

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:

Life After Judgment

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

July 23, 2023

Scriptures:

Genesis 9:1-17

Theme: Listen to the Lord to find life.

Introduction: The book of Genesis gives us the answers to two great questions: who are we? And why are we here? In the midst of a world gone mad, Genesis gives us clear, beautiful answers to these questions. In Gen 9, the Lord speaks to Noah and his sons and tells them—and us by implication, who we are and how we should live in his world. The Noahic Covenant is the Lord's gracious initiative of mercy toward a world fallen into rebellion against him.

In the Noahic Covenant, the Lord shows us the path to life in 2 stages:

1. Abundant life under God's instruction (1-7)

As the Lord instructs "Noah and his sons," his instructions are bookended by the command to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."

From his instructions, we learn 7 things about God's role as the source and sustainer of all life: a) the Lord blesses his people; b) he is the God who speaks; c) his purposes for creation still stand; d) he calls us to work redemptively; e) he provides for us abundantly; f) he is the Lord of life; and g) he is the God of justice. The prohibition against murder, capital punishment for murder, and the role of civil government in executing murderers are all established here, especially because mankind is made in God's image and murder is therefore an attack upon God.

2. Enduring life under God's protection (8-17)

In these 10 verses, no commands are given. They are entirely the pronouncement of God's gracious promise for mankind: he will never again flood the earth, and he will preserve life for as long as the earth remains. His covenant is universal, unilateral, and unconditional.

All throughout, the clear message is that salvation belongs to the Lord. He is the God who saves, and salvation is always entirely his work.

The sign of the covenant is a bow. This bow is a weapon, and points to the theme of God as the Divine Warrior (cf. Exod 15:3; Isa 42:13). But in this covenant, the bow is hung on the wall in peace, pointing upward. It is a symbol of mercy. When the Lord sees the bow in the clouds, he will remember his covenant and fulfill it.

Questions:

1. How well do you know the will of God for your life? Do you study his word?
2. Do you approach God out of a sense of obligation, or in light of his grace?
3. How has the Lord been merciful to you?