

**The Noaic Covenant Part II**  
**October 16, 2011**  
**Lynchburg, Virginia**  
**Gen. 9:8-17**

**EXHORDIUM**

This sermon is part two of the Noaic Covenant. I covered most of what I wanted to cover last time. However, I was not able to get to what I consider the centrally important part of this Covenant.

In the sign of the rainbow, God has made us a great promise. We tend to think of the rainbow as a reminder to us but the Lord speaks of it differently and it is important for us to grasp the difference. Keep that in mind.

Also, by way of reminder, we are marching through the main covenant high points in Scripture, Creation, Adamic, Noaic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and the New Covenant in Jesus Christ.

We want to keep in mind that with the exception of the initial Covenant with Adam, these Covenants are all part of the same Covenant. God is revealing His promise to Eve and through her to all of mankind. This all culminates in Jesus entering the world and dying on the behalf of mankind.

After God destroyed the Earth in the flood, He reiterates the promise to Adam and Eve about blessing them and their offspring. In the subsequent revelations of this Covenant with Abraham, Moses and David, God reveals more and more about His plans for the Earth. So, we should keep this in mind as we walk through these covenants. What more is God saying? What more is He revealing? Are the promises getting bigger? How does each major high point of the covenant reveal more to us?

In the Covenant with Noah, we see God being faithful to His own promise to Eve, that her seed will one day crush the seed of the serpent. God remains faithful even though He looked on the Earth and saw that man's intention and thoughts were evil throughout. Man deserved to be judged and punished but God saved man in an ark upon the waters.

We see here at the renewal of the Covenant with Noah that God is going to be faithful to His promises, no matter what!

## EXEGESIS

**Gen 9:1 9 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.**

God blessed Noah AND his sons. The creation mandate is repeated, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

**Gen 9:6-17 6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.**

The image of God was not destroyed in the Fall. God tells Noah that there must be atonement for blood because man was made in God’s image. To murder is to destroy the image of God. This helps us to understand what the image of God is. God’s image has to do with diversity and unity. All murders reveal a strike at the heart of the image of God.

**7 And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.**

This is so central to what God is doing on the Earth. Our role to fill the Earth with godly offspring is no small one. We sometimes joke about our church growth program, having babies. But it is no joke. Surely faithful children are a great blessing from God. And we can be greatly blessed whether we have one child or many. And we do not mean to demean anyone who is not able to have children. Such marriages and such women can be blessed in many other ways. But the Scriptures make no apology that a fruitful womb is a great blessing from God. So, we should take this seriously.

Taking this seriously means not only that we need to be serious about having children but that we need to be serious about making sure they are faithful children. And by faithful, I don’t mean loyal to us, or simply obedient or respectful . Faithful children love Jesus and do what He says. So, we need to take our responsibilities to them seriously as well. This includes discipline, education, religious training, and most especially laughter in the home. They need to understand that being a Christian is an intensely good and joyful grace from God.

**8 And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, 9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;**

**10 And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. 11 And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. 12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.**

Just as man's sin affected all of creation, so does God's covenant. God establishes His covenant not only with mankind but also with every living thing, birds, cattle, and all animals on the Earth.

The bow in the cloud is for a token of the covenant between God and the Earth. This fits well with John 3:16, for God so loved the world. God does not only love men. He loves His entire creation. And thus, He will save His entire creation.

**14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: 15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.**

The rainbow is for God to remember.

The rainbow is for us to remember that God remembers.

**17 And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.**

## EXHORTATION

We need to keep in mind that God has a good memory. And we also need to keep in mind that His good memory is selective. He has said of us, “I will not remember your sins against you.” He has also said that He will remind Himself of His covenant with us, His promises to us, every time He sees the rainbow in the cloud.

One of our most besetting sins is having a poor memory in relation to both God’s promises and God’s commands. We forget what God has done for us and are discouraged about our current situation. We forget what God has told us to do and so we go headlong into foolish and sinful decisions. We forget that God is all-knowing and everywhere present and think we can get away with our secret sins.

And while it is true that one of our besetting sins is a failure to remember, another besetting sin is on the opposite side of the spectrum, having a detailed and accurate memory. These sins run in the area of a failure to forgive, which causes bitterness and even envy. Both of these sins, bitterness and envy, have really good memories. The reason their memory is good is because they replay sins over and over. God does not do that and neither should we.

**Heb 8:10-12 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

God has promised to not remember our sins against us. He has actively chosen to not remember. Does He know what your past sins are? Yes, He does. But instead of holding them against you, He remembers that they are paid for and forgiven in Jesus Christ and He does not count you guilty of and for those sins. So, in choosing to remember His covenant, His promises, He chooses not to sharpen His memory of past sins.

Brothers and sisters, do you have vivid memories of past sins against you? And if you do, does that past sin against you still bring a sting and anger? Forgiveness will help you forget. Forgiveness will enable you to choose not to remember. If you keep choosing not to remember, then your memory is likely to grow fuzzy about past sins against you. So, when you are tempted to remember old wounds as if they are fresh, remember God's promise to keep His covenant with you and then choose to keep your promise to forgive and be healed.

We forget many things. But more often than not, our sin in this area is more a failure to remember. We do not make the effort to remind ourselves who God is, what He has said, who we are and what promises God has made to us.

But God remembers and we are to be like Him. We need to remind ourselves often. We do this every week in this service but we need to do it more often than that. We need to remind ourselves every morning that we are in God's grace and need His grace for our day. We need to remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit is with us and thus, we must walk in the Spirit today. We must remind ourselves that we are made in the image of God and are thus required to dwell in unity with our spouse, children, parents, and church family. And we do all of this in an attitude of great thanksgiving, praising God for His goodness to us.

So, work on your memory. It will do wonders for your joy.

Also, look at the underside of the rainbow. God see the rainbow as it travels down to the earth and He remembers to keep His promise to the Earth. This promise is that He will not flood and destroy the Earth but it also includes God's promise to bring a savior to save all of mankind. And that promise includes you, all who have faith in Jesus. So, when it rains look at the rainbow and remember that God is reminding Himself to be faithful and then remind yourself to be faithful to Him.