

**The New
Beginning**
Genesis 9

How to use this Scripture Engagement



Pray to Begin

Before you start each lesson, ask the Lord to use it to grow you in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Read the Bible passage

Invite God to open your eyes and deepen your understanding of His Word as you read the passage.



Study the Scripture Engagement Guide

Go through the Scripture Engagement study provided to reflect on the meaning, context, and personal application of the passage you've read.



Reflect on the Scripture Engagement Questions

After every teaching, consider the Scripture Engagement questions listed for personal reflection and application and for your small group discussions.



Listen to Dr. J. Vernon McGee's Teaching

If you'd like to hear the complete audio teaching on the passage, visit ttb.bible or scan the QR code on the last page to download the THRU the BIBLE app in your own language.



Use our recommended **pause and resume icon**. This will guide you to move through the content thoughtfully and at your own rhythm.

For your consideration

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The New Beginning

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for being a covenant keeping God.
Teach us to honor You with our lives, to value every
life as made in Your image, and to walk in the
blessing and responsibility You've given us. May we
live under Your promises with reverence, gratitude,
and trust.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Life after Judgment



Genesis 9:1-5



"When God made the covenant with
Noah, He made it with you and me, for
He made it with all mankind."

-Dr. J. Vernon McGee



Spiritual Truths

God Repeats His Creation Blessing

"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." (v.1)

God begins with **renewal**, not rules. He has a heart for life to thrive after judgment.

Just as He said to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28, He tells Noah's family to start again.

Man's Relationship with Animals Changes

"And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast..." (v.2)

Prior to the fall, animals did not fear man. After the flood a **protective boundary** is placed between mankind and animals, instilling respect and order in a fallen world.

God Permits the Eating of Meat

"Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you." (v.3)

God adds meat to man's initial diet (Genesis 1:29). This marks a transition in how humans relate to creation.



The Life is in the Blood

"But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood." (v.4)

God introduces a **sacred view of blood**.

Blood represents life and belongs to God (Leviticus 17:11). Even with new freedoms, **reverence for life remains essential**.



Reflection

Question 1

How does “*be fruitful and multiply*” reveal God’s desire for life to thrive even after judgment? What does it mean to you?

Question 2

Are there areas in your life where you're still carrying the weight of past judgment, instead of embracing the fresh start God has given you?



Application

Question 3

Write one way that you can reflect God in your words or actions, showing others what it means to live under His rule.

Draw your Application



God's Universal Covenant



Genesis 9:6-10



Spiritual Truths

God Institutes Moral Government

The passage shows **a shift from the previous dispensation** of conscience to the dispensation of human government.

Humanity is now accountable to **uphold justice and preserve life**. Civil authority becomes necessary in a fallen world.

Justice for Human Life

“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.” (v.6) This is the foundation of human government.

God grants man the responsibility to uphold justice, especially in protecting life. **Human life is sacred because every person bears God’s image**. To attack human life is to attack the divine image within it.

A Covenant with All Generations

“I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you...” (v.9)

This promise isn’t limited to Noah, it’s for the **entire human race**. Every human being, from every background, is included in this **divine agreement**.

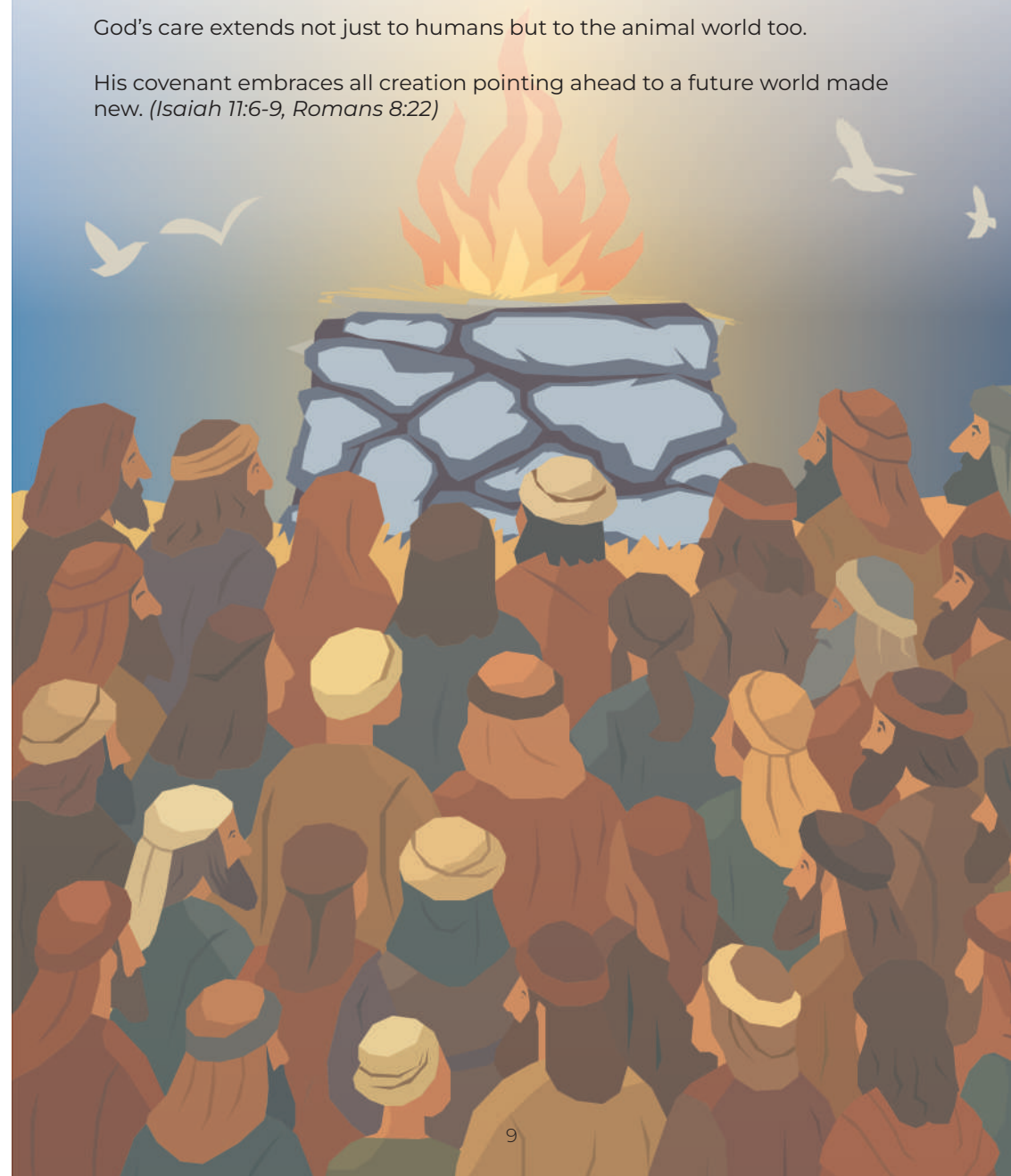
It is a binding declaration of **God’s commitment** to human life on earth.

A Covenant with All Living Creatures

And with every living creature that is with you...” (v.10)

God’s care extends not just to humans but to the animal world too.

His covenant embraces all creation pointing ahead to a future world made new. (*Isaiah 11:6-9, Romans 8:22*)





Reflection

Question 1

Are you actively honoring life by standing for justice, defending the vulnerable, and treating every person with dignity?

Question 2

“Every person bears God’s image.” Does this mean we all have equal value in this world?

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Application

Question 3

How does knowing that every person is made in God's image change the way you view and treat others?

Is there someone who you find hard to love? How can you show them love, knowing that they are made in God's image.

Draw your Application



The Rainbow



Genesis 9:11-17



Spiritual Truths

No more Destruction by Water

“Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood...” (v.11). God declares that **universal judgment by a flood** will never happen again.

Though **the earth was destroyed due to human wickedness** (Genesis 6), this covenant assures us of God’s mercy and restraint.

Future judgment, as 2 Peter 3:7 affirms, **will come by fire** - not water.

The Rainbow is a Covenant Sign

The rainbow is not just a natural phenomenon, it is God’s chosen symbol, sign of His promise to all generations and all creatures.

Like a **sacrament**, it is a visible sign with spiritual meaning attached to God’s Word. points to **grace in the midst of judgment**.



The rainbow is God's reminder to Himself and reassurance to us that mercy triumphs over judgment.

God Looks Upon the Sign

“The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it...” (v.16)

God did not say you will see it, but He will. The covenant is not based on human memory but **God’s faithfulness**.

Each time the rainbow appears, it is a reminder to God and an encouragement to us that **He keeps His promises**.

A Sign Answering Noah’s Altar

The rainbow is **God’s answer to Noah’s altar** (Genesis 8:20).

Just as Noah worshipped with sacrifice, God responded with **a sign of peace**. It’s a reminder that **grace follows obedience and worship**.



Key Insights

Sign + Word = Assurance

The rainbow, like sacraments (passover, baptism, communion), is meaningful **only when joined with God’s Word**.

It teaches us that **faith doesn’t rest in the sign itself**, but in **God who made the promise** behind it.



God’s eye of grace and our eye of faith meet in the sacraments.

~ Johann Peter Lange





Reflection

Question 1

When you see a rainbow, do you remember God's mercy or do you take His promises for granted?

Question 2

In the same way that Noah worshiped, how are you offering your life back to God today?



Application

Question 3

Are you living with gratitude when each day? Do you see God's covenant of faithfulness in the everyday ordinary, like the sunrise every morning?

Draw your Application



The Sin of Noah, and His Sons



Genesis 9:18-29



Spiritual Truths

Even the Righteous Fall

“And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.” (v.20-21)



Noah, a man of faith who walked with God and survived the Flood, falls into sin. **The judgement of sin did not perish with the flood**, it survived in the human heart.

This shows that **human nature was not cleansed by judgment**.

Salvation would have to **come through grace, not punishment**.



Why does the Bible record Noah's sin?

Because God's Word tells the **truth about human weakness**, even in heroes of the faith. *Romans 15:4* says, "For whatever things were written before, were written for our learning..."

Just as Noah fell after great spiritual victory, we too can fall if we walk in the flesh. This story is a warning that great spiritual victories don't guarantee future faithfulness. As Jesus said, "**The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**" (*Matthew 26:41*)

Galatians 2:16 reinforces the truth that no one is justified by works or performance. Noah's story exemplifies grace overcoming failure.

Noah Didn't Lose His Salvation

Noah's sin did not disqualify him from God's grace. He sinned, but he was still a **man of faith** (*Hebrews 11:7*). Salvation is not based on flawless performance but on the unchanging grace of God.

We must not confuse the consequences of sin with the loss of salvation. Noah faced shame, but God's covenant still remained.

Covering, Not Exposing

“And Ham..., saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth..., went backward and covered the nakedness of their father.” (v.22-23)

Ham dishonored Noah, possibly mocking him. In contrast, Shem and Japheth protected their father's dignity by covering him. This reveals to us an important truth: **how we respond to the failures of others reveals the condition of our own hearts.** *1 Peter 4:8* reminds us, “Love will cover a multitude of sins”, but mockery, on the other hand, exposes.



Key Insights

Choose Honor: In a world that delights in exposing faults, show biblical love like Shem and Japheth. **Protect and restore**, not mock and spread.

Sin doesn't End with a New Beginning: The passage reminds us of the **fall of Adam**. Even after the judgment of the Flood, mankind's sinful nature remained. **A fresh start doesn't fix the condition of the heart.**

Watch your legacy: The sins you ignore or perpetuate can impact your children's future. Break the cycles of dishonor early.

Prophecy for Shem, Japheth, and Canaan:

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem” (v.26). From Shem’s line would come **Abraham, Israel, and ultimately Christ**.

“May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem” (v.27). This gives a picture of **Gentile nations** sharing in the blessings of Shem, possibly foreshadowing the Gospel reaching all peoples including the Gentiles.

“And may Canaan be his servant” (v.26, 27). A prediction of Canaan’s eventual defeat, especially during the **conquest of Canaan under Joshua**.

These blessings and curses were part of the Noahic covenant. They shaped biblical history, especially Israel’s relationship to surrounding nations.

Fun Fact

Noah lived **350** years after the flood, to the age of **950**.
(v.28-29)



“A new world doesn’t mean a new heart. Only grace can do what judgment could not.”

”

“And Ham..., saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth..., went backward and covered the nakedness of their father.” (v.22-23)





Reflection

Question 1

What does Noah's fall teach us about the danger of spiritual complacency, even after seasons of victory and blessing?

Question 2

How does this passage reveal the true condition of the human heart and our constant need for grace? Have I misunderstood grace, thinking God's love depends on perfect behavior?



Application

Question 3

How do I respond when someone in my family or church fails? Think of God honoring ways to cover them in love and gently restore, remembering that God calls us to honor, not expose.

Draw your Application



Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

McGee's Quote



“ The Bible doesn’t flatter its heroes; it reveals their flaws so we can find grace.



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