

## NOTES

April 30, 2017

### The Rainbow - God's Promise

#### Genesis 9: 1-17

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup>The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. <sup>3</sup>Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. <sup>4</sup>Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. <sup>5</sup>Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man’s brother I will require the life of man. <sup>6</sup>“Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man. <sup>7</sup>“As for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.” <sup>8</sup>Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, <sup>9</sup>“Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup>I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; <sup>13</sup>I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, <sup>15</sup>and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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## Discussion Questions

### Genesis 9: 1-17

1. In verses 1-7 we see God reaffirming His earlier command (Genesis 1: 28) to “**be fruitful, and multiply.**” He goes on to provide not only plant food, but also animal food for human beings. Finally, in this section, God makes a very specific statement (in poetic form) of the value of human life. In verse 6 God commands that man is to shed the blood of those who shed human life (today we call this capital punishment). **What is the given reason for this severe punishment?** Hint: look at the remainder of verse 6. The section ends with yet another command to multiply and populate the earth (life affirming). **How do we coordinate the teachings of our God who taught the value of life and then commands the taking of life for murder?** Use Scriptures, e.g. John 8: 1-11; John 19: 10-11; Romans 13:4.

2. **Do you think we should practice capital punishment today?** Christians are divided on this issue. Support your claim with Scripture.

3. **What is the significance of the rainbow (verses 8-17)?** Compare Ezekiel 1:28; Revelation 4:5; Revelation 10:1. **What parallels can be found in the rainbow and the cross?** Check out John 3:14-17; Romans 8:1; Ephesians 2:1-7

4. **How would you respond to a friend who told you that the rainbow is a symbol of equality for all people, rather than a sign of God’s promise?** Be thoughtful, and (as always) use Scripture.

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