

The Book of Genesis

Chapter Nine

The Noahic Covenant

Lesson Verse: Gen 9:9

I. Lesson Introduction

- A. Last week's lesson was about the flood water receding and of the unloading of the ark. We also learned that the first thing Noah did after disembarking from the ark, was make a sacrifice and give thanks to the Lord.
- B. This week's lesson deals with God's covenant with Noah, the sons of Noah, Ham's sin, the curse placed on Canaan, and the death of Noah.

II. Lesson

A. There was still a Blessing for Mankind (9:1)

1. God's blessing
2. Being Fruitful and multiplying
3. Replenishing the earth

B. The _____ Covenant (Gen 9:1-17)

1. The covenant with Adam was still in effect, but was now added to – progressive revelation
 - a. About the will of God
 - b. And about just how depraved the human heart is
2. **That mankind would be fruitful and repopulate the earth**
 - a. To _____ the earth (9:1,12,16). Fill it up.
 - 1) Don't complain about having children
 - 2) Don't believe in population control
 - 3) Raise up a Godly generation for God
 - b. Here we find that the Adamic covenant to replenish the earth was passed to Noah and his children. We also note that God blessed Noah and his sons. This is very important for before the chapter is over, one of Noah's grandchildren is cursed.
 - c. This is a chapter of new beginnings. Noah is on a new earth; one washed clean by a flood. Noah has the opportunity to populate the earth with people. However, there is one thing that must be remembered: these people will be after Noah's kind; sinners.
3. **That animals may now be eaten for food – eat meat instead of only herbs and vegetables**
 - a. The animal kingdom is now under the dominion of man. Animals will now have a natural fear of mankind. Also, the animal kingdom is now good for food. The only thing man must remember is to thoroughly cook the meat before eating. He was not to eat flesh with blood running out of it.
 - b. The nation of Israel was reminded of this law once again when Moses received the Law. What does this tell us? It tells us it was wrong to eat blood before the Law and during the Law. If it was wrong to eat blood then, it is wrong now.
 - c. Except for the blood
 - 1) Because of connections with Satan and devil worship
 - 2) Because of disease
4. **God made mankind responsible for their actions – set up humans as governors and controllers of man's actions – human government**
5. **That there must be capital punishment for murders (9:5,6). Mankind is going to have to be more pro-active in dealing with its sinful nature, if we want to survive!**
 - a. Not vigilantism

- b. Operated by rule of law, and with checks and balances. This places the responsibility of governing upon the backs of people. They must govern right to survive!
- c. The _____ of Human Life is Established, v. 5-6, *Rom. 13:1*.
- d. Here in this chapter we find that the mark on Cain _____. Because Cain slew his brother, God had set a mark on him that no one kill him, **Gen 4:15**. Now the Bible does not say when or how Cain died. It would be fair to deduct that God killed Cain somehow. By this same reasoning, it will also be fair to say that since God did not allow another to kill Cain, God now makes it fair that if a man kills another, the killer is to be killed also.
- e. From this line of thinking arises another thought: Perhaps this was one of the great sins that caused the flood; men were killing but the killers were not punished. Consider this line of reasoning: “Hey after all, if it was OK for Cain not to be punished for killing his brother, why not have the same law for everyone else?”
- f. Two thoughts arise from this: Perhaps God killed them all in a flood or God may have killed the killers before the flood. Those are just thoughts and by no means a doctrine. What is a fact is God now commands that those who kill, must also be killed, *Gen 9:6*. It is important to note the stipulation _____ in v. 6. This law does not violate the Sixth Commandment where God commanded Thou shalt not kill.

6. That the earth still needs to be dominated and managed – not let go wild

- a. To dominate the earth (9:2,3)
- b. Be in control of it
- c. Decide what to do with land, etc.
- d. Be responsible for it as well!

C. The Covenant is Confirmed, v. 9-11. with a _____ – seven colours!

D. The Rainbow is Given as Testimony of the Existence of this Covenant, v. 12-17.

1. Let us be certain that the flood was of world wide proportions for the rainbow appears all over the world. If it was a local flood, then, it stands to reason the rainbow would be local. To believe in a local flood is to say that the verse we have just read is a lie. God said it. That settles it, whether one believes it or not. Every time we see a rainbow or a cloud, it is a sign of God's promise that there will never be another worldwide flood.
2. Notice here also that not only rainbows, but clouds are also a new thing on the earth. Because after the flood, the atmosphere has changed as it begins to rain on a regular basis. The faith of Noah's family was probably really put to a test the first time it rained after the flood, but as the thunder roared, old Noah explained why it would never be another worldwide flood.
3. God has been faithful to that covenant from that day to this, and will continue to do so until the world is no longer around to be flooded. God confirmed the covenant with Noah, the beasts, and with the earth. This is a covenant to never destroy the earth again by a flood. Each time we see the rainbow, it is a reminder of the promise God made to His creation. The next time the earth is destroyed it will be a final destruction, **2 Peter 3:10**.

E. It is in this chapter that we find that Noah and Adam have much in common. Consider the following things:

1. Adam was made _____ over the creation; so was Noah.
2. Adam was blessed and told to be fruitful and multiply; so was Noah.
3. Adam was placed in a garden to dress and till it; Noah became a husbandman/gardener.
4. Adam transgressed in the garden; so did Noah.
5. Adam's sin exposed his nakedness; so did Noah's.
6. Adam's nakedness was covered by another; so also was Noah's.
7. Adam's sin brought terrible repercussion on his children; so did Noah's.
8. Of Adam's listed sons, the promised seed came through one of his sons; Cain the first born killed the second born. Fouling up Satan's plan, God used the third son, Seth. With Noah the promised seed came through Shem.
9. Following the fall of Adam was an outline of future events; the same is true with Noah.

F. **Noah And The Sin Of Ham, Gen. 9:18-24.**

1. Noah Becomes A Farmer.
 - a. What in the world would make Noah go out and get drunk after all he had been through with God? It would seem that he would know better?
 - b. We do not know for sure, but just suppose Noah did not know that fermented grape juice would make a man drunk. For all we know the conditions on the earth prior to the flood might have been such that grape juice simply did not ferment as it does now. Noah might have thought it was just grape juice when he drank it. Whether he knew it was fermented or not, he got drunk anyway. It is my personal belief he planted the vineyard and got drunk deliberately.
 - c. He planted a vineyard and enjoyed the fruits of his labor, **Prov 20:1**. After he got drunk, he laid down, and got comfortable and took off all his clothes, laying uncovered in his tent. Perhaps he was too drunk to care about his shameful condition, **Luke 21:34**.
2. Ham Sins Grievously
 - a. Sees His Father's Nakedness.
 - 1) Satan wasted no time. Before the flood, Cain became Satan's man. Here we see that the devil has found another willing servant in Noah's son Ham. Now Ham is one evil guy! He sees his father in a bad fix, and runs off to blab about it!
 - 2) Notice that Noah's other sons know to cover their father's nakedness. You will not find any laws concerning nakedness written down until nearly 1,000 years later. Regardless, God showed these folks in their _____ what was right and wrong long before Moses wrote any of it.
 - 3) Ham told the matter. He is like a lot of folks. He found out something naughty and could not contain it. He ran outside and told his brothers, mocking his father's conditions, **Prov 14:9**. Shem and Japheth are not so bold. They take a garment and without looking, cover their father's nakedness.
 - b. Does something TO his father
 - 1) Noah awoke and knew that not only had his privacy been violated (Dt 27:16), but possibly he himself had been violated.
 - 2) Possibly a _____ act
 - c. How could this happen?
 - 1) A hold-over from the previous perverted world in the hearts of these eight people
 - 2) Man's sinful nature NEVER stays right

G. **Noah's Curse and Blessing, Gen. 9:25-29.**

1. Noah's Curse on Canaan.
 - a. Notice that Ham is not cursed for his evil. One of the truest texts of scriptures, and one of the saddest facts of life, is that our sins are often visited upon our children more than on ourselves. Canaan is cursed. He is to be a _____ of _____.
 - b. The descendants of Canaan migrated to Africa and the area around the Mediterranean Sea (Ps 105:23). Some of his descendants are Cush, Mitraim, Phut, and **Canaan** (which is where Israel conquers)
2. Noah's Blessings.
 - a. Shem here is chosen as the family firstborn. This does not mean that he is necessarily the oldest. It means that he was chosen by God to be the family high priest when his father Noah dies. Shem is also to receive the blessing which means he is the one who will be the father of the people from whom Christ shall be born, as foretold, **Gen. 3:15**.
 - b. Through _____ shall come Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel from which shall be born Jesus Christ. Noah, through the Holy Ghost, is making one of the most sweeping prophecies in all of human history when he pronounced blessings and cursings.

- 1) Noah's three sons head off ultimately in three different directions with different relationships towards God – it seems to differentiate each from the other's descendants
 - a) _____ – God blesses Shem for his faith and obedience. Shem is the father of the Orientals – he headed _____ from Ararat. **Shem** is God's choice to continue a Godly line through which to bring into the world Jesus.
 - (i) Adam
 - (ii) Seth
 - (iii) Enos
 - (iv) Cainan
 - (v) Mahalaleel
 - (vi) Jared
 - (vii) Enoch
 - (viii) Methuselah
 - (ix) Lamech
 - (x) Noah
 - (xi) Shem
 - (xii) *Down through to Abraham*
 - (xiii) *Abraham to David*
 - (xiv) *David to **Jesus***
 - b) _____.
 - (i) Ham grossly sins against his father Noah, and gets his son, Cainan cursed by Noah. Ham, as a people group are in trouble with God
 - (ii) Africa, and Egypt in particular are called the land of Ham (Ps 105:23; 105:27; 106:22)
 - (iii) _____ comes from this line
 - (iv) The _____ come from this line
 - (v) The _____, and the Queen of _____!
 - c) _____.
 - (i) Japheth is also blessed. According to Matthew Henry's Commentary we find the following about Japheth: First, Japheth has the blessing of the earth beneath: God shall enlarge Japheth, enlarge his seed, enlarge his border. Japheth's prosperity peopled all Europe, a great part of Asia, and America. Note, God is to be acknowledged in all our enlargements. It is He that enlarges the coast and enlarges the heart. And again, many dwell in large tents that do not dwell in God's tents, as Japheth did....The birth-right was now to be divided between Shem and Japheth, Ham being utterly discarded. In the principality which they equally share Canaan shall be servant to both. The double portion is given to Japheth, whom God shall enlarge; but the priesthood is given to Shem, for God shall dwell in the tents of Shem: and certainly we are more happy if we have God dwelling in our tents than if we had there all the silver and gold in the world. It is better to dwell in tents with God than in palaces without him. In Salem, where is God's tabernacle, there is more satisfaction than in all the isles of the Gentiles. Thirdly, They both have dominion over Canaan: Canaan shall be servant to them. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary)
 - (ii) By nature, Japheth is a _____.
 - (iii) He heads west by north-west. He is a European
 - (iv) He ends up dwelling in the tents of Shem when he invades and conquers America.
 - (v) Japheth's line has Alexander the Great, William the conqueror, all the Ceasars, etc.
 - d) These three are the three basic classifications of people in the world
 - (i) Shemites – Mongoloids, Orientals, or Occidentals, far Easterners
 - (ii) Japhethites – Caucasoids. Westerners, Europeans

