



1/9/26

I was excited to record this week's episode of the Chosen and Cherished podcast for 2 reasons. 1. It had been several weeks since I recorded an episode and I was happy to get back to it. 2. I love the topic! It was about the affection of the Lord. Do you think of God as being affectionate toward you? I just love that!!! If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 9:8-17

After 377 days, God told Noah and all who were with him to go ahead and leave the ark that carried them to safety... to a whole new normal. It's still amazing to me that God made the promise not to destroy ALL His creatures ever again (a promise He still keeps today), knowing full well that every single one of us STILL has evil intentions in our hearts from our childhood even to this day. His promises are never based on our goodness, but His.

Now... starting in Genesis 9:8, I see that God sealed His promise with a covenant and a sign. He said to Noah and his sons, "Behold... check it out... I establish My covenant with you, and your children and their children, and every living creature... every kind of created being that came out of the ark." That encompasses EVERYONE. How good is God? His covenant is even for animals!!! (I wonder if that's means that there will be every kind of beast and bird and creature that was on the ark in heaven... not the animals that were on the ark, but the type. That would be so cool.)

What IS a covenant? It's an unconditional promise. This promise God made to Noah, his descendants, and all creatures is not dependent on them. He keeps this promise knowing full well that man has evil intentions in his heart. He didn't say, "I make this promise, this covenant, WITH those who obey Me." He said, "I make this covenant, this promise TO all people and creatures." That's amazing. How often do I treat God as though it's an "I scratch Your back, You scratch mine" kind of relationship? Or I treat Him as though He won't care for me until I

earn my way to Him? That's not His plan! Praise His name!!!

What was God's unconditional promise? "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." Can I trust His promises? Well... that promise was made thousands of years ago and He is still keeping it.

But how do I KNOW He's intentionally keeping His covenant promise? He gave me a rainbow. Is the rainbow ALWAYS in the sky? No. He puts it there when I MOST need to be reminded of His promise... when it rains. That's just beautiful. God understands my fears so well that He provides a sign for me to remind me that He remembers me... not when I don't need it... but when I do. I don't need to be reminded of His promise when the sun is shining. If the rainbow was always visible, it would become like a picture on the wall that just seems to become part of the wall and forgotten. But who sees a rainbow that only comes out when it rains and isn't in awe?

How many rainbows get posted on social media when it rains? Sometimes we even see a double rainbow! This rainbow is not just a sign of God's unconditional covenant promise only for those who believe in Him... both the believers and the unbelievers are in awe of it... AND God calls it an EVERLASTING covenant. It's so everlasting that one of the descriptions of the throne room of God in Revelation 4 includes a rainbow that completely circles around the throne of God. A promise is only a true promise if it's kept forever. God keeps His promises forever.

God HIMSELF established this promise and upholds it forever. No person or animal does anything to deserve this promise. It is by God's unequalled authority that He is able to make this promise. It is by His power that He is able to uphold this promise. It is by His wisdom that He fashioned together the physics that made the colors of the rainbow and put them together in the same order every single time as a constant reminder of His power and authority and LOVE. It is because of His love and compassion that He established this unconditional covenant promise with man whose heart intentions are evil, and with creatures who He created as provision and companionship for His image bearers... humans.

I think about this. If God only made this covenant between Him and man, He could destroy all creatures and man would be in devastation. We rely on His creatures for so much of our survival and contentment. God thought of every detail. It is because He IS love that He lavished His blessing us and continues to remind us that He has not forgotten or abandoned us and He never will.

O Lord, how do I respond to this word? I pray that I will respond as Noah did when he left the ark... that I will worship You. Let me never take for granted the promises You keep. EVERY word You speak is a promise because You never change.

I think of another unconditional covenant You made between You and man. It is the covenant of salvation, redemption, and eternal life through Jesus. He is the sacrificial lamb that makes the

covenant. His cross is the sign that reminds me of His everlasting unconditional promise. His Spirit is the seal that guarantees the promise forever. I did nothing to make the covenant or earn the right to have this covenant. And I do nothing to keep this covenant from being broken. My only part is to put my genuine faith in the One who provided everything needed for this covenant, and to confess You as my Lord.

O Lord, let me be intentional to remember Your unconditional promise that even restores me so that the intentions of my heart become like Yours. Let me be intentional to worship You because You never stop being worthy of my worship and more. Let me be intentional to call You and treat You as who You are... my Lord. Praise Your name!