

What is the Noahic covenant's gracious provision?

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... "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done" (NASB; Gen. 8:21).

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, "Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth" (NASB; Gen. 9:8-13).

The Noahic covenant's gracious provision is God's promise that despite the natural depravity of man's heart, He will never again destroy the entire earth with a flood.

Evil . . . is bred in the bone. . . . Now, one would think it should follow, "Therefore that guilty race shall be wholly extinguished" . . .

But God will no more take this severe method. . . . For if he [man] be dealt with according to his deserts, one flood must succeed another till all be destroyed. . . . Man's nature was as sinful after the deluge as it had been before. . . . [But] God's goodness takes occasion from man's sinfulness to magnify itself the more; His reasons of mercy are all drawn from Himself, not from anything in us (Matthew Henry).

