

Promises, Promises...

God as
Promise
Giver
&
Promise
Keeper

Session 2 • Noah



- I. The covenant with Noah—*Genesis 6:11-22*.
 - A. The corruptness of the earth—*Genesis 6:11*.
 1. God decides, finally, for humanity, despite regret and seeing things as they are post-Fall—*Genesis 6:12*.
 2. This is a post-Fall narrative, and, yet, God yearns for relationship, God yearns for creation, humanity, and ongoing relationship.
 - B. But this is a God, contrary to current impulses, who will and does judge.
 1. Both God's judgment and the relational pieces are established—*Genesis 7:1-5*.
 2. God did as God said God would, raining down judgment upon the earth, sparing only whom the divine chooses—*Genesis 7:11-24*.
 3. God did as God said God would, establishing covenant; God remembered—*Genesis 8:1-5*.
 - C. And what would Noah *do* in relationship to God's covenant? He would build an altar to the Lord, whereupon God makes a promise—*Genesis 8:21-22*.

II. God recapitulates God's provisions—*Genesis 9:1-17*.

- A. Consider *Genesis 1:28*. God starts over in a post-Fall reconciliation—God establishing, yet again, God's covenant and covenantal relationship.
- B. The rainbow sign unified his promise and guaranteed it in the visible realm.
 - 1. God set a bow high above humanity without appropriation by the earthly partner—it was God's doing.
 - 2. The Hebrew word for "bow" is normally thought of in terms of war.
 - 3. The beauty of the ancient conception thus becomes apparent: God shows the world that God has *put aside* God's (bow) judgment—*1 Peter 3:18-22*.

