

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: *Covenant: God's Way of Relationship*



A Teaching Sermon: "Noah: The Covenant of Preservation, Part One"

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**"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15**

By natural birth, Eve, the mother of all living, brings forth a depraved seed. By grace, however, God establishes enmity within the heart of particular descendants of the woman, i.e., enmity between the seed of Satan and the elect ones who are in fact the Body of Christ, the Elect One. Jesus said to some who claimed to have Abraham as their father, **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44**

The seed of Satan opposes God and His purposes. Thus womankind struggles with Satan; woman's seed struggles with Satan's seed. Growing out of the enmity between Satan and the woman will come the battle of the seeds. Cain originates from "the evil one" (1 John 3.12). He is of the seed of Satan. "I have gotten me a manchild from the LORD." Seth, on the other hand, was appointed by God. Seth and Abel are in the line of the righteous. Jesus said, **And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Matthew 23:35 NIV**

Time goes on in the Genesis account. Cain slays his brother Abel. The battle has begun. In Genesis 5 Cain is disavowed in the lineage of Adam but Seth is said to be "in the image and likeness" of Adam, who is said to have been made (along with Eve) "in the likeness of God" ([Gen 5:1-3](#)).

So we have creation culminating in the creation of man. Adam fell and plunged humanity into the estate of sin and misery. After the Fall of Adam, two seeds or offspring emerge: those who are of their father the devil and those who are in Christ, whose Father is heavenly...a Heavenly Father. When corruption and violence come to cover the earth, God brings judgment and we have the Flood. Let's look at it.

Corruption infiltrates to the point that **"every intent of the thoughts of his [mankind's] heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)"** God is grieved, and judgment is coming. God plans to wipe out humanity all together, and not only humanity, but animals, creeping things and birds of the air; God was sorry that He had made them. **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.** (Genesis 6:6-8) A remnant of human and animal life, and more, will be spared.

Genesis 6:9 begins the book of Noah. What can we say about him? In contrast to those living around him in his generation, Noah is found righteous in God's eyes, blameless in his time.

Noah walked with God and had three sons. Noah had integrity. He was right with God and with man. Noah obeyed God wholeheartedly. His actions were just. He was not divided in his loyalty and supreme attachment to God. This does not mean he had no sin. He walked in living communion with God, but he was not perfect. “It was with God that Noah walked.” (Derek Kidner)

So Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time. The earth was corrupt and filled with violence. God looked on the earth and then said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth... Make for yourself an ark ...” (Genesis 6:13 ff). Total and absolute destruction will come on the seed of Satan; free and unmerited grace will be shed forth on a remnant, the elect seed of the woman.

“And behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark— you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.” Genesis 6:17, 18.

Genesis chapters seven and eight talk about the Great Flood and Noah’s deliverance. Noah obeyed God and built the ark, doing just as God said to do. God closed the door to the ark. Then after the Flood, God told Noah to go out of the ark with his wife and sons and his sons’ wives, bringing every living thing of all flesh that was with him.

Noah built an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings of clean animals and clean birds on the altar. This was a blood offering. Noah’s offering pleased God and God responded with a unilateral covenant not to destroy creation again by flood.

Then the LORD said in His heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.’ Genesis 8:20-22.

In the Covenant with Noah we find both common grace and special grace. There is significance both for the earth and for redemption. God in creation separated the waters, but in the Flood event God brought the waters back together again. Chaos ruled everywhere but inside that ark.

“Genesis 3:15 is the first revelation of the covenant of grace, and from that moment in history until the consummation, the covenant of grace and the covenant of works have continued side by side. God still demands that people keep the covenant of works, as seen in that He repeats many of the same commands given to Adam before the fall, giving them to successive generations who live after the fall (compare, for example, Gen. 1:28 and 9:7). But now, after the fall, we cannot keep God’s law. We are born guilty and morally unable to obey the Lord perfectly as He demands. What the covenant of grace actually does is provide a way for someone else—Christ our Lord—to keep the covenant of works in our place and give us a right standing before God that leads to eternal life (Rom. 5:12–21; 2 Cor. 5:21).”

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/covenant-preservation-apr/>

And let me say, Jesus said, As in the days of Noah so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark; And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Matthew 24:37-39.

God is sifting, sorting, separating, and sanctifying. Jesus Christ is the Ark. He is calling His own to Himself as that Ark. While we see the hardened unbelief on one side, we see also the watchfulness of the faithful. We are to watch and pray, be ready, and worship in spirit and in truth the One true God, extoling Jesus Christ as the only way back to the Father who sent Him.

We have been warned about the madness, but in the last line of the word I received for 2020, there is this: “Prepare for war in the spirit world for I am coming as a Man of War. And I will prevail against the madness and bring order out of chaos. Watch Me. (Dr. Mary Craig, word received December 13, 2019 regarding 2020) <http://www.marycraig.org/Prophetic/proph2020.htm>

Chaos. More and more people are now using that word to describe conditions today on the earth. For the remnant, for those in Christ, who have a hearty reliance, a trust in Christ as their Ark—only there will we find safety and preservation. Justice meted out can be hard to swallow, but we must see God’s grieving heart over sin, rebellion, and cosmic treason. We can be thankful that in His wrath, God remembers mercy. Strict justice can come across as brutal. We are to be thankful and extol the LORD for His undeserved and unmerited grace. In Genesis chapters six, seven, and eight we see God’s justice exactly appropriate to the crime.

Finally, we can be assured of the promises of God as He has established His covenant of grace. Here’s a comment from J. Ligon Duncan:

“Noah doesn’t come to the Lord and say, ‘Lord, things are pretty bad, maybe You could do something for me here.’ Noah doesn’t initiate either the perpetuation or the establishment of the relationship. God takes the initiative here in grace. God reaches out to Noah. And I think that Dumbrell is probably right. That one of the reasons why God says, ‘I will establish My covenant with you,’ you see that nice little pronoun stuck on the end of *berith* there in 6:18. ‘And I will establish My covenant with you’ is to stress that this is the Lord’s covenant. He is taking the initiative in this relationship. He has established the boundaries of the relationship.

“So we see sin in Noah’s world. And we see God confirming the special relationship of grace and favor that He has with Noah and we see Him doing it right in the context in which He has given a command to Noah to do certain things, in this case to build an ark and to prepare to stock it with food and to wait to [sic] the animals come to you... God’s grace initiates, but Noah has responsibility. Noah must respond to God’s favor by what? By obedience. His obedience does not purchase him God’s favor. And it is not obedience which got God to notice Noah in the first place.” <https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/classes-and-training/covenant-of-preservation> J. Ligon Duncan, September 24, 1998.

We cannot initiate righteousness in order to obtain grace or favor. We can, however, respond in wholeheartedness to Christ who alone saves. We do not in ourselves have a righteousness acceptable to the Living God; what we have as believers is the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, laid to our account.

So we watch, and we pray. We get ourselves ready for however it plays out, and we worship in a way that pleases the LORD. Noah obeyed and it had not yet ever rained upon the earth. Building an ark seemed to be the madness. But God had His countdown and the judgment would surely come. (Genesis 6:3) With that judgment also came a deliverance, that of Noah and his family and the preservation of animals, creeping things, and birds. Likewise, every believer will be preserved, kept by the power of God. (Read 1 Peter chapter one.) We will persevere and we will live, having eternal life in Christ. Believe in Jesus, believe Jesus, and believe what Jesus believes.

For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time;  
But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.  
Though it tarries, wait for it;  
Because it will surely come,  
It will not tarry.

“Behold the proud,  
His soul is not upright in him;  
But the just [one] shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:3, 4 NKJV

Giving glory to the One True and Living God,

## *Mary Craig*

Mary Craig, D. Min.

“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”  
Revelation 21:7

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