

A The antediluvian world:

❖ Only evil thoughts.

- After sin entered Earth, humans quickly went from being “very good” to being “corrupted.”
 - (1) 1st generation Genesis 3:11-13. Fearing God, mistrust, self-justification.
 - (2) 2nd generation Genesis 4:8. Murder, open rebellion against God.
 - (3) 7th generation Genesis 4:23. Polygamy, lack of respect for human life.
 - (4) 8th-10th gen. Genesis 6:2, 11. God’s servants mingle with sinners, unlimited violence.

❖ Noah: A just man.

- Sin leads to ruin and death. That’s why God hates sin. He wants to eradicate it, but He also wants to save the sinners. That’s what the Covenant is about.
- When God assessed the situation of the world, He observed that most humans had reached such a high level of wickedness and rebellion that they were no longer hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- However, all was not lost. There were still some people who were listening to God and serving Him. Noah was one of them. He was a just and perfect person before God.
- Nevertheless, his justice was not enough to save him from God’s sentence. God established His covenant with Noah **by grace** (Genesis 6:8).

B God’s covenants:

❖ A covenant with Noah.

- God helped Noah like someone throws a life preserver to a shipwrecked sailor. He made a covenant with him: if you obey me, build an ark, and enter it, then I’ll save you and your family.
- God didn’t benefit from that covenant. However, Noah would have lost everything if he had broken it.
- God longs to see those shipwrecked by sin being saved. Therefore He offers us His Covenant, so we can enter the ark of salvation. An ark in the shape of a cross.

❖ A covenant with all living beings.

- God’s covenant with “every living creature” in Genesis 9:12 is different to the eternal covenant. This covenant goes beyond humanity, it covers all animate beings. There are no conditions to become part of this covenant. God just promised to never send a Flood again.
- This is a unique and unbreakable covenant. Its sign will last as long as Earth does.

C The Remnant.

- ❖ The verb “to remain” is closely related to the concept of “remnant” (something that is left) [e.g. see Ezra 9:8, Isaiah 4:3, Jeremiah 42:2, Ezekiel 14:22; Zechariah 9:7; Romans 11:5].
- ❖ God judged the antediluvian world and condemned them to destruction for their wickedness. But He made a covenant with the remnant, with those willing to accept God and His “preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5).
- ❖ God is judging the world again. His Covenant is still available to all willing to accept it. There is still a “little flock”, a faithful remnant. They are not better than others, they just love God and accept His grace. Are you part of this remnant?