

**A Promise Kept**  
**Genesis 9:8-17**  
**May 18, 2008**

**Intro:** What is the biggest promise you have ever made? To help a friend move, to be there for someone during an illness, to go to court and speak on someone's behalf, or may be you wedding vows, these are all big promises. But are they a covenant?

**Interog:** The word covenant is thrown around Christian conversations because it is in the Bible, but do we really understand how important this aspect of our relationship to God really is? Have you ever considered what God's responsibility to you is, and in return what your responsibility to God is? What is a covenant and why is it important to us and to Him?

**Genesis 9:8-17**

**Background on the biblical idea of covenant:** The word covenant appears seven times in the verse listed above. The word is hard to define (legal testament), and the covenants can be very different (fixed people, place or time, universal or limited). There are eight major covenants of the Bible, they are ... In Exodus 24:4-8 the people accepted the covenant with God.

**1. God has made a promise to Noah.**

Not just Noah, also to the animals and the creation. vss 10 & 13

Universal covenant.

Your descendants – all humanity present and future

God sealed His promise with a sign – the rainbow

**2. God required no promise from Noah.**

Quote from NAC

There is no requirement for Noah upon which God is bound to keep this promise.

God initiated the covenant and keeps it out of His Holiness and grace.

**3. Jesus brings a New Covenant**

We must accept or reject the covenant as it is, on God's terms

It is sealed with His blood.

The sign of the promise is the Holy Spirit

**Conclusion:** Are you in covenant relationship with God? You are benefitting from an unchanging covenant that God made with Noah thousands of years ago, and the rainbow is proof of that. Will you enter into the new covenant of redemption through the blood of Jesus? Those are His terms, they will not be changed, they can only be either accepted or rejected. To reject them is to face the terror of His judgment, to accept them is to enter into His grace, and to be sealed in the Holy spirit.