

Genesis: Chapter 9

Opening Question: Why was it important for the original audience, the Israelites poised to take the land of promise, to know the details explained in this scene?

Key Takeaways:

1. The LORD pronounces the flesh of living creatures as food for mankind.
2. The LORD establishes man to judge man rather than judging men directly Himself as He has done to this point in the story.
3. The LORD makes a covenant with Noah and every living creature that He will not destroy the earth again with a flood.
4. The genealogies that will play out in Israel's conquest of the land of Canaan are being developed in this scene.
5. The origin of the Canaanites is found in this scene and Canaan is cursed by God as Cain was in chapter 4:11.
6. Shem's line is introduced in this scene so that Israel can trace their origin as the carriers of the promise.
7. A covering is needed and provided for Noah's nakedness just as one was needed and provided for Adam in the Garden.
8. This scene ends the Noah section and now the story will focus on the genealogies of his sons.

Discussion Questions:

1. Reread aloud together Genesis 5:1–9:28 and discuss what these scenes tell the reader about Noah and why the original reader need to know these things.
2. What new details does this scene provide about the promised one of Genesis 3:15–16 that the story anticipates?
3. What happens when the reader loses sight of the original audience and the author's intent and instead inserts theology or principles for living back into the unfolding narrative? How does this hinder the meaning of the story and flatten out the progression of revelation in the story?

Practical Application:

1. Reread Genesis 9 and list all the new details introduced into the story in this scene.
2. What details are repeated in this scene that link it to the beginning of the story.
3. Remember that the entire story of the Bible is now looking for the Seed of the Woman, the one promised by the Lord in Genesis 3:15-16 to come through Eve and “masha!” or “be like” the LORD in representing and ruling on His behalf. Explain how the repeated details and the new information introduced in this scene inform the reader and move the plot along.

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for Your unfolding story and what You reveal through each scene of the biblical narrative concerning the One promised Who is coming to perfectly represent You and carry out Your desires for Your creation. Our hope rests in Him alone. Amen.