

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Genesis 9:1-17 – A Covenant of Hope

*"This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and every creature on earth."
Genesis 9:17 (ESV)*

Review:

"God remembered Noah" (8:1).

_____ is the process – frequently with pain and struggle – of learning to rest in the providence and rescue of God, even when we think He has forgotten us.

But God does not forget His own or His promises to us.

"Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. Bring out all the living creatures that are with you—birds, livestock, those that crawl on the earth—and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." (Genesis 8:16-17)

God shows amazing _____ in re-making creation. He has saved righteous Noah and delivered them to a renewed earth.

"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord." (Genesis 8:20)

The right response to life-giving salvation from God is _____ thru commitment and consecration. God is sovereign over all and is worthy of our absolute fidelity.

"I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward." (Genesis 8:21)

Here is a vivid picture of _____ in the Old Testament! Here is also a picture of our _____, _____ human condition. And though we all deserve to be "struck down" as those who were judged in the flood were, God has promised not to do so.

We live in a world which at point after point seems, as it was in the days of Noah, to be busying itself with everything except waiting for the coming of the Son of Man. Yet in this world we are called, like Noah in his generation, to display in our worship and our service, the righteousness of a trusting faith in God. A faith which hangs on to God despite all appearances, and a faith which seeks to translate his word into practice. A faith touched by the words which Jesus spoke to Peter: 'What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand.' A faith that holds to the cosmic Christ, that in him all God's purposes for his whole creation come to their fulfilment. A faith which believes, as Kuyper put it, that 'There is not an inch of this universe over which Jesus Christ does not say "It is Mine!"' For from him, and through him and to him are all things! (John 13:7)

Atkinson, David, *The Message of Genesis 1-11*, pp. 151

Covenant **Blessing**:

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, *"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are placed under your authority. ³ Every creature that lives and moves will be food for you; as I gave the green plants, I have given you everything.*
(Genesis 9:1-4)

Mankind is offered a _____ ... a world to live in, enjoy, and have dominion and stewardship over.

The text shows Noah as the second _____ – blessed as God's image bearer and given the same commandments: *"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."*

These blessings are for _____ (as Noah stands as the representative head).

God also now expands the blessing of _____ – the "everything" that God gave them for food includes _____.

Covenant **Law**:

⁴ *However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it. ⁵ And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood; I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person's life.*

⁶ *Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image.*

⁷ *But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it." (Genesis 9:4-7)*

There are _____ on man's authority and dominion.

Why?

This world is no longer "_____ " as it was with original creation (Gen. 1:31), but is instead ruled by men with intrinsically "evil hearts" (8:21) and is full of "fear and terror".

Though God has been gracious and has renewed the world, mankind does not get to go back to _____.

With the *provision* of animals as food, comes the *prohibition*: "However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it."

We also see God's implementation of _____.

Bottom line: _____ world requires _____.

Covenant Grace:

⁸ Then God said to Noah and his sons with him, ⁹ "Understand that I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you—birds, livestock, and all wildlife of the earth that are with you—all the animals of the earth that came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by floodwaters; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: ¹³ I have placed my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all the living creatures: water will never again become a flood to destroy every creature. ¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the permanent covenant between God and all the living creatures on earth." ¹⁷ God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and every creature on earth."

(Genesis 9:8-17)

The symbol of the rainbow is the perpetual reminder of God's promise.

The Hebrew term for used to describe it is normally used for the _____ of a warrior. (v.13)

What is God saying to man?

Conclusion: Some Lessons on Salvation