

**Covenant: How the Bible Hangs Together**  
Resurrection OPC | Spring 2020  
April 15, 2020

**Week 5: The Covenant of Grace—Adam and Noah**

- The *Protoevangelion* (“First Gospel”)—Genesis 3:15
  - The offspring of the woman and the crushing of the serpent
  - Garments of skins (Genesis 3:21)
  - The inauguration of the Covenant of Grace
    - WSC 20. Q. 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery? A. God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a redeemer.
    - WCF 7.3. Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.
- The Noahic Covenant
  - Noah/Adam “Parallels”<sup>1</sup>
    - The Flood as de-creation and new creation
    - Fruitfulness: Genesis 1:28 and 9:1, 7
    - Dominion: Genesis 1:28-29 and 9:2-3
    - Image of God: Genesis 1:27 and 9:6
    - Covenant failure: Genesis 3 and 9:18-29
    - “When God says that he is confirming or establishing his covenant with Noah, he is saying that his commitment initiated previously at creation to care for and preserve, provide for and rule over all that he has made, including the blessings and ordinances that he gave to Adam and Eve and their family, are now to be with Noah and his descendants.”<sup>2</sup>
  - The Noahic Covenant as a “bond in blood sovereignly administered”<sup>3</sup>
    - Bond
      - Relationship: Genesis 6:18; 9:8-11
      - Binding relationship
        - Binding Commands (9:1-7)
        - Binding Promises, Rainbow as Covenant Sign (9:8-17)
    - In blood (life and death): Flood context; Burnt offerings (8:20-21); Punishment for bloodshed (9:5-6)
    - Sovereignly administered: God makes the covenant unilaterally

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<sup>1</sup> Peter J. Gentry and Stephen J. Wellum, *Kingdom through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants*, 161.

<sup>2</sup> Gentry & Wellum, 161.

<sup>3</sup> O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*.

- “Common Grace” aspects of the Noahic Covenant<sup>4</sup>
  - Preservation of created order
  - Provision for civil government
  - But is the Noahic Covenant *purely* “common” (“non-redemptive”<sup>5</sup>) in nature?
- The Noahic Covenant as an administration of the Covenant of Grace
  - “Broader implications of God’s covenant with Noah must be viewed in a distinctively redemptive rather than in a more generalized context. God does not relate to his creation through Noah apart from his on-going program of redemption.<sup>6</sup>
  - Priority of grace in Noah’s story (Gen 6:8)
  - Family context, federal representation

“The righteousness of the single head of the family serves as the basis for including the whole of his descendants in the ark. Because Noah is righteous, his entire family experiences deliverance from the flood.”<sup>7</sup>
  - God preserves the world *so that redemption can play out in it.* (2 Peter 3:3-10; Romans 2:4-5)

“The covenant with Noah provides the historical framework in which the Immanuel [‘God with us’] principle may receive its full realization. God has come in judgment; but he also has provided a context of preservation in which the grace of redemption may operate.”<sup>8</sup>
  - God preserves the world so that the Gospel can be proclaimed throughout it

“Creation’s witness of grace toward sinful man still provides the platform from which the universal proclamation of the gospel should be launched.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Michael Horton, *Introducing Covenant Theology*, 113.

<sup>5</sup> Horton, 113.

<sup>6</sup> O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, 111.

<sup>7</sup> Robertson, 114.

<sup>8</sup> Robertson, 125.

<sup>9</sup> Robertson, 123.