

Covenant & Kingdom  
Week 5 - The Covenant of Common Grace  
Genesis 8:20-9:17

- The purpose of the Noahic Covenant is stability in the fallen world
  - Does not negate the curse of the Covenant of Life, but God restrains their full impact
  - A re-affirmation of God's promise that He will send the conquering seed - He will not allow the righteous seed of the woman to be wiped out
  - Not a covenant of salvation, a covenant of **stability** for God to work out His redemptive purposes in the world
- **Promise** - A forbearing/longsuffering with sinful man on God's part - a measure of **common grace** to broadly sustain life and restrain evil
  - "Never again curse the ground" (8:21) - no sin will call forth the kind of cosmic disaster that Adam's did
  - Regular cycles in the earth (8:22) - predictable laws of creation (nature) that help sustain life
  - Never again destroy the earth by flood (9:11-15) - No worldwide judgment on the whole human race until the full execution of the curse of the Covenant of Life
- **Precepts** - Fulfillment of the renewed cultural mandate
  - The reality of sin limits man's ability to do this perfectly
  - Now done largely through **subjugation** of uncooperative nature - "fear, dread"
- **Federal Headship** - Noah is federal head, which includes **all** of his descendents (9:9)
  - All mankind engage in culture building, and all enjoy God's common grace
  - Covenant also extends to non-human creation
    - Man is to be a good, careful steward of all God's creation as he seeks cultural development
- **Dominion** - Covenant delegates authority to human civil government entrusted with sword power
  - Government is a means of ministering God's common grace - restraining evil
  - Role is fundamentally to protect life, family, cultural work
  - Authority and duty under God to execute justice and enforce His universal moral law of creation
- **Sanctions** - symbolized by the rainbow pointed toward God
  - Self-maledictory oath - a curse upon Himself if He fails to uphold the covenant promises
  - No matter how sinful the world is, God will maintain His common grace and withhold judgment until redemption is complete
- Noahic Covenant is a covenant of grace - "Live and do this" - man cannot forfeit the benefits
  - No amount of wickedness will frustrate God's redemptive purposes