

Covenant: How the Bible Hangs Together
Resurrection OPC | Spring 2020
April 22, 2020

Week 6: The Covenant of Grace—Abraham, Part 1

- The Noahic Covenant, continued
 - “Common Grace” aspects of the Noahic Covenant¹
 - Preservation of created order
 - Provision for civil government
 - But is the Noahic Covenant *purely* “common” (“non-redemptive”²) 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.”³
 - 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.”⁴
 - 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.”⁵
 - 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.”⁶
- The Abrahamic Covenant
 - A Sovereignly Administered Bond: Genesis 12:1-8
 - A Bond in Blood: Genesis 15
 - God’s Promise: Offspring, Land (vv. 1-7)
 - God’s Guarantee: Passing between the pieces of the divided animals (vv. 9-20; cf. Jeremiah 34:18-20)
 - Abraham’s Response: Faith (v. 6)

¹ Michael Horton, *Introducing Covenant Theology*, 113.

² Horton, 113.

³ O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, 111.

⁴ Robertson, 114.

⁵ Robertson, 125.

⁶ Robertson, 123.