

In the Beginning

Genesis 9:1-29

- Although man has fallen God has graciously made a way for him to get up, and it's through repentance, sacrifice and forgiveness. **Gen 8:20** says the first thing Noah does upon leaving the Ark of safety is build an altar to God, then he takes from the Ark certain animals and birds those deemed ceremonially clean, and he offers them as burnt offerings on the Altar to God for forgiveness of sins. **Gen 8:21**- this was a soothing aroma to Him, so much so that God promised not to curse the ground and give us seasons from which our food may grow, He does this even though our hearts have not changed, we are still born corrupt, but we can be redeemed.

V1-29

- **V1** in building that altar Noah had blessed God, now we read God blesses Noah, blessings live next door to obedience folks always has and always will. So as a result of this altar and offering the whole state of mankind is reestablished, yes we are still fallen but we can find God's grace and His forgiveness when we repent and surrender to His will. In blessing us God tells Noah and his sons to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, the same thing He said In **Gen 1:27-28** after it was declared that we were created in the image of God, again this tells us a couple of things.
- **1st** unless God changes something then we need to follow the Laws of first principle, meaning wherever something is said first and in that context then that is how the scripture is suppose to be used. God tells us that sex is permitted under the grounds of procreation and marriage, Just as Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and multiply so are Noah and his sons who also are married told to do the same thing, but was has man done? He has taken something meant for enjoyment, oneness, and blessing for obedience, and turned it into depravity, separation and bondage, because of disobedience, and the whole of mankind has suffered greatly because of it.
- **V2-4** dominion over the animals, birds and every moving thing is reestablished as Noah like Adam is given authority over every living creature, and told that he could eat anything as long as it wasn't mingled with blood that's the only restriction here. **V5-6** after instructing Noah about **consuming blood** the Lord now warns him about **shedding blood**, thus far even early man didn't have a good track record when it came to caring and looking out for one another, Cain out of jealousy had murdered Abel, Lamech had killed someone who had injured him and bragged about it, and before the flood **Gen 6:11** says the earth was filled with all kinds of violence.
- God tells Noah that if you take a life then you forfeit your own life, even requiring it of animals that if someone loses their life by an animal that animal must be put down, this is not going to be popular with the animal rights people but it is God's Word. Why is God so dogmatic about this? Because with God life is a gift from Him and its valuable, and although we can often times take it for granted God never does, so to detour unlawful killing of any kind God institutes "**capital punishment**" not because He wants to take life but to remind people to value life.

- **V7** instead of senselessly taking life spend your time preserving and bringing forth life, it's interesting to read this in light of the world we live in today. Society today don't always see children or population growth as a blessing, in fact the world says its too many people which is why the earth is dying because man's carbon footprint is too much for the earth to hold. Places like China put a restriction of how many kids a family can have, and guess what God does, he makes them their nation the largest people population in the world despite a child restriction.
- **V8-11** although God is speaking to Noah and his sons and its commonly called the "**Noahic Covenant**" notice God not only includes everyone living now, but also those to come. God makes a promise that He will never destroy the earth by flood again, at first it seems this Covenant only covers those living now. **V12-17** here God also includes all generations to come which of course includes us, and when we see a rainbow and typically it shows itself after the rain it is a reminder of the promise that God made to us through Noah that were reading now.
- What's interesting is three times here scripture it mentions the rainbow and three men in scripture saw a significant rainbow. "**Noah saw the Rainbow after the storm**" just as we see it today. "**The prophet Ezekiel saw a Rainbow but it was in the midst of a storm**" when he had that remarkable vision of the wheels and the glory of God > **Ezek 1:28**. "**The Apostle John saw a Rainbow before the storm of judgment broke loose upon the earth**" > **Rev 4:3**. So Noah saw it after the storm, Ezekiel saw it in the midst of the storm, and John saw it before the storm, and no matter when we see it and in what circumstance always remember it fulfils God's promise.
- **2 Pet 3:10-11** tell us the world will end because of man's sin and rebellion but it won't be by flood it will be by fire, thus keeping God's promise that He made way back here in Genesis 9. **V18-19** from Noah sons the whole earth is populated, we tend to focus a little more on Shem because that's where the line of Abraham comes from but this shows how all of Noah's descendants were important to the plan of God, and it's like that for all of us as well.
- Yes certain people may seem to have the spotlight more on them because of how God is using them, but to God no one has a more important place than the other, just like in ministry there's no such thing to God as a big ministry or little ministry, its either faithful or unfaithful, that is what will determine your place with Him, not the size or what you did or the influence, only if you were faithful to the call that God gave to you, that's it period!
- **V20-21** Noah becomes a farmer and tills the ground, growing vegetables and fruits to eat and in the process Noah learns how to turn grapes into wine and one day he's laid out drunk and naked in his tent. Although scripture does condemn drunkenness **Prov 20:1, 23:19-21, Is 5:11, Hab 2:15, Eph 5:18**, its littered throughout the Word, it doesn't condemn the growing of grapes that when it comes to the law of first mention in scripture concerning alcohol and wine.

- **V22-23** Noah is passed out and doesn't know what is going on Ham sees it and instead of covering pop up as he could have tells his brothers, the Hebrew says "**he told them with delight**", meaning he took pleasure in his dad's nakedness. So they go and cover him up being sure not to look upon his nakedness by walking backwards. Even in this pitiful state Japheth and Shem have respect for their father, notice Ham isn't know where to be found except to mock his father's condition > **Prov 17:9**- sometimes if the transgression is one of embarrassment and doesn't hurt others its best to deal with it between them and God and pray for them.
- **V24-29** Noah wakes up and hears what his son has done and he lays down a curse upon him and his descendants, this causes many to think that Ham did more than just see his father's nakedness some commentators believe because of the severity in which Noah responded that Ham abused his father while he was in that drunken state. Think about it how many people have been taken advantage unbeknownst and wake up not knowing exactly what happened earlier? This curse was not black people and slavery as people have wrongly taught through history, but near eastern descendants who Joshua conquered when Israel took the promise land.