

→ The Primeval Story

Noah

Genesis 6:5 – 9:29



Son Risers
Bible Study

Sin!

Mankind has become very sinful.

Sin does not only refer to man's actions, but to the inner recesses of his heart.

God is not indifferent or remote – not so much anger as deep suffering and regret

Judgment!!

The earth is corrupted – violence, decay of the moral order – judgment must be comprehensive. God pronounces judgment – same verb is used in Numbers 5:23 & Psalm 51:2 for washing away of sins.

The image of the flood involves cleansing. Thus the story of Noah and the Flood is referenced in the Baptismal service.

As Noah enters the ark – a fearful time – God tells Noah He will establish His covenant with him.

Rains come – water is deep – everything & everyone is destroyed.

Grace!!!

God makes a Covenant with Noah - First of four major covenants in the Old Testament

Covenant of Divine Commitment – God binds Himself to an individual or group

- God asks nothing in return
- Even if the person is unfaithful, God has irrevocably committed Himself & eventually the covenant promise will be fulfilled
- Remembering the covenant is a divine responsibility. God establishes it in goodness and love and upholds it with eternal faithfulness. Never needs to be renewed.

Noah makes an offering to God, which is pleasing to God.

God responds with a commitment to keep his covenant with Noah and to creation at large.

Even though, human beings are still sinful, God will take another course of action in response to that sin – God changes His approach toward His divine goal for creation

Mankind will continue to sin, evil will remain that will grieve God. **Out of love for mankind, God is willing to accept this grief and sorrow in order that mankind will continue live.**

God repeats his covenant with Noah. God is still involved with creation

God's blessings precede His commandments – God wills life.

Rainbow!

- In the ancient world the rainbow was seen as a divine weapon .
- God turns the weapon into a promise rather than judgment - a sign of the covenant with Noah - He will never again destroy mankind in this way.
- Symbol of peace & divine good will & commitment.