

In the Beginning

Studies in the Book of Genesis

WEEK TWELVE – NOAHIC COVENANT 8:20-9:17

Genesis 8:20-22 The sacrifice

Genesis 9:1-17 The Noahic Covenant

Genesis 9:1-7 Man's part of the covenant

1. **Genesis 9:1, 7** Be Fruitful and multiply, replenish the earth
2. **Genesis 9:2-3** Dread of humans on animals, all animals for food
3. **Genesis 9:4** Prohibition against eating blood (cf. Leviticus 17:10-14)
4. **Genesis 9:5-6** Prohibition against murder and against death by animal (cf. Exodus 20:13, 21:12,14-15, 28-29)

Genesis 9:11-17 God's part of the covenant

1. **Genesis 9:8-10** Scope of the covenant – more discussion below
2. **Genesis 9:11, 15** God will not destroy the earth by flood again
3. **Genesis 9:12-14, 16** The sign of the rainbow
Note: The newness of the rainbow pairs with the absence of rain in Genesis 2:5-6 to argue the antediluvian existence of an ice/vapor canopy
4. **Genesis 9:17** God concludes the covenant

Genesis 9:8-10 The scope of the covenant

Handout: Dispensations

The big question is does the covenant scope apply to the preceding 7 verses?

1. **Yes** – By context of single instance of communication starting with Noah's sacrifice in Genesis 8:20, and the absence of any delineation of scope between sections 8:21-9:7 and Genesis 9:11-17 – the only possible distinction being 9:1 which is the identification of the addressee and is repeated in 9:8.
2. **Yes** – By reiteration of the commandant to the Gentile believers in Acts 15:18-20, 28-29 in the context of not requiring them to obey the Law of Moses, esp. circumcision
 - a. Meats offered to idols – matter of faith, identity as Christians
 - b. **Blood and things strangled** (blood not drained before eating) – Note no other dietary laws referenced at all.
 - c. Fornication – matters of temple prostitutes, severe immorality issues

Conclusion: The New Covenant in Jesus Christ's blood pays for sin with His blood, so by faith we are free from the penalty of sin, but dispensationally, the commands of God to Noah and his descendants (Genesis 9:9-10) is still respected by the Apostles in Acts 15 as valid as they acknowledge the invalidity of the dispensation of the Law.

NEXT WEEK: SKIP SEPT 29, THEN OCT 6: TOWER OF BABEL 9:18-11:26 – LIFE OF ABRAHAM