

## GENESIS 9

Powellhust Men's Study

23 February 2023

New International Version

### Learning objectives

- Show how God's covenant with Noah sets a pattern for other biblical covenants.
- Affirm the sanctity of human life in our own nation and generation.
- Explain how Ham's action led to Noah's curse on Canaan.
- Know relative nutritional value of meat-centric and plant-based diets.

### Be fruitful, increase, multiply

<sup>1</sup> Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.

<sup>7</sup> As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

- Increase: God's original command.
- Decrease: In what ways are the rich seeking to depopulate nations?
- Multiply: Who in the spirit world seek human depopulation? Why?

### They are given into your hands

<sup>2</sup> The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands.

- Fear: In what ways do you see this dread manifest?
- Your hands: What are your views on sport hunting? On livestock and wildlife management?

### Food for you

<sup>3</sup> Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

- How were ancient herds different from modern factory ranching?
- Have you tried scorpion on a stick?
- How eager are you to give up red meat for insect-based foods?

### Lifblood

<sup>4</sup> "But you must not eat meat that has its lifblood still in it. <sup>5</sup> And for your lifblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

- Lifblood: 'The blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the meat' (Deut 12:23). Ancients and tribals seek to return life to its Creator.
- Animal: hayâh, living-being. Include surviving Genesis 1 humans? And surviving Nephilim giants?

## Capital punishment

“Human life, because of the image of God, remains under the protection of God. The accountability to God for preserving human life is put into humanity’s hands, thus instituting blood vengeance in the ancient world and capital punishment in modern societies. In Israelite society blood vengeance was in the hands of the family of the victim.” *IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary*

## The Noahic Covenant

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with ... every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup> Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. ”

- Covenant: <sup>2</sup>Elohîm sets stipulations on himself.
- Never again: We do not listen to global-doom-sayers.

## Seven biblical covenants

1. With Noah and all humanity, Genesis 9
2. With Abraham and his offspring, Genesis 17
3. With Moses and the Israelites, Exodus 19, 26
4. With Phinehas and his offspring Levi, Num 25, Mal 2
5. With Moses and Israelites in Canaan, Deuteronomy
6. With David and his offspring, Psalm 89
7. With Israel and Judah, Jeremiah 31:31 (A New Covenant)

## Seven Noahide / Noachian laws

1. Not to worship idols.
2. Not to curse God.
3. Not to commit murder.
4. Not to commit adultery or sexual immorality.
5. Not to steal.
6. Not to eat flesh torn from a living animal.
7. To establish courts of justice.

## Sign of the covenant

<sup>13</sup> I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ... <sup>17</sup> So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

- Rainbow: In the Gilgamesh Epic, Ishtar identified lapis lazuli as the basis for her to remember the flood.
- Sign: Signs point to a reality: <sup>2</sup>Elohîm’s promise.
- All life: God loves all life forms, for they witness to his existence, intelligence, design and delight.

### **Shem, Ham and Japheth**

<sup>18</sup> The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) <sup>19</sup> These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth.

- Shem: Ancestor of Semitic peoples.
- Ham: Ancestor of Hamitic peoples.
- Japheth: Ancestor of Anatolian peoples.
- Scattered: Over the whole earth (land).

### **Holy Noah, an alcoholic?**

<sup>20</sup> Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. <sup>21</sup> When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.

- Wine: Earliest evidence of wine drinking comes from neolithic Iran, 6th millennium BCE jar with wine residue.
- Drunk: Noah was temporarily unable to protect his tent his bed, or his wife.
- Note: Our salvation comes from grace by loyal faith, not from works or from perfection.

### **Noah's 'nakedness'**

<sup>22</sup> Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup> But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.

- Why is this family incident worth mention?
- Why did Ham want his brothers to know?
- What did Ham do in his father's tent? Who else was there?

### **Theories about what Ham did in Noah's tent**

- Voyeurism: Ham took a long look at his father's nakedness. This assumes a taboo for which there is no evidence.
- Castration: Ham castrated his father in an effort to usurp his authority, to claim family headship.
- Incest: Ham carnally abused his father (9:24). But why curse Ham's son, Canaan?

### **To 'see /uncover nakedness' in Leviticus 18; Ezekiel 16**

- To have illicit or forbidden sexual intercourse.
- "You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother." Lev 18:7

### **"Cursed be Canaan!"**

<sup>24</sup> When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, <sup>25</sup> he said,  
"Cursed be Canaan!  
The lowest of slaves  
will he be to his brothers."

## GENESIS 9

- Had done: Incest with Noah's wife. An act claiming headship over the family, clan and all humanity!
- Canaan: Ham's lineage will never be recognized as legitimate clan, tribe or national leadership.
- Canaan: Legitimizes later conquest.

### Yahweh = the God of Shem

<sup>26</sup> He also said,  
"Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem!  
May Canaan be the slave of Shem.

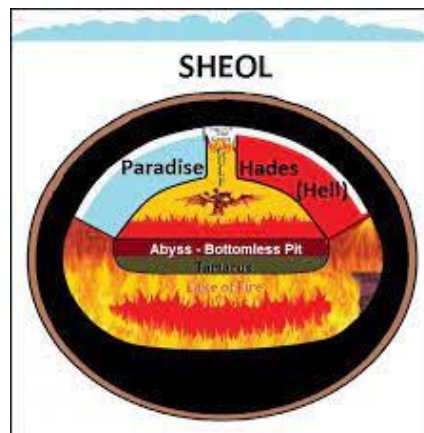
<sup>27</sup> May God extend Japheth's territory;  
may Japheth live in the tents of Shem,  
and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth."

- Shem: First indication that divine blessing would come through a Semitic people.
- Canaan: Canaanites would eventually be subject to Israel, to Greeks, and to Romans.
- Note: Africans were never Canaanites.

### Noah lived 950 years

<sup>28</sup> After the flood Noah lived 350 years. <sup>29</sup> Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then he died.

- Lived: Laboured, loved, learned, obeyed, erred, repented, laughed, wept, worshipped, and waited.
- Died: His spirit went into Paradise, that part of the underworld reserved for the righteous.
- Rose: Following Christ visit to Hades.
- Will return: With Christ and his holy ones.



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