



February 3, 2019
Campaign 2019: The Covenants
The Noahic Covenant
Genesis 8:13-9:17
Pastor Larry Adams

Hi Everyone. My name is Larry Adams and I want to take a moment to thank you for reading this message. At Golden Hills we are committed to exalting Jesus and preaching the Word. Your downloading of this message is a great encouragement to us, as we know that our ministry is going out to spread God's Word all over the world.

We want you to know, too, that in no way do we intend these messages to be a replacement for your involvement in a good local church, where, sitting under the authority of pastors and other teachers, you can learn to worship, grow and serve and be engaged with a body of believers where you can grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We realize also, that some of you may be in areas of the world where there is no local church. Therefore, we hope these messages you are using, to gather with your family or other believers, or people from the community that it will be a great encouragement to you, as you hear God speak into your life, helping you to become disciples who are true, reproducing followers of Jesus Christ.

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Today we're going to be looking, as we come to Communion, at God's covenant with Noah. Yahweh's covenant with Noah. To prepare for that, I'd like us to read in chapter 8 of Genesis. There is a lot of material here. Beginning in verse 13. The flood has already occurred. Now it is time for Noah and his family and the animals to come out of the ark. Here is where we pick it up. Genesis 8:13-9:17 –

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

²² “As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease.”

9 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ² The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. ³ Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

⁴ “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

⁶ “Whoever sheds human blood,
by humans shall their blood be shed;
for in the image of God
has God made mankind.

⁷ As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there 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 generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

God thank You. This is not just a story. This is Your story. This is our story. I pray today, God, that as You open this up, You will prepare our hearts for experiencing the love of God in this new covenant, as we remember this covenant at this table. The covenant of Noah, the covenant with the earth, another sign of God’s love for all He has created. Help us today, God, to learn from this, that we might know the joy of our salvation. We’ll thank You in Jesus’ name, amen.

Sometimes, things get so bad you just have to destroy it and start over. There is a neighborhood in San Jose that has more million-dollar homes, collectively in this little area, than any other place I know of in

the Bay area. In fact, what is surprising about these million-dollar homes is that they are 50 years old. Most of them are between 1000 and 1200 square feet – they are little dinky places. Old. They run from about 1.1 million to 1.7 million dollars. So you can imagine my surprise when I saw this one going up for sale for half of that. When they had an open house, out of curiosity, I went in. The place was an absolute gut-job. Everything in it had to be torn out: the electrical was not up to code, the plumbing had to be replaced, the floors were not even, the door jambs were crooked, the foundation was cracked, the fireplace was cracked and leaning, the roof needed to be replaced. It was a total gut-job, in fact, I asked the realtor, “What are you selling this place for?” He said, “750,000 – it’s a steal. Whoever buys this will tear it down and use the lot and start all over.” That’s exactly what happened. Whoever bought it paid \$750,000 for the lot, plus the expenses of tearing the thing down, and then he rebuilt a house on that lot from the ground-up. He tore it down to the dirt and made everything new. Because sometimes, things get so bad, and there are so many things wrong, that the only thing to do is to tear it down and start over.

This is what God did in the worldwide flood of Noah’s time. The evil that came into the world when Adam broke his covenant with God had corrupted everyone and everything. In unimaginable form, worst that even you and I can imagine. Listen to the descriptive words of Noah’s world by God in Genesis 6:5-7, 11-13

⁵ The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷ So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

Hear the description? The human race was living in great wickedness. Their thoughts only evil all the time. The earth was corrupt and full of violence. All the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

Except one man.

So God said, I’m going to destroy it all and start over with a man and his family, that are righteous, blameless and who walk faithfully with me. His name was Noah. God said to him in Genesis 6:14 – ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.”

Genesis 6:17-22 –

¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.”

²² Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

If our understanding is correct, it took a long time, maybe 120 years to build this boat. The ark was finished on the 17th day of the second month of Noah's 600th year. On that day, rain began to pour down on the earth. The earth opened up and gushed forth water for 40 days and 40 nights, until the earth was covered. The highest mountains were covered to a depth of more than 20 feet.

It says in Genesis 7:21 –

Every living thing that moved on land perished. Birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils, died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out. People and animals and the creatures that moved along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

A year and ten days later, on the 27th day of the second month of Noah's 601st year, those who had survived came out of the ark. It says (Genesis 8:20-22)

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."

²² "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

The first altar, offering the first sacrifice. Pure and clean, pointing the way to the ultimate sacrifice in Jesus Christ.

The Lord told Noah – "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." So God made a covenant with Noah. God would establish with Noah the covenant He made with Adam. There would be another chance to restore what was broken with Adam and Eve.

God promises to preserve humanity and creation until His eternal purposes are complete, because God's covenant with Noah was His promise of preservation. What did God promise to preserve?

He promises Noah that He will preserve the human race and save those who live by faith. God promises Noah that He will preserve creation, until all of His promises are fulfilled.

The Noahic Covenant is Yahweh's promise to preserve the human race and save those who live by faith.

In Genesis 6, we read: (6:7-7:1)

¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons'

wives with you.¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive.²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

²² Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

7 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.

Adam and Eve broke their covenant with Yahweh, and the promised blessings turned to curses. But in the midst of all the sin, loss, despair and curses, God gave a message of hope, of good news. It is in Genesis 3:15, but the context begins in Genesis 3:14

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."

Satan, you have won this round but you will not win the war. This woman you deceived will have offspring. There will be enmity and strife between your offspring (workers of evil) and her offspring (those who are to inherit righteousness). One of her future offspring will be struck by you and you will think you scored a great victory, but it will only be a wound to His heel. After you strike Him, He will crush your head with a fatal blow!

That promise would be restated to Abraham and Moses and David until the promised offspring, the seed of the woman, had come. That seed, that offspring, is Jesus.

Paul told the Galatian church that the promised offspring was Christ, the One who had been promised to Abraham. Galatians 3:16

¹⁶ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.

Jesus is the offspring of the woman, who, by His death on a cross, would destroy Satan's grip on humanity through fear of death and the grave and sin. Part of the reason for God's covenant with Noah, not to destroy the human race, was in order to keep His promise, that through the seed of the woman, would come One who would be the Messiah. God, through the covenant with Noah was preserving the line of Christ. Noah is the new Adam, and a type of Christ, the one who is righteous and blameless and who walks with God. Adam was born righteous, but he fell into sin. Noah was born sinful, but he was declared righteous by his faith. Jesus, the eternal God, was born in righteousness, stayed in righteousness, and could offer His sinless life as a payment for all of our sin, for all people, for all time. You can read more about Noah as the new Adam and even as a type of Christ, in the workbook, Heather Ward's excellent work this week in the workbook. You need to take some time to read through that.

Noah was a sinner, declared righteous by his faith. Noah didn't earn salvation by his works; his works demonstrated that he had saving faith. His faith, seen by God, was declared to be his righteousness. That's why in Hebrews (11:6-7), part of that long running roll call of faithfulness, it says:

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

If you want to please God, you can be assured that God will put you in impossible situations, where you have to trust Him as your only recourse. That's what He did with Noah. (Hebrews 11:7) "⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith."

This is the saving faith that is still saving people who hear the gospel today – the good news of Jesus Christ, and who come to Christ by faith and are declared righteous when they believe.

Paul told the Romans (3:21-26) –

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. [More about Abraham next week, then the covenant of the Law with Moses.] ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Yahweh is a just God. So, in Christ at the cross, He justly paid for all the sins past, all the sins present and all the sins future. He did it to demonstrate His justice. Noah heard this God and believed Him. He built an ark. His faith – not his works – his faith is what saved him. He was justified; declared righteous.

Jesus is the ark! If we are in Christ Jesus, by faith we too will pass through judgment from death to life. When a Christian is saved and enters the ark (who is Christ), and is baptized, the symbolism is obvious. I pass through the waters, totally identified in Christ, and I'm raised to new life – all this by God's grace, through faith.

That's why when Peter wrote (1 Peter 3:18-22) –

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— [those who died in Noah's day who would not respond by faith to the gospel] ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you

by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

The water doesn't save. It's the ark that saves. We aren't saved by our baptism. We're saved because we are in Christ Jesus. But just as the ark passed through those waters, so too in our baptism, we are symbolizing that we who are in Christ, are passing through the waters of judgment. We've gone from death to life! We were buried with Him and now we are raised with Him.

We are saved by grace, by faith in Christ and in Him alone. This is what we are remembering today in Communion.

Not only would God preserve the human race and save people by faith, but **The Noahic Covenant is Yahweh's promise to preserve creation until all His promises are fulfilled.**

In Genesis 9:8-17, it says:

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you" ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there 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 generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

I can assure you, there will be no worldwide flood that destroys the earth from global warming or climate change. (That's not a political statement, that's a biblical one!) I don't know if you heard last week, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the socialist freshman Democrat from New York, declared last week that *the earth is going to be destroyed by global warming in 12 years! The polar ice caps will melt, seas will rise and flood the earth.*

I'm no scientist and apparently she isn't either, but I can tell you with absolute certainty that the world will NOT be destroyed by the effects of any warming or climate change, resulting in a world-wide flood that cover the earth. How do I know that? Because of God's promise to all creation, through His covenant with Noah. Listen to God's promise to Noah, to all creation: (Genesis 9:8-11) –

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you" ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: **Never again** will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; **never again** will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

In fact, God had said previously, as long as the earth endures, there will be hot and cold, summer and winter, seed time and harvest. There are going to be cycles of weather – hot and cold – and it will continue from creation until Christ comes again. I don't care how much deodorant you use – that isn't changing! God is going to do that.

This is a universal covenant. Not a promise of universal salvation for everyone, but a promise to creation of universal preservation. God said, "I covenant with you never to destroy the world with a flood again."

Just as the covenant with Adam had a symbol (the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil), so the covenant with Noah has a symbol – a rainbow. God said in Genesis 9:12-17—

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 generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

He will remember. To remember is not that God needed the rainbow to remind Him, as though He would forget. He is all-knowing, and forgets nothing. This is remembering in the sense of recounting or acknowledging it again. "When I see the rainbow," God said, "I will acknowledge once again My promise not to destroy the world with a flood." Genesis 9:17 –

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

God gave us a reminder of that again this morning, in the sky!

When all the promises in Christ are fulfilled and Jesus comes again to reign in power, then and only then, will the heavens and earth be destroyed, making way for a new heaven and new earth, the home of righteousness. The present heavens and present earth are being reserved for the final destruction... not by water, but by fire.

Peter wrote of this (2 Peter 3:8-18). He recounted two cataclysmic events for creation in the past and one cataclysmic even yet coming in the future. The two past events were creation, where all things began; and the flood, where all things were destroyed. But the one he spoke about in the future, is the second coming of Christ, when the earth and everything in it will be destroyed by fire.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

¹⁷ Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

People, God keeps His covenant promises. He has promised to preserve creation and humanity until all His promises fulfilled in Christ, are complete. Just as in the days of Noah, God was sending out through him, a message to people – the good news of how to be saved. Eight people responded. Today, through His church (you and me), God is sending His gospel out to all people, all nations, warning them that there is an ark to which they can flee. His name is Jesus. God's love is still sending forth the good news of the gospel. People who believe it are still being saved.

All the covenants are not based on human goodness, but on God's grace and mercy. God knew that endless restarts and second chances would never be the final solution. He already said, even after the flood, that man's intent was evil, even from childhood, all the time.

Humanity needed a new heart. Humanity needed a new covenant. Humanity needed a savior who could not only redeem them from their sin, but make them new people.

That's what we're remembering in this new covenant. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 –

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This is the covenant to which all the other covenants point. The Hesed love of Yahweh was seen in the grace and mercy extended to Noah, and providing an ark that would be the salvation for him and whoever else came in by faith. So the Hesed love of Yahweh is seen in the grace and mercy extended to us, in this [Communion] covenant, through the sacrifice of His Son on a cross. Jesus said, "This is for you. This is for you, so as often as you eat it, remember Me."

Father, this salvation that You have worked through these covenants is amazing. It speaks powerfully of the love of which we are just (seemingly) beginning to learn. The steadfast love of God, that even in the midst of Your own sorrow and regret, You offered another chance to Noah and to creation, knowing

that ultimately, all of these attempts would eventually lead to the ultimate solution. You Yourself would come in human flesh, and offer Your sinless life to pay for sin for all time. Your sacrifice has paid for sin from Adam to the second coming. We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. You always knew it would be like this, when these covenants were continual reminders of Your Hesed love, Your steadfast love that never wavers. Today there are many of us who have accepted this love and experienced it first-hand. We are saved by grace, the gift of faith You have given us to believe and come into the ark which is Christ. There are some today within My hearing, who have never yet trusted You this way. The gospel goes out to them. They are invited to come to the ark which is Christ, and they need to respond by faith and be saved. There are others who have accepted that in some measure. True salvation cannot be lost, but there are many today who have claimed that salvation but who are not walking faithfully with You; their works are not like Noah's, they are not demonstrating their faith. So Lord, we want You to help us become more like Noah. Not in the fact that he too was a sinner (we already know that), but the fact that he had faith. He believed You. You saved him. And his works were evidence of that faith. So today, God for those of us who have sought to walk faithfully with You in that gift of grace, let today be a constant reminder of what a blessing it is to live in Hesed love relationship with this God who has reached out to us and offered us a new covenant. So as we break this bread and drink this cup, may we truly be new covenant people, living for Your glory and experiencing the joy. We'll thank You in Jesus' name, amen.