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Section: Divine Covenants (Covenant Theology)

Teacher: Joshua Kirstine

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

* **Introduction**

Through the Noahic Covenant God reiterates creational design and mandates and He declares important commands for all of creation in all times of this creation.

* **Post-fall, Pre-flood**

The fall of Adam and those he represented quickly and severely proved what we studied last week.

Wickedness became mankind’s testimony.

Until Christ’s work was done, until the New Covenant was formally established, and until all the chosen ones are gathered, this creation must be persevered.

* **A Flood of Wrath**

The fact still remains that sin is a terrible display of disrespect and hatred towards God and so in Noah’s day, God saw fit to display His righteous wrath.

God graciously chose to save Noah from the flood waters and commanded him to build an ark.

God saw through His plan and flooded the earth as a display of His righteous hatred towards sin, wiping out all living things not safe in the ark.

* **The Noahic Covenant**

With the flood now over, God is ready to impose another covenant upon man.

* **The covenant blessings begin to come into light**

God is promising that He will not repeat worldwide wrath and curses while the earth remains—that is while God is continuing to keep this first creation in existence.

* **Creation mandates**

These are not prerequisite commands that earn the blessings of this covenant, rather, they are good and right instructions from God on how mankind should live and seek to flourish.

* **God's judgment on murderers**

Human life has a particular value, and it must be respected and protected as such.

Those who commit murder—those who commit unjust killing of another human—are to be held accountable for their actions, equaling their own death as the penalty.

**Genesis 9:6**

The responsible government parties will be held accountable to God for how they do this (or their lack thereof).

Abortion spits in the face of God and wickedly kills a human made in God’s image.

Abortion is murder—it is the unjust killing of one made in God’s image. When God creates a new human being at conception, He gives that human life and a soul.

* **The clear promise of gracious preservation**

In time and space, it is because of this covenant that mankind has not disappeared, gone extinct, or been wiped out by God. Until God’s gathering of His elect is complete, this creation maintains under the promise of this covenant.

* **“A” covenant of grace (not The Covenant of Grace)**

The Noahic Covenant is ultimately to be seen as a covenant of grace to mankind because the benefit of the covenant is experienced by all mankind without having to earn it.

It is not “The Covenant of Grace”, (which we will learn more about later), but it is “a” covenant of grace.

The life and too-many-to-number common gifts we experience everyday come to us as undeserved and unearned benefits of the Noahic Covenant.

* **Creation Is Persevered for God’s Covenant of Redemption Plan**

This Noahic Covenant perseveres this broken creation until God has fulfilled every promise to His chosen people of the Covenant of Redemption.

God has a plan to redeem and eternally have a specific people, and that isn’t complete yet.

This verse is about God’s plan to save all of His chosen ones, not bringing about the end of this creation until all the elect are given life, then given new life in Christ Jesus.

Not even a wicked and blasphemous world will thwart His Covenant of Redemption plan.

* **Judgment and the end of this first creation is coming**

The Noahic Covenant benefit will end when God’s purpose for this creation is complete.

When the Bible refers to the Noahic Covenant as an "everlasting covenant" it means that God will not revoke/end the covenant for the whole remaining extent of this first creation’s existence—from the time it was covenanted, the Noahic Covenant lasts as long as the creation lasts. In that way it’s an everlasting covenant.

End will come to this first creation, and it will not be by a flood of water, but by fire.

* **They exchanged the truth about God for a lie**

The rainbow is the sign of this gracious preservation covenant.

The rainbow should remind us of the display of wrath God put forth in the flood, it should remind us of the promise He gave to temporarily preserve this creation, and it implicitly it warns of the wrath to come for those who are not united to Christ by faith. But mankind is so wicked that unbelieving people twist God’s gracious preservation and use it to indulge in sin and even mock believers and God.

Let us pray for them and preach to them. And let us repent of our own sinful ways as well.

* **These Three Foundational Covenants**

This first creation is destined for destruction due to the broken Covenant of Works, but for a time it is being preserved through the Noahic Covenant, in light of the Covenant of Redemption, for the sake of God’s glory and the good of His people. This is how the world is defined biblically. All the world should know these things.

* **Babel: Sin Abounded as Mankind Multiplied Again**

Even after the display of wrath in the flood, because of the sin nature in man, sin abounded as mankind multiplied again.

* **Mankind formally divided**

The Lord broke up their efforts to build a pride tower by creating the variety of languages, tribes, and people groups, spreading them all throughout the world.

For the first time in the human race, there are now definitively different people groups/different ethnicities/different nations. Still one race of mankind, all created in the image of God, both male and female, but now distinct ethnicities/groups. This sets the stage for what God does in the Old Covenant—which we get into in our next lesson.

If you are in Christ, living all these years later, you were born (dead in sin) and reborn (saved from sin) because God has patience to see His plan through. We should worship God for this!