

NEVER AGAIN Sunday, September 22, 2013

Unifying Topic: AN EVERLASTING COVENANT

Lesson Text

I. **God Makes A Covenant With Creation** (Genesis 9:8-11)

II. **God Seals His Covenant** (Genesis 9:12-17)

The Main Thought: 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. (Genesis 9:11, KJV).

Unifying Principle: A natural disaster can cause great anxiety over the safety and welfare of loved ones. How can loved ones be assured of God's protection in the future? God said that the rainbow would remind God of the covenant to protect all living creatures.

Lesson Aim: To explore the covenant God made with humans and the rest of creation after the Flood.

Life aim: To get a glimpse of the extent of God's faithfulness to His covenant and to understand that we respond to God's faithfulness by being a faithful people.

9:8 And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

9:9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

9:10 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.

9:11 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.

9:12 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:

9:13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

9:14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

9:15 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.

9:16 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.

9:17 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.

HISTORY:

¹This is a beautiful chapter. The terrible flood had destroyed the world that Noah knew. And Noah's ark (boat) was floating on the water. Noah might have been afraid. But this is not a story of despair. It is a story of hope. God had not forgotten the ark or its inhabitants. God remembered Noah. And Noah trusted God. After 150 days, the waters had gone down. Then Noah could see the tops of the mountains. Sometime after that (40 more days), Noah opened the window of the ark. After coming out of the ark Noah and his family built an altar to honor the Lord sacrificing some of the animals. God gave a wonderful promise. Because Noah obeyed God, God would never again curse the ground any more for man's sake. People will sow and they will harvest.

9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Noah and his family—only eight people—were left upon the earth. In blessing Noah (*"Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth"*), God was giving this same blessing to all persons who were to be born in the future, thus, God is preparing to establish a covenant with Noah unlike the covenant He had established with Adam (2:16, 17). Adam's covenant was conditional. This covenant would be unconditional; no matter what man did, it would not be taken back. The earth had to be repopulated and Noah and his family were given the purpose of being fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth.

9:2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. When Adam sinned, man's ability to subdue the earth was marred and weakened. Sin corrupted man; weakened his ability and the earth and man are in a rage of violence and suffering, making it far from being under the control of man. Now there is the fear and dread of every beast of the earth, fowl of the air, and fish of the sea toward Noah and his family, re-establishing man's dominion over the animal kingdom. The animals would fear man and do everything possible to escape from being killed. Cain was a farmer, Abel was a shepherd, but Noah and his sons were now hunters. This

¹ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/genesis-mwks1-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

is a time of new beginnings.

9:3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. Prior to this time, God had said that *"every herb bearing seed...every tree...to you it shall be for meat"* (Gen.1:29). It was not until this period of new beginnings that God sanctioned the eating of meat as well as the green herb.

9:4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. The only restriction given here was that man should not eat of the blood of the animal. Raw blood was not to be consumed as food. It symbolically represented life. While there is life in the blood, or while the creature is living; the meaning is, that a creature designed for food should be properly killed, and its blood let out.

9:5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. In Gen.2:24, the institution of the family was established; here the institution of civil government is established. The establishment of the Law is to protect the life of man. Life is the greatest possession man has. God had put the fear of humans in the animals, now He has to put the fear God into man lest they destroy one another. Capital punishment for murder applies for man and beast. Where man's blood is shed ruthlessly, without warrant and authority, there God Himself shall demand an account.

1. The law governing animals: If an animal attacks and kills a person, the animal is to be put to death. Justice is to be executed upon the animal. Savage attacks by animals upon people are not to be allowed.
2. The law governing murderers: Willful murderers are to face judgment by God—*"I will require the life of man."*

9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man. It is only in an official capacity man receives power over other men's lives. Consequently, capital punishment is divinely ordained for the proper safeguarding of the human race. It is true that this fundamental ordinance does not specify details as to how it is to be carried out, except that the work is to be done "by man" acting of course as God's instrument and agent. Men are to execute justice upon murderers. Willful murderers not accidental are to be punished by judges and jurors of men. There are two strong reasons why murder is to be punished.

1. Man's value; He is made in the image of God, therefore if man is murdered, justice is to be executed.

9:7 And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

2. Man's purpose: He is to be fruitful and multiply—repopulate the earth; to continue producing people to fellowship with God, to worship and serve God. Note, the murderer acts against the great purpose of man.

LESSON:

Genesis 9:8-11 God Makes A Covenant With Creation

9:8 And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,— God cared about Noah and his family. He cared about their needs as he began to speak to them about a new beginning.

9:9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;— God is the author of the covenant. It establishes a relationship. It is a solemn personal promise or agreement. Usually a covenant is between two parties. Each party agrees to do something, but not in this case. God alone is the establisher! This is...

- a one way covenant.
- an unconditional covenant.
- a covenant of promise.
- a covenant of grace which comes to Noah and his seed.

Neither Noah nor his seed (descendants) has to do anything in order to receive this promise of God. This covenant affects the whole human race, for Noah stood at the head of the human race, as the father of all who were yet to be born upon the earth.

9:10 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. God outlines the covenant He is now establishing which affects every living creature with Noah in the ark, and those to come upon the earth—the animals.

9:11 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. Noah and his sons are also recipients of this covenant. God was now giving Noah great assurance. The flood was a warning to man that God will not tolerate sin, and whenever man chooses to sin, divine judgment soon follows. Yet, never again will that judgment be in the form of a universal, globe-encircling flood. There have been and still will be local floods that destroy both lives and property so long as we live in a corruptible world where nature sometimes runs wild. However, God would never again destroy

the universal world by water.

Genesis 9:12-17 God Seals His Covenant

9:12 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:— Notice here, that just like salvation, this covenant of God was made by Him alone. Mankind has nothing to offer God as surety. Every creature that lives, the covenant will be for perpetual (everlasting and continuous) generations. The token, sign, or symbol of the covenant is stated in the next verse.

9:13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. ²The sign of the covenant is God hanging a bow in the sky — God's pledge of non-violence. The NIV translates the word as "rainbow" but in the original Hebrew, the word "qeshet" refers to a literal bow, the kind you use for hunting and war. It also refers to the rainbow that appears in the sky after rain, but it primarily refers to God's act of hanging up his bow – calling a truce with the earth. This is who God is — a terrible price has been paid to make the point that violence will not be tolerated on God's earth. God has given a place in the atmosphere—in the cloud, for a token of His covenant. As a sign of this covenant God determines to set a rainbow in the cloud. This would be a visible sign between Himself and earth for all to see. Whenever people saw the rainbow, they would remember God's promise that no future storm would flood the whole world to destroy humanity.

9:14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:— We too should remember this for when God Himself bring a cloud over the earth, the rainbow seen after the rain is a beautiful sight be seen in the sky. God bring it to pass, He's still letting us know of His great love for us and His covenant with us. So far in reading these verses, God has been the initiator; it all been God's doing:

God spake... v.8 I, behold, I establish... v.9 I will establish my... v.11 God said... I make... v.12 I do set my... v.13 I bring... v.14 I will remember my... v.15 I will look... I may remember... v.16, 17
God kept reiterating; kept letting us know He's doing this; He is ratifying this covenant; making provisions to assure us.

9:15 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. God is saying, He will always remember His covenant between He and Noah and every living creature of all flesh when the rainbow appears in the sky. The point is that we should also remember that God is true to His Word!

9:16 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 a sign to provoke remembrance that the covenant is everlasting. God reminds Himself! As long as the earth stands, all living creatures are safe from having to face a worldwide flood from God.

9:17 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. The purpose of this verse is to give Noah and us absolute assurance—perfect safety and security that God's covenant is true. God established it and He will abide by it.

SUMMARY:

God establishes a covenant between Noah and his seed after him, and the animals. The covenant is God's promise to never destroy the entire earth with a flood again. He presents a visible token or sign of the covenant, a rainbow in the cloud. Never again will God cut off all flesh and destroy the earth by the waters of a flood. And when God sees a rainbow, it reminds Him of the promise He freely made to us.

An everlasting covenant given by an eternal God continues to be displayed unto us through His grace and peace. Never again will His judgment come as it has come upon those in the time of Noah. He provides this covenant to His creation, and then He gives us a seal of that covenant providing assurance to us, making it permanent; everlasting. We didn't have to do a thing, but receive it and thank God we will not perish by Him wiping out the whole earth with flooding waters.

APPLICATION:

Can anyone else make a promise like that to you? No, so receive the seal God has provided.

² <http://snlkpc.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>