

genesis

God's Book of Beginnings

Chapter 9

^{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.”

¹⁸ The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)

¹⁹ These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.

²⁰ Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. ²¹ When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. ²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵ he said, “Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers.”

²⁶ He also said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. ²⁷ May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave.”

²⁸ After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹ Altogether, Noah lived 950 years, and then he died.

The Time Immediately after the Flood

God's Covenant with Noah, His Sons and All the Animals

1 Following Noah and his entire family leaving the ark, building an altar and sacrificing some of the clean animals as burnt offerings to the LORD ^{Genesis 8:18-22}, God blessed them all.

God repeated His encouraging words of fruitful blessings He had pronounced immediately after the first six days of Creation ^{Genesis 1:28} to Noah and his sons, because this was a new start for humanity.

“God blessed Noah and his sons”, because those men had the responsibility for the spiritual leadership over their wives ^{1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 5:21-33, 1 Peter 3:1-12}. So, in blessing Noah and sons, God was (in essence) also blessing (His blessing was being passed down to) the three wives.

2-3 God reaffirmed man's rule and responsibility over the animals ^{Genesis 1:26}. He then expanded man's diet by adding meat to his previously exclusive vegetarian menu ^{Genesis 1:29}.

4-6 The eating of blood was forbidden by God ^{Leviticus 17:12, Acts 15:29}. He also said He will (and man should) hold both men ^{Exodus 21:12-14, Numbers 35:31} and animals ^{Exodus 21:28} accountable for the “murder” ^{Exodus 20:13} of a man, because (only) man is made in God's image ^{Genesis 1:26-27}.

Raw blood is not to be consumed, because it symbolically represents life itself ^{Leviticus 17:11,14}.

God actually commands the use of capital punishment for murder ^{Leviticus 24:17, Acts 25:11, Romans 13:1-5}.

In cases of intentional causing injury or death ^{Exodus 21:23-25, Leviticus 24:19-21}, the Mosaic Law required an “eye for eye, tooth for tooth”. This type of judgement referred to the principle of exact retribution (*lex talionis*: law of punishment identical to the offense [lit]), which was also applied to Roman laws. In addition to capital punishment, God made it clear in other Biblical passages that He allows and even encourages the killing of men in certain circumstances ^{Numbers 25:4, 35:6,9-34, Joshua 20:1-9}.

7 God repeated his command to “be fruitful” ^{v.1} in order to repopulate the earth ^{Genesis 1:28}.

8-11 God made the earlier promised covenant ^{Genesis 6:18} with Noah, his sons, their descendants and all animals on the ark: He vowed to never destroy life or earth again by a flood ^{Isaiah 54:9a}.

God promised no more cataclysmic floods; Peter said the next judgement will be by fire ^{2 Peter 3:3-10}.

This is one of the five “everlasting” covenants God has made with mankind: (1) Noahic ^{v.8-17}, (2) Abrahamic ^{Genesis 17:1-21, Psalm 105:8-11}, (3) priestly ^{Numbers 18:19, 25:10-13, Psalm 106:30-31, Ezekiel 44:15-16}, (4) Davidic ^{2 Samuel 7:11a-16, 23:5, Acts 2:29-36}, (5) New ^{Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 37:26, Luke 22:17-20, Hebrews 9:15, 12:22-24}.

12-13 God is faithful to fulfill all of His promises, so His provision of a sign for all to see allows every human and every animal throughout time to be reminded of His covenant with them to never again use a flood as His agent of judgement. Fittingly, God's sign of the rainbow is associated with His main method of producing the Flood: rain ^{Genesis 7:4}.

The half rainbow of the Noahic Covenant is an obvious sign of God's faithfulness, but the full rainbow around His throne ^{Revelation 4:3} illustrates His complete trustworthiness throughout eternity.

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14-17 God repeated His assurance to never again produce a devastating Flood. He also said His rainbow would be a reminder of His “everlasting” commitment to man and the animals.

God designated the rainbow as His symbolic and perpetual remembrance of the Noahic covenant, just as the circumcision of all males would be a reminder of the Abrahamic covenant ^{Genesis 17:10-14}.

The Son's of Noah

18-19 Prior to the Flood, Noah fathered at least three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Therefore, all humans born post-Flood have been descendants of Noah and these three men.

Indicating great importance, Canaan was prominently revealed as one of the sons of Ham ^{Genesis 10:6}.

All human physical characteristics came from “one man” (Adam) ^{Acts 17:26}, through these three men.

20 Noah was a man who loved to farm, and one aspect of his farming was keeping a vineyard.

This demonstrates that God did not curse Cain ^{Genesis 4:11} simply because he was a farmer ^{Genesis 4:2}.

21 Having drunk more wine than he should have, Noah passed out naked in his tent.

The Hebrew words translated “lay uncovered” more literally indicates that he “uncovered himself”.

As with all of God's creation, used incorrectly, wine can be bad ^{Proverbs 23:19-21, Ephesians 5:18a, Titus 2:3}, however, used appropriately, wine is good ^{Genesis 14:18-20, Psalm 104:14-15, Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Timothy 5:23}.

22 Ham entered Noah's tent, “saw his father's nakedness” and went outside to tell his brothers.

The Hebrew word for nakedness (*'erwâ*) often has a negative connotation (e.g., “shame” ^{Isaiah 20:4}), and this same word has also been translated as “have/having sexual relations” e.g., ^{Leviticus 18:6-19}.

23 Perceiving Noah's indiscretion, Shem and Japheth respectfully covered him without looking.

24-25 Immediately upon waking up, Noah “found out” Ham had done something to him; however, he cursed Canaan, instead of cursing Ham or one of Ham's other 3 sons ^{Genesis 10:6}.

The events described here (Canaan being mentioned prominently; Noah getting drunk and uncovering himself; Ham viewing his father's nakedness; Noah discovering, as soon as he woke up, that his “youngest son” [Ham] had done something to him; and Canaan [not Ham] being cursed) seem to indicate there is much more to this story, but the details remain unknown.

26-27 Noah blessed Shem and pronounced Canaan as “the slave of Shem”. He then prayed that God would grant Japheth many lands, that his line would be supported by and friendly with the descendants of Shem and that Canaan would also “be [their] slave”.

Noah's blessing on Shem was prophetic: Abraham ^{Luke 3:34-36} and Jesus ^{Luke 3:23-36} were in his line.

28-29 Following the Flood, Noah lived 350 more years. During this time he and his sons repopulated the earth. Noah died at the age of 950 years; the 2nd oldest lifespan in history. Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price, 505-294-4743, ron@hopeinchristnm.com.