**‘The First Covenant’**

***8 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: 9 “And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. 11 Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”***

***12 And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. 14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”*** Genesis 9:8-17

The first time the word “covenant” appears was in Genesis 6. There, God had come to Noah and directed him to build an ark. Noah was to do this because God was going to send a flood upon the earth to destroy all living things. After the flood had come and gone, every living creature, with the exception of those in the ark, had been killed. Noah built an altar to the LORD ***“and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”*** [[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1)To the LORD it was a soothing aroma. “***Then the Lord said in His heart,*** [[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2) ***‘I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. 22 “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.’”*** [[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn3)

Earlier we learned there are three types of covenants found in the Bible. They are “Royal Grant,” The “Parity,” and The “Suzerain-Vassal” covenants.[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn4) The covenant God makes with Noah and his descendants, and with every living creature that had been saved through the flood, was a Royal Grant covenant. *“The* ***“Royal Grant”*** *covenant was an* ***unconditional*** *covenant which a king granted to someone. There were no conditions placed upon the one who received a “Royal Grant” covenant. It was all on the king to uphold this covenant.”*[[5]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn5) God was the One establishing this covenant and He speaks out the terms of the covenant so that all will know them. The terms are not difficult to understand. there is only one “term” to this covenant. It is, ***“Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”*** [[6]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn6) This is a perpetual covenant for all generations. God is so very good.

God adds the sign of the RAINBOW to this covenant. It is a sign with a purpose. It is a reminder to God that He has made an everlasting covenant with all flesh. It is a reminder to us that God has made this covenant with the earth and all flesh. There have been floods upon the earth since the flood of Noah. Some have been quite catastrophic! However, every time the rainbow is seen in the clouds we know that the earth will never again be destroyed by a flood.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) Genesis 8:20

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref2) It is interesting that the LORD doesn’t add what He had said in His “heart” to the covenant. However, since the biblical text records what God’s thoughts were, we know that these promises are just as sure as if He would have spoken them aloud.

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref3) Genesis 8:21-22

[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref4) Barker, Kenneth, ed. *The NIV Study Bible, 10th Edition.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1995. p. 19

[[5]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref5) http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/02/08/covenants/

[[6]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref6) Genesis 9:11