

THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE – COVENANT

Introduction – The corruption of the human race became so great that God destroyed it in a flood, preserving only Noah's family in an ark.

A. The Noahic Covenant

Genesis 9:1-13

1. In the Bible, a covenant is always initiated by God with expectations for human obedience. This is not a covenant among equals.
2. God promises to never destroy the world again by flood waters. The ongoing sign of this promise is the rainbow.
3. This is a universal covenant with all humans and creatures.
4. Humans are allowed to kill animals for food, but must give an account for each death.
5. Capital punishment is institutionalized to prevent the escalation of violence seen before the flood.
6. The original creation mandate is restored, giving human beings a new opportunity to do God's will.

B. The Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1-3

1. This is specifically called a covenant in Genesis 15:18.
2. Corruption had resumed with Noah's drunkenness and culminated with the tower of Babel.
3. God promises to make a great nation of Abraham's descendants (Israel).
4. God promises to make Abraham's name great (Judaism, Christianity, Islam).
5. God promises to bless those who bless Abraham and his descendants or curse those who curse them.
6. Ultimately God promises to bless all peoples on earth through his descendants (Jesus).

Conclusion – God does not give up in seeking a right relationship with his creation. God makes covenants with undeserving human beings to restore purpose and meaning to human life.

Ephesians 2:11-13