God's Covenant with Noah and all Living Creatures (Gen 9)

1 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number
and fill the earth. 2 The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all
the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish
of the sea; they are given into your hands. 3 Everything that lives and moves 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. 5 And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an
accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will
demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. 6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. 7 As for you,
be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it." 8 Then God
said to Noah and to his sons with him: 9 "I now establish my covenant with you and with
your descendants after you 10 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. 11 I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut
off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." 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: 13 I have set my rainbow in
the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I
bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 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. 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." 17 So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have
established between me and all life on the earth."

1.What does the fact that God included "pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them" (Gen 7:15) in the ark suggest about God?
2.What strikes you about God's covenant? Who is included in it?
3.What does the fact that God's covenant repeatedly includes humankind and otherkind suggest about God?
4.What does this suggest about how we should live with all living creatures since they are "given into" our "hands"?