

Genesis 9:8-17 (NIV)

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be

the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

Sermon for February 18, 2024: www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online

KNOW ... *God and his Word.*

- In this passage, we find that God has just destroyed all life by flood waters (v. 11). What happened previously that brought God to the point of flooding the earth? (Read Genesis 6:5-8.) Does God’s action surprise you? Why or why not? How did God show restraint in his regret and suffering over humanity’s action? What does God’s restraint tell us about his character and about his desire for a restored relationship with humanity?
- In Genesis 9:9, we are introduced to the idea of a covenant. What is a covenant? Who and what is included in this covenant according to this passage? Name the responsibilities of all involved in the covenant. Are there any conditions to this covenant that must be upheld for it to continue)? If yes, what are they?
- God decided to make this covenant. He was not forced or coerced into it. What does God choose to restrain and refrain from doing in his judgment of humankind through this covenant? Who stands to benefit the most from it? Name the benefits.

- Even though he didn't have to, God chose to provide a lasting sign of this covenant that continues to this day. What is the sign? Whenever this sign appears, God said he will remember the covenant (v. 15). Did God really need something to remind himself? What purpose did the sign serve?
- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Joel's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts or questions you may have.

ACT ... *responding to & applying what we know.*

- Covenants or promises are dependent on relationship. Name various types of covenants (promises, contracts) people enter into today. In what ways have kept or broken promises shaped your relationship with God or someone else?
- Pastor Joel stated in his sermon, "God invites us to confess and repent, because mercy is assured to us. God has already made the promise and insists on making good on it! God is a covenant keeping God."

How might the covenant God made with Noah, his descendants and all living things (extending even to us today) convey God's desire for relationship with us and invite us to confess and repent of our sins? Discuss the mercies God has shown you as you've practiced confession and repentance throughout your life.

BE ... *living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.*

We are now in the Lenten season — a time of focused repentance, confession and surrender to God and his work of transforming and making us holy.

In light of the sermon and lectionary passages this week, CONSIDER any promises you may have broken or ways you have sinned and broken covenant with God. Confess and repent. God is ready to offer mercy and restoration as we surrender ourselves to him.

GIVE THANKS to God for being faithful and always making good on his promises and covenants with you.

ASK the Holy Spirit to help you to be transformed, becoming more like Jesus as you journey with Jesus to the cross this week.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Angela

Rev. Angela Alvarado

Discipleship Pastor

College Church of the Nazarene University Avenue

aalvarado@collegechurch.org

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