

Stephens, GregGod, The Covenant and the Contradiction

9. God's Covenant With Noah

This chapter frames the flood story as the third Blood covenant God cut with a single representative man, after Adam. It opens with a modern example—Bishop David Oyedepo of Nigeria, whose church built a debt-free city in a jungle by acting on covenant faith—then walks through Noah's flood, altar, and the rainbow seal, closing with a teaching section on what a Blood covenant is and how it was cut.

Key takeaways

- A Blood covenant is the strongest binding agreement that exists because it originated in God's heart. Bishop Oyedepo's Faith Tabernacle grew from 500 acres of jungle to a 17,000-acre city by praising God for covenant promises and acting on them against all odds.
- As human wickedness grew, God grieved and chose to flood the earth—but found one righteous man, Noah, and preserved him and his family of eight.
- The recurring number 'eight' (Noah the eighth person, born eight generations after Adam) signals resurrection, regeneration, and a new beginning.

- Noah acted in pure faith: he built the ark before rain existed, endured ridicule, and obeyed exactly. God Himself shut the ark's door—their safety rested on God, not the boat.
- After the flood Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices—the first altar in the Bible—cutting the covenant. He likely learned covenant sacrifice from his grandfather Methuselah, who overlapped with Adam.
- God's Noah covenant established fixed seasons, permitted eating meat but forbade eating blood, and required a reckoning for murder—raising man's level of responsibility.
- The rainbow is the covenant's seal; God even set one around His throne so He is always reminded of His promise never to flood the earth again.
- Evil persisted after the flood (Noah's drunkenness and Ham; the tower of Babel), but God no longer answered with destruction—He scattered the Babel builders instead.
- God's covenants with man are unilateral, not bilateral: God, the greater party, brings everything; man can accept or reject but never alter it. We have everything to receive.
- Finding 'one man' to represent the human race became God's covenant pattern—Adam, Noah, Abraham, and finally Jesus.

Passages worth keeping

*"I just praise and praise and praise until something happens....
Once we have a mandate from God, we don't question anymore."*

Oyedepo's summary of acting on a Blood Covenant promise as settled fact

"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."

The Noah covenant's charge against murder, grounding human worth in God's image

How it connects

The chapter reads the Noah story as one link in a chain of Blood covenants running from Adam to Abraham to Jesus, each cut with a single representative man. The closing 'Go Deeper' section connects the ancient covenant-cutting ritual—the walk of blood, exchanged coats and weapons, name change, and lifelong friendship—to New Covenant realities: believers named in God's family, given the right to use Jesus' name, and called His friends (Ephesians 3:14-15).

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 6:5-13** -- Man's wickedness, God's grief, and choosing Noah
- **Genesis 8:20-22** -- Noah's altar; God's vow never to curse the ground again

- **Genesis 9:1-6** -- Blessing to multiply, permission to eat meat but not blood, and the ban on murder
- **Genesis 9:12-17** -- The rainbow as the covenant's token
- **Hebrews 11:7** -- Noah's faith, building the ark against unseen events
- **John 15:13-15** -- Jesus calling us friends, the covenant bond fulfilled