

# GENESIS 9: GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

## I. OVERVIEW

- A. God blesses Noah
  - i. Be fruitful and multiply
    - a. Repeated twice – v. 1, 7
  - ii. Animals will fear you
  - iii. You may eat animals but not the blood
  - iv. Death is the penalty for murder
    - a. Whether murderer is animal or human
- B. God establishes covenant with Noah
  - i. Never again will all flesh die from flood
  - ii. Never again will flood destroy the earth
  - iii. Rainbow is sign of covenant
- C. The righteous seed falls
  - i. Noah becomes drunk
  - ii. Ham sees his nakedness
  - iii. Shem and Japheth cover his nakedness
  - iv. Ham is cursed, Shem and Japheth are blessed
  - v. Noah dies

## II. FEAR – V. 2

- A. Repeated twice – fear, dread
  - i. Emphasizes new relationship between man and beast
- B. Not original order of creation
- C. This will be restored one day
  - i. Hosea 2:18 ***And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety.***
  - ii. Isaiah 11:8-9 ***The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.***

- iii. Leviticus 26:6 ***I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land.***

### **III. EVERY MOVING THING... SHALL BE FOOD – V. 3**

- A. Why did God now allow people to eat meat?
  - i. Not much vegetation on the earth
    - a. But even less animal life
    - b. No fishing methods yet
  - ii. Concession to man's wickedness – Rabbi Abraham Isaac Hakohen Cook
    - a. Violence and murder was main sin before the flood
      - i. Killing animals satisfies blood lust<sup>1</sup>
    - b. Permission to eat meat comes after a curse
      - i. Animals fearing man – why?
        - a. They will be hunted
    - c. God made covenant with animals as well as man
      - i. They bring praise and glory to God as well
        - a. Psalm 148:7, 10 ***Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps... Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!***
  - iii. God intended to institute feasts centered around eating animals<sup>2</sup>
    - a. Provide illustration of greater truth
      - i. Such as Passover

### **IV. BLOOD – V. 6**

- A. Numbers 35:33 ***You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it.***
- B. This is why murder is a capital offense
  - i. Does this mean we should have the death penalty?
    - a. Genesis 2:17 "***...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.***"

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<sup>1</sup>Schwartz, R. (1998). *Jewish Dietary Laws (Kashrut): The Vegetarian Teachings Of Rav Kook*. Jewish Virtual Library. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-vegetarian-teachings-of-rav-kook>

<sup>2</sup>Armstrong, S. (2011, July 4). *Genesis 2011. Verse By Verse Ministries*. Retrieved April 29, 2023, from [https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis\\_2011\\_lesson\\_9a](https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_9a)

- i. Adam and Eve did not die when they ate, they were exiled from Eden
- b. God did not kill Cain when he murdered Abel
  - i. He sent him into exile
  - c. Death equals exile
- C. Represents life of each being
  - i. This is now the fourth source of life we see
    - a. Spirit/breath of life
    - b. Tree of life
    - c. Waters – bring death and new life
    - d. Blood
    - e. All are interconnected

#### **V. COVENANT – V.9**

- A. Similar but different from a contract
- B. Usually sealed by blood
  - i. Noah makes an offering
- C. Both parties must abide by terms to receive benefits
  - i. Noah's terms
    - a. Be fruitful and multiply
    - b. Do not eat blood
    - c. Life is now required for taking a life
      - i. Only God has right to give and take life
        - a. This authority transferred to governments to bring justice
        - ii. If someone tries to take that authority as their own, they should die<sup>3</sup>
  - ii. God's terms
    - a. Never again will all flesh be cut off by flood
    - b. Never again will there be flood to destroy earth
      - i. Pre-flood conditions will never be replicated
      - ii. But they will be similar one day
        - a. Matthew 24:37 **For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**

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<sup>3</sup> Armstrong, S. (2011, July 12). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 9B*. Verse By Verse Ministry International. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from [https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis\\_2011\\_lesson\\_9b](https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_9b)

- iii. Then God will destroy the earth with fire
  - a. 2 Peter 3:5-7 *For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*
- iii. With who?
  - a. Noah and his offspring
  - b. Every living creature with Noah
    - i. Birds, livestock, every beast of the earth who came out of the ark
- iv. Sign
  - a. All covenants have a sign<sup>4</sup>
  - b. Rainbow
    - i. Seen for first time
    - ii. Reminder for God – why?
      - a. He is always reminded
        - 1. Revelation 4:3 *And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.*

## VI. NOAH'S FALL

- A. Presented as Messiah figure – woman's seed
- B. He took the fruit of the vine (tree) and became drunk
  - i. Adam's fall all over again – we still need a Messiah!

## VII. NAKEDNESS OF HIS FATHER – V. 22

- A. Unclear what happened here
- B. Ham saw Noah uncover himself and mocked his father to his brothers
- C. Leviticus – father's nakedness is actually related to his wife's nakedness, not his own<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Armstrong, S.

<sup>5</sup> Mackie, T. (n.d.). Noah To Abraham: Exploring Genesis 6-12. Bible Project.

- i. Leviticus 18:7-8 **You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.**
- ii. Ham's sin may have had more to do with sexual abuse/rape of mother rather than father
- iii. Strength of Noah's curse reinforces this

### **VIII. COVERED THE NAKEDNESS – V. 23**

- A. Like God covered Adam and Eve's nakedness

### **IX. CURSED BE CANAAN – V. 25**

- A. Why did Noah curse Canaan for Ham's sin?
  - i. Canaan may have played part in sexual abuse<sup>6</sup>
    - a. Or he is the child resulting from sexual abuse
  - ii. Ezekiel 18:20 **The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.**
  - iii. God does not punish the son unless the son commits the same sin as the father

### **X. SERVANT OF SERVANTS – V. 25**

- A. Ham's son Canaan became slaves to Shem's son, Israel
  - i. 1 Kings 9:20-21 **All the people who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of the people of Israel— their descendants who were left after them in the land, whom the people of Israel were unable to devote to destruction—these Solomon drafted to be slaves, and so they are to this day.**

### **XI. HE DIED – V. 29**

- A. Just like his fathers
- B. Death is still inevitable
  - i. Humans still need deliverance from sin and death

### **XII. POINTS TO JESUS**

- A. Blood must be poured out from meat
- B. Murder requires blood

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<sup>6</sup> Mackie

C. Blood brings life (from David Guzik):

- i. Blood was the sign of mercy for Israel at the first Passover
  - a. Exodus 12:13 ***The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.***
- ii. Blood sealed God's covenant with Israel
  - a. Exodus 24:8 ***And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."***
- iii. Blood sanctified the altar
  - a. Exodus 29:12 ***... and shall take part of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and the rest of the blood you shall pour out at the base of the altar."***
- iv. Blood set aside the priests
  - a. Exodus 29:20 ***... and you shall kill the ram and take part of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tips of the right ears of his sons, and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the great toes of their right feet, and throw the rest of the blood against the sides of the altar."***
- v. Blood made atonement for God's people
  - a. Exodus 30:10 ***Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year. With the blood of the sin offering of atonement he shall make atonement for it once in the year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the Lord."***
- vi. Blood sealed the new covenant
  - a. Matthew 26:28 ***... for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."***
- vii. Blood justifies us
  - a. Romans 5:9 ***Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.***
- viii. Blood brings redemption
  - a. Ephesians 1:7 ***In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...***
- ix. Blood brings peace with God

- a. Colossians 1:20 ... ***and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.***
- x. Blood cleanses us
  - a. Hebrews 9:14 ... ***how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.***
  - b. 1 John 1:7 ***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.***
- xi. Blood gives entrance to God's holy place
  - a. Hebrews 10:19 ***Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus...***
- xii. Blood sanctifies us
  - a. Hebrews 13:12 ***So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.***
- xiii. Blood enables us to overcome Satan<sup>7</sup>
  - a. Revelation 12:11 ***And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.***
- D. End shows need for a Messiah once again
- E. Yahweh the God of Shem – the line of the seed
  - i. Ham (Canaan) is cursed
  - ii. Japheth blessed, but will dwell in Shem's tents

### **XIII. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

A. Considering man fell right back into sin, what did the flood accomplish?

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B. In what ways have we disrespected God's authority to give life and take away life? What response does this require? How is this requirement fulfilled?

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<sup>7</sup> Guzik, David. "Study Guide for Genesis 9." Blue Letter Bible, 2018, [www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-9.cfm](http://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-9.cfm). Accessed 4 2023.

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C. What does God's covenant with Noah tell us about His nature? What can we learn about His mercy, His longsuffering?

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D. Noah was a righteous man, yet he still fell into sin. What does this say about the trust we should put in other righteous men? About the trust we should put in our own righteousness?

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E. How have we mocked or gloated over another who fell into sin?

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F. Instead, how can we cover the sin of others when they fall?

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#### **XIV. FURTHER STUDY**

A. What does God's blessing on Noah have in common with God's blessing on Adam? How does this foreshadow God's blessing on Abraham (Genesis 12:2)?

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B. Why is God's throne surrounded by a rainbow? See Ezekiel 1:28 and Revelation 4:3.

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C. Why did God tell Noah to never eat the blood of an animal? Why did Jesus tell us to eat His flesh and drink His blood in John 6:51-58?

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D. Where do governments get their authority? What are we doing if we resist that authority? See Romans 13:1-4.

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E. What is the purpose of a covenant sign? What are the signs of the covenants that God made with Abraham and with Israel on Mount Sinai?

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