condtion)**

- e. It is an Everlasting Covenant***

- 1) “All flesh will not again be cutoff by the waters of the flood” (Gen 9:11).**
 - 2) It will continue (perpetual) to this day.**
 - 3) It is an administration of GRACE which comes from the sovereign pleasure of GOD, with out changes,**

retraction

of its benefits by the immutable promise and faithfulness of God.

Covenant with Noah (Post Diluvian (after the Flood))

- **Biblical Reference (Genesis 9):**

“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you” (Gen. 9:9-10).

- **Participating Parties:** Noah, his offspring, and all living things
- **Covenant Relationship Type:** Royal Grant
- **Covenant Conditions and Obligations:** None
- **Sanctions and Curses:** God’s self-malediction
- **Promise and Blessing:** Never again will a flood destroy the earth, (promise of the **PRESERVATION of CREATION**).
- **Sign/ Token:** Rainbow (Gen 9:14 bow in the sky)
- **WHAT does it mean to ME?**

The EARTH is preserved, so the GOSPEL goes out does not return void (Isaiah 55:10-11
“....For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it....”

- **Are there any other lessons we can glean?**

God remembers (or reminds) his covenant of Preservation in recalling Covenant with Noah in various times of the history in the Old and New Testaments...

Isaiah 54:7-10

more.

⁵ For your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.

⁶ For the LORD has called you
like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,
says your God.

⁷ For a brief moment I deserted you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.

⁸ In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD, your Redeemer.

⁹ "This is like the days of Noah* to me:
as I swore that the waters of Noah
should no more go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you,
and will not rebuke you.

¹⁰ *For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my **steadfast love** * shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"
says the LORD, who has compassion on you.*

***"For this is as the waters of Noah"...and God's Chesed**

**Q: How does God's promise hold up, even
when Israel is unfaithful?**

**Q: What does Isaiah 51:6 & Hebrews 1: 10 -12
say about his faithfulness & promise to save,
despite our shortcomings?**

The Days of Noah

Jesus comments on the LAST DAYS, comparing that period to the time called the ... “days of Noah”..(Isaiah 54:9, Matthew 24:37, Luke 17:26, I Peter 3:20 before the flood.

Matthew 24:36-38

³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but the Father only. ³⁷ **For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.** ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark

Luke 17:25 – 27

²⁵ But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ **Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.** ²⁷ They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

1 Peter 3:20

..because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

Q: How is the Flood story of Redemption related to OUR TIME?

Q: If there will be no Flood, how does God continue to save men?

Summary: There is ONE Covenant with Noah – It was in TWO Parts (or Administrations)

Genesis 6 Covenant with Noah only

- a. Depravity of mankind is at its worst.
- b. GOD calls Noah out of his “generation” of mankind
- c. God promises to save Noah and his family
- d. God tells Noah to build a barge (called an Ark)
- e. God tells Noah to gather animals to save their “kind” (genus & species) as gender pairs and seven pairs of clean animals (Gen 7: 1 -3)
- f. Noah OBEYS and does ALL what God told him to do (Genesis 7:5)
- g. God personally “SHUTS the DOOR” of the Ark (Genesis 7:16). Man is spared, the line of Redemption is preserved (Luke 3: 36).

Genesis 9 Covenant with Noah (and us)

- a. The earth is “recreated” with Noah and his seed to have “dominion” and multiply (Genesis 9: 1 – 4)
- b. Noah (in this recreated “Eden”) has all the resources he and his seed need to eat; from animals on land to fish in the sea (Gen 9: 1 -4)
- c. Noah is given also the privilege of eating vegetables (Genesis 9:3b).
- d. God declares in his covenant with Noah that HE promises not to purge the earth with a flood, ever again. The sign of the at promise is a “bow in the clouds (Genesis 9:13). This is a PROMISE (also..) to the earth (Genesis 9:16-17) and all lining things that breath.
- e. God’s promise to Noah applies to those who do not know HIM and to future generations. This is COMMON GRACE.

References

(used in this lesson)

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 - Accessed: January 30, 2022

Questions