

COVENANTS SERIES | HOPE CHAPEL

# THE NOAHIC COVENANT

Week 2 | Renewed Purpose, Renewed Life, Renewed Grace  
Ben Humphrys | Sunday 8 March 2026 | 9AM Gawler

1  
Adamic

2  
Noahic

3  
Abrahamic

4  
Mosaic

5  
Davidic / New

**Big Idea:** *God's covenant with Noah is a cosmic declaration that he will never give up on humanity — a covenant of renewed purpose, renewed life, and renewed grace for all people, for all time.*

## Introduction

**Genesis 9:12–13** *God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.'*

After the fall in the Garden of Eden, life continued — but things were not going well. The population grew, but so did wickedness.

**Genesis 6:5** *The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.*

This wasn't just a few troublemakers — it was a complete and tragic hardening of humanity's heart against God. God's heart was deeply troubled. He reached a point where a new beginning was needed: a renewed creation, renewed purpose, renewed life, renewed grace.

But here is the good news: Noah found grace in the eyes of God. And the foundations God established with Noah are just as relevant for us today.

### POINT 1 | Renewed Purpose

God's design for Noah was in many ways the same as it was for Adam. Noah was commanded to be fruitful, fill the earth, and subdue it. God is in ultimate authority over the earth, but he placed Noah — and us — to extend that authority as faithful stewards.

**Genesis 9:1** *Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.'*

## Jesus Speaks About Noah

**Matthew 24:37–39** *As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, right up to the day that Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*

Jesus' point was not that we should predict his return, but that we should be ready — living as faithful servants so that when he returns, we are found doing what he called us to do.

Noah's generation had lost all sense of purpose. They had forgotten that God made the world and everything in it. They had no sense of God around them. Don't let that be true of us.

## What Does Faithful Stewardship Look Like?

For 120 years Noah faithfully built the ark, not knowing exactly what rain would look like. He wasn't preoccupied with everything else going on. He used his time wisely, his God-given skills, and the resources around him. He was simply faithful.

God doesn't measure success by the results we think we've achieved. God measures success by our response to him — being a faithful servant in his kingdom.

- Are you a parent? Be a faithful parent.
- Do you run a business or tend a vineyard? Be a faithful steward of that.
- Are you a worker, a neighbour, a friend? Be faithful there.
- Are you part of God's house? Be faithful here.

**Reflect:** *When Jesus returns, will he find you being faithful with what he's called you to do? Not guessing the date — but doing the work. "Well done, good and faithful servant." That's what he's looking for.*

## POINT 2 | Renewed Life

To the people of Noah's world, the ocean and deep water represented chaos — formless, endless, mysterious, full of danger. In Genesis 1, before God created the world, 'the earth was formless and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the deep.' Chaos. And God spoke order into it.

The story of redemption — the story of Noah — is that God always brings new life. God always speaks order into the chaos.

## Jesus Calms the Storm

The disciples once asked: “What kind of man is this, that even the winds and the waves obey him?” (Matthew 8). That’s the answer the Noahic covenant was pointing toward. This is the Redeemer — the one who can speak order to the waves, order to the ocean, order to the chaos.

**Revelation 21:1** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.*

The greatest ocean we all must cross is the one from death to life — the gap of relationship broken in Eden. Sin separated us from God like an ocean we couldn’t cross. When Noah stepped out of the ark into a new creation, it was symbolic of the day Jesus stepped out of the tomb. New life. Completely new creation.

### Noah’s Name Means Rest

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The true meaning of the Sabbath isn’t just a day of physical rest — it points to the Redeemer who can free us from sin and turmoil.

**Genesis 8:1** *But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark. And he sent a wind over the earth and the waters receded.*

The word for ‘wind’ here is ruach — the breath or Spirit of God. The same Spirit who hovered over the waters in Genesis 1 now brings the flood to rest and gives Noah a new beginning.

God’s covenant with Noah invites us to rest — to rest in his strength, his ability to bring new life, his Spirit. It’s an inner freedom that calms the chaos around us, and a living hope for the future where he will make all things new.

**Reflect:** *Maybe you’re here today and you feel like things have been swept away and lost. The Spirit of God can bring things back to life. He is a miracle-working God who can bring you through storms to new life again.*

## POINT 3 | Renewed Grace

God has determined that he will never again give up on all humanity. His covenant with Noah is cosmic — it is for all people, for all time, for all generations. The grace of God is his unmerited, undeserved favour, and he will never leave us or forsake us, even when we don’t deserve it.

### A Two-Way Covenant

But a covenant isn’t just a one-way street. It binds parties together in an ongoing relationship. The great tragedy of Noah’s generation was that they had no respect for each other — no love for neighbour, no generosity, no care for the poor and helpless. That is what grieved God’s heart.

God's covenant of grace means he will never again hold our sin against us. But neither should we hold sin against each other. We are all in this together.

### Noah, the Vineyard, and the Brothers

After the flood, Noah planted a vineyard (who wouldn't?), drank from it, and fell asleep in his tent. His son Ham saw him and told his brothers. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, walked backwards into the tent, and covered their father without looking. Noah praised them for it.

This story illustrates the covenant of grace beautifully. The grace of God isn't to expose sin and condemn people — the Redeemer pays the price for our sin and shame on our behalf. And as recipients of that grace, we too are called to cover, not expose.

- We are not here to expose each other — we are here to encourage each other.
- We are not here to condemn — we are here to help and to love.
- Be generous. Show the grace of God. Remember Jesus taught us: 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.'

This doesn't mean turning a blind eye to serious sin or abuse — but it means our default posture is grace, encouragement, and love. Like the two brothers who covered.

**Reflect:** *Righteousness, as Shane Willard taught recently, is about being generous to people. God's heart grieves when we neglect the poor, the widow, the vulnerable. The heart of the covenant is to show grace to each other, love each other, and help each other.*

## Conclusion

### RENEWED PURPOSE

Be a faithful servant where God has placed you

### RENEWED LIFE

Rest in his Spirit; God speaks order into chaos

### RENEWED GRACE

Cover, encourage, forgive — as God covers us

God loves the world he created. He loves that you are in it. He has called us to be faithful stewards in his kingdom. That looks different for every person — but the covenant is for all. God rewards faithful servants. Things will grow. New life will come.

God is a God of new beginnings. His grace doesn't hold our sins against us — it helps us grow, love each other, and encourage each other. The same Spirit that blew over the waters in Genesis, that stilled the storm in Matthew, and that raised Jesus from the dead is the Spirit that lives in you. You are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

## Reflection & Discussion Questions

Use these questions on your own during the week, or with your LifeGroup.

1. Ben described Noah as a 'faithful servant' who worked for 120 years without knowing exactly what was coming. Where in your own life is God asking you to be faithful — even without seeing the full picture yet?
2. Jesus said to be ready for his return — not by predicting the date, but by being found faithful. What does 'faithful' look like for you specifically, in the season you're in right now?
3. The flood represented chaos, and God spoke order into it. Is there an area of your life that feels chaotic or out of control right now? What would it look like to let God speak into that?
4. Noah's name means rest. The ruach (Spirit) of God brought the flood to rest and gave Noah new life. Where do you need to stop striving and simply rest in what God can do?
5. Think about the two brothers who covered Noah without looking. Is there someone in your life you've been tempted to expose or judge rather than cover and encourage? What does grace look like in that situation?
6. God's covenant with Noah was for all people — cosmic and unconditional. Does that broaden or challenge how you think about who God's grace is for? How does it change the way you see the people around you?

## Key Scriptures This Week

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- Genesis 6:5 — The wickedness of Noah's generation
- Genesis 8:1 — God sends the ruach (Spirit/wind); waters recede
- Genesis 9:1 — Be fruitful, fill the earth (renewed purpose)
- Genesis 9:12–13 — The rainbow: sign of the covenant
- Matthew 8:27 — Jesus calms the storm; even the winds and waves obey
- Matthew 24:37–39 — Jesus speaks of Noah: be ready, be faithful
- Revelation 21:1 — A new heaven and earth; no more sea

## Where We Are in the Series

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- Week 1 ✓ The Adamic Covenant — Identity, consequence, and the first promise of redemption
- Week 2 ✓ The Noahic Covenant — Renewed purpose, renewed life, renewed grace (THIS WEEK)
- Week 3 The Abrahamic Covenant — Land, descendants, and blessing to all nations
- Week 4 The Mosaic Covenant — God's treasured people at Sinai
- Week 5 The Davidic Covenant — An enduring throne pointing to the Messiah
- Easter The New Covenant — The climactic fulfilment in Jesus