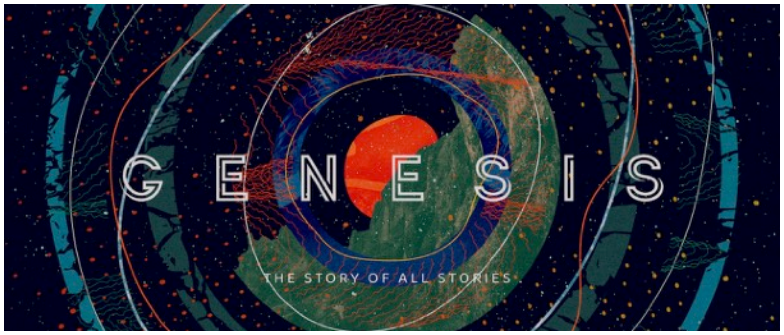

Part 10: The Sign of God's Covenant

Sermon Notes
Text: Genesis 8:1-9:17

Intro:

New Biblical theme introduced: Covenant

Genesis 8:1-5 - God sends a wind over the waters

New Creation has begun!

Christians always live in hope.

Genesis 8:15-9:7 - A similar patter to the creation account of Gen. 1

God commits to working with humans even though he knows they are evil.

Genesis 9:8-17 - God confirms his Covenant

What is a Covenant?

A covenant is a chosen relationship in which two parties make binding promises to each other.

Covenants are about partnership and commitment, not just an exchange of goods or services.

Old Testament Covenants:
1. The Noahic Covenant
2. The Abraham Covenant
3. The Mosaic Covenant
4. The Davidic Covenant

Covenants often had a symbol - i.e. the rainbow

The New Covenant

1 Corinthians 11:25

Isiah 54:9-10

Conclusion:

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What are some famous movie scores that you can hum or sing off the top of your head? (e.g. The Jaws theme). What emotions are these scores meant to incite in the listeners?

2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

1. We were introduced to the language of "Covenant" this Sunday. What is a Covenant? How is it different than a contract or other types of promises? Consider the example of Marriage. What makes a marriage covenant different than a business contract? What are the rights and responsibilities each person has in a marriage?

2. Read Genesis 9:8-11. This is the Noahic Covenant where God promises never again to wipe out the earth with a flood. Now read Genesis 12:1-3. This is the Abrahamic Covenant (confirmed in chapter 15). What features do you notice? What does God promise to do? What does he require Abraham to do? How does this covenant connect to God's earlier relationships with people like Adam, Eve or Noah?

3. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. Jeremiah predicts the coming of a new covenant. What are the features of this new covenant? What does God promise? What does God require of us?

Practice:

1. Consider taking Communion together as a Connect Group. Jesus said that the cup (representing his blood) is the symbol of the New Covenant, like the rainbow was the symbol of the Noahic Covenant. We take communion as a way to remember what Jesus did in order to establish the New Covenant with us. As you take communion, meditate on the cross and the implications it has for your relationship with God.