

The Promises and Covenants of God

Throughout history promises and covenants are ways that God has revealed the plan and purpose for His Creation. They embody the expressions of Godly love, grace, and faithfulness to His believers called to trust and obey Him establishing a relationship between God and His people. It is they, His people, who make binding promises to each other, collectively working to reach a common goal of oneness with God. Their standards are based on God's grace and faithfulness as well as on human motivated works or merit. If it was not for our Father's grace and for the worth we evidence to God by following His words and commands, we would never qualify for the rewards bestowed on us through the promises of God. It is due to our following God's ways, coupled with His grace / kindness that provide our spiritually sourced grounds for hope in a resurrected life with Him.

This study is a part of a larger deep dive into the promises and covenants of God. We will take one covenant / promise between us and our Lord and see the fine details of what this means for us from both a reward and requirement standpoint.

The Noahic Covenant:

This is the covenant God made with Noah and his descendants after the great flood. God promised three actions: (1) to never again destroy the earth by water, (2) to preserve the seasons and (3) to preserve animal life. He also gave the rainbow as the sign of this covenant eternally showing God's mercy and patience with his fallen creation. It is also a covenant of common grace, meaning that it applies to all people and all creation, regardless of their faith or obedience to God. It is also a covenant of preservation, meaning that it guarantees that God will not destroy the earth by water again, and further, that he will maintain the order and stability of nature until the end of time.

Genesis 9:8-17 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: 9 "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, 10 "and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. 11 "Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 "I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. 14 "It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 "and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 "The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant

between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

This is the main text of the Noahic Covenant where God speaks to Noah and his sons, and establishes His covenant with them and with every living creature. He promises to never again flood the earth, and gives the rainbow as a sign of his covenant. He also reaffirms his blessing and command to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth. He also gives them permission to eat meat, but with the prohibition to exclude eating blood. He also institutes the principle of human dignity and justice by requiring personal accountability by anyone who sheds human blood.

Isaiah 54:9-10 "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. 10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

This passage compares God's love and compassion for Israel analogous to the spiritual intent of the Noahic Covenant: That just as He swore to Noah that He would not flood the earth again, God also swears to Israel that He will not be angry or rebuke them again. He says that His covenant of peace and His steadfast love will not be removed from them, even though the mountains may depart and the hills may be removed.

2 Peter 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

This is a passage where Peter warns mankind about the judgment of God on the wicked, and contrasts them with the righteous. He says that God did not spare the ancient world, but brought a flood on the ungodly, while preserving Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others. He says that God knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the Day of Judgment.

2 Peter 3:5-7 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

In this passage Peter warns about the judgment of God on the wicked, reminding them of the Noahic Covenant. He says that by God's word, the heavens and the earth were created out of water, and that by the self-same word, the world of that time was deluged and destroyed by water. But He says that the present heavens and earth now preserved by water and earth are reserved for fire, and that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief, when the heavens will disappear with a roar, and the elements will melt in the heat, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

This revelation is one of the promises and covenants of God in the Bible displaying God's character along with His relationship with His people, while pointing to His ultimate Plan of Salvation, establishment of His Kingdom on earth.

Proverb to ponder:

Proverbs 21:30-31 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD. The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

(KJV)

All scripture from Amplified Bible unless otherwise noted.

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