

A BRAND-NEW START | GENESIS 9:1-29 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 6/25/2023

I. Precepts (1-7) | II. Promise (8-17) | III. Populating (18-19) | IV. Problems (20-23) | V. Prophecy (24-27) | VI. Passing (28-29)

INTRO: Being new to Florida, I've encountered so many people who are seeking a **fresh start in life**. Whether its retirement, seeking a new career, a move to a new place, or even the start of a new relationship, I've found that a **fresh start** can be good from time to time. **But sometimes... circumstances** beyond our control **force us to start all over again!**

– **This was the case with Noah!** He was doing just fine, walking in righteousness, living a good life... but the wickedness around him had to be judged by a righteous God. // So, in His infinite wisdom and abounding grace, **God washed the earth clean**, so that He could provide **A BRAND-NEW START** for Noah, His family, and the all the creatures on the ark. **God is the God of New Beginnings!** – So as not to allow mankind the freedom to make the same mistakes...

I. PRECEPTS FOR THE NEW WORLD (1-7) – As Noah stepped into the New World (**8:20**), we're told in that the first thing he did was to offer clean animals to God! And as he blessed God, we're told in (**9:1**), that **God BLESSED Noah!** – *So, God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.* – **God Simply told Noah to Start Over!** A recommissioning if you will. As he told Adam and Eve in (**1:28**), He now commissions Noah and those with him.

- ***Undeniable Parallels** between the circumstances of Adam and Noah exist. Both were given orders to populate the earth, of which all men in the modern world can be traced back to one of them. Both sinned by partaking of a fruit: Adam ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge and Noah ate the fruit of the vine. Each was made naked as a result, then each were provided a covering from someone else.*

A. New Disposition (2) – Whereas the animal kingdom originally yielded to Adam, God now placed a **FEAR of man** within them.

B. New Diet (3-4) – Before the Flood (**Gen 1:29**) tells us that Adam's diet was **fruit and plants** and that he had dominion over the animal kingdom (**1:26-27**). Now, after the Flood, God expanded human diets to include meat! – **Raw Blood Consumption was forbidden!** – *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.'* (**Lev 17:11**)

C. New Demands (5-6) – To stop an outbreak of conditions like those that existed before the flood, God established human government as an institution under the **Noahic covenant**, which was later restated as Mosaic law. Particularly, the authority of **Capital Punishment**. – **Ironically**, the modern liberal mindsets reject God's institution for proper governance, thus the increase of wickedness is on the rise once again!

- For the record, these **OT decrees were NOT only for ancient Israel**, but were reaffirmed in the NT also. **Re:** the eating of meat (1 Tim 4:3-4), the abstinence from blood (Acts 15:19-20), and the authority of the governmental sword (Rom 13:4; Acts 25:11).

God then proclaimed a...

II. PROMISE FOR THE NEW WORLD (8-17) – 7 times in this section God’s mentions a “**COVENANT**,” which is a contract, treaty, pledge or promise. **3 times** God refers to it as “**My Covenant**” which was between God, Noah and the survivors; and ultimately the entire world.

- There are actually **8 Biblical Covenants** mentioned in scripture, which are divided into two important categories: **Conditional** and **Unconditional**. – A **Conditional Covenant** guarantees that God will do His part **when** the human requirements stipulated in that covenant are met. – An **Unconditional Covenant** is distinguished by the fact that its ultimate fulfillment is promised by God and depends upon God's power and sovereignty for its fulfillment. (*Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Davidic, Mosaic, Land, and the New Covenant*)
- Of these Covenants, **5** of them are **Everlasting or Perpetual**, as with the Noahic.

A. New Promise (8-11) – In the **Noahic Covenant** God establishes a formal relationship with Noah and the other creatures, promising that despite humanity's corrupt nature, He will never again flood the earth. Instead, He will work to preserve the world while pursuing His goal of rescuing them through the woman's seed (**Gen 3:15**).

B. New Sign (12-17) – The “**Sign**” of God’s new covenant is a **RAINBOW**. **What exactly is it? Scientifically**, Rainbows are multi-colored arcs which result from the refraction and reflection of light. **After a shower of rain**, raindrops are suspended in air and when a **ray of sun light** enters this drop, the drop acts as a prism and splits into its component colors as dispersion takes place. – Theologically, **Henry Morris** beautifully describes it this way: *The Rainbow thus demonstrates most gloriously the Grace of God. The pure white light from the unapproachable holiness of the throne (1 Tim 6:16) is refracted, as it were, through the glory clouds surrounding His presence (1 Kings 8:10-11), thus breaking into all the glorious colors of God’s creation. – In wrath, He remembers mercy (Hab 3:2).*

- Interestingly enough, The word for **BOW** {*Heb. qeset / keh'-sheth*} refers to a **Battle** or **Archers bow**. (*fig. then, God hangs His battle bow to show His grace!*)
- So, the RAINBOW is a sign of God’s Grace, Glory, and Faithfulness throughout the Scriptures. It’s also a reminder of God’s presence, even after the storm!
- It's worth noting that even though the rainbow is visible to us from the earth (**13,15-16**), it actually serves as a reminder for God!
- God’s Promise for the New World was that He would never again destroy it by Flood! The same God who had seen them safely through the flood would also protect and provide for them in the future!

III. POPULATING THE NEW WORLD (18-19) – These two verses are of extreme importance because they reveal the origin of ethnicities and roots of nations.

A. New Mention (18) – As Noah's son are identified, Moses found it necessary to introduce **Canaan**, who was the youngest son of Ham.

B. New Importance (19) – God used Noah's sons: **Ham, Shem, and Japheth** to repopulate the earth! Along with their wives, God provided them a Brand-New Start for a hopeful future.
– The apostle Paul confirms this was part of God's History Plan **(tt. Acts 17:24-28a)**

- Since the Flood, these sons of Noah have produced every human being who has ever lived (cf. 10:32). **The genetic makeup of Noah, his sons, and their spouses included every physical trait shared by the entire human race.** *(We will expound more on this next week when we discuss the Table of Nations and the spreading of humankind through the earth as prescribed by God).*
- This Biblical fact dismisses the erroneous anthropological assumptions which often make it into children's textbooks!

1. Ham went South (ha) – He was the father of Canaan (Arabs/Africans). They flourished in the land of Canaan, the land which would later belong to the Israelites.

2. Shem went North and West – (Middle-Easterners/Indians/Oriental). And **Japheth went North and East – European Vicinities.**

As time passed, Noah experienced

IV. PROBLEMS IN THE NEW WORLD (20-23) – Up to this point, Noah had worked hard, being a Carpenter and a Preacher of righteousness. **He is known for his faithful obedience to the Lord!** Now, he becomes a fruitful Farmer, **truly blessed of the Lord!** // But eventually, his **Brand-New Start** became normal routine and **Noah dropped his guard!** – I've heard it said that *"Little compromise leads to big Sin!"* Noah's compromise led to Problems in his world!

A. Disgrace (20-21) – This is the first mention of wine in the Bible, and though it is completely permissible to enjoy, **the Bible warns that drunkenness is forbidden (Prov 20:1; 23:19-21; 29:35; Isa 5:11; Hab 2:15; Rom 13:13; 1 Cor 6:10; Eph 5:18).** You see, **drunkenness (as in Noah's situation)** leads to exposure in some way, shape or form.

- An appropriate **Japanese proverb** proclaims, *"First the man takes a drink, then the drink takes a drink, and then the drink takes the man."*

B. Disrespect (22) – **The actions of Ham are definitely suspect!** The grammar indicates that the word **"Saw,"** was actually a **"Gaze"** at his father's indecency. In spite of what some other commentators may say, there is NO INDICATION that any sexual or immoral act was committed.
– Based on the text, it seem that **Ham took pleasure in exposing his father's nakedness.**
– **Totally disrespectful!**

C. Decency (23) – When notified of the situation, **Shem and Japheth** responded honorably...

with integrity, to **protect their father's dignity!** (1 Pet 4:8) says, ... *above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."*

- This incident advises how even the most devout person's reputation can be ruined by a single reckless action.

Noah's circumstances brought about...

V. PROPHECY FOR THE NEW WORLD (24-27) – As Noah awoke, **he was somewhat aware of what took place the night before.** – If you have even been in this predicament, **it's NOT a good feeling!** Questions as, What Happened, Where was I? What did I do? Mixed with embarrassment and shame become **"Sobering Thoughts" of Regret.**

- As Noah regained his judgment, he pronounced both **Blessings and Curses on his sons for their actions, which would have prophetic significance.** Prophecies that would impact their decedents and the New World.

To HAM Noah pronounced...

A. Enslavement (24) – However, Noah did not curse Ham directly! But **he directed a curse towards Ham's youngest son CANAAN.** A curse comparable to that of Cain! The Canaanites would become *"a servant of servants."*

- Historically, Ham's descendant's became **known for their building advancements** amongst the Babylonians, Assyrians, and Egyptians. Because of their wicked and idolatrous ways, God promised the land Canaan to Abraham. **Ham was Physically Enslaved!**

To SHEM Noah pronounced...

B. Enrichment (25) – Noah was aware of Shem's love for God and therefore **Spoke a Blessing on the Lord...** who was evidently the God of Shem. **Shem was Spiritually Blessed!**

- Shem is **the branch** from which *"the seed of the woman"* would continue...**a righteous seed, which brings forth Messiah.** – Shem is the father of the Semite tribes.

To JAPETH Noah pronounced...

C. Enlargement (26) – Noah's blessing for Japheth was **for God to bring enlargement.** which historically came in time through the open-mindedness and the geo-political rising of the **Greeks and the Romans.** – Japheth means Ruler, and those nations did just that! Noah's blessing desired them to *dwell in the tents Shem,* pointing to the spiritual blessings that come from seeking *The True and Living God!* Japheth is **Intellectually Blessed!**

- The prophetic utterances of Noah perfectly align with God's will. From this point onward, years would pass, decades would pass, and centuries would pass, where Noah's descendants would *be Fruitful, Multiply, and fill the earth.*

VI. PASSING FROM THE NEW WORLD (28-29) – Eventually **Noah's life ended at the ripe age of 950 years old!** His life is recorded in scripture as **a man of faith and works.** His epitaph is recorded in the Hebrews Hall of Faith. (Heb 11:7) *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*