

## THE COVENANTS: PART 3

# LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

### PART 3 | THE CREATIONAL/NOAHIC COVENANT

The first explicit use of the word “covenant” is found in Genesis 6 and 9 as God establishes a covenant with Noah that applies to all of humanity, but this covenant is also connected to the relationship that existed between God and Adam from the very beginning. The Noahic covenant gives an unconditional promise that God will never again destroy the earth in the manner he did in the flood for as long as the earth shall endure. God has not abandoned his commitment to the creation and humanity despite human sinfulness and rebellion against him. There is also a condition placed on humanity from this point forward, to restrain the violence and bloodshed that had caused God to send the flood in the first place. Without the Noahic covenant, there would be no story of salvation, but this covenant will also not solve the problem of human rebellion and violence that continues after the flood as well. God’s redemptive covenants are needed to provide salvation and to bring sinful humanity back into right relationship with God.

**Read the following passages:**

Genesis 1-3

Genesis 6-11

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### Questions for Reflection:

1. Was there a covenant between God and Adam? What specific biblical evidences would you use in support of your answer?
2. In Genesis 6, what evidences of God's mercy and grace do we see in the context of the judgment of the flood—what specifically do we learn from Genesis 6:9?
3. What is the promise that God makes to Noah after the flood and what is the significance of this promise for the working out of salvation history?
4. What is sign of the Noahic Covenant? What significance is there to this being the specific sign of this covenant?
5. Since God will no longer intervene to judge in the way that he did in the flood, what responsibility and condition is placed upon humans as they rule over the creation?
6. What specific punishment is inflicted on those who take human life? Does this provision still apply for today?
7. How do we see Noah as a new Adam in this part of Genesis? What do we ultimately learn about this new Adam in the aftermath of the flood?
8. What do the other stories emphasize about humanity in Genesis 10-11? Has anything significantly changed as a result of the judgment of the flood?
9. What is something that you have learned about God in this study that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to someone or to initiate a Gospel conversation with someone who does not know Christ?