

Questions

1. How do you personally relate to the themes of God's faithfulness and humanity's sinfulness?
2. How does Noah's first act after the flood—worship—challenge your priorities?
3. How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude to fuel worship? What practical steps can be taken?
4. How do you see God's faithfulness in your own life? How can looking at creation help to remind you of God's faithfulness? How can looking to Jesus remind you of God's faithfulness?
5. What daily reminders help you trust in His promises? What promises of Scripture do you hold dear?
6. How does Noah's failure remind us of the inescapable struggle with sin? How can you respond with love, patience, and grace when others sin against you?
7. How do we avoid cynicism while acknowledging the reality of sin in the world? How does the gospel speak into this?
8. "There is a grittiness to the gospel that gives us both a sobriety to sin's reality but also a hopefulness knowing that sin will not have the last word." How can this inform our expectations in this post-flood world?

Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.

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BEGINNINGS

Genesis 1-11

Post-Flood Expectations

Genesis 8:20-9:29

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In Genesis 8:20-9:29 we see two post-flood realities that defined life in the recreated world and still shape our expectations for life today.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS (8:20-9:17)

God's Promise (8:20-22)

God's promise is a stunning display of His mercy. God would be totally just in sending the floodwaters of judgement again. But God says, "Even though, I will show mercy!"

The continued stability of the world attests to God's faithfulness.

God's Blessing (9:1-7)

Gen. 1-7 is almost an exact echo of Gen. 1:27-30, but this side of the Fall, it's distorted by sin.

The Noahic Covenant attests to God's faithfulness. God graciously unilaterally established it.

HUMANITY'S SINFULNESS (9:18-29)

God's blessing attests to God's faithfulness. Despite sins ruin, He's not done with us. God is faithful, despite our unfaithfulness.

This second "Adam", Noah, takes the fruit of the vine, gets drunk, and ends up exposed and guilty. It's the first Adam all over again.

God's Covenant (9:8-17)

A covenant is a solemn binding commitment, guaranteeing promises or obligations undertaken by one or more parties.

The Noahic Covenant is made unilaterally by God. Three times—verses 9, 11, and 15—God calls the covenant "my covenant".

The word "bow" (vv. 13, 14, 16) is just the word for the weapon that shoots arrows. The beautiful symbolism is, when the bow comes out *after* the rain, it confirms to us and reminds God, the flood-battle is over. The Great Warrior has hung up His weapon.

Despite humanity's continued sinfulness, God will yet be faithful to His promises. God's promise in Genesis 3:15 to send an offspring of the woman to decisively strike the head of the serpent will go through Shem. Jesus will be the great, great far-off grandson of Shem.

"God's strong anger against hate and sadness and death would come down once more—but not on His people, or His world. No, God's war bow was not pointing down at His people. It was pointing up, into the heart of Heaven." — Sally Lloyd-Jones