



Genesis – Chapter 9:1-9:18
God's Covenant with Man Following the Flood
(Lesson #17)

Before we get to our lesson, I want to provide a quick overview and maybe advance the story of the last three weeks. Over the last three weeks, I have been building the case from the scriptures and science that the global catastrophe (in particular the fountains of the great deep bursting forth) and everything that followed that event, was much worse than anything you and I had previously considered or imagined!

If you go back to where we started, I speculated, based on scriptures and science that the preflood world was likely one large super continent, with much smaller oceans, smaller mountains, much more lush vegetation, and possibly had a water, water vapor, or ice canopy (again we saw that on day two of creation).

As we **peek outside the Bible** for just a moment, let me show you some of the things we see. Let's start with our **atmosphere**.

Taken from *World Magazine*: *"However, if the atmosphere's oxygen level was greater in the past, as scientist believe it was (31 percent to 35 percent compared to today's 21 percent oxygen rate), the tracheal tubes may have been able to support larger bodies while remaining relatively small."*

This next article is taken from *New Scientist*: *"The earth's atmosphere contained about 50% more oxygen than it does now."* Further by analyzing air trapped in amber: *"They found that it (the atmosphere) was 32% oxygen, compared with 21% in the modern atmosphere."*

Research done by **Thaxton and Bradley**: *"The only trend in the recent literature is the suggestion of far more oxygen in the early atmosphere than anyone imagined."*

National Geographic Online: *"The leading theory is that ancient bugs got big because they benefited from a surplus of oxygen in Earth's atmosphere. But a new study suggests it's possible to get too much of a good thing: Young insects had to grow larger to avoid oxygen poisoning."*

Bottom line, the atmosphere conditions were much different on the earth, and the Bible predicts that based on the creation and the flood.

These reasons, are at least part of the reasons man (and likely animals) lifespans changed so much.

We then moved on, away from just the surface of the planet and talk about the design of the preflood world as it relates to subterranean water chambers. Water located in inter-connected departments below the crust.

We saw this at day three of creation when God gathered the waters together in one place so that dry land appeared, we saw the idea that the earth was founded or established on the waters is taught in multiple places in the Bible.

I built the case that it was these waters that were the source of at least half of the water that God would cover this planet with.

We walked through how failure in the crust would have possibly begun as a microscopic crack that was either initiated due to the pressure in the subterranean water chambers exceeding the sheer strength of the overlying crust or for some other reason that was initiated by God.

This fracture formed in the subterranean caverns and traveled up through the crust to the surface. That fracture would have cut through the rock and then once arriving at the surface, the tear would begin to travel (propagate) in both directions, finding the path of least resistance and traveling around the globe at the speed of sound in granite, about 2 miles a second. It would have traveled around the globe in less than 3 hours.

Two things I want to highlight:

- 1) The mid-ocean ridge, that underwater mountain range that runs around our planet like the seam on a baseball is one of the pieces of evidence of this global catastrophe!
- 2) The destructive power of water under pressure!

It is the fountains of the great deep that are the genesis for the catastrophe. I walked through how this event would have not only created the catastrophic plate tectonics that has resulted the continental configuration we see today, but it would have been the source of most of the fossils we see today as well as the oil, natural gas, and coal reserves we find today on our planet.

For a second, I want to talk about coal. As most, if not all of you know, coal is an organic (plant material) that was rapidly buried in the presence of water, we can recreate coal formation in the laboratory.

It was during the global flood that massive amounts of vegetation were uprooted, then through tidal and water flow effects transported, ultimately being deposited, and buried in pockets, creating the coal seams that we find today.

Some of these pockets are massive and defy evolutionary explanations. In fact, other than a global event that could collect and then deposit this organic material into massive seams their existence remains inexplicable.

Another **enigma** are the multiple fossil graveyards we find on our planet.

One of the most fascinating fossil graveyards is the **Ashley Fossil Beds in South Carolina**. It is an enormous phosphate graveyard that contains mixed remains of man with land and sea animals, notably dinosaurs, plesiosaurs (aquatic dinosaur), whales, sharks, rhinos, horses, mastodons, mammoths, porpoises, elephants, deer, pigs, dogs, and sheep. This catalogue of fossils from the phosphate beds was given in the records of Major Edward Willis who displayed them at multiple expositions. In his book, "Fossils and Phosphate Specimens," **1881**, Professor F.S. Holmes (paleontologist and curator of the College of Charleston's Natural History Museum) described the fossil graveyard in a report to the Academy of Natural Sciences: "*Remains of the hog, the horse and other animals of recent date, together with human bones mingled with the bones of the mastodon and extinct gigantic lizards.*"

The beds scream catastrophe of unparalleled magnitude with animals that were torn apart, obviously by water and then buried.

In **Agate Springs, Nebraska** a fossil graveyard of around 9,000 animals was found buried in rocks deposited by water (sedimentary). The remains of hundreds of rhinos, three-toed horses, camels, giant wild boars, birds, plants, trees, sea shells and fish are mixed and intermingled in great confusion.

Another massive repository of fossils is found in **South Africa**. We can only speculate how many creatures are contained in this graveyard. One mind-boggling analysis comes from **Richard Milner** in his book *“The Encyclopedia of Evolution: Humanity’s Search for Its Origins. “The Karoo formation in South Africa alone contains fossil remains of about 800 billion animals.”*

Here is my point, only a catastrophe operating on the scale of the Genesis flood would be sufficient to account for these graveyards!

But there are other things we see in the fossil record that point to a catastrophe that required rapid burial.

9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. 7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 ¶ And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." 18 The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)

Vs 8 - Theologians call this the **Noahic covenant**. Now you may not have realize it, but you were already introduced to a few components of the Noahic covenant last week.

We touched upon them, but now we need to tie them in. So let’s step back and pick them up to tie them together with the covenant.

The first component: *9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.*

God is reminding Noah of the institution that God established in the garden, namely the institution of marriage with the goal of procreation.

God once again, as part of the Noahic covenant, blesses the one-man and one-woman marriage union.

The second component: *9:4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.*

Long before the Mosaic law, as part of the Noahic covenant, man was commanded not to consume blood.

This did not come with Moses, this came with Noah.

The third component: *9:5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.*

The command that man is not to murder man.

Now this will be better informed in time to exempt accidental killing and to allow military service, but here as part of the Noahic covenant man is not to murder fellow man.

Notice if man does murder man, fellow man is to execute God's justice.

The murder's life is to be taken by another man.

Theologians believe that this is the first clue of God's establishment of government, whereby men will govern themselves and punish by death, those who murder a fellow man.

Now maybe you are thinking Rich, that does not sound like government, now that I hear you read it again it sound like **vigilante rule**.

If someone kills someone, some other **man goes and kills him**.

Again, theologians believe this is the earliest hint of human government as it is established for the punishing of evildoers. Remember how Paul explained it in Romans 13:

"1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer." (Ro 13:1-4 ESV)

The government is the "**servant of God**" an "**avenger**" who carries out "**God's wrath**" on the wrongdoer!

These laws will develop and deepen over time, but I want you to catch what God has done here.

The three elements of God's covenant, that He commands of man:

- 1) Marriage
- 2) Do not consume blood
- 3) Man is not to murder
 - a. Capital punishment

b. Government

Vs 8 - Notice when God speaks this time He is not just speaking to Noah. The Bible is clear, God is speaking to Noah and (Shem, Ham, and Japheth).

Vs 9-10 - As I mentioned when we were there in Genesis 6, God established a covenant with Noah. I told you that would come back around in Genesis 9.

Here it is the **second use** of this Hebrew word “**covenant**” in the Old Testament. The Hebrew word is **ברית (b'riyth)**. It is use over 280 times in the Old Testament.

It will be used again in verses 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17!

Notice who this covenant is ultimately made with: You, your offspring after you, every living creature with you, birds livestock, every best of the earth.

Vs 11 - Here it is the **third use** of this Hebrew word “**covenant**” in the Old Testament.

Here God enters into a **covenant** with Noah, his immediate family, and his offspring (you and I). But it is also with all the living creatures, it is with all the beasts of the earth.

As we will see this covenant is an **unconditional covenant**.

God is going to set limits on Himself regardless of how man responds.

We saw three things that God commanded man, but this covenant is not conditioned upon man’s obedience. Now many covenants (indeed most) are conditioned upon obedience, but not this one.

God is going to do, what He said he is going to do. **PERIOD**.

Let’s look at the **First and Second Promises, the Fourth and Fifth Components**:

- 1) God will never again, send a flood to **cut off all flesh**.
 - a. If the flood was **local** God has broken this covenant!
- 2) God will never again, send the flood waters to **destroy the earth**.

Did you catch that second one, never again, **destroy the earth**.

Now, we know that one day God will judge the world, but He will never again send a global deluge.

Now maybe you are thinking, God did not really destroy the earth, listen to how Peter explained the global flood:

“5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 ¶ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 ¶ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away

with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.” (2Pe 3:5-10 ESV)

But man’s following through with his obligations, or not, will not change God’s promises, this is an unconditional covenant **made with all mankind**.

Vs 12 - God speaks again, and provides a **sign** of His unconditional covenant between man and every living creature for future generations.

This particular Hebrew word has been used two other times now, the Hebrew word is **אוֹת** (**‘owth**). It means **sign, token, or mark**.

This word was also used:

“And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years," (Ge 1:14 ESV)

“Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.” (Ge 4:15 ESV)

Here the rainbow will serve as a sign, as a banner, as a token. That God will never destroy man, God will never destroy the planet again, with a flood of waters.

This sign is also for all **“future generations.”** A promise that God will never do this again.

This is a promise to you and I.

When the global flood is rejected the **significance** of this sign is erased!

Vs 13 - The **rainbow** will be the sign of the **covenant**.

Notice this covenant is between **God and all the earth!**

Now, for those who believe there was a canopy, they might say, see this new thing (rainbow) now that there is no canopy, is to serve as the sign.

The rainbow is to be the sign, but that does **not necessarily mean** that the rainbow did not exist before. But I would tend to think, it seems more likely, that the rainbow was a **NEW** thing.

If I had to vote one way or the other, I would lean towards the existence of canopy, but by no means is there a necessity for the canopy.

As you think about this a few things should catch your attention:

- 1) The covenant, that God will never again do what he did here when he wiped out, when he blotted out everything on the planet that had the breath of life, is a big deal with God. He will mention it 8 times. In fact 7 times in these 9 verses.
- 2) It will remind God, the God who needs no reminding. Again, anthropomorphic language.
- 3) It is an “everlasting covenant.” It is perpetual in nature, and it is not conditioned on anything we do.

- 4) The promise never again to “flood the earth” with water.
 - a. If this is a local flood God has lied
- 5) We rarely talk about this covenant. Yet this covenant was made with all mankind. This covenant is where we get the idea that man is not to murder, this covenant is where we get the idea that there is to be a government established to enforce laws. This covenant is where God reiterates marriage.

It is this covenant, where God says, early on, man is not to consume blood...

- 6) It is interesting to consider that it is the rainbow that has been hijacked by the LGBTQ++ community.

Vs 16 - Everlasting covenant.

Between God and every living creature

Between God and all flesh that is on the earth!

God will see the rainbow and it will serve as a reminder that regardless of what man does, regardless of how God is offended, God will not take this step again. God wants you and I to catch the most important lesson.

APPLICATION: Even wiping out all unrighteous people, regardless of how large that number may be, and leaving it just to the people who follow God by faith, does not fix the problem!

Vs 17 - Again, this is the covenant between God and all flesh.

Now when we see clouds forming and a rainbow, I am not sure of how much we think beyond, wow isn't that a beautiful rainbow.

When the storm clouds formed what do you think went through the minds of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with their wives?

Yes, something totally different. For them, the reminder that God would never do that again.

You can imagine, they worshipped God when they saw the bow in the clouds!

Notice God said to Noah: **this is the sign**, again it would seem, at least on the face, that the rainbow had never happened before, but we **cannot be dogmatic** about this.

As you think about this, if the ark delivered the 8, yet did not changed their heart, what can God do to ensure the planet does not once again sink back into chaos and lawlessness.

The answer, until the **Lord's final return**, He will ordain and establish human government, a gift of God, given by God, to punish evil-doers and to be a **stabilizing force** in society to **hold back, hold in check**, the **widespread lawlessness** we saw in the Pre-flood days.

It does not “fix” the heart, but it restrains sin until the one who does fix the human heart comes! When He comes, men and women can be “born again” that has the ability to completely change their behavior.

The rainbow appears only three more times in scriptures:

- 1) The first is Eze 1:28 where it is connected with the glory of God. This could be a reference to His throne.
- 2) The second is Rev 4:2-3 where it is connected to the throne of God:

"2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald." (Re 4:2-3 ESV)

3) Then finally, we see it again:

"1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded." (Re 10:1-3 ESV)

Instead of a crown of thorns, this mighty angel, the Lord Jesus Himself, is wearing "the rainbow." The definite article is used to describe this bow on his head.

Now it is possible that this "mighty angel" is just some angel. But when you read the description, it appears this mighty angel, this mighty messenger is the Lord of glory Himself. Wrapped in a cloud, face like the sun, legs like pillars of fire, roars like a lion.

The token of the everlasting covenant that God made with Noah, with his offspring after him (vs 8), with every living creature (vs 12), with the earth (vs 12) and with all flesh that is on the earth (vs 17) is here portrayed on the head of the King of glory!

Vs 18 – Noah and his sons leave the ark, of course with their wives.

And almost in passing we are told that Ham was the father of Canaan.

Now at first this seems weird and out of place, why Ham and why the Canaanites.

We will see this point develop, but the flood has ended, and with it our discussion of the flood ends as well. There is much more that can be said, but we will now pick up (next week) with sins that happens after coming off the ark.

Reminding you and I that getting it down to 8 good people did not fix the problem with the human heart, in fact, it highlighted how desperate the problem is for you and I.

You see if we go back to our Romans study:

"10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."" (Ro 3:10-18 ESV)

And it reminds us of the promise that is still open at this time:

"14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."" (Ge 3:14-15 ESV)
