

# LESSON TWO

## The Noahic Covenant

### Genesis 9:8-17

#### (For Group and Sunday School Members)

Before we dig into the study of the Noahic Covenant, let us look at what took place after Adam and Eve were booted out of the Garden. It is a period that is full of evil and what is abundantly evident is the fact that God's good, created order has been corrupted by human rebellion. The people have done what God has asked them to do; that is to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Genesis 1:28). Unfortunately, rather than filling the earth with image-bearers who reflect God's glory, they have instead filled the earth with sin. They chose to trust their eyes and follow the lusts of their hearts. At its core, this is the nature of sin. As Adam and Eve began to live outside of the presence of God, sin became the dominant theme. God saw that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 5:5). Evil prevailed and there was much chaos and disorder that pained God immensely even to the point where He was "sorry that He had made man on the earth..." (Genesis 5:6). Humankind became so corrupt that God was moved to bring a radical judgment on His creation. God saw that the conscience of man was constantly bent toward evil. It makes sense that God felt the need to destroy His creation because it had become so polluted that it was not capable of being redeemed. But this is not just about God's destruction of mankind. Rather through the story of Noah, God offers a clear picture of the saving mercy of God. In the midst of humanity's sin and rebellion, God made a way for the salvation of the human race through Noah and the Ark. Had Noah and his family not stood out by God's grace from the wickedness of their day, there would have been a new beginning on the part of God that would have omitted all of us! Mercifully, God provided Noah and his family with the ark to escape the floodwaters. The story of Noah is a powerful picture of Jesus Christ in whom salvation would come to everyone who believed in him. Jesus would one day be lifted high above the floodwaters of our sin to endure the full wrath of God. By putting our hope in Jesus, we can be rescued like Noah and his family.

**Read Genesis 6:5-9; 8:20-22; 9:8-17**

#### **Questions:**

**Some might argue that it was unjust for God to destroy—utterly destroy—the whole earth. You say?**

**Paul said, "We preach Christ crucified." We always do well to look at the Old Testament through the lens of the New Testament. How does the ark remind us of Christ?**

**Gopher wood... what is the New Testament picture?**

**Verse 14. Pitch. What is the New Testament picture?**

**What do we learn about ourselves from this story?**

**Genesis 6.9 says that Noah walked with God. What does it mean to walk with God?**

**Genesis 9.8 – 17. "Covenant" is a central word in scripture. So much so that Christian institutions use it as a name (such as Covenant Seminary, where my boys attend). But, we don't use the word too much outside of church world. What does covenant mean? What is a covenant?**

**How is a covenant different from a contract?**

**What is the Noahic Covenant? (Genesis 9: 8-17)**