



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

THE NOAHIC COVENANT

GENESIS 9

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What is a covenant?

“Covenants are central to God’s plans and constitute the vehicles through which God’s kingdom purposes unfold.”

“A covenant is a formal agreement or treaty between two parties with obligations and regulations.”

(from Biblical Doctrine)

There are five biblical covenants that are said to be unconditional, everlasting, or never-to-be-nullified:

- the Noahic covenant
- the Abrahamic covenant
- the priestly covenant
- the Davidic covenant
- the new covenant

One covenant is conditional and temporary:

- the Mosaic covenant

In Genesis 9, God makes seven provisions for humanity in the Noahic covenant, an everlasting, ongoing covenant of blessing reflecting God's faithfulness to Noah and to all mankind.

I. Steadiness/Constancy in Creation/Nature

“...did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” (Acts 14:17)

“O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures....They all wait for You to give them their food in due season. You give to them, they gather it up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good.” (Ps. 104;24, 27)

I. Steadiness/Constancy in Creation/Nature

Having life is a gift from God and is itself a witness to, on one hand, God's goodness, and on the other hand, our own moral culpability as unbelievers who deny the Lord the gratitude and worship of our heart and live instead for ourselves.

II. People (Genesis 9:1, 7)

Like Noah, our worship is always in response to God. If you feed your heart on God's truth and reflect prayerfully on His goodness, your desires will conform to worshiping Him humbly/thankfully.

II. People (Genesis 9:1, 7)

“Be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.”
(Gen. 9:7)

Populate abundantly (sharats) = to teem or swarm.

Be fruitful, multiply, fill, populate the earth and multiply in it are clear commands for people to swarm on the earth or to spread and scatter across the planet. This is a good thing.

III. Protection from Animals (Genesis 9:2)

IV. Food from Animals (Genesis 9:3-4)

“...and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross...” (Col. 1:20)

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” (Rom. 5:9)

“...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)

V. Sacredness for Human Life (Genesis 9:5)

“Surely I will require...” is a powerful legal disclaimer for any infraction of God’s declaration of the sanctity of human life.

VI. Capital Punishment (Genesis 9:6)

VII. Provide the Promise Never to Destroy the Earth by Water (Genesis 9:15)

Did God's global flood cleanse the world of sin?

How important is it for us that God is a covenant-making God?

We are utterly helpless against sin and death, wholly unable to please God, and haven't the slightest desire to honor God in His goodness to us.

“By creation, we are made for a moral world that we cannot honor but from which we cannot disengage.”

David Wells



A person stands on a rock in the foreground, silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text "GRACE CHURCH" and "WILLIAMSBURG" is overlaid in white serif font.

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