

Introduction:

- We continue our series of messages on Covenant.
 - Our first one was about why covenant seems foggy to us in the West. I.e. Visibility.
 - Last week we started exploring covenant looking at terms basic to understanding, etc. The focus was this point: Covenant creates a bonding for life. We determined that there are two major covenants found in the Word: One, the Old Covenant cut with Abraham and the New Covenant cut with Christ.
 - We briefly looked at God's covenant with Abraham.
- A key scripture to our study is: *"The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant."* (Psalm 25:14, ESV)
- We have explored how to recognize covenant and covenant terms. When you are able to recognize covenant and covenant terms the Bible comes alive with fresh significant revelation.
- Tonight we are going to look at the Noahic Covenant using the covenant terms we have discovered.
- Gen. 6:8-10; 17-18. 9:1-17 *"I will establish my covenant with you."*

I. Noahic Covenant

- A. Noah's name means 'rest' and 'security.' Noah is born in a not so peaceful time. God is grieved that He even created man. Man's heart is in a place where he is continually thinking evil. God is ready to wipe man from the face of the earth.
 1. The prophecy of Eve's seed crushing the serpents head was part of the Adam covenant.
 2. Because of covenant there is found one man who had favor in the eyes of the Lord –Noah. Genesis 6:5-8.
 3. In the midst of the prophesied flood God establishes covenant with Noah.
- B. The elements of covenant with Noah.
 1. Representative: we are 'in Noah' as he entered the ark. *""Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth."* (Genesis 9:9-10, ESV)
 2. Term of the Covenant. And blessings and curses.
 - a) Noah and his family and the animals in the ark will be saved, preserved.
 - b) Be fruitful and multiply. Genesis 9:1,7.
 - c) Man could now eat seed and meat. Genesis 9:3 *"Every living thing that moves shall be food for you."*
 - d) Capital punishment is began. Genesis 9:6
 3. Blood sacrifice. Genesis 8:20 Noah built an altar and offered burnt offerings. A blood sacrifice was offered as part of this covenant.

4. Oath/Vows. Genesis 8:21-22
 - a) Never again will I curse the ground because of man.
 - b) Never again will I destroy all living creatures as I have done.
 5. Memorial. This memorial remains to this day. Genesis 9:12-16 Rainbow. The Hebrew word for rainbow is literally translated 'warrior's bow.' In scripture when God has a bow in his hand, judgement is being handed out. The rainbow is in the position of peace. The colors remind us of Revelation 4 –the colors around God's throne.
- C. The Main Events. When we look at the Bible what we find are these main events. All the main events have to do with covenant.
1. God cut a covenant with Adam.
 2. God cut a covenant with Noah.
 3. God cuts covenant with Abraham, Moses, David and finally the New Covenant. All of scripture evolves and revolves around God cutting covenant. "One cannot understand the message of the Scriptures unless one grasps the four covenants that form the foundation of the Biblical account." *The Blood Covenant*; James Garlow, p 60.
 - a) These four covenants carry in them 'everlasting covenant.'
 - b) New covenant - Gr. New - kainos – a new kind, unprecedented, not common, unheard of! "Because for the first time in the history of covenant cutting, a single person would be both the covenant representative and the covenant sacrifice at the same time." *Ibid*, Garlow.

II. Abraham's Covenant

- A. Archeology reveals that at the time of Abram the Ur of Chaldees was a 'moon worshipping' people. Artifacts say this over and over. Crescent moons are everywhere in that area. Abram was raised by his father Terah.
1. Terah moves from the Ur of Chaldees to Haran. Note: Terah must have really liked Haran because that is the name of his youngest son who died.
 2. Terah dies in Haran and it is there that God speaks to Abram. He is called to leave everything he knows and go to a place he has not been.
 - a) He is not a man of great faith at this point, though he does reverence God.
 - (1) There is a famine in the land so he goes to Egypt.
 - (2) He passes Sarai off as his sister to the King of Egypt.
 - (3) He rescues Lot and he builds a second altar – Genesis 13:18. First one is Genesis 12:7.
 - b) In Genesis 14:22 Abram raises his hand to the Lord, God. Yahweh Elohim. Abram taking an oath, prompts God to initiate covenant with him. David saw this, in Ps 25:15.
- B. Covenant begins!

1. God declares He is Abrams shield - Heb - Magen - "to cover from danger, guardianship of God." TWOT. God promises Abram offspring like the stars in the sky.
2. *"And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness."* (Genesis 15:6, ESV)
 - a) Abram got what he did not earn.
 - b) He was now in right standing with God! By faith.
 - c) But he doubt how he will possess the land that was spoken of. What does God do?
3. God cut covenant with Abram. Heifer, goat, ram, dove pigeon. Blood sacrifice. Abram knows exactly what is happening!
 - a) Abram sleeps as God passes through the pieces.
 - b) God is serving as the covenant representative for Himself and for Abram and his descendants! Abram will never have to say this covenant is dependent upon me! Abram makes no promise oath...all he has to do is believe. THIS IS THE HEART OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT: IT IS BASED ON GOD'S INITIATIVE—NOT MANS!
 - c) Abram all you have to do is to believe.
 - d) Hagar and Ismael.
- C. God is silent for 13 years. Gen 17 he speaks again.
- D. The Elements of Covenant
 1. Representative: God represented both Himself and Abram...blazing torch.
 2. Terms and blessings/curses.
 - a) Genesis 12:2-3 *I will make you a great nation.*
 - b) Genesis 15:18-21 *So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day... I have given this land to you and your descendants.*
 3. Blood sacrifice.
 - a) The animals of Genesis 15. A covenant was cut.
 - b) Isaac was offered but God exchanged him for His Son. "before the foundation of the world."
 4. Marks on the body. Circumcision. Colossians 2:11 'Circumcision of the heart.'
 5. Oaths/vows. *"By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."* (Genesis 22:16-18, ESV)
 6. Exchange of names. Abram to Abraham. Sarai to Sarah. God of Abraham.
 - a) YHWH God takes the H out of his name a puts it in Abraham and Sarah.
 - b) God takes on Abraham's name. God of Abraham.

7. Exchange of sons. Isaac and Jesus.
8. Covenant Meal. The three visitors, symbolic of the Lords presence.
9. Memorials. Mount Moriah and Mount Calvary share the same location.

Conclusion:

- We see once again the pattern of covenant cutting.
- We see the prophetic picture of a Savior begin to take shape.