

March 7, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
GENESIS : Behind The Curtain
Episode 7 : MIGHT IS NOT RIGHT
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Genesis 9:1-7

¹ Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ²The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. ³Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. ⁴"But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. ⁶"Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. ⁷As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

Core Idea: It is God's desire to rule his people through a "covenant of love" rather than through the scepter of law and fear.

In this passage we find the first of five major biblical covenants that God makes with humankind.

1. Noahic 2. Abrahamic 3. Mosaic 4. Davidic 5. The New Covenant of the Spirit

- "The concept of covenant exists at significant points in the Bible's storyline and is the theological glue that binds promise to fulfillment."
- **What is a covenant?:** The word "covenant, " is a **legal, social (marriage), and religious term.**
 - **The Idea of Covenant.** The term "covenant" is of Latin origin (*con venire*), meaning a coming together. It presupposes two or more parties who come together to make a contract, agreeing on promises, stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities.

The starting point for most social contract theories is an examination of the human condition absent of any political order (termed the "[state of nature](#)" by [Thomas Hobbes](#)).

⁴¹ In this condition, individuals' actions are bound only by their personal [power](#) and [conscience](#).

From this shared starting point, social contract theorists seek to demonstrate **why rational individuals would voluntarily consent to give up their natural freedom to obtain the benefits of political order.**

1. **Mob rule:** God's grace will not allow for humankind to implement self-rule based on individual preference.
2. **The rule of law:** It is not God's desire to rule by law, but laws are crucial in maintaining covenant.
3. **The rule of fear:** It is not God's desire to rule through power and fear.
4. **The rule of love:** It is the desire of God to offer life giving relationships through covenant love.

1. Mob rule: God's grace will not allow for humankind to implement self-rule based on individual preference.

"No tempest or conflagration, however great, is harder to quell than a mob carried away by the novelty of power." - Cicero

a. Whenever God beseeches us to worldly dominion, that equation is never devoid of his covenantal presence.

i. **Judges 21:25** *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. *This, the concluding verse of Judges, sums up what led to one of the most tragic civil wars in Jewish history.*

2. The rule of law: It is not God's desire to rule by law, but why?

a. **The law exists because of sin- The law was God's nuclear option.**

i. **Galatians 3:19** *It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.*

b. **The law is inadequate to save humanity from eternal death-**

i. **Galatians 2:16** *Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; **since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.***

3. The rule of fear: Vs. 2 *The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands.*

a. Man has now gone from relationship with Creation and God, to being at odds with it and each other, and will rule by fear and power.

4. The rule of covenantal love: It is the desire of God to offer life giving relationships through covenant love.

"The end of the law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom." - John Locke

- **Romans 7:6** *But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.*
- **Romans 8:1-2** *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you^u free from the law of sin and death.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Why would God choose to be in covenant with us rather than just ruling through power and fear?
2. Noah is given a command of "be fruitful", meaning that he has some element of self agency in the manifestation of his blessing. How can we "be fruitful" to do the same?
3. If we live in true love, do laws need to exist? Why do laws exist?
4. Did you grow up in a household ruled by fear, respect and power or one of love? What is the difference?
5. Is your relationship with God based more on a covenant of love or one of fear and condemnation?