



Genesis 9:1-29

PROMISE ACCORDING TO GOD

The rainbow is indeed a phenomenon that may be accounted for by natural laws, but the laws of nature are truly the appointment of God and it is just in its conformity to natural law that the rainbow is a pledge that the order of nature shall continue. And is there not to every law of nature a background pointing to the mysteries of the Divine nature and will? The label of the rainbow is sufficiently legible. Shining upon a dark ground, it represents the victory of the light of love over the fiery darkness of wrath. Originating from the effect of the sun upon a dark cloud, it typifies the willingness of the heavenly to penetrate the earthly. Stretched between heaven and earth, it is a bond of peace between both, and, spanning the horizon, it points to the all-embracing universality of the Divine mercy.
—Franz Delitzsch (1813-90)

Something is wrong with our world. Something is wrong with us. Impacted by sin, selfishness, stubbornness, rebellion, violence, and death, we are a people and a planet deserving of God’s judgment. Yet God continues to show His love and mercy to us and gives all of creation the hope and promise of redemption. This is the wonder of the rainbow—even in the darkest clouds and storms of life, the powerful, beautiful, multi-colored glory of God’s grace still shines.

THE NEW OLD WORLD (9:1-7)

Noah is presented as a “second Adam” after the Flood. The earth is new, cleansed, different ... but still subject to the problems of sin.

- God _____ Noah and his sons (cf. 1:28).
- God puts the _____ of humans into the animals.
- God gives the animals as _____ to humanity.
- God establishes human _____ for the protection of human life (cf. Romans 13:1-5).

*Whoever sheds the blood of man,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God,
He made man.*

THE SAME GOOD GOD (9:8-17)

God establishes the Noachic Covenant in Genesis 9:8-17.

- **Its Nature:** _____

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
—Dolly Parton

Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms.
—C. S. Lewis

If it were otherwise, the animals, since they would be multiplying much more rapidly than man, might quickly have exterminated mankind.
—Henry M. Morris

The ban on bloodshed suggests murder was the endemic vice of the antediluvians.
—Robert Alter

Capital punishment is founded on the truth that all human beings bear the image of God, setting them apart from the rest of the living creatures.
—Bruce Waltke

Gen 9:5 emphasizes God’s place as plaintiff against the culprit—I will demand (3x). First and foremost, the taking of human life is offense against God: the “accounting” is a divine initiative and requirement.
—Kenneth A. Mathews

No one can injure his brother without wounding God himself.
—John Calvin

- **Its Beneficiaries:** Noah, his descendants, every living creature, and the _____ itself (9:9-10, 12-13, 15-17)
- **Its Promise:** *Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood. Never again shall a flood destroy the earth. (9:11)*
- **Its Importance:** God's heart is toward _____.
- **Its Sign:**



THE CONTINUING BIG PROBLEM (9:18-29)

Noah was a *righteous man, blameless in his generations*, but he was also a man impacted by sin who had lapses in his walk with God.

- Noah's drunkenness.
- Ham's sin.
- Shem and Japheth's love.
- Noah's pronouncement.

*"Cursed be Canaan;
A servant of servants
He shall be to his brethren."*

*"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem,
And may Canaan be his servant."*

*May God enlarge Japheth,
And may he dwell in the tents of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant."*

- Noah's death.

Covenant. Heb, *berith*, "a solemn, binding agreement; a divine promise, often unilateral in nature."

This grand covenant is universal, unilateral, and unconditional... It encompasses not only every human being (good or evil) but every living creature on the planet.

—R. Kent Hughes

The relation of Creator to creature is no longer in the scheme of retribution. Because of God's heart, it is now based on unqualified grace.

—Walter Brueggemann

The rainbow arcs like a battle bow hung against the clouds. The bow is now 'put away,' hung in place by the clouds, suggesting that the 'battle,' the storm, is over. Thus the rainbow speaks of peace.

—Allen Ross

Voyeurism violates another's dignity and robs that one of his/her instinctive desire for privacy... It is a form of domination. Ham's is also perverse, for his is homosexual voyeurism. Worse yet, he dishonors his father whom he should have revered...and then increases the dishonor by proclaiming it to others.

—Bruce Waltke

The shameless sensuality of Ham, the modesty of Japheth and Shem, marked a difference in common morality.

—Howard Vos

The Canaanites were to suffer the curse and the bondage not because of the sins of Ham, but because they themselves acted like Ham, because of their own transgressions. Canaan's slavery is spiritual, not just political.

—Umberto Cassuto

We are Japhethites dwelling in the tents of Shem.

—Keil & Delitzsch