

A NEW BEGINNING – Genesis 9-10

October 24, 2021 –

We are looking at the beginning chapters of Genesis, and we are doing this because it sets the stage for the rest of the Bible, and gives a number of foundational truths that we need to understand. Last time we talked about Gen. 6-8, about the great and grievous sin of man, and God's righteous judgment upon the world. And everyone in the world died, perished, except Noah and his family, which was only eight people.

And so there was this flood, this great devastating judgment of the world. But we must remember that this world will be judged again, and not with water, but with fire. - Luke 3:7, 15-17. John the Baptist is saying that Jesus is coming to baptize people with the Spirit, which means that, by the Spirit, He will save people from their sins. And this is referring to Jesus' 1st coming, which took place about 2000 years ago. But Jesus is coming again to baptize people with fire, and this is referring to the Day of the Lord, which is described in detail in Rev. 8-9, 16.

2 Peter 3:3-7. Now we know Christ is coming again, but there are people who hear this and then mock the Christians, saying this is not going to happen. They think life is going to go on like normal, but that's not true. For God promised that judgment is coming, that Christ would come back and judge the world. Acts 17:31
- And the closer we get to Christ's return, the more Christians will be mocked.

Gen. 9:1-3. God blessed Noah and his sons. God loved them and was good to them, and He wanted to work through their lives and use them for His purposes. And they are instructed to be fruitful and multiply, and so God is repeating His command to them, a command he first gave to Adam and Eve. There are many people who say there are too many people on the planet, and that we should depopulate the earth. And yes, there are now close to 8 billion people in the world, but that does not at all mean we should stop obeying this command.

This verse also repeats the command that, as people, we're to subdue the earth, which includes birds, animals, and plant life. We also read that we can eat animals for food. And it's perfectly fine for people to be vegetarians, but God is clearly saying that eating something like chicken, beef, pork, or deer or bear, is perfectly fine too. Acts 10

Genesis 9:5-7. God is instructing us what to do when a person murders someone, and by murder, we don't mean that which is accidental or in self-defense, but is pre-meditated and deliberate. And God says the murderer should himself be killed. In our culture, we often call this capital punishment. Now many say we shouldn't do this, but this is God and it's what He's telling us to do, and that it's the right thing to do.

Now Rom. 13 tells us that God has authorized the government to carry this out. And capital punishment really does help to reduce murder. Romans 13:3-4
And again the command is given about repopulating the earth, but here it says, "*Populate the earth abundantly and multiply on it.*" This means having children.

Genesis 9:8-17. The flood had just happened, and God wants the people to know that this kind of judgment, a flood destroying the world, would never happen again, and therefore, they should not be in dread, be worried, be wondering about it.
- And so God establishes His covenant with them, which is His commitment, His promise to them, that a flood would never happen again. And so God gives His word, and also a visible sign, and it's the rainbow in the sky, this rainbow that is a sign of His covenant, a reminder of His promise to them and all mankind for this entire age. This covenant is called the Noahic covenant, for it's what God first promised to Noah.

Now some people say the world can still be flooded, that the waters can rise, that the waters can flood coastlines and cities and kill millions of people, and this is not true. Why? Because right here, God gives us His promise that it won't happen. Now many of the people talking about this climate change and this possibility of flooding are unbelievers, and the fact is that many of them are afraid to die, or they think their life now and that this planet here is all there is, and they don't know the Lord and His mercy, and they don't know His promise, what His word tells us.

They are the kind of people who, 45 years ago, were worried about an ice age, or who 30-40 years ago, were worried about a nuclear war destroying the world, or who are concerned that there are too many people in the world, and are now concerned about this climate change, and the truth is, there's little if any science to back up what they're saying. To be honest this whole thing is a control issue, for there are elites who want to control people, and make people afraid. It's also an economic issue, a way to redistribute wealth. And it's also part of a global agenda, and a means to help create a new one world order. Here are 3 more vss. that confirm this promise. Ps. 104:6-9, Job 38:8-11, Prov. 8:29

Gen. 9:18-19. Here are Noah's 3 sons and it's from these sons that all mankind comes, that the whole earth is populated. In fact, all the physical characteristics of man, which means your characteristics too, were in the genes of Noah, his wife and his sons and their wives.
- Verse 18 – Now God wants us to know that Ham was the father of Canaan, which means Canaan is important for some reason, and we'll talk about this in a little bit.

Vss. 20-24. Now Noah had a vineyard, and got drunk. And this is talked about because it leads to some things that affect the entire course and future of the world. What happens is that Ham is sinful for he looked upon his father's nakedness, but the other sons, Shem and Japheth, were righteous and covered him, and therefore covered his sin. But then Noah woke up and found out what Ham had done. And what stems from this are some major predictions about his sons and their descendants, predictions that have major implications upon the whole world for this entire age.

Vs. 25. Now it says Canaan is cursed, and why it says Canaan and not Ham, we don't know for sure. Now Gen. 10 says that Ham had four sons, and so this would've been hard for Ham, for Canaan was not just one of his sons, but the youngest of his sons. Now Gen. 10:15-20 tells us about Canaan's descendants. And they occupied the promised land before Israel took it over. And it was Joshua with Israel's armies who defeated 30 different Canaanite kings, and it was because the Canaanites were a very, very sinful people that God judged them and expelled them from the land.

Lev. 18 gives us details about the terrible sexual sins the Canaanites were committing, and God knew this would happen, and therefore, I believe, had Noah predict that they'd be cursed. But Gen. 9:25 gives another judgment, that the Canaan would be servants to his two brothers and their descendants, but not just servants, but servants of servants. Gen. 14:20 and Gen. 15:16, 18-21 give us more information about this.

Gen. 9:26. We read this phrase the "*God of Shem.*" What does this mean? It means God Himself is Shem's God, and also the God of His descendants. One aspect of this is that Abraham and the Israelites would be chosen by God for His purposes. It also says "*Blessed be the Lord,*" blessed be this One who is the God of Shem. That is, the Lord should be praised and honored because He is Shem's God, and because He shows mercy and kindness to Shem and His descendants.

- And there's a lot more said about Shem in Gen. 10 and Gen. 11, and then in Gen. 12, we read about Shem's descendant, Abraham, and the beginning days of the Israelites. But again it says Canaan is going to be Shem's servant, and the fact that it is repeated means it's a very important, noteworthy issue.

Gen. 9:27. Now there's this blessing upon Japheth, and it's that God will enlarge Japheth. Now is this enlarging spiritual or physical? I believe it's both. Physically, the descendants of Japheth are Europeans, Russians, and the majority of people living in the United States. Spiritually they're blessed because we know that God has saved a lot of Gentiles, ones of Japhetic descent. Acts and the epistles talk a lot about Gentile churches. Then you have the Reformation in the 1500-1600's, and most of the people at that time were of Japhetic origin. And even today, a lot of Christians in this country are of Japhetic origin.

Then we read that God dwells in the tents of Shem, which is referring to the fact that God chose the Jews, Shem's descendants, to build a sanctuary for Himself, and a later a temple, a place where His glory would dwell, and where priests would offer sacrifices to Him. Then again, we read that Canaan would serve the descendants of Shem.

- Vs. 28-29. And then we read that Noah lived a long time – indeed, God blessed him.

Genesis 10. This is a very important chapter, one often called the table of nations.

Gen. 10:32 – This last verse summarizes what this chapter is all about, that the sons of Noah had families, and from these families came the nations of the world. And many people have extensively studied this chapter, and used it as a basis from which to explain the growth and development of all the nations in the world.

- And from this, we know some things about our present geography, about the present nations in the world, but we don't know everything. And that's because the names of places have changed throughout the centuries. But I want to point out some things:

1. God is sovereign over the births of all children, and over all the families that came from these children, and over all the nations that were formed from them.
2. The reasons some names and places are mentioned here is because it relates to God's working with them in the years ahead as explained in the Bible, particularly in the OT.
3. The nations were separated after the tower of Babel, and then had their own languages, and it was God who separated them, who was sovereign over where they lived. Vs 5
4. Gomer, Magog, Tubal, and Mescheh (vs. 2), all descendants of Japheth are enemies of Israel in the end-times, and we find them listed in Ezekiel 38.
5. The descendants of Ham are listed in vss. 6-20, and many of these are enemies of the Jews, and they are described more fully in other parts of the Old Testament.
6. There's a specific reference to Canaan, the 4th son of Ham, and it was his descendants who occupied what came to be Israel - but because of their great sin, the Jews defeated and expelled them at the hands of Joshua and the Israelite armies. Gen. 15, Lev. 18
7. There's reference to a person named Nimrod, which means he is an important figure. It says he was a mighty hunter before the Lord. His name means "*rebel*," and so he was most likely an evil man, not just a hunter of animals, but a hunter and killer of people.
- We read that the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, a word that means confusion. Most scholars believe he was behind the building of the tower of Babel, talked about in Gen. 11. Nimrod was a man who opposed God and rebelled against Him, shown in that he created his own religion, and built the tower of Babel, which was destroyed by God.
- And Nimrod also built Nineveh, a great and evil city. Now Nineveh is in Assyria, and Dan. 8 indicates that this is where the Antichrist comes from.
8. God talks about Shem and his descendants, and from them would come the Jews, the Hebrews. And these Jews are the central figures talked about in the Old Testament.

Indeed, these people groups, these nations spoken of in Gen. 10, are foundational for the plans of God which are explained and expanded upon in the rest of the Bible. Rev. 7:9-12