

## Lesson Four: The Noahic Covenant

Genesis 6:5-8,17-18, 8:20-22, 9:1-7, 8-17

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Genesis 6:5-8, 17-18 (*Before the Flood*)

<sup>5</sup> The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart. <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD....

<sup>17</sup> “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. <sup>18</sup> 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.

Genesis 8:20-22 (*After the Flood*)

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

## Genesis 9:1-7, 8-17

<sup>1</sup> And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. <sup>4</sup> But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. <sup>5</sup> And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every breast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

<sup>6</sup> “Whoever sheds the blood of man,  
by man shall his blood be shed,  
for God made man in His own image.

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



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<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> “Behold, I establish My covenant with you and your offspring after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as any as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup> 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.” <sup>12</sup> 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: <sup>13</sup> I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

#### Discussion Questions:

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1. What is the big idea of Covenant Theology?  
What metaphors or human relationships can help us “get it”?
2. Re-read Genesis 6:5-7. Can you relate to how God “feels” in this passage?  
How do people *want* God to relate to a wicked world? How *must* He relate to a wicked world?
3. Is the flood a story of God’s judgment or God’s salvation? Explain.
4. *Looking Back:* How is the Noahic Covenant a “covenant of preservation”? What is preserved?  
*Looking Forward:* How does the Noahic Covenant set the stage for God to dwell with His people?
5. In this covenant, who swears the oath / makes the promises? Why does it matter?
6. What does the Noahic Covenant tell us about the scope of God’s care for the world?  
To what degree do we share God’s care and concern for the world?
7. How should we see God’s gracious character (toward believers and unbelievers) in everyday life?
8. What is the sign of the Noahic Covenant? What does it mean?  
If God is hanging up His war bow, how will He ultimately bring judgment and salvation to earth?