

## GENESIS Chapter 9

A perfect world is now a thing of the past, but the heart of man remains the same to this day. God said in chapter 8:21, "...for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

God had to cleanse the earth by flood in order to save His creation from total destruction, and in the future He will again have to rescue His creation from total destruction. In Matthew 24:22, "Unless those days were limited, no one would survive."

Man is pulled onto a crazy path of self-destruction, and only Yeshua Messiah is able to hold out His hand of rescue.

So, in this chapter we see the Lord giving them a do-over, but with certain rules; rules to keep harmony between man and God and harmony between brothers.

### Verses 1-3

At this point in time: We eat meat. A whole new ballgame. Certain animals became carnivores that once only ate plants. Why would God change things?

After the flood, plants and living creatures couldn't grow so huge because of the environmental change and because of this food sources diminished. As animals became disparate for greater amounts of food, they began to eat other animals.

Pre-flood man and those living right after were bigger, stronger than today. We have no idea how big Noah was, but skeletons found and labeled "Neanderthal" were 100% human and give us a clue to early man. Their skulls were heavier and had greater brain capacity. They had more teeth and those teeth were strong enough to last at least 200 years. Their bones, twice as strong as today. Scientists have concluded the body of a 40 year old Neanderthal was more like a teenager. They were not physically mature until much later, probably due to living such long lives. We see children born to men of great ages. The earliest age mentioned in lineage of Noah was sixty-five, with most much older. Even Sarah was 65 years old at time Abraham was told by God he'd be a father of a nation. She, at that time, considered herself barren, so it's possible women of that age could still have children.

Because it appears that human body was beginning its decline, God gave man a helping hand in surviving by allowing hunting of animals. That kept the animal population regulated so that humans were not killed off by them. He didn't forget the animals and provided them some protection by giving them instinctive fear of humans.

The final reason is, of course, that man is to be over the animals because we are made in God's image. Verses 4-6

Raw blood is not to be consumed as food, for it represents life. (Pagans have always practiced this throughout time.) It's forbidden because it was the life of the beast and that life was to be offered to God as a covering for sin. It was typical of that blood by which the High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies.

As meat was not eaten before the flood, this commandment was not applicable at that time. But, after the flood eating blood became a possibility, so was prohibited. Again, God commanded this in the Mosaic law and still, in the Apostolic era for Christians. (Acts 15:20, 29)

Capital punishment is instituted, whether it was man or beast who took the life of a human; for man was created in the image of God. (Exodus 21:28; John 19:11; Romans 13:4)

### Verse 7

All people living today are descended from these three men, Shem, Ham or Japheth. There just three DNA structures. You have either DNA from one brother or a mix of them. Interesting cases occasionally, when twins are born, one white, and one black. Racism really makes no sense at all for we are all "cousins."

### Verses 8-17

The covenant was not only with Noah, but with every living creature that debarked from the ark. He promised never to destroy the earth again with water. However, He knew that some would worry every

time it began to rain, so He gave the rainbow as a reminder of that promise.

The “bow” is actually a weapon, but God used it as a symbol of His strength, but with no arrows , thus, showing His mercy and an offer of peace with Him.

All this is [part of the Noahic covenant.

Other covenants in Bible include the following:

- 2, Abram (Gen. 17:7)
3. Priestly (Numb. 25:10-13)
4. Davidic (2 Sam. 23:5)
5. New Covenant (Jer. 32:40) Grace-for those with faith in Christ

Verses 18-29

Noah, a man of the soil, was the first person to plant a vinyard. He probably brought the root cuttings on the ark. It's interesting that the first vineyards go back to that time period and were in that area of Turkey where the ark settled. Co-incident? Jewish saying: No such thing as co-incident.

Verse 21

He was “shamelessly” uncovered. Scripture does NOT say he uncovered himself, necessarily.

Verse 22

Ham “saw” means 'to gaze,' with connotation of 'enjoyment.' Ham “stood boldly out opposite” to his brothers outside. This seems to indicate he took pleasure in telling his brothers while mocking his father. The brothers took a mantle and covered Noah without looking upon him.

A mantle was an outer cloak for a man and also was a bed cover at night.

Ruth 3:9

“And he said, who are you? And she answered, I am Ruth your handmaid; spread, therefore, the wing (hem) of your mantle over your handmaid; for you are a near kinsman,”

Boaz was watching over his grain at night when Ruth came to him, asking him to marry her.

Verse 24

This verse is interpreted in several ways, but I'll give you one view that many Jewish scholars teach and seems to make sense.

Noah awoke and saw what his “younger” son had done to him. The Hebrew word is “little” son, which in early script refers to “grandson.” That grandson would be Ham's son, Canaan.

The wording points to some kind of unnatural act within close family members.

Leviticus 18:6-19 discusses this using the same phrase. “Seeing nakedness” is a Hebrew euphemism for sexual relations, in this case, incest.

Verse 25

Noah “bitterly” cursed Canaan and his descendants. Certainly, Ham's descendants have had much trouble and have been much trouble to the Hebrews. Even today, the groups still attempting to destroy Israel spring from this family line.

Verses 26

Shem gets his blessing and Canaan's curse is repeated.

Verse 27

Japheth was blessed with a large amount of descendants and wide spread over the earth. He shall dwell in the tent of Shem. Meaning, the peoples of Shem and Japheth would, by and large, live in peace with each other and Japheth's descendants would be worshipers of God (Christians.)

And all the days of Noah were 950 years; and he died. Three hundred and fifty years- a long time to get to know your grandkids- and that is what Noah did. He lived long enough to see Abram born. From birth of Arphaxad (Gen. 11:10) 2 years after flood, it was only 292 yrs. Noah lived 39 more yrs after that.! To be continued....