

Genesis Chapter 9 - Commentary By Mike Wells

Chapter 9 Overview:

The aftermath of the flood is described. There are 5 main sections: (1) God blessing Noah and granting flesh for food in verses 1-3. (2) Eating Blood and murder are forbidden in verses 4-7. (3) God's establishes His covenant with the rainbow as its sign in verses 8-17. (4) Noah plants a vineyard, gets drunk and is mocked by Ham in verses 18-23. Finally, (5) Noah curses Canaan, blesses Shem, prays for Japheth in verses 24-29.

Genesis 9 : 1 - And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

- As Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their wives departed from the ark, God blessed them. (See 6:9.)
- He commanded them to be "*fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*"
- The same command given to Adam and Eve and all the created creatures after creation was now given to Noah and His family

Genesis 9 : 2 - *And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.*

- As the Noahic Covenant is further defined, there are more implications.
- What is implied is that the character of the animal kingdom in relation to man is altered.
- Animals now have instilled within them an innate fear of humans.
- That apparently was not the case prior to the flood.

Genesis 9 : 3 - *Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*

- God for the first time give permission for mankind to eat meat.
- Remember prior to the flood folks were vegetarians.
- It can be assumed that it was ungodly prior to the flood to eat meat
- Now God has approved it.
- Animals would now have to be hunted, as God placed within them a fear of man.

Genesis 9 : 4 - *But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.*

- Also for the first time in the Bible, the command not to ingest blood as a food is stated.
- Of course, eating of flesh had not been sanctioned either.

Genesis 9 : 5-6 – *5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. 6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*

- As part of the Noahic Covenant, God was the first to require capital punishment.
- God required that when murder took place, the murderer should be executed.
- God's image in man was not to be profaned by murder.
- God added capital punishment to our system.
- It is sad that it has been ignored today in many states to the detriment of society.
- It is sad how many Christians fight against the death penalty when it is clearly scriptural and capital punishment came from God and not from man.

Genesis 9 : 7 - *And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.*

- Again, the command to be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth is reiterated.
- God clearly intended for the earth to once again be filled with the animal kingdom and humans.

Genesis 9 : 8-11 - *And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, 9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you. 10 And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. 11 And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.*

- More details of the Noahic Covenant are set.
- Part of the covenant God made with man (and even the animal kingdom) was that He would never again destroy the earth by a flood.
- That promise remains in force to this day.
- This also clearly undercuts the limited flood theory liberal theologians have propounded down through the years.
- There certainly have been limited floods all over the earth each year with spring run-off and rains.
- However, God clearly has promised to never again destroy the entire earth with a flood!

Genesis 9 : 12-13 – *12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth*

- The token (i.e., sign) of that promise would be the rainbow.
- “It shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.”
- The common and beautiful phenomena of a rainbow remain to this day, a reminder that God once destroyed the earth by a flood and that He will never do so again.

Genesis 9 : 14-17 - *And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud. 15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. 17 And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.*

- The token or sign of God’s covenant to Noah (and us by extension) was a two way street.
- Not only is it a reminder to us of God’s promise, it is a reminder to God of the same.
- The rainbow “*is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth*”.
- The rainbow is not only a reminder of the flood, it is a visible sign that God will never destroy the earth again in that way.

Genesis 9:18 - *And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.*

- The three sons of Noah are once again noted (as in 5:32) - Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- Notice the note that “Ham is the father of Canaan.”
- Remember that one for later.

Genesis 9 : 19 - *These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.*

- From these three families “*was the whole earth overspread.*”
- All races and ethnic nationalities to this day have their root in one of these three sons of Noah.
- Shem is the progenitor of the eastern peoples including the Middle East.
- Ham is the father of the southern people, particularly of Africa.
- Japheth is the patriarch of the northern people of Europe and northwest Asia.
- Genesis 10:21 notes Shem as the eldest son of Noah.

Genesis 9 : 20 - *And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard.*

- In the years following the flood, Noah became started growing and producing grapes.
- In the course of time, “he planted a vineyard:”

Genesis 9 : 21 - *And he drank of the wine, and was drunken, and he was uncovered within his tent.*

- This is the first mention of wine in the Bible and it quite obviously was fermented wine.
- It may be prior to the flood, conditions were such that alcohol as we know it today did not exist or at least to the degree it does now.
- It certainly seems out of character for a godly, righteous man of faith with the kind of obedience that Noah had to knowingly and willfully become drunk.
- It may be, Noah was not aware of the properties of alcohol and fermented wine.
- In any event, he became drunk.
- In his drunkenness, he layed uncovered, exposed in his tent.
- The first clear indication of the perversion caused by alcohol is recorded.
- As is so often the case, sin in general and often sexual sin is associated with the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Genesis 9 : 22 - *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.*

- Again note the record of Ham as the father of Canaan.
- For the second time, it is recorded that he was the father of Canaan.
- There is a clear connection to the coming wickedness of Canaan being established.
- What is implied is that the apparent sin of his father Ham was passed on to his son.
- The word translated as saw (*har ra-ah*) can also be translated as ‘looked.’
- What is implied is that Ham not only saw his father’s exposed genitalia, but he looked or stared at it with potential homosexual lust.
- In any event, he took advantage and got a perverse eye full.

Genesis 9 : 23 - *And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father’s nakedness.*

- Notice the difference in reaction between Shem and Japheth when they saw their naked brother versus that of Ham
- Shem and Japheth had the embarrassment and respect to their father to not even glance upon his shame.

Genesis 9 : 24 - *And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.*

- As Noah awoke from his drunkenness it is recorded that he knew what his younger son had done unto him.
- The word translated as done (*hse asah*) can among other things also have the sense of ‘committed.’
- At the least, Ham was guilty of improperly staring at his incapacitated father.
- At the worst, there may be implied some sort of homosexual act.
- Noah seemed to view it as a very serious matter.
- Did you know that most homosexual acts are perpetrated through the involvement of alcohol?
- Nothing good has ever come from drinking alcohol

Genesis 9 : 25 - *And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.*

- He thereupon issued a curse upon Ham’s son, Canaan: “*Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.*”
- It should be noted the curse was upon Canaan.
- It is possible, Canaan was already born and in some way participated in whatever had happened.
- It may also be that Canaan was the actual perpetrator and he is referred to as Ham.
- It is further noteworthy that the curse was upon Canaan and his descendants—the Canaanites.
- The bible clearly says that the curse was specifically against Canaan and his descendants and not Ham
- Obviously, Ham had other descendants as we know that weren’t cursed.
- Some have wrongfully assumed the curse was upon Ham and his descendants—the black race.
- The Canaanites would later prove to be a wicked, immoral people.

Genesis 9 : 26 - *And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.*

- Noah further blessed Shem and noted that Canaan would be his servant.
- That certainly proved true in how the Canaanites were subdued by Israel, the descendants of Shem.
- God’s Word and promises have always come true!!!

Genesis 9 : 27 - *God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.*

- Finally, Noah prophesied a blessing upon Japheth how that God would enlarge him.
- The European people down through the centuries have been a blessed people.

- Further prophecy of Japheth dwelling in the tents of Shem may be some indication how that European nations in time would dominate eastern, Semitic nations.
- That certainly has come to pass not only in Greece and Rome, but also in more modern imperial nations.
- Once again, Canaan and his descendants would be servants to all.
- A profound lesson that the sin of parents can be passed onto their descendants is made clear.
- Noah probably had no idea how profoundly accurate his prophecy concerning his three sons and their lineage would prove to be.

Genesis 9 : 28 - *And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.*

- Noah's final days are noted.
- He lived 350 years after the flood for a total of 950 years.
- The flood took place in the year 1656 after creation and lasted slightly more than one year into year 1657.
- Living 350 years thereafter, Noah would have died about around the year 2006
- The beginning of the flood is the actual date-marker and not the end.
- Abraham was born two years later (2008 years after creation).

Genesis 9 : 29 - *And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.*

- Noah was born in the year 1056 after creation.
- He died 950 years later in 2006 after the creation.
- Noah lived for almost one half of recorded time from the creation to his death.
- Can you imagine all that he saw in that time!!!
- What a life!!