

Walk Through the Bible

GENESIS 8-9

OVERVIEW

In Genesis 8, God begins to dry out the earth after the devastation and destruction of the flood have ended (**v.1-12**). After a year on board the ark Noah and the animals finally step out on dry land (**v.13-19**). Noah builds an altar and offers animal sacrifices as worship to God. The Lord promises as long as the earth remains, it will continue to experience the cycles of sowing and reaping, cold and heat, summer and winter, as well as day and night (**v.20-22**).

In chapter 9, God initiates a covenant with Noah that changes what mankind is allowed to eat (**v.1-4**) and how mankind will discipline one another for murder (**v.5-7**). God offers the sign of the rainbow as a declaration that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood (**v.8-17**). Noah became a man of the soil and planted a vineyard. On one occasion, a drunken Noah passes out naked in his tent after drinking wine from his vineyard. After waking up, Noah curses Ham for what happened while he was asleep (**v.18-22**).

DISCUSSION

- In what ways does the post-flood story present itself as another creation story (**Genesis 8:1-19**)?
- How is opening the window to the ark out of character for Noah (**Genesis 8:6**)?
- In your opinion, why did God allow mankind to eat animals after the flood (**Genesis 9:1-4**)?
- Part of the covenant God made with Noah was capital punishment for murder. In your opinion, how should a Christian view the death penalty (**Genesis 9:5-7**)?
- What are the connections between the sign of the rainbow and the Sabbath Day (**Genesis 9:8-17; Exodus 31:12-17**)?
- What are your thoughts on what happened to Noah in his tent? Why do you think Noah cursed Canaan instead of Ham (**Genesis 9:20-27**)?