

OT-OV

Lesson 18

1. Last week I taught the Doctrine of Blood and Gen 9:5-13.
2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will return to our analysis of the rainbow, a sign that God would never again destroy the earth by water. It was also a sign of God's grace-- a really meaningful anthropopathism.
3. Now let's take a look at His sign placed in the heavens to signal the certainty of God's judgment and the wonder of His grace - the rainbow.

Gen 9:8 And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

Gen 9:9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed ...

Gen 9:10 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.

Gen 9:11 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 anymore be a flood to destroy the earth.

Gen 9:12 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:

4. Verse 9 "I establish my covenant with you: I will never again destroy the earth by water."

5. Verse 10: This covenant is made not only with man but with every living creature.

5.1 The covenant with Adam included all men, the later covenant with Abraham included his Jewish descendants; the covenant with Moses applied to the Jewish nation, but here in the shadow of the Flood is a creature covenant.

5.2 And it came with a sign, whose purpose it was to remind all concerned, including God that: "the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh." This is an anthropopathism since God did not need a reminder since He is omniscient.

Gen 9:13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

Gen 9:14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

Gen 9:15 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.

Gen 9:16 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.

Gen 9:17 And God said unto Noah, This is the sign of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

6. Verse 12: This is the sign:

6.1 The mature believer should understand the judgment of the Flood was a necessity. And even the spiritual dullard should see the fiercest outbreaks of the nations: be it the violent acts in Rwanda, the horrific destructions of human life in Israel, the wars of destructions in Kosovo and/or the cascading twin towers where people were slaughtered in the name of religion, all serve as a poignant reminder of the total depravity of mankind.

6.2 But when the storms beat most fiercely upon the earth, there is the rainbow to remind all that God has promised never again to destroy the earth by a flood, and that the seasons will continue. The sign however does not change man, for he has perpetually despised the riches of God's goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that God's goodness was calculated to lead him to repentance.

7. Verse 13: I do set my bow in the cloud.

7.1 The sign of the rainbow should assure sinners that the forbearance of God is reigning, and we are under His grace. (Rom 4:1-8)

8. Verse 15: And now for one of the more formidable of anthropopathisms:

8.1 The glory of God is shown by the things which He remembers and by those which He forgets. He remembers His covenant, but our sins and our iniquities He will remember no more. Our sins are behind His back as far as the east is from the west and I will remember their iniquity no more.

8.2 The analogy is perfect. The flood of judgment has fallen upon Christ and carried Him to His death while we have been placed, snug and safe, in the ark of His love. Those who do not believe in the eternal security of the believer tear the rainbow (His metaphor of grace) from the covenant of God, and thus try to make Him a liar.

1Jo 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

1Jo 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

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

8.3 In verse 15 God said He would remember His covenant. Now He says that He will look upon the rainbow as a reminder to never forget.

Gen 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.

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

9. Verses 18 and 19 These are the three sons of Noah:

9.1 The sons of Shem were the Arabs and the Jews. The Hamites were the Egyptians, Babylonians, Hittites, Canaanites, Phoenicians and Carthaginians. The sons of Japheth were those who settled north, west and east of Palestine, certainly to include the Europeans, Russians, Chinese, Indians, North and South Americans, etc.

CHART SONS OF NOAH - GEOGRAPHICAL VENUE

Gen 9:20 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard:

Gen 9:21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

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

Gen 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.

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

10. Verses 20-24 And Noah drank ... and acted shamefully.

10.1 The evil that was in the earth and which had in part evoked the anger of God against the human race was also within the Ark in the OSNs of Noah, his sons and their four wives. Even the grace of God does not eliminate the Old Sin Natures within man; instead His grace makes possible the control of that nature or better said: to avoid its absolute control.

10.2 Even God does not deal with the old unregenerate heart: He declares it to be incurable (Jer 17:9).

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it.

10.3 Even in view of the sinful folly of Noah just after his and his family's deliverance it is important to remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit, in the New Testament, has recorded Noah as "a preacher of righteousness" (2Pe 2:5).

2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

10.4 Noah is a great illustration of the fact that many men in the Bible who were strong for God when they were young departed from the will of God when they were older. It is a proof that past work does not furnish power for future victory.

10.5 Power to produce comes only from metabolized doctrine in the soul. According to most denominations, Noah would have been lost at this moment. But according to the eternal covenants of God's grace, Noah was covered by the righteousness of God even when the product of his sinful nature was most clearly visible in all its folly.

10.6 He could have said with David, "I was < stupid and ignorant, I was like a beast toward thee" (Psa 73:22).

Psa 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

10.7 In the New Testament record there is no breath of any of this scandal: God who remembers His covenants also paid for man's sins. Noah is listed among the heroes of faith, and is counted as "an heir of righteousness" (Heb 11:7).

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

10.8 Just as Jonah was given a great task to do after his attempted flight from the will of God, so Noah was given a new opportunity to be the mouth piece of God. The circumstances of his sin are made the framework of the proph ¹/₄ecy which God speaks through him.

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

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

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

Gen 9:28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

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

11. Verses 25-29 Ham and his descendants are cursed ... Shem and Japheth are blessed.

11.1 The man who was drunk with wine is now filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18). He is now covered with the garment of prophecy and speaks forth the Word of God by foretelling the general nature and performance of each son's descendants.

Eph 5:18 Be ye not drunk with wine but be ye filled with the Spirit.

11.2 It is necessary to right a great wrong at this point. Never in all history, 1/2 until the middle of the nineteenth century, did anyone imagine that Ham was the father of the Negro peoples and that there was a curse upon him. Prejudiced souls who wished to justify their investments in human flesh resorted to any subterfuge to bolster their position regarding slavery.

11.3 Any attempt to make only black skinned people the fulfillment of this curse is unscholarly, and certainly without basis in the Bible.

11.4 Significant of course is verse twenty-six "blessed be the Lord God of Shem."

11.5 The blessing is not upon Shem, but upon the God of Shem. Nothing can take root in man. It is the God of Shem who will bring forth Christ from Shem. From Israel, more particularly the Tribe of Judah came the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

12. Let me summarize the life of Noah before proceeding with chapter ten.

13. Noah was the last of the antediluvian patriarchs.

14. When Noah was 480 years old, God announced a 120- ...year period of final probation and soon after this he was given the blueprint for the ark.

15. With half a millennium of experience, Noah was doubtless well qualified for such a task; but the important qualifications were spiritual: "Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah ... a righteous man, and perfect in his generations ...

16. In spite of the difficulty of imagining rain and floods ("things not seen as yet," Heb 11:7; compared with Gen 2:5), and enduring the scoffing of his contemporaries (cf. 2Pe 3:4-6), Noah "by faith ... moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; through which he condemned the world.

17. While "the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing" (1Pe 3:20, ASV), the great patriarch, as a "preacher of righteousness" (2Pe 2:5), was no doubt constantly explaining the terrifying significance of his project to "the world of the ungodly" that surrounded him.

18. Civilization was probably sufficiently advanced at that time to enable the news of Noah's activities to spread to men all over the globe.

End Lesson