

Genesis 9

Verses 1- 9

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ² The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every animal of the earth and on every bird of the sky; on everything that crawls on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea. They are handed over to you. ³ Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I have given everything to you, as *I gave* the green plant. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood. ⁵ I certainly will require your lifeblood; from every animal I will require it. And from every person, from every man as his brother I will require the life of a person.

**⁶ Whoever sheds human blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made mankind.**

**⁷ As for you, be fruitful and multiply;
Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.”**

With this new beginning came some new rules. There were three new commands and a reaffirmation of an old one.

1. There were no longer any limitations on what they were allowed to eat.
2. They could not eat flesh with its blood.
3. Whoever kills a human being shall die at the hands of another man.
4. They were to populate the earth abundantly.

These commands were given to Noah and his sons but it goes without saying that they were meant to be passed on to all of their descendants.

The 4th command about being fruitful and multiplying was the same directive that was given to Adam and Eve in the beginning.

When one considers the desire that God has given woman to have children and the desire He has given men to help woman attain that goal it seems odd that anything needed to be said. Maybe God wanted to give Mankind an easy command to follow. ☺

Verses 8-13

⁸ Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, ⁹ “Now behold, I Myself am establishing My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the livestock, and every animal of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, every animal of the earth. ¹¹ I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be eliminated by the waters of a flood, nor shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations; ¹³ I have set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall serve as a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.

⁹ “Now behold, I Myself am establishing My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you;

The Lord made a covenant with Noah and his descendants. However, this covenant was unusual in that it did not require any action on the part of mankind. Usually a covenant is an agreement between two parties and each side is expected to keep their end of the agreement.

¹¹ I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be eliminated by the waters of a flood, nor shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.

God promised that He would never again destroy all flesh from the water of a flood.

For those who claim that this was only a local flood, they need to explain how “all flesh” was destroyed. Also, if this was only a local flood then this promise from God has been broken many times and He is a liar.

If a fellow Christian tells you they believe in evolution ask them if the flood in Genesis 6 thru 8 was a global flood and see how they respond.

¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations; ¹³ I have set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall serve as a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.

This covenant will remain until the end of time.

Verses 14 – 17

¹⁴ It shall come about, when I make a cloud appear over the earth, that the rainbow will be seen in the cloud, ¹⁵ and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the rainbow is in the cloud, then I will look at it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

¹⁴ It shall come about, when I make a cloud appear over the earth, that the rainbow will be seen in the cloud, ¹⁵ and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.

This verse often brings back the question as to whether rain had fallen on the earth prior to the flood.

See Genesis 2:4 - 6

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven. ⁵ Now no shrub of the field was yet on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. ⁶ But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

It should be noted that this mist was provided before God had created man. After Adam and Eve were created we are informed that there were a number of rivers.

See Genesis 2:7 – 10

⁷ Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person. ⁸ The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God caused every tree to grow that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

There was a major change between day 3 and day 6 of creation. It seems the mist had been replaced by rivers.

¹⁶ When the rainbow is in the cloud, then I will look at it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

God gave mankind and the animals a visible sign to remind them of the covenant that he had made with them. It may seem odd that God would make a covenant with the animals but maybe man doesn't have a full understanding of what animals can comprehend.

Verses 18 - 19

¹⁸ Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. ¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

After the flood the three sons of Noah had children and began the process of repopulating the world.

Verses 20 - 24

²⁰ Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. ²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it on both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.

²⁰ Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard.

We don't know what his occupation was for the first 500 years but this new occupation was necessitated by the economy at the time (one family with 8 people).

It is possible that God choose someone in the business of building ships because when God needed someone to build the Ark, Jesus said, I know a (Noah) guy, and he is an architect. ☺

²¹ **He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.**

Most people assume Noah planted a vineyard but the text is silent about that. One of his sons could have given him the wine or he could have found wild grapes. In either case, he became so drunk that he was not awakened by his grandson's actions.

²² **Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.**

Canaan was Ham's 4th son. See Genesis 10:6

⁶ **The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.**

All of Ham's sons were born after he left the ark so this is a good indication that a fair amount of time had passed since the flood.

²³ **But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it on both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness.**

This showed a high level of respect for their father and a morality that goes out of its way to not look upon what should not be seen.

It is quite possible that Ham saw his father's nakedness by accident but he should have covered him up immediately and remained silent about this incident until it was discovered that one of his sons had done something inappropriate.

²⁴ **When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.**

Canaan went into Noah and dishonored his grandfather so why does it say his youngest son instead of his youngest grandson? The use of "son" instead of "grandson" is not uncommon in the Old Testament.

However, modern versions of the bible often translated the word for son (ben) as grandson when it is appropriate. The context informs them when this should be done and there is nothing wrong with doing that in this type of situation.

Verses 25-27

²⁵ So he said,

**“Cursed be Canaan;
A servant of servants
He shall be to his brothers.”**

²⁶ He also said,

**“Blessed be the Lord,
The God of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant.**

²⁷ **May God enlarge Japheth,
And may he live in the tents of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant.”**

**“Cursed be Canaan;
A servant of servants
He shall be to his brothers.”**

The condition of servitude was based on his sin
not on the color of his skin.

The poetry was not intended but let's go with it. ☺

Some people think this may have applied to the descendants of Canaan when Israel captured the Promised Land but these two events are separated by 1600 years and more importantly God wanted all of the Canaanites to be exterminated. This would preclude them from becoming slaves to the Israelites.

**“Blessed be the Lord,
The God of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant.
²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth,
And may he live in the tents of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant.”**

Japheth and Shem received a similar blessing for respecting their father while Canaan was destined to be their servant. Ham was not blessed or cursed for his actions.

Verses 28-29

²⁸ Noah lived 350 years after the flood. ²⁹ So all the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

Noah died in 2748 BC; 350 years after the flood

See chart 905

	Father	born	son	died	age
1	ADAM	5340	230	4410	930
2	SETH	5110	205	4198	912
3	ENOSH	4905	190	4000	905
4	CAINAN	4715	170	3805	910
5	MAHALALEL	4545	165	3650	895
6	JARED	4380	162	3418	962
7	ENOCK	4218	165	3853	365
8	METHUSELAH	4053	167	3084	969
9	LAMESH	3886	188	3133	753
10	NOAH	3698	502	2748	950
11	SHEM	3196	100	2596	600
	Flood	3098			
12	ARPHAXAD	3096	135	2561	535
13	SHELAH	2961	130	2501	460
14	EBER	2831	134	2427	404
15	PELEG	2697	130	2358	339
16	REU	2567	132	2228	339
17	SERUG	2435	130	2105	330
18	NAHOR	2305	179	2001	304
19	TERAH	2126	130	1921	205
20	ABRAM	1996	100	1821	175
21	ISACC	1896	60	1716	180
22	JACOB	1836	91	1689	147
23	JOSEPH	1745		1635	110