

## THE COVENANTS: PART 4

# LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

### PART 4 | THE CREATIONAL/NOAHIC COVENANT (CONTINUED)

In review, the Noahic covenant in Genesis 9 is like other biblical covenants in that it includes both promise and obligation. The promise is that God will never again a judgment like the flood again for as long as the earth endures. Humanity and the order of creation will continue. But, the responsibility given to humanity is the requirement to restrain the violence and bloodshed that led to the judgment of the flood. This study traces the development of the Noahic Covenant through Scripture. Isaiah 24:1-5 speaks of the final judgment of all the earth for breaking this “eternal covenant,” and we also see God’s judgment of nations within history as well for their violence and violations of the Noahic covenant. The Noahic covenant is timeless, enduring, and applies to nations today as it did to the nations surrounding Israel in biblical times. The story of Noah and the Flood also reflects a pattern of hope in the midst of judgment that continues to the final judgment and the new creation of the heavens and earth. The biblical story does not end with catastrophe but rather hope, renewal, and new creation.

**Read the following passages:**

Genesis 9

Isaiah 24:1-24 with 26:20-21

Isaiah 65:17-25

Amos 1:3-2:3

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Nahum 1-3

Matthew 24:36-44

Romans 8:18-25

2 Peter 3:4-13

Revelation 21-22

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What do we learn about God's nature and character through the judgment of the Noahic flood?
2. Why is the Noahic Covenant the most likely candidate for the "eternal covenant" in Isaiah 24:5 that the inhabitants of the earth have broken? How have they broken the covenant and what are the consequences that occur in this judgment?
3. Amos 1:3-2:3 and the book of Nahum deal with the judgments of nations in past history. Nahum is a message of judgment against Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, 150 years after God had shown mercy in sparing the city. The city was destroyed by the Babylonians in 612 B.C. What do we learn about God's involvement in history through these passages? What do we learn about God's dealings with these specific nations—how have they specifically violated the Noahic covenant? Does the Noahic Covenant apply to nations today in the same way that it did to these nations in biblical times before the coming of Christ? What message and applications do these passages have for nations today? Should we apply Nahum's message to Nineveh to the United States today? Why or why not?
4. The Noahic Covenant is a covenant that applies to all humanity, but how do the prophets use the Noahic Covenant and God's dealings

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with Noah to offer hope to Israel as well in passages like Isaiah 54:9-11; Jeremiah 31:35-37; and Jeremiah 33:19-22?

5. Agree or disagree: the Noahic Covenant was not terminated or ended by the death of Jesus? What's the basis for your answer?
6. How does Jesus compare the judgment of the last days prior to his return with the judgment that occurred in the days of Noah? What warnings should we take away from the words of Jesus here?
7. How do we see mercy and grace in the midst of the judgment of the Flood and how does this pattern inform our understanding of what God has planned for the end times and the future judgment and New Creation?
8. What promises and themes do you see as most prominent in the New Creation passages you've read for this study? How has this study better informed your understanding of what we have to look forward to in the New Creation?
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?