

Genesis 9:1-17 The God of Healing 11/5/17

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

*⁶ “Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.*

⁷ And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

(Pastor prays)

We can't always see them, and we are often not aware of it, but many people —maybe even you— carry the scars of the past. In fact, some of us have been wounded so deeply it can feel like those wounds are never going to heal. Amy Carmichael, the sainted

missionary to India, captured this thought when she wrote: “No Wound? No Scar? Yet as the Master, shall the servant be, and pierced are the feet that follow me; but thine are whole: can he have followed far who has no wound nor scar?”

In the text, Noah and his family are wounded. Think of it, just think of it. The only civilization they had ever known was completely wiped out. The flood was a holocaust of major and unique proportions. Some of you have been through the shock of sudden death or you live with the dull poison of loneliness. Wounded. Noah had to be wounded in his soul, and being hurt that badly, as many of you know, is disorienting and, like many of you, Noah needed to hear it again. He needed to hear again that this God, Our God, the God of the Bible, is a God of beauty. He calls people. He calls you away from the ugliness of sin and into the beauty of His covenant in Christ.

It’s why I need the Gospel preached to my soul over and over again. Sin punches holes in us and we leak assurance and wonder, “Why God? Why is this happening to me?” And the beauty of the cross and the beauty of this passage remind us that by His wounds we are healed.

So for all of you carrying scars or nursing wounds that won’t seem to heal, I have good news today: the wounds of Jesus are a source of healing, and the grace of God, our covenant God, God in Christ will provide healing for your soul. Today, I hope you see that...

Our God Is a Healing God

In the passage, we find out...

Our God Loves to Bless His People

It’s right there in the text in verse 1, *And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.* Along with their wives, they were the only people on Earth at the time! Now what I’d like to do is go through these first seven verses. Walk with me through them and I’m going to be like a tour guide and just point out some of God’s blessings.

He Blesses Us with a Second Chance

Notice verse 1: Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. That ought to sound familiar. That is the exact same thing God said to Adam in Genesis 1:28 before sin and death and the flood. God will say it again down in verse 7. Be fruitful and multiply. What God told Adam, He is now telling Noah.

His desire to bless His creation did not change even though now sin has entered the world. What does that mean for you and me? It means that though our sin is an affront to God and our pain paralyzes our forward movement, God creates a way to give us a second chance, and that redemption is found in Christ.

God gives us a rebate on our lives through what Christ has done on the cross. The cross is a reminder that God loves to bless His people. How else does He bless us?

He Gives Us Dominion

Verse 2 is important, if just for survival. That verse is why a 110-pound girl can master a 2000-pound horse. It's why we can domesticate dogs. I don't know what to tell you about cats. Those are Satan's pets. Let me go quickly here.

He Blesses Us with Provision

You see this in verse 3. I prefer the first half of the verse over the second. Let's read it. *3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.* This will later be restricted for God's chosen people under the Mosaic Covenant and then, as Peter will find out, that freedom is re-established in Christ. The Cross of Christ tells us we are saved by grace through faith, not by some religious practice.

He Blesses Us with Dignity

Look at the dignity of every human being as described in verses 5-6. *"And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image"*

Here is the transcendent value of human life conferred at creation telling Noah and all his descendants, including you and me, that we are to be life *producers* and not life *takers*. The image of God in every human is such that to kill another human is to

destroy one who is a bearer of the divine image. It's why we hate abortion. It's also where we get capital punishment. Capital punishment, not because life is *not* valuable. It's because life is *so* valuable. And part of what I want you to see in this passage is that God's default is blessings for His people, and in Christ, He will bring healing to your wounded heart. In Christ, He will give the blessing of forgiveness and restoration. God loves to bless His people.

Now let's look at the covenant.

God Loves to Save His People

We turn our attention now to the covenant that God made with Noah and his sons and all the animals. Verses 8-11 tells us, ⁸ *Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,* ⁹ *“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you,* ¹⁰ *and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.* ¹¹ *I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”* This teaches us something about the nature of salvation.

Salvation Is All of God

Look at the text and notice the emphasis. In verse 9, *Behold, I establish* my covenant. Verse 11, *I establish* my covenant with you. And verse 17, *I have established*. Three times to show this is God's grace, not Noah's obedience.

Also, in verses 9,11 and 17, there are different verb tenses used. Verse 9 is, *I will* establish. Verse 11 is, *I establish*. Verse 17 is, *I have* established. Read it backwards = Past, Present and Future. God says: there is nothing in your past that I won't cover, nothing you are in now that I can't handle, and nothing you are going to face that I won't take care of.

God initiates, sustains and completes our salvation. Our Savior is Prophet, Priest and King. Not only that –

When God Saves, It's Irreversible

Verse 11 says, *never* again. When you are in Christ, you *never* come out. But if you are in Christ, you *never* want to. Our affections are for the things of God. Notice something else that assures that the covenant is irreversible. In verses 9 & 10, *“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you,* ¹⁰ *and with every living creature*

that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.

The covenant is extended to animals, telling us that the validity of the covenant is not dependent on the recipient. Animals don't accept the covenant. This speaks to a higher and holier truth found in the new covenant in Christ. We are secure in Christ because of the finished work of Jesus. And even on top of all this...

Our God Is Full of Mercy and Grace

Mercy: we *don't* get what we deserve. Grace: we get what we *don't* deserve. Notice the sign in verse 12-13. A bow is mentioned in verses 14 & 16 as well. We know it as a rainbow, but the word bow describes a weapon of warfare. Like a Bow & Arrow. In Exodus 15:3, the Lord is a warrior. In Psalm 7:11-12, *God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day. ¹² If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow;* In the Old Testament, the bow is a symbol of combat and death. The famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" speaks to this. Jonathon Edwards said, "The bow of God's wrath is bent and straining. The arrow has been made ready on the string and justice aims the arrow at your heart."

That's a terrible prospect, but in the text verses 13-16, The Lord has hung up His bow so that the symbol of combat and death becomes a symbol of peace and life. In the same way that, before the coming of Jesus Christ, the cross was a symbol of death and punishment, now because of what Christ has done, the cross has become a symbol of hope and grace.

(There's)Something else about the bow placed in the sky. Think of a bow and how the bow appears in the sky after a rain storm. There's no rainbow without a storm or clouds. Let's read verses 13-16. *I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."*

There is no rainbow without clouds. There is no peace without a storm. There is no real joy without pain. "By his wounds we are healed." Whenever the bow appears in the sky,

it serves as a reminder that, despite the fact that the world deserves judgment, God shows mercy and He extends grace. It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance. To know that a good and loving God, a God who loves to bless His people is a God who loves to save His people and He has come to save.

(Pastor shares the Gospel, extends the invitation and prays)