

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 9: November 8-15

Genesis 9

Genesis chapter 9 concludes the story of Noah's life. In this chapter we read about the new covenant God established after the flood. In addition to the promise God makes to never flood the entire world again, we also see the establishment of capital punishment. While this chapter is primarily about Noah and his sons, we also find important promises and principles that apply to us today.

Read Genesis 9:1-7

1. How did God bless Noah and his sons in verse 1?

Paul Kissling writes,

This is the third time God has blessed humankind (1:28; 5:2) and the third time humankind has been told to be "fruitful and multiply" (1:28; 8:17). The fulfillment of that command happens in a new way in chapter 10 with its record of how the descendants of Noah spread throughout the world after the Flood. In the modern world with its concerns about overpopulation it is very difficult for us to appreciate fully the blessing of fertility. But the Bible clearly and consistently portrays procreation and the fertility needed for it to happen as the gift of God.¹

2. How is this blessing similar to the one God gave to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28?

3. How was the relationship between animals and people different after the flood? (9:2-3)

While there are no direct prohibitions against eating meat before the flood, the reference in verse 3 to the creation account when God gave plants for food seems to imply that He did not give animals for food before the flood. The increased fear of man given to animals was necessary in order to protect them from extinction.

¹ Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 1* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004), 323.

4. What restriction did God add to the instructions about eating meat? (9:4)

The prohibition against eating flesh with blood still in it is one of the few commands from the Law of Moses that was mentioned in Acts 15:20 when the early church was trying to determine how much of the Law of Moses should be taught to Gentile Christians. Kent Hughes notes,

Humans are not to devour animals the way animals devour one another, while the blood is pulsing in the flesh. The reason for this is respect for life and beyond that the respect for the giver of life. Life is in the blood, and God is the giver of life. Disregard for the gift of life is an affront to the giver of life. This divine prohibition against eating blood also prepared humanity to appreciate the use of blood in sacrifice... Ultimately, we can understand that it is the life (blood) of the Lamb of God that is God's atoning gift to us.²

5. Why did God say He would demand an accounting from every animal or person who "sheds the blood of man"? (9:5-6)

6. What command did God repeat in verse 7?

Read Genesis 9:8-17

7. Who does God include in the covenant He established after the flood? (9:8-10)

8. What promise did God make in verse 11?

9. What did God establish as the sign of the covenant? (9:12-13, 17)

10. What did God say that He would do whenever there is a rainbow? (9:14-16)

11. How long did God say that this covenant would last? (9:16)

12. How does this promise indicate that the flood was a global flood rather than a local flood?

² R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012).

Read Genesis 9:18-29

- 13. Who was the father of Canaan? (9:18)
- 14. Who did God use to repopulate the whole world after the flood? (9:18-19)
- 15. What did Noah start doing in verse 20?
- 16. What did Noah do in verse 21?
- 17. What did Ham do in verse 22?
- 18. What did Shem and Japheth do in verse 23?
- 19. What happened when Noah woke up in verse 24?
- 20. What did Noah say about Canaan, Shem, and Japheth? (9:25-27)

James Smith observes,

The curse on Canaan had nothing to do with the origin of the black race as some have contended. Ham had three sons besides Canaan. Cush was the progenitor of the Ethiopians, Mizraim of the Egyptians, Phut of the Libyans and peoples of Africa. This curse, however, has to do only with the Canaanites, a people who manifested none of the racial characteristics of the black race... The problem concerning the Canaanites was not in the color of their skin but rather in the condition of their hearts.³

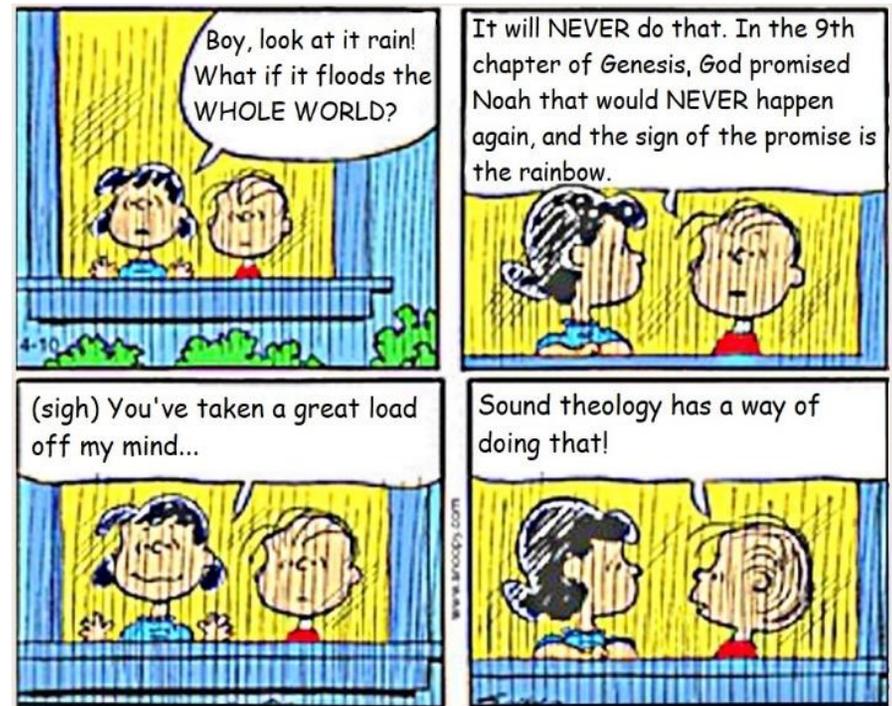
- 21. How old was Noah when he died? (9:28-29)
- 22. Why do you think God instituted capital punishment?
- 23. What did the actions of Noah's sons reveal about their character?
- 24. What lessons can we learn from Noah's experience and the actions of his sons?
- 25. How is the covenant God established after the flood a blessing for us today?

Sermon Notes 11/8/20

Noah's Ark (part 4)

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 9?

- 1. Thank God for _____.
Genesis 9:1
Romans 6:4
- 2. Thank God for _____.
Genesis 9:6
Romans 13:1-4
- 3. Thank God for _____.
Genesis 9:11
2 Peter 3:11-13



³ James Smith, *The Pentateuch* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 102.