

Haftarah - Jeremiah 31:19-26 + 34-35

Two covenants compared

Reading the whole chapter, not just the haftarah portion, we see the promise of God not to destroy the earth by a flood is reflected in God's promise to Israel of their return from exile and of a future "new covenant."

Genesis 9:11 - "And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth."

Jeremiah 31:33 - "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

We also find an echo of Noah stepping out into a destroyed world and his command to replenish and repopulate it.

Genesis 8:17 - "...they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth."

Jeremiah 31:27 - "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast."

Finally, God's refers to the order of the heavens and his sovereignty over the order of nature and the cosmos in guaranteeing his promises: The rainbow in one instance, and the sun, moon and stars in the other

Genesis 8:21 - "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Jeremiah 31:35-36 - "Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever."