

SALT Church

Genesis 9

“Covenants and Curses”

September 17, 2025

“In the Beginning”

Recap Chapter 8

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to **Yahweh** and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And **Yahweh** smelled the soothing aroma; and **Yahweh** said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.

²² While all the days of the earth *remain*,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter,
And day and night
Shall not cease.”

- Noah and his family have spent 371 days in the ark as they waited for permission for God to exit the giant boat.
- As the exit Noah and his family build an altar to the Lord and offer a sacrifice of worship and gratitude for His salvation from the great flood that took the life of every other human being.
- We can only imagine how different the world was after this great flood.

- For those of us that have lived through hurricanes, Fredrick, Ivan, and Katrina, we all can agree that it takes years to recover.
 - So, it would be after a worldwide flood.

What we learn from this final exchange in chapter 8 is this:

- Moses and the Holy Spirit are careful in their use of God's covenant name Yahweh.
- Three times His name is used
 - In the sacrificial offering
 - The pleasure He found in the offering
 - And the covenant that followed those two events.

We should not take lightly the fact that the Lord made His covenant with the inhabitants of the post-flood world with the full knowledge of the fact that there would be a greater rebellion in the future.

God continues with these words:

**²² While all the days of the earth *remain*,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter,
And day and night
Shall not cease.”**

Verse 22 reminds us that the days of the earth are numbered.

- But until that number of days is completed God's common grace will be poured upon the earth and its people.

Genesis 9

9 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

- This is the same command that God had given Adam and Eve and now it was given to the family of Noah.
- The difference is that this family is already contaminated with sin and therefore we should not be surprised at the state of our world.

² And the fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given.

- This is new for Noah and his family as there had been harmony between man and beast.
- The next verse may help explain why fear and terror of humans has come upon them.

³ Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; as *with* the green plant, I give all to you.

- This is the first time that man has been given permission to eat meat.
- However, there are rules as to how the meat can be eaten.

⁴ However, flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood, you shall not eat.

- In other words, you cannot devour an animal like a wild beast.
- The blood must be drained from the animal because it is sacred to God.
- This would also prohibit the drinking of blood.

- Keep in mind, this is before any other people exist on the earth.
 - Meaning, there are no pagan rituals that would require such things.
 - This is God expressing what will be acceptable and what will not be acceptable.
 - It is totally possible that preflood humanity had already began to indulge in animal consumption but if they had they did it without the permission of God.

(Side note)

- This will continue to be an issue even in the early church.
- The Jews were trying to convince the converted gentiles that it was “Jesus plus...” the food rules, circumcision, observing the day of worship only on 7th day of the week.
 - Here is the response from the Apostles to the early church:

Acts 15;28-29

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:

29 that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from sexual immorality, from which if you keep yourselves, you will do well. Farewell.”

What we can pull out of this is this, blood is a big deal to God the Father and it should be to us as well.

⁵ Surely, I will require your lifeblood; from every living thing I will require it. And from *every* man, from each man's brother I will require the life of man.

- What does that mean?
 - Moses and the Holy Spirit explain.

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

- If you recall in chapter 4 we have the 1st recorded murder in the Bible when Cain killed Able.
- By Chapter 6 we have the men of renown being celebrated for their violence.
- Genesis 6:11-12
 - *¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.*
- Now God puts into place capital punishment for all who commit murder.
 - Keep in mind this is long before the Law of God or the Old Testament existed.
 - Once the Law of Moses is proclaimed the execution of murders was carried out by public stoning's.
 - This was to ensure that the message was loud and clear as to the punishment for murder.

So, we have the command from God to execute and God shifts as He gives us another command:

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

- All the peoples in the earth will come from this command, amazing.

8 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, 9 “As for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your seed after you; 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. 11 Indeed I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, and there shall never again be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 Then God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am giving to be between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; 13 I put My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. 14 And it will be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow 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 So the bow shall be in the cloud, and I will look upon 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’s covenant is this, never again will there be a worldwide flood, regardless of what you do, I will never destroy the earth with a global flood.
- A sign or symbol of this promise is the rainbow.
 - Was this the first time the rainbow appeared?
 - Maybe.

It is important that we understand that there are many years between verse 17 & 18 “I will explain soon.”

¹⁸ Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan.

- This is the 1st indication that this is some years later for Canaan is the youngest of Ham’s sons.
- This would also be a reminder of the time in which this was written meaning that the Canaanites were already known to Moses and God’s people who had just left Egypt.
 - Egypt who was named after another one of Ham’s sons.

¹⁹ These three *were* the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was scattered abroad.

- We haven’t been told yet but the Hebrew people come from the line of Shem.

²⁰ Then Noah began *to be* a man of the land and planted a vineyard.

- I believe that this is worded this way not because Noah was new at farming but rather, he was discovering how things grow in this new environment.
- Growing up I had been taught that Noah accidentally got drunk because the fermentation process had not yet existed but now, I know that statement is not true.
 - If you have ever tried to grow grape vines the process is slow, meaning the fermentation would have been experienced in other faster growing fruits.
 - Second, Noah's at least 600 years old and he had just built the amazing ship ever built.
 - My point is that Noah was and is a very smart man.
 - Third, I think some good Baptist came up with that idea just to protect his reputation.
 - The Bible doesn't pull any punches and neither should we.
 - Noah made wine with the full knowledge of what it could do.
 - He drank the wine to get drunk.

²¹ And he drank of the wine and became drunk and uncovered himself inside his tent.

- Up until this point everything we know about Noah has been very good
 - Faithful
 - Walked with God

- Obedient
- Preacher of righteousness
- Man of God
- Now, we find him inside of his home passed out naked

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

- Again, Moses and the Holy Spirit bring to our minds the fact that the Canaanites come from this man Ham. (WHY?)
 - The Canaanites were known for perverse sexuality, I think Moses and the Holy Spirit pointing out the fact that this is where it all started.
 - I'll show you why I think this soon.

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

- This version (The Legacy Standard Bible) is one of 5 that I found that translated "the garment" as to "a garment."
 - Why would that be important?
 - "The garment" implies that Ham came out with his father's garment, implying that he could have covered him up.
 - Instead, he chose to bring shame upon him.
 - Later one Moses will write "Honor your father and mother"

- Shem and Japheth show great love and honor by covering their father.
 - By the way this is exactly what Jesus did when He covered Adam and Eve's sin in the garden.

²⁴ Then Noah awoke from his wine, and he knew what his youngest son had done to him. ²⁵ So he said, "Cursed be Canaan.

- I have always wondered why Noah cursed Canaan and not Ham.
- Most scholars believe that Noah had already seen the same perverted attitude in Canaan as he had seen in his own son Ham.
- Thus, if ever Ham was curious as to why his son was so messed up he need not look any further than the mirror.

**A servant of servants
He shall be to his brothers."**

- Throughout the Old Testament the Canaanites remained the enemies of God's chosen people who were the descendants of Ham's brother Shem.

**²⁶ And he said,
"Blessed be Yahweh,
The God of Shem;**

- This is a very important distinction
 - The blessing comes through who your God is (AMEN)

And let Canaan be his servant.

- Although Ham and his wife had followed his daddy on the ark it is clear that his heart was not in the right place and as a result his family pays the high price of rebellion.

²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth,

And let him dwell in the tents of Shem;

And let Canaan be his servant.”

- Blessing for those whose God is the God creation
- Curses for those whose god is self.

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

Few things as we close:

- **The covenant was made with Noah’s family and all humanity**
 - **Meaning God will continue to do what He said He would do regardless of what we do.**
- **The only recorded words from Noah are the curse upon Canaan and the blessings upon Shem and Japheth.**
 - **The implication is this:**
 - **Words matter and they are powerful**
 - **Actions matter even more**
 - **Noah was credited as a righteous man, not because he got it right every time.**
 - **Noah was righteous because he had faith in God.**