

Noah – Lesson 8: God's Covenant With Noah

Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against the Holy Ghost* shall not be forgiven unto men.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 7 (Worship in Thankfulness)

1. According to Genesis 8:20, What did Noah build upon leaving the ark?

Answer: An altar unto the Lord.

2. According to Genesis 8:20, how did Noah demonstrate his commitment to the Lord?

Answer: Sacrifice (took of every clean beast/fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar).

3. According to Genesis 8:21, how did the Lord notice Noah's act?

Answer: Appreciation (And the LORD smelled a sweet savour).

4. According to Genesis 8:21, what promise did the Lord make to Noah?

Answer: I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake.

5. Complete the following scripture:

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

True / False

False Our love for God is a random emotional reaction (1 JOHN 4:19 – A decision: Because He first loved us)

True Sacrifice comes at a cost (1 CRON 21:24 – I will not offer burnt offerings without cost)

False Sin offering is of grains or money (LEV 4 / LEV 17:11 / HEB 9:22 – Life is in the blood / No remission of sin without blood)

True Christ commanded us to love one another (JOHN 13:34 – *As I have loved you*)

Extra Credit - In your opinion, is sacrifice part of your testimony, and if so, how?

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'Come with me if you want to live' – Movie line: Terminator (1991)

The terminator exclaims this statement as he reaches out to Sarah Conner – She must trust the terminator is seeking to preserve her, and only by complying can she survive.

Trust is a verbal contract – As long as each party complies, it is intended to be mutually beneficial. However, when a component of the term and conditions of the agreement are violated, there are consequences.

God has issued the conditions for life to humanity:

1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

In the Lord's verbal contract (**JOHN 3:16** - *Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*), the 'deal-breaker' is no faithful belief. Faith should lead to following (**JOHN 14:15** – *If ye love me, keep my commandments*). Trust and obey are the key components to enjoy the benefits of this contract. Violation is death (**REV 20** – Cast into the lake of fire).

God presents Noah with a promise (covenant) and conditions to guide him in the path of his future.

Where we left off

Genesis 8:21-22 – God reacts to Noah's love

(21) And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

(22) While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Noah's sacrifice embodies the capacity of love in the human heart – God reaffirms that in spite of the evil of humanity, a special place is reserved in the Lord's heart for each person, and there will not be a repeat of this judgement upon the earth, and each season is a reminder of God's enduring mercy.

Preamble

Genesis 9:1-3 – A new start

(1) And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

(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.

(3) Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

With no other human being on earth, the Lord issues the direction – To begin to repopulate the world, with some additional ground rules.

This should sound very familiar, as it is similar to God's command to Adam:

Genesis 1:28-30 – God instructs Adam and Eve

(28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

(29) And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

(30) And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so.

A summarized comparison:

	GEN 1	GEN 9
Multiply	1:28 - To Adam and Eve	9:1 - To Noah and his sons
	While both were given instruction to reproduce, Noah's family were four pairs and would accomplish this quicker.	
Animals	1:28 - Dominion over all X - No mention of fear X - No mention of use as food 1:30 – All animals eat plants	9:2 - Delivered into their hand 9:2 - Animals to instinctively fear humanity 9:3 - To be meat for humanity (as the herb) X – No mention of animal diet
Plants	1:29 - Given for food	9:3 - Given for food

The most noticeable difference is humanity's relationship with the rest of the living world (specifically the animal kingdom) – Humanity is no longer in harmony with all of God's creation (**GEN 2:19-20** – God creates and presents each animal to Adam to define companionship). Animals are sinless as they have not been imparted with the free will of the soul as humanity, and were never issued a commandment as was Humanity (**GEN 2:17** – Not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil).

Ground Rules (caveat)

Genesis 9:4-6 – God sanctifies life

(4) But flesh with the life thereof, *which is* the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

(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.

The Lord defines the life imparted to creation as sacred, and it is represented by the blood that flows through each being. To defile the blood is to defile the glory of God, which carries a severe consequence:

- Taking the life of a person will cost the life of the offender at the hands of humanity (capital punishment)
- Rationale: Humanity is created in the image of God – To defile the life of the image is to defile God. To take a life (shed blood) of another person will require one's own blood to reconcile the debt.

The Covenant

Genesis 9:8-15 – God's promise

(8) 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.

(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.

(14) 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.

The Lord uses specific language in addressing the terms with Noah and his sons:

- The contract applies to all humanity from now on (and with your seed after you)
- The promise applies to both humanity and animal (all that go out from the ark – All flesh)
- The Promise: To never destroy all life on earth via flood (does not address other means)

REV 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

ISA 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

- The evidence of God's commitment to this agreement (signature) is the rainbow (bow in the cloud)

The one component missing is any act that would terminate this agreement – God's covenant is a promise to all life. The terms regarding shedding of blood are a means of accountability for each person - Blaspheme the image of God will require your life (**MATT 12:31** - *Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men*).

The choice is simple – Christ beckons for us to come to Him if we want to live! The word of God has been given that we may trust in what God had accomplished in the Christ

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Next Lesson: Noah – Life after the flood

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Study Questions

1. According to Genesis 9:1, who did God address in defining the new covenant?

2. According to Genesis 9:2, how has the relationship between human and animal changed?

3. According to Genesis 9:4, what is the significance of blood?

4. According to Genesis 9:12, who is God's covenant applicable to?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Matthew 12:31 _____ *against* the _____ shall not be forgiven unto men.

True / False

Reference

T F Rejecting Christ can be forgiven by God.

T F Animals have always eaten each other.

T F Blood represents the image of man.

T F God's promise was not to destroy the earth by any means.

EXTRA CREDIT – In your opinion, are you a good steward over your dominion, and why or why not?
