

- Noah and the Ark; Gen 9:1-17

Summary

This sermon explores the progression of God's covenants with humanity throughout biblical history, starting with Noah and culminating in the New Covenant through Jesus Christ. The pastor explains how each covenant - Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and finally the New Covenant - reveals God's patient, merciful nature and humanity's consistent struggle with sin and obedience. Through these covenants, God demonstrates different approaches to salvation, ultimately showing that external rules, circumstances, or human leadership alone cannot save us - only a transformed heart through Christ can.

Key Verses

- Genesis 9:11
- Genesis 12:1-3
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Romans 2:29

Life Application

This week, take time each day to reflect on your baptismal covenant and identify one specific way you can live out your commitment to Christ. Consider areas where you might be relying on external rules rather than allowing God to transform your heart, and ask Him to help you surrender those areas to Him.

Key Takeaways

- God's covenants reveal His patient, merciful nature and desire for relationship with humanity
- External rules, circumstances, or human leadership alone cannot save us
- The New Covenant through Christ transforms our hearts and provides internal rather than external guidance
- Our salvation history shows God's faithfulness despite human failure

Devotionals

Day 1: God's Unfailing Promise

Devotional Have you ever made a promise you couldn't keep? We all have. But there's someone who never breaks His promises - God. After the flood, God made an extraordinary covenant with Noah, promising never to destroy the earth by water again. He even gave us a beautiful reminder: the rainbow. This wasn't just a casual promise; it was God's way of showing His deep commitment to humanity, despite our flaws. When we see a rainbow, it's not just a beautiful natural phenomenon - it's God's signature on His promise, a reminder of His faithfulness that has lasted for thousands of years. Even in our darkest moments, we can look up and remember that we serve a God who keeps His word.

Bible Verse

"I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." - Genesis 9:11

Reflection Question

How does knowing that God keeps His promises, even when we fail to keep ours, impact your trust in Him during difficult times?

Quote God never misses the mark. God never messes up. That the covenants of the Hebrew Bible, they are important. They're part of God's word that they should be studied. And from them we can actually learn truth about God and more importantly, about how we relate to God.

Prayer

Faithful God, thank You for Your unchanging promises. Help me trust in Your faithfulness, especially when my own faith wavers. Remind me of Your rainbow covenant when I doubt, and help me rest in the assurance of Your unfailing love. Amen.

Day 2: Blessed to Be a Blessing

Devotional God's call to Abraham wasn't just about blessing one person or family - it was about blessing the entire world through them. When God chose Abraham, He had a global

vision in mind. This teaches us something profound about how God works: He blesses us not just for our own benefit, but so we can be channels of His blessing to others. Think about the gifts, talents, and resources God has given you. Each one is an opportunity to extend His love to others. Just as Abraham's family was chosen to be a blessing to all families of the earth, we too are blessed to be a blessing.

Bible Verse

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." - Genesis 12:1

Reflection Question

What specific blessings has God given you that you could use to benefit others in your community?

Quote The agreement is that God will bless Abraham's family so that they will be a blessing to all the other families of the earth. That's the whole point of the Abrahamic covenant.

Prayer

Lord, help me see the blessings You've given me as opportunities to serve others. Show me how to be Your channel of blessing in this world. Give me Abraham's faith to follow Your leading, even when the path isn't clear. Amen.

[Day 3: Beyond Rules to Relationship](#)

Devotional Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking our relationship with God is all about following rules. We create checklists of dos and don'ts, thinking if we can just check all the right boxes, we'll be right with God. But God's heart has always been about something deeper - a genuine relationship with us. He knows that external rules, while important, can't transform our hearts. That's why He promised a new covenant, one that would write His law on our hearts. This isn't about abolishing rules, but about transforming our desires to align with His will.

Bible Verse

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." - Jeremiah 31:31

Reflection Question

In what ways have you noticed God transforming your desires to align more with His will, rather than just following rules?

Quote Sometimes it is easier to think about righteousness as a list of rules and obligations.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for wanting more than just my obedience - You want my heart. Continue to transform me from the inside out, making Your desires my desires. Help me move beyond mere rule-following to genuine relationship with You. Amen.

[Day 4: The Heart of the Matter](#)

Devotional We often look for external solutions to internal problems. Like ancient Israel wanting a king to solve their problems, we might think if our circumstances were just different, everything would be fine. But God knows that our deepest needs can't be met by external changes - they require heart transformation. That's why the new covenant focuses on changing us from the inside out. No earthly king, no perfect circumstances, no amount of wealth or security can substitute for what God wants to do in our hearts. True peace and righteousness come from having our hearts aligned with God's.

Bible Verse

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." - Jeremiah 31:31

Reflection Question

What external circumstances are you currently hoping will solve internal spiritual challenges in your life?

Quote Our righteousness and salvation can't be in the hands of another or because of external circumstances.

Prayer

Lord, help me stop looking for external solutions to internal problems. Transform my heart according to Your will. Help me find my security and peace in You alone, not in changing circumstances. Amen.

Day 5: Embracing God's Desire

Devotional Have you ever considered that God wants you to want Him? It's a profound truth - the Creator of the universe desires a genuine, two-way relationship with you. He doesn't force Himself upon us but invites us into covenant relationship. Through each covenant in Scripture, God reveals His patient, persistent love, showing us again and again that He wants us to choose Him. This isn't about obligation or duty - it's about love and desire. God's covenants throughout history demonstrate His unchanging desire for relationship with His people, culminating in the new covenant through Jesus Christ.

Bible Verse

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." - Jeremiah 31:31

Reflection Question

How does understanding God's desire for a genuine relationship with you change the way you approach your daily walk with Him?

Quote His covenant making displays God's desire for us to want to belong to Him.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank You for desiring relationship with me. Help me to want You more than anything else. Deepen my love for You and help me respond to Your invitation for intimate relationship. Amen.