



Sermon Series: Promises We Can Count On

To be used with Session 2: God's Promise of Preservation

Sermon Title Possibilities: "Made" For Covenant

Scripture: Genesis 9:1-13

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study "Promises We Can Count On," this sermon will explore the provision, protection, and promise of God. Genesis Chapter 9 invites us to explore the compassion of God towards His people. While this compassion includes warnings, God's boundless favor upon His people is unparalleled. In this sermon, a profound analysis of God's workings will highlight the methods He chooses to sustain the enduring relationship of blessing His people. Emphasizing obedience, the people of God can uphold a connection with Him, serving as a protective measure for His favor. This sermon will unveil God's standards of holiness, challenging His followers to rise to meet His expectations rather than expecting God to lower His standards.

Introduction: The doctor felt encouraged by the successful surgery and believed the patient was on the path to a pain-free life. After reviewing the recovery process, the doctor began explaining pain management strategies to the patient. Emphasizing that medication would be effective but needed to be taken with non-acidic foods, the doctor reiterated this important instruction before releasing the patient home. The requirement to take medication with non-acidic food wasn't meant as a limitation, but rather as a protective measure. Similarly, in Genesis Chapter 9, God establishes a covenant with Noah, post-flood, urging him to be fruitful and multiply. God reminds Noah of the abundant options available to live freely and enjoy creation, yet He provides one caveat: abstaining from consuming meat with its lifeblood still in it. God emphasizes this point so strongly that accountability is demanded for those who violate it. Following this instruction, a covenant is sealed with a rainbow as a promise never to destroy the Earth by flood again. This sermon will explore the intentional steps God takes to communicate with Noah, revealing His provision, protection, and promise to us.

- **The Provision (Genesis 9:1-3).**

God's truth remains steadfast, and His provision for His creation continues unabated. In the passage of Scripture concerning Noah, we see a parallel to the provision granted to Adam in the Garden of Eden. The command to be fruitful and multiply given to Noah and his family reflects God's consistent expectation for His creation. This shared directive underscores God's consistent commitment to providing for His creatures. Upon closer examination, it becomes evident that God's provision is intended to free Noah, and indeed Adam before him, from the constant struggle for survival, allowing them more time for worship. In our own lives, what hinders our worship of the Lord? If we ask God for our "daily bread" and He faithfully provides it, what remains for us but to worship Him for His daily provisions? This passage emphasizes that God's bestowal of authority to Noah extends beyond mere provision; it signifies God's facilitation of worship. If God meets our every need, then our primary response should be to worship Him for His provision. Indeed, God's provision isn't solely about granting material possessions; rather, it's about enabling us to worship Him. Thus, we should delight in His provision and express our gratitude through worship, recognizing that His ultimate aim is our spiritual nourishment and communion with Him.

- **The Protection (Genesis 9:4-6).**

From the God voice, the word "however" carries profound weight. It underscores that within the blessings and provisions bestowed upon humanity by God there exists a seriousness in God's demeanor that demands reverence and honor. Just as God instilled a reverence for life and particularly blood, evident in the limitations placed upon Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, similar constraints are placed upon Noah. In Genesis 9:4-6, blood, deemed sacred by God, finds its significance in the Old Testament sacrificing of animals and the New Testament redemptive narrative of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Yet, viewing this mandate solely as an inflexible rule would miss its essence; it also serves as a means of protection. Amidst the abundance of blessings bestowed upon Noah and his kin to maintain order and divine favor, God graciously imparts His standards. Many want the blessings without adhering to God's standards. True blessings are intertwined with respectful obedience. May we perceive God's rules not as hindrances but as shields, safeguarding us from harm. They are pathways to divine protection rather than roadblocks to our desires.

- **The Promise (Genesis 9:7-13).**

This scripture illustrates the extension of God's promises beyond Noah to encompass the entire earth. Noah and his entire family find favor in God's eyes, evident in their rescue from the flood

that engulfed the world. In this passage, God draws near to Noah and communicates the establishment of a covenant, not only with his immediate family but also with all their descendants, as referenced in verse 9. Noah's obedience to God's directive to construct an ark and ensure the safety of all creation paves the way for the establishment of this covenant. This covenant assures that the earth will never again face destruction by flood, as declared in verse 11. Going even further, God solidifies His promise by creating the rainbow as a visible symbol, serving as a reminder for all generations. Each sighting of a rainbow becomes a reminder of God's mercy and kindness. Despite the world's ongoing sin and afflictions, which might warrant divine judgment, God's graciousness prevails. The rainbow stands as a testament to God's enduring love. As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, fraught with sin and suffering, God's authority to render judgment remains evident. Yet, in His divine mercy, He refrains from unleashing another flood. Instead, the rainbow serves as a beacon of hope, signifying God's unwavering commitment to preserve and protect those he loves. May we always be humbled by the depth of God's love, recognizing that His mercy prevails even when our actions merit judgment. Indeed, this is the essence of true mercy—the compassionate restraint of deserved punishment, and it stands as a profound testament to God's unfathomable love.

Conclusion:

As we journey in our walk with God, we encounter numerous instances where His provision abundantly blesses us. His grace stands as a constant testament to His love for His people. Within this provision, God bestows protective measures that may initially seem like restrictive rules but is designed to safeguard us from harm and prevent us from indulging in life's deceitful ways. Just as a caring parent prevents a newborn from touching a hot stove, God's protective guidance serves as indicators to steer us towards paths that honor Him. While some may perceive these measures as hindrances, they are, in truth, God's way of guiding us into His will and ensuring our fulfillment of the great promises He has in store for us. Let us strive to heed His commands, embracing obedience as a means to glorify His name. In doing so, we align ourselves with His divine purpose, experiencing the fullness of life He intends for us.

Author Bio

Dr. Mark Louis Johnson Sr. is an Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Pastoral Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. Additionally, he serves as the Interim Pastor of First Baptist Church of Kenner, Louisiana.