

# **St. Margaret's Zoom Bible Study**

**Dr. Fr. Benjamin Speare-Hardy II**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88681447325?pwd=Z295WXNzWXIBeHdENi9UNDdteGh5QT09>

**Meeting ID: 886 8144 7325**

**Passcode: iYuHT8**

## **Genesis**

### **Background**

In Genesis chapter 9, He reveals seven blessings from His new covenant that Christ would later fulfill. First, God blessed Noah's family with fertility and commanded them to fill the Earth. Today, Jesus will also bless and multiply you when you help to fulfill his command to fill the Earth with believers. Second, God blessed Noah's family and humanity after the Flood by providing abundant animals and plants to eat. When you trust Him, Christ will also bless you by providing for your needs. Third, God blessed mankind with a new blood covenant, allowing for the atonement of sins. This, in turn, would allow God to withhold judgment from the Earth. In exchange, mankind had to respect God's symbol for life, the blood of humans and animals. Mankind could not kill each other by spilling innocent blood. It also had to respect all God-given life by abstaining from foods or drinks with blood. This blood covenant foreshadowed Christ's death at the cross. His blood atones for all mankind's sins. Through their actions, believers are also called upon to respect His blood sacrifice at the cross.

Fourth, another part of God's blessing was His covenant of the rainbow. The rainbow was an inverted bow of divine judgment that God had turned away from the Earth. It symbolized God's mercy in withholding the judgment that mankind deserved. This mercy resulted from Jesus' future death at the cross. Today, the rainbow has become a symbol of open defiance of God's standard of morality. In the end times, Jesus' divine bow will be turned back upon the Earth, and those who refuse to repent will face His judgment. Fifth, God saved eight individuals on the ark. In the Bible, the number eight symbolizes new beginnings. Here, God showed His grace in offering mankind a new beginning. Jesus also gives believers a new beginning. Sixth, Noah cursed his son Ham after he defiled him.

Dishonoring parents brings about a curse. By contrast, when you honor your parents, God promises to prolong your life. Finally, God blessed Noah's son Shem, which included the Semitic peoples. God would later dwell with them. But He offered to extend this blessing to the descendants of Japheth. This was God's promise to expand His blessings to include the Gentiles. You are also grafted into this covenant when you have faith in Jesus. Jesus calls upon you to expand His tent of believers to include the unsaved.

Genesis 10 is sometimes called the Table of Nations. It describes the generations that followed Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with the nations that came from them and the regions where they settled after the Tower of Babel. This chapter is a slightly different take on genealogy; rather than focusing on lineage, this passage defines the boundaries of these various tribes of people. Instead of following a narrow chain of father-son relationships deep into history, this chapter explains a broad network of cousins following a shallow chain of brotherly relationships. The purpose is to establish the various kingdoms which will come into play later in Genesis. The first section lists Japheth's sons and descendants. Japheth's people settled mainly in the lands to the north of the region that would become the Promised Land of Israel.

The second section details the line of Noah's son Ham. The people and nations that come from Ham will become central to Israel's story, as told in the rest of the Bible. Ham's descendants include the peoples who will eventually become Egypt, the great nation that will play a pivotal and ongoing role in Israel's history. Ham's grandson Nimrod (though Cush) will establish the powerful kingdoms of Babylon and Assyria, who will both become enemies of Israel. And the descendants of Ham's son Canaan will eventually be (mostly) driven from the Promised Land by the Israelites. The final section of the Table of Nations in chapter 10 describes the descendants of Shem. Shem's line will lead to Abraham and the nation of Israel. The dispersal of the peoples into separate nations, languages, and tribes will happen after the events surrounding the tower of Babel, as described in Genesis 11.

## **Genesis Chapter 9 & 10**

### **Topics for Discussion**

Chapter 9:1-17    The Covenant with Noah

Chapter 9:18-28    Noah and His Sons

Chapter 10:1-32    Nations Descended from Noah