

Genesis Chapter 9 – God’s Instructions for the “New World”

Firstly we are going to read Genesis chapter 9. (Read in the N.K.J.)

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup> And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move *on* the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. <sup>3</sup> Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. <sup>4</sup> But you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood. <sup>5</sup> Surely for your lifeblood I will demand *a reckoning*; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man. <sup>6</sup> “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. <sup>7</sup> And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it.” <sup>8</sup> Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: <sup>9</sup> “And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that *is* with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup> And God said: “This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations: <sup>13</sup> I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; <sup>15</sup> and I will remember My covenant which *is* between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* on the earth.” <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>18</sup> Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham *was* the father of Canaan. <sup>19</sup> These three *were* the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. <sup>20</sup> And Noah began *to be* a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. <sup>21</sup> Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. <sup>22</sup> And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup> But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid *it* on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces *were* turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness. <sup>24</sup> So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. <sup>25</sup> Then he said: “Cursed *be* Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.” <sup>26</sup> And he said: “Blessed *be* the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant. <sup>27</sup> May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.” <sup>28</sup> And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. <sup>29</sup> So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

Introduction

Last week we covered the dramatic story of the world-wide flood. We discovered that the reason for the flood was the wickedness of both man and God’s created Angels.

We read these words in Genesis chapter 6: v. 5-8.

<sup>5</sup>Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. <sup>7</sup>So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup>But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

God destroyed the whole earth because of man’s wickedness, but He saved Noah and his family, because Noah was a righteous man who walked with God, and God responded by extending “Grace” to Noah. Noah obeyed God’s instructions and built an “Ark” to house his family and two of every kind of animal on the earth at that time.

After being in the “Ark” for over 1 year, God let Noah out and his family and all of the animals. We learnt last week that the first thing that Noah did was to build an altar and makes sacrifices to God of every clean animal. Noah must have known about God’s requirement for the forgiveness of sin. The death of the animal acted as a substitute sacrifice for man’s sins. The animal died in the place of the person. The blood of the animal acted as a covering for man’s sin. God would no longer see man’s sin, the blood would act as a covering so that when God looked upon man, He would see him as righteous in His eyes.

We now come to chapter 9 in Genesis and we begin a whole “New World”. Apart from the animals, Noah and his family were the only people who populated this “New World”.

In Chapter 9: v. 1-7 God gave 5 instructions to Noah.

1. 5 Instructions by God, given to Noah – 9: v. 1-7.

a) Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth – v. 1.

It was the responsibility of Noah’s 3 sons to re-populate the earth after the flood. Although there are over 7 Billion people living on the earth at this moment of time, the re-population of the earth started with three men. In Genesis Chapter 1: v. 28 God had given the same instructions to Adam and Eve. However this time God had given that command to Noah and his 3 sons.

b) God put a fear of man into the animals – v. 2.

There is a big difference between the world that God created in Genesis chapter 1 and the world that we now see in Genesis chapter 9. God originally created the world and everything that He created was very good. In Genesis Chapter 1: v. 25 it says that God created the animals and He saw that it was good. At that time there was perfect harmony between man and the animals.

However now God was putting a fear of man into the heart and make-up of the beasts of the earth. The Hebrew word used here for “fear” is a very strong word.

The word can mean terror or broken hearted. So God decided that the best way for man to survive on this earth for the future was to put the fear of man into the beasts of the earth and the birds. This acted in two ways. Man was protected from the large fierce animals like dinosaurs, and lions and Tigers, and the animals were protected from man.

I wonder how many people sitting here today can say that they don’t like snakes.

I expect if I asked you to put your hand up, most of you would. However if I asked you to put your hand up if you were afraid of snakes, perhaps many would do that also.

However from today, you don't need to be afraid of snakes, because God has put a fear of you into their hearts. You must be careful not to step on them, otherwise they will bite you and if it is a poisonous snake you will need to get to a hospital quickly.

What you need to do is to make plenty of noise and wear strong boots when walking in an area where there may be snakes. When they hear you they will get out of your way quickly because God has put a fear of you into their hearts.

Cattle are not mentioned in the text. Perhaps because they are easily controlled by man and are a good source of milk and meat.

The truth of God's word from this text can be clearly seen from the fact that wild beasts consistently shun the places where men live, except when they are driven by hunger. No matter how strong the wild animal might be, they will dread man's presence. They are for the most part actually filled with terror when man approaches them.

At the end of verse 2 we read the words "They are given into your hand..."

c) God permits eating of meat, but they could remain a vegetarian – v. 3.

Up to this point in the history of the human race everybody seems to have been a vegetarian. In Genesis Chapter 2: v. 16 God commanded the man to eat of every fruit of the trees in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now God was allowing man to eat every moving thing that lives. God was making a major change in man's relationship with animals. God was permitting man to eat any of them. At this point in time there was no distinction between clean and unclean animals as far as diet was concerned. That would come later.

God was not forcing man to stop being a vegetarian, He was just giving man an option to eat meat if he wished to do so.

Confirmation that the world was vegetarian can be taken from the end of v. 3 where it says "I have given you all things, even as the green herbs..."

We must never be critical of people who chose to be vegetarian, because that was God's initial choice for mankind. However Vegetarians must not think that they are super spiritual in some way because they do not eat meat.

It is a matter of choice, and we need to choose for ourselves. God gives us the liberty to do this with his permission that we can eat anything we like.

In Romans 14: v. 1-4 we have clear teaching on this subject. (N.L.T.)

Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. <sup>2</sup> For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive his approval.

d) God instructed Noah that they were not to eat flesh with its blood. – v. 4.

There was only one restriction concerning the eating of animals and that was that you could not eat the blood of the animals.

The reason for this is that the life of the animal was in the blood.

Let us turn to Leviticus 17: v.11

<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.'

I just want to mention something about "Blood transfusions here".

For medical reasons sometimes people have to have blood transfusions. If you were brought up in a "Religious Cult" called the Jehovah's Witness then you would have been told that under no circumstances could you have a "Blood transfusion".

They would tell you that if you had a "Blood Transfusion" then you would be going against God's word and God would judge you for this.

As a result of this Jehovah's Witness rule, many people, who follow their teaching have died when they could have lived, by having a blood transfusion.

There is a difference between eating or drinking blood and having a blood transfusion. Transfused blood is not digested, but functions as blood, with all its vital properties for life. People give blood in order to save life and not destroy life.

It is perfectly acceptable to have a blood transfusion if it will save your live, there is no prohibition here against blood transfusions.

e) The final instruction here is that God ordains the death penalty for murder v. 5-7.

In these verses we have clear instructions about the death penalty for murder.

We are told it includes animals and humans. We are reminded in these verses that we are made in the image of God.

When a man or a woman is killed, something unique is destroyed. A life that will never be repeated is eliminated.

To destroy a person is to destroy something God made like himself. It is to mock the creator.

If you entered into a pottery in Shigaraki and smashed up every pot you saw then not only would it be mindless destruction, it would destroy something that the artist had created.

It would be an insult to the artist himself.

To destroy a human being is to smash the image of God.

This command was intended for Noah and his sons and all their descendants ever since. There is no evidence that this death penalty has been revoked. Jesus Christ while on this earth, affirmed the rightness of capital punishment.

Matthew 15: v. 4.

<sup>4</sup> For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'

The Apostle Paul also confirmed his belief in Capital Punishment too.

Acts 25: v. 11. (N.K. J.)

<sup>11</sup> For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar."

2. We now move on to God's Covenant with Noah – v. 8-17.

The first thing we need to establish is exactly what a "Covenant" is.

The word "Covenant" is the most serious form of divine promise.

This Covenant is not like a human promises or a covenant made between two human people.

A "Divine Covenant" comes from God Himself. God makes the Covenant, He fixes the terms of the covenant and God in His sovereign freedom binds Himself to the covenant.

In v. 9-10 we are told that God is making a Covenant with Noah and his descendants. The Covenant also concerns all the animals too.

The first thing we need to realize is that this covenant concerns all of us here today. The Covenant which God made is binding on all mankind.

In v. 11 we are told what the Covenant consists of.

<sup>11</sup> Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Floods on a smaller scale have happened, but not on the scale of a "World-wide flood."

In v. 12 God said He was going to introduce a sign to affirm His covenant so that it would be visible for all generations.

In v. 13-17 we are introduced to this sign that God promised to give. It would come in the form of a "Rainbow".

In case you have forgotten what a "Rainbow" looks like, there will be photo on the screen soon to remind you.

(a picture of a Rainbow)

Just as the visible sign of the rainbow reminds us of God's Covenant with creation, so the visible sign of taking bread and wine at communion reminds us of the broken body and poured out blood of God's only Son Jesus Christ.

God knows that we need visible signs to remind us of His promises because we are human and prone to forget things, even important things.

3. The final thing in chapter 9 deals with Noah, Alcohol, and the cursing of Canaan and the blessing of Shem and Japheth. – v. 18-29

Time has progressed since Noah and his family left the Ark.

We don't know how long, but long enough for grandchildren to be born.

Noah had taken up a new occupation. He had become a farmer and planted a vineyard.

We are exposed to the only lapse in the life of "Righteous" Noah. He got drunk. We are not told that he got drunk before or after this incident.

As a result of having too much wine to drink, he fell naked in his tent.

The text tells us that Ham looked upon his father's shame and told his two brothers outside.

The literal translation of the original Hebrew text tells us that Ham rejoiced in the fact that his father got drunk. Ham was obviously the rebellious son and it might have been that he resented his father's righteous disciple and his father's righteous behavior. He was probably rejoicing because he had finally caught his father out and was able to shame him.

Ham wanted to involve his brothers in his father's shame. However Ham was not successful in doing this. His brothers Shem and Japheth acted honorably, walking backwards to cover Noah with a robe, without looking at him.

As a result of this incident, Noah cursed Ham's son Canaan and his descendants.

But Noah blessed Shem and Japheth.

In v. 28-29 we are told that Noah died when he was 950 years old. He had 350 years of life on the new earth.

So what applications can we draw from Chapter 9 and apply to our lives today?

### Applications

1. Noah was a righteous man who walked with God. However he is recorded as having made one mistake. It may not be serious in our eyes, but God has allowed his mistake to be recorded, why?

It is recorded to warn us that even though we might walk with God and lead holy lives, we are still vulnerable to attacks from Satan and need to be constantly on our guard.

We are warned in the New Testament in 1 Peter Chapter 5: v. 8 with the following words.

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

There is another warning in 1 Corinthians Chapter 10: v. 12.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

We are told in the following verse, what we should do if we are tempted.

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

We all have weak places in our individual lives. It is in these weak places that Satan works the hardest. He usually works in slow and subtle ways to tempt us to sin.

Let me give you an illustration

There was a lady who was seriously overweight. Her big problem was that she liked cream cakes and kept eating them and this caused her to be overweight.

One day she decided she was going to go on a diet and the first thing she did was that she decided in her mind that she was going to give up eating cream cakes completely.

The next day the lady woke up and said to herself, "I think I will go for a drive?"

She got in her car and went for a drive. As she was driving in town she noticed that there was a free parking space to park her car.

She decided to park there. It was right outside the cream cake shop. She said to herself, I am not going to buy a cream cake for myself, I will buy one for my next door neighbor. She is so slim and fit, it will be a nice present for her. She bought the large cream cake and then drove to her neighbor's house.

After ringing the neighbor's doorbell several times and waiting for a long time, it was clear that her neighbor was not at home.

It was a hot day, and the cream cake was in the car. The lady thought, it is a pity to waste the cake, and she eat it all.

The point of the story is not to highlight how hard it is to go on a diet or to give up food that we like in order to lose weight.

The point of the story is to highlight the fact that very often Satan tempts us very early on in his mission to make us fall into sin.

If I was to ask you when the lady was tempted to eat the cream cake, you would probably all say, "it was when her neighbor was out, and she didn't want to waste the cake."

You would be wrong. The lady was tempted when she woke up in the morning and said "I will go for a drive..."

Satan knew that cream cakes must be bought at a shop first and that there were no cakes in house.

Satan worked little by little to get her to the place where she could no longer resist the cream cake.

We need to resist Satan at the slightest indication of any temptation.

This is why somebody who has been an alcoholic and overcome the problem is told never to drink any alcohol, no matter how small it might be. Once an ex alcoholic takes his first drink, it is like a strong magnet, it draws him in very quickly.

So whatever our weak spots are in life, we need to deal with our temptation very early on in the process. If we don't deal with Satan on frame one of our temptations, then we have lost the battle once we get to frame two.

Temptations usually come when things are put into our mind, by Satan. We need to make sure that we take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

This is the advice that Paul gives us in 2 Corinthians Chapter 10: v. 5.

The biggest battle is the battle of the mind, may God help us to win that very early on in our temptations.

2. The second application is connected to the first application.

In Chapter 9, Ham tried to expose Noah's sin to other people. He could have just covered his Father's nakedness and not told anybody. Instead he chose to gloat or rejoice over his father's sin. Ham did not honor his father.

Proverbs 14: v. 9 says "Fools mock at sin..."

This means that it is wrong to expose or highlight people's sins. Yes we can pray for them but don't gossip to others about their sinful mistakes.

Sadly the national newspapers in most countries expose and highlight people's sins. They tell us that it sells newspapers. Therefore there are lots of people who are guilty of this by wanting to read and talk about other people's sins.

1 Corinthians 5: v. 2 tells us to mourn over other people's sins in the Church and not to gloat over them.

3. The third application is concerning God's covenant with all flesh and the rainbow as a sign of this covenant.

We can thank God that in spite of the sins of mankind, He makes a promise to us that there will never be another flood like the universal flood that happened in Noah's day.

However God made another covenant with mankind. He made this covenant through His Son Jesus Christ.

God said I love the world so much that I sent my only Son, Jesus Christ to take the punishment for mankind's sins.

If anybody believes in Jesus, that He died in their place, taking the punishment for their sin, then they will be forgiven by God. They will not die for their sin but receive eternal life in heaven.

People who have believed in Jesus remember the covenant that God has made by celebrating Holy Communion. The Bread and the wine are a sign that God's covenant is sealed through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Next week we will have an opportunity to remember that covenant, if we know and love Jesus as our own personal savior. Maybe you haven't taken that step to put your faith and trust in Jesus yet?

Q. Why not today?



