

**FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017**  
**THEME – COVENANT WITH GOD**  
**UNIT I – SIGNS OF GOD’S COVENANTS**

**“GOD’S COMPASSIONATE COVENANT...  
FOLLOWING THE FLOOD!” (The Noahic Covenant)**

**The Noahic Covenant**

- For all mankind
- A promise of abiding love and mercy
- Never to destroy creation by flood



Sunday School Lesson No. I, September 3, 2017  
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III ~ Pastor-Teacher

**Lesson Text:** Genesis 9:1-17

**Required Reading:** Genesis 6 – 9

**Motto Texts:** Genesis 9:11 (NLT), *“Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”*

Genesis 9:15 (NLT), *“And I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life.”*

**Reliable Resources:** Logos Bible Software; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMD); Standard

Commentary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Genesis by D. G. Barnhouse

**INTRODUCTION**

Our lesson this week comes at the end of the greatest cataclysmic events in the known history of the earth...the Flood of Noah’s day! The Bible describes the fact that the earth that was so wonderfully created by Jehovah God had become a wasteland of terror and unbelievable sin! (Read Genesis 6:5-7). The fact seems to be that the promise of God in Genesis 3:15 was the aim of Satan’s aggression to defeat. Note that the general population was on the verge of total annihilation. Genesis 6:5 tells us, *“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*

God then intervenes in the actions of the human race and shows grace unto one family whose heritage could bring forth His desired results, not because they were perfect, but they *“found grace in the eyes of the Lord”* (Gen. 6:8). Thus chapters 6-8 describe the great destruction of all living things on the face of the earth! But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Note the narrative:

- A. God prepares Noah and his family for earth’s destruction by the construction of an ark (6:11-22).
- B. God directs Noah to receive pairs of all animals, male and female, into the ark. Then God receives Noah and his family into the ark (Gen. 7:1-9, 13-16).
- C. God brought a cataclysmic flood upon the earth, drowning every land creature and human being, except those that were in the ark (Gen. 7:10-12, 17-24).
- D. God provided Noah and all within the ark with everything necessary until He directed the ark to Mt. Ararat, “the place of blessing.” It was there that God delivered the precious cargo and Noah and all were allowed to disembark. Noah offered sacrifices to God of clean animals brought aboard for this purpose (Gen. 8:20-22). This is where our lesson begins this week.

**Anticipated Power Points:**

- **God’s Comprehensive Commission. Genesis 9:1-4**
- **God’s Compelling Command. Genesis 9:5-7**
- **God’s Compassionate Covenant. Genesis 9:8-17**

**God’s Compassionate Covenant...Following the Flood!**

**LESSON EXPOSITION**

**Defining a Covenant:** “A binding agreement or contract (illus: in business, a contract; among nations, a treaty; ruler and constituents, a constitution or simply, it is a promise).” (Larry Richard)

**I. God’s Comprehensive Commission. Genesis 9:1-4**

Now that God has made His sovereign statement through the Flood, there are some things that must be settled. Before I continue, if there are any doubters of the Flood event, just remember Hebrews 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to*

*please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* Also remember that Jesus and the prophets refer to the Flood! Read Luke 17:26-27 and Hebrews 11:7. Romans 3:4 admonish us to “...*let God be true, but every man a liar...*”

Our focus from here on is on God’s compassionate covenant with mankind called “The Noahic Covenant” and sometimes “The Rainbow Covenant.” It is an everlasting covenant that God made with Noah that was unconditional. In other words, “God said it and that settled it.” It is based upon His own word and nothing or no one else. A covenant simply defined is, “*An agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified.*” (Dictionary.com). God was setting forth guarantees for all mankind and the earth through His covenant with Noah and all the ages! Now let’s examine **His Comprehensive Commission:**

**A. Man’s duplication. vs. 1**

God reiterates His commission made to Adam in Genesis 1:28. (Procreation, God’s desire for all humanity).

**B. Man’s dominion. vs. 2**

God reestablishes man’s authority over all animals, land, air and sea, and they are to move with fear towards man. The relationship was not as in Eden where there was harmony, but now with contention and fear.

**C. Man’s diet. vss. 3-4**

Eden was a place of a vegan diet where humans only ate from the ground (Gen. 1:29-30). Now post-flood, God has expanded man’s diet to eat even animals, but with one exception: **Eat no animal’s blood!** Why not? It would not be healthy and above all, was a sanctity for life, physically and spiritually. Leviticus 17:11 says, “*For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*”

**II. God’s Compelling Command. Genesis 9:5-7**

To demonstrate the sanctity of life as is found in blood, God compels man to a new form of law; human government is now instituted by God and the power to enforce “capital punishment.” Why? As the maximum restraint to the sanctity of human life! Romans 13:4 (NLT), “*The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.*” God knew the nature of fallen man where murder and bloodshed had abounded. Cain (Gen. 4:8); Lamech (Gen. 4:23-24); and of course, the pre-flood generation (Gen. 6:11-13). The true authority of life and death is in God’s hands; He gives and takes it (Job 1:21). In years to come, God would establish His laws with the nation of Israel more clearly. But why is human life so precious to God? The answer is found in Genesis 9:6, “*...for in the image of God made he man.*”

**III. God’s Compassionate Covenant. Genesis 9:8-17**

**A. Those covered by this compassionate covenant.**

1. Noah and his immediate sons. vs. 8
2. All of the succeeding generation of mankind. vs. 9
3. All creation. vss. 10, 11, 15

**B. Token of the compassionate covenant.**

The rainbow will be God’s token of His promised covenant with Noah and all the generations. (Read Genesis 12 – 17). Reading Revelation 4:6-7, Dr. Warren Wiersbe informs us that there are four unusual creatures before the Throne of God. These creatures have the face of a lion, calf, man and eagle, all of which represent the constituents of the Noahic or Rainbow Covenant. Beloved, God is faithful!

**C. Three times the Lord reiterates His remembrance of His covenant, perhaps giving us a picture of the Trinity (Gen. 9:11, 15).**

**CLOSING**

I close with the thought of Wiersbe on the compassion seen of God in the bow: “A bow is an instrument of war, but God has transformed it into a picture of His grace and faithfulness, a guarantee of peace. God could certainly turn the bow of judgment upon us, because we’ve broken His law and deserve judgment. But He has turned the bow toward heaven and taken the punishment for us Himself! When Jesus died on the cross, it was the Just One suffering for the unjust (I Pet. 3:18) and bearing the suffering that rightfully belonged to us.”



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**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**September 10, 2017**

**Genesis 17:1-14**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.**

**Pastor Davis invites you to hear him teach the Sunday School lesson at Bibleway on Wednesday at noon.**