



Ecology, Justice and Grace

Genesis 9:1-17

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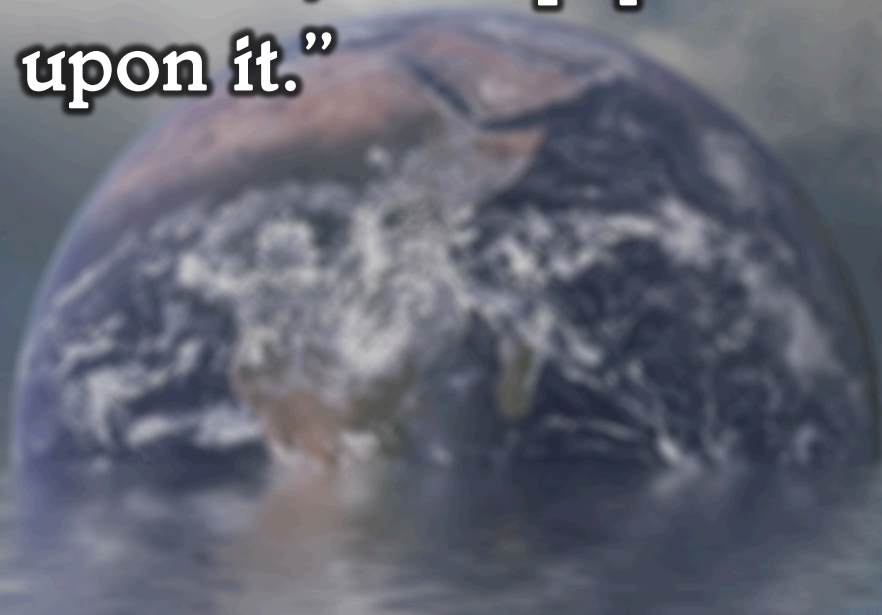
Genesis 9:1

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”



Genesis 9:7

[God]: “As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”



Covenant relationships:

- ❖ With nature - ecology
- ❖ With all people - justice
- ❖ With God - grace

Genesis 1-11

- ❖ Creation (1)
- ❖ Creation (2)
- ❖ Fall (3)
- ❖ Cain and Abel (4)
- ❖ Genealogy (5)
- ❖ Flood (6-9)
- ❖ Genealogy (10)
- ❖ Tower of Babel (11)

Genesis 1 application:

- ❖ God created.
- ❖ His creation is good.
- ❖ His creation reflects his glory.
- ❖ Jesus reconciles us to God.
- ❖ We are to worship God and reflect his glory.

Genesis 2:1-15 application:

- ❖ Work is not bad.
- ❖ Work is not everything.
- ❖ Work is a gift from God.
- ❖ Work is an opportunity to worship God.
- ❖ We need rest.
- ❖ Jesus gives us ultimate rest.

Genesis 2:15-25

- ❖ We need relationships.
 - ❖ With God
 - ❖ With people
 - ❖ Like us
 - ❖ Different from us
- ❖ Jesus took our shame so we can be unashamed.

Lies of the Deceiver:

- ❖ You can be the judge.
- ❖ You cannot trust the goodness of God.
- ❖ You can save yourself.

Bad News ...

- ❖ Our common disease = sin/evil
 - ❖ Alienation from God
 - ❖ Alienation from ourselves/shame
 - ❖ Alienation from each other
 - ❖ Struggle with nature

... Good News

- ❖ The healer king is coming.
- ❖ We are his ambassadors.



The Gospel:

- ❖ Sin separates us from God.
- ❖ How will you cope?
 - ❖ Turn to God, and he will cover you.
 - ❖ Hide from God, and life will destroy your fig leaves.

Sin and Grace

❖ Sin

- ❖ Ever-present
- ❖ Seeks to consume
- ❖ Subtle

❖ Grace

- ❖ Ever-present
- ❖ Seeks to counsel and restore
- ❖ Subtle

Cainites vs. Sethites:

- ❖ The Gospel = not a Bible quiz
- ❖ God-dependence > self-reliance
- ❖ God's power > human strength

Structure of Genesis

- ❖ Introduction (1:1)
- ❖ Heaven and earth (2:4)
- ❖ Adam (5:1)
- ❖ Noah (6:9)
- ❖ Sons of Noah (10:1)
- ❖ Shem (11:10)
- ❖ Terah (11:27)
- ❖ Ishmael (25:12)
- ❖ Isaac (25:19)
- ❖ Esau (36:1)
- ❖ Jacob (37:2)

Chiasm (Genesis 6:10-9:19):

- ❖ Noah (6:10)
- ❖ Shem, Ham, Japheth
- ❖ Flood announced (6:17)
- ❖ Covenant with Noah
- ❖ 7 days, 7 days (7:4-10)
- ❖ 40 days (7:17)
- ❖ 150 days (7:21-24)
- ❖ Noah (9:19)
- ❖ Shem, Ham, Japheth
- ❖ No flood (9:11-17)
- ❖ Covenant with all
- ❖ 7 days, 7 days (8:10-13)
- ❖ 40 days (8:6)
- ❖ 150 days (8:3)

GOD REMEMBERS NOAH (8:1)

The paradox of God:

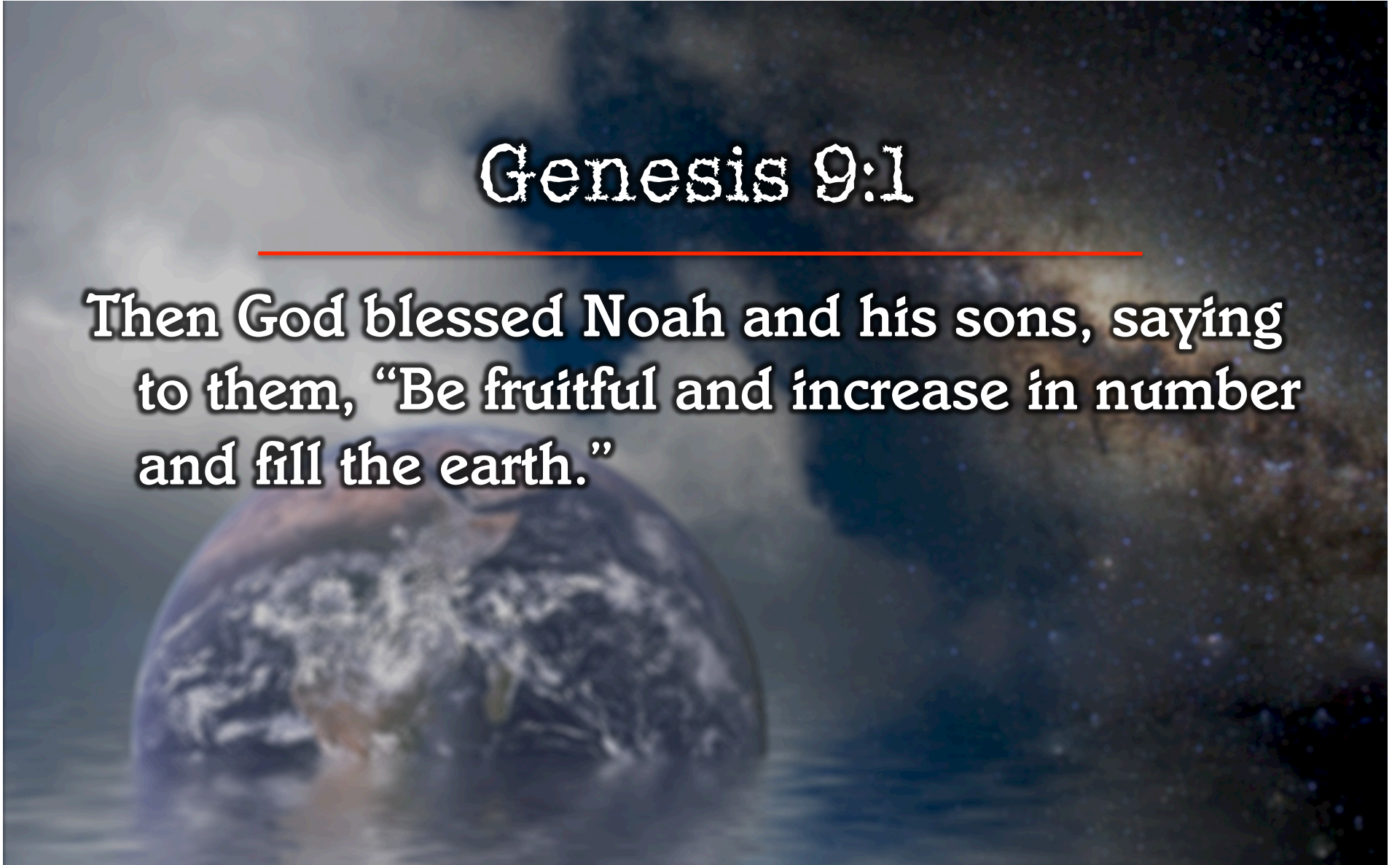
- ❖ Truth + Love
- ❖ Holiness + compassion
- ❖ Judgment + mercy

Implications of the flood:

- ❖ This world is important to God (and us).
- ❖ God's people are committed to truth and love.
- ❖ Suffering can make you bitter or better.
- ❖ We can live as if divine judgment is in the past.

Genesis 9:1

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”



Covenant relationships:

- ❖ With nature - ecology
- ❖ With all people - justice
- ❖ With God – grace

Genesis 9:2

[God]: “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.

Genesis 9:3

“Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.”

Genesis 9:8-10

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you — the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you — every living creature on earth.”

Genesis 9:12

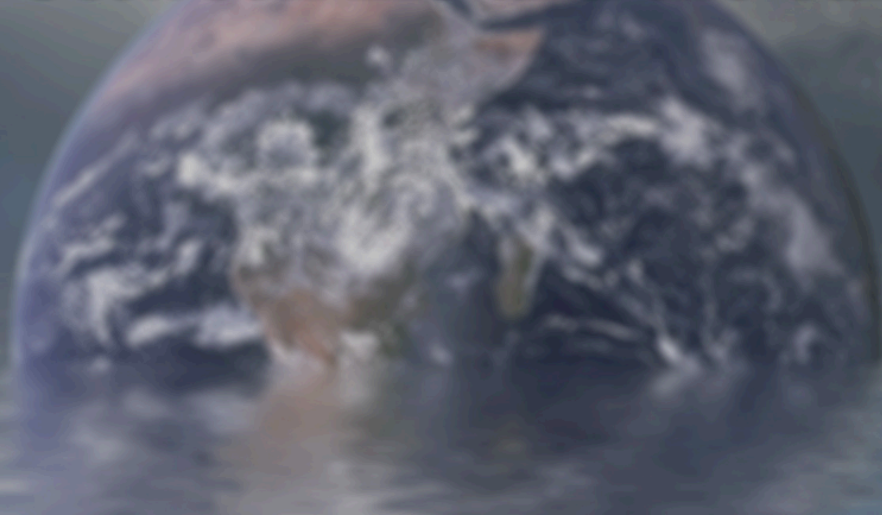
And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:”

Genesis 9:16

“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

Genesis 9:13

**[God]: “I have set my rainbow in the clouds,
and it will be the sign of the covenant
between me and the earth.”**



Genesis 8:21

The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

Romans 8:19

**For the creation waits in eager expectation
for the children of God to be revealed.**



Romans 8:20-21

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Psalm 19:1-2

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.



C.S. Lewis:

“When human souls have become as perfect in voluntary obedience as the inanimate creation is in its lifeless obedience, then they will put on its glory, or rather that greater glory of which Nature is only the first sketch.”

Romans 8:19

**For the creation waits in eager expectation
for the children of God to be revealed.**



Psalm 96:11-12

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Psalm 96:13

Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Covenant relationships:

- ❖ With nature - ecology
- ❖ With all people - justice
- ❖ With God – grace

Genesis 9:4-5

[God]: “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

Genesis 9:6

**“Whoever sheds human blood,
by humans shall their blood be shed;
for in the image of God
has God made mankind.”**

Romans 12:14-16

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

John Calvin:

“The Lord commands us to do good unto all men without exception, though the majority are very undeserving when judged according to their own merits... [Scripture] teaches us that we must not think of man’s real value, but only of his creation in the image of God to which we owe all possible honor and love.”

Covenant relationships:

- ❖ With nature - ecology
- ❖ With all people - justice
- ❖ With God – grace

Genesis 9:12-13

And 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.

Genesis 9:14-15

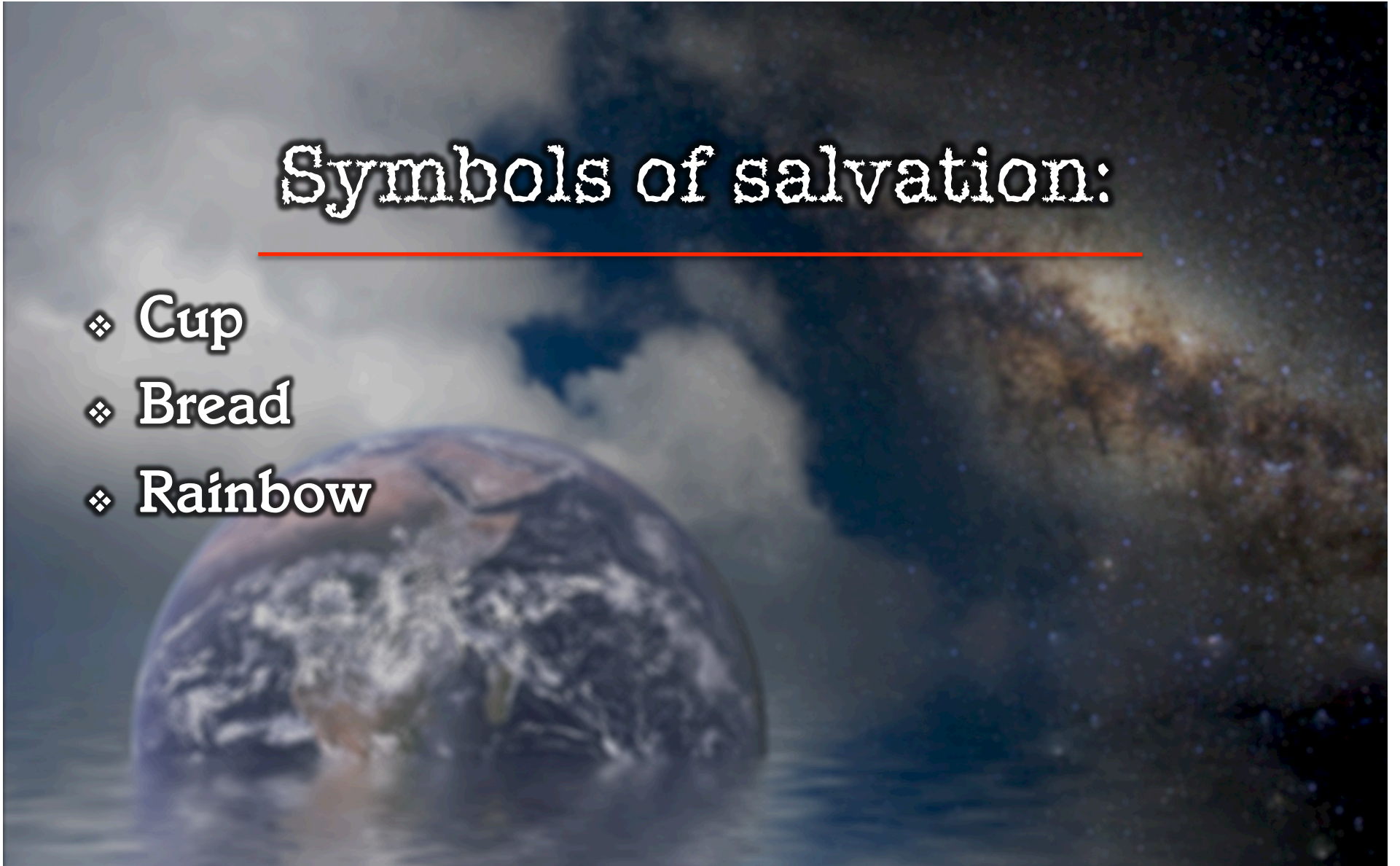
“Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

Genesis 9:16-17

“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”
So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

Symbols of salvation:

- ❖ Cup
- ❖ Bread
- ❖ Rainbow



Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

Christianity (not religiosity):

- ❖ Recognize and admit your need.
- ❖ Look at Jesus and the cross.
- ❖ Rest in the promises of grace.
- ❖ Live a life of gratitude.

Covenant relationships:

- ❖ With nature - ecology
- ❖ With all people - justice
- ❖ With God – grace



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper