

Sermon Discussion

6 February 2022

Read Genesis 9:1-17

Dig Deeper

While God's speech here closely parallels Genesis 1:28-30, two important changes are introduced. **First**, the positive instruction to exercise dominion over the living creatures is replaced by the negative comment that they will fear and dread human beings.

Second, whereas the emphasis was previously on people's eating from plants, humans are now given permission to be carnivorous. While God now permits the taking of animal life for food, the animal's blood remains sacred and is not to be consumed, as an acknowledgment that all life is from God (*see Leviticus 17:12-14*).

God outlines the **covenant** he is now establishing with all living creatures, having mentioned it briefly before the flood in 6:18. This is the first covenant explicitly named in Genesis; a similar covenant is later established with Abraham and his descendants in chapter 17.

A covenant formally binds two parties together in a relationship, on the basis of mutual personal commitment, with consequences for keeping or breaking the commitment. God makes this kind of covenant with a group of people by covenanting **with one who represents them**: everyone else then experiences the covenant by virtue of being included "in" the representative. Here, the animals are included as well as Noah's descendants, showing Noah to be a kind of new Adam.

1. Define the word covenant. Why did God choose to re-establish His relationship with Noah and his family through a covenant (Genesis 9:8-17)? What is the difference between this covenant with Noah and the original relationship with Adam and Eve?
2. Why did God speak of an accounting for the shedding of man's blood in v. 5-6?
3. Is there a difference between not fearing God's judgment and not taking it seriously? (*Consider 2 Corinthians 5:10-11*)
4. How would you answer the person who said that if we emphasize God's grace, people will take advantage of it to go on in sin?
5. God's promise (covenant) is joined to a physical element (the rainbow). Why do you think that is important and what other covenants from God are joined to physical elements?

Application & Prayer

- As God worked through Noah in a fallen world, remind yourself that He can use us if we follow Him in obedience too. Thank God for His grace and mercy and His desire to walk with His children.
- Read Romans 3:23-26. What similarities do you see between Noah and Jesus?
- Reflect on the implications of Genesis 9:1-17 for your own life today. Consider what you have learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in His gracious promises.