

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is a covenant? Give some examples.
2. Is a covenant necessary? Why?
3. Can a covenant with God be broken? How?
4. What motivated God to make His covenant with Noah?

SUMMARY:

Because of his faith and obedience to God, Noah was not only saved from the flood, but God made a covenant to not send another flood to destroy all the earth.

The account of Noah and of God's covenant with him illustrates the effect that the righteousness of even just one person can have, not only on one's own life, but also on the lives of many others. We should never think that we can serve God part of the time and that it doesn't matter how we live the rest of the time, because no one will ever notice. God notices us every minute and every hour of our lives and the fruitfulness of our lives will depend on our faithfulness to him.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #4

January 23, 2000

First Quarter

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 8:1 through 9:17*

LESSON SETTING: Ark settled on the Ararat Mountain Range near the Turkey-Russian border.

TIME: Approximately 1650 years after Adam and 2350 BC.

I. GOD REMEMBERS. Genesis 8:1-17

- A. His Promise (vs. 1) 1 Kings 8:56; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 2:25
- B. His Provision for Man (vs. 2-14) Deuteronomy 6:24; Isaiah 25:4
2 Timothy 1:12; 4:18
- C. His Direction (vs. 15-17) Psalm 25:9; 32:8; 73:24; John 6:45

II. NOAH REMEMBERS. Genesis 8:18-22

- A. Obeys God (vs. 18-19) Isaiah 1:19; Jeremiah 7:23; Acts 5:29; James 1:25; 1 John 3:22
- B. Offering Required (vs. 20) Genesis 4:4; Romans 5:8; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:24, 33; Hebrews 9:23-24

III. COVENANT OF REMEMBRANCE. Genesis 9:1-17

- A. Everlasting (vs. 1-11) Isaiah 55:3; Ezekiel 16:60; Hebrews 13:20
- B. The Token of the Covenant (vs. 12-14) Exodus 12:1-15; Numbers 9:1-5; Luke 22:17-19
- C. Unchangeable (vs. 15-17) Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 89:33-34; Isaiah 54:10; 59:21; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17

GOLDEN TEXT: I DO SET MY BOW IN THE CLOUD, AND IT SHALL BE A TOKEN OF A COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND THE EARTH.

Genesis 9:13

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 1:18-23;
John 3:15-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Romans 1:24-32

QUARTERLY THEME: The Beginnings

TOPIC: THE TOWER OF BABEL

INTRODUCTION:

How like the people of today were those of old who planned to build the tower reaching to heaven. They left God completely out of their plans. Can we not see a similarity in man's plans today, whether it's building a Council of World Churches, a United Nations, or travel to the moon? God is left out. All is being done to exalt man, to glorify the creature rather than the Creator. This God permits only as long as He alone see fit to do so. Just as judgment was poured out upon the people of Babel, so shall judgment follow man's foolish exaltation of himself. Sure and swiftly will it come when God so ordains.

Only what is done by man depending upon God, and obeying His leading can stand. Obedience to Him must be all inclusive, if we wish to receive His mercies and blessings. If not, confusion results within our hearts and minds and we are in the same state as the people of Babel when they found that they could no longer understand one another. We run here and there and become unstable and doubting. Only by listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit will we again find rest and peace.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God has made an everlasting covenant with man.

GOLDEN TEXT: EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT: . . .
Psalm 127:1

Even men of old times could do many wonderful things. God had created man with an intelligent mind, the ability to take whatever is available and make and build not only for shelter but articles for every need. So man has ever been apt to become "*wise in his own conceit.*" (Proverbs 26:5) Noah's descendants, when they decided to build a tower and a city and so make themselves a name, and to prevent themselves from being scattered on the face of the earth, were not considering God or seeking His protection. How different was Job, who in times of trouble could say, "*I commit my cause.*" (Job 5:8) How surely did the tower builders of old discover that "except the Lord build - we labor in vain."

In so many of the great and awesome things that man is undertaking in our generation, we also fear that God is not being considered. We are living in the time when "*people run to and fro,*" "*knowledge is increased,*" (Daniel 12:4) and "*chariots rage in the streets, jostle against one another in the broad ways, seeming like torches, and run like the lightning.*" (Nahum 2:4) Yes, and men are ever undertaking to journey to other planets in God's universe, forgetting that God has "*determined the bounds of man's habitation.*" (Acts 17:26) Will God perhaps soon, once more put His restraining hand upon the affairs of men?

Our first concern should be to build our house of faith upon the foundation provided by God, the Rock of our Salvation, according to the Master Plan outlined in God's Word. Then we will not have to experience that without God we are building in vain.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 24 - 30

M. *The Tower of Babel. Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 1:18-23; John 3:15-21

T. Pride Brings Peril. Deuteronomy 8:11-20

W. Pride Brings a Fall. Isaiah 14:12-17

T. The Fall of Babylon Predicted. Isaiah 14:18-27

F. Pride Condemned. Ezekiel 8:2-17

S. God Defied in Babylon. Daniel 4:28-37

S. The Fall of Babylon Described. Revelation 18:1-8