

Genesis 9:1-17

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[0:00] Genesis chapter 9 beginning at verse 1 says, And God bless Noah and his sons and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveeth upon the earth and upon all the fishes of the sea, into your hand are they delivered.

Every moving thing that liveth shall be meet for you, even as the green herb have I given you all things, but flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

And surely your blood of your lives will I require at the hand of every beast, will I require it, and at the hand of man. At the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of a man.

Whoso shetteth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God made he man.

[1:04] And you be fruitful and multiply, bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply therein.

And God spake unto Noah and to his sons with him, saying, And I behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you, and with every living creature that is with you of the fowl, of the cattle, of every beast of the earth with you, from all that go out of the ark to every beast of the earth.

And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood. Neither shall there be any more be a...

I'm sorry, let me restart that one. Neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood, and neither shall there be any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

And God said, this is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations.

I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

And it shall come to pass when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, and I will remember my covenant which is between me and you, and every living creature of all flesh.

[2:27] And the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud, and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God, and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, this is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth. I know that was a lot of reading, I appreciate your patience.

But what we have here is, as we've already said, and kind of the introduction, if you'd like to call it that, the ark has been parked in the mountains of Ararat.

Noah has made his burnt offerings, God has recognized those burnt offerings, made a promise within his heart that he would not kill the earth again in such a manner.

He would not flood the earth to kill every living creature, not just the humans, but everything that creeps, everything that crawls, and everything that walks upon the earth. But he gives commandment in Genesis chapter 9 and verse 1.

[3:32] He gives commandment unto Noah. He tells him to go forth and to multiply, not only Noah and his wife, but Noah's three sons and their wives.

But it says that God blessed them. Folks, God had blessed them before any of this had ever happened. He had blessed his family by giving Noah the instructions that he did, by giving Noah the warning that he did, by not only allowing them the knowledge of what was going to happen, but allowing them the strength, allowing them to know how, and allowing them everything else that he did, allowing them the grace to do everything that they did to escape this flood.

And now, God said, the Bible says, God blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them, be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. This same word for replenish is found over in Genesis 1, when God told Adam and Eve to replenish the earth, it simply means to fill the earth.

It simply means fill the earth with your kind, fill the earth with the likeness of your kind, the same way that the animals would fill the earth with their kind.

Folks, you cannot make a dog and a dog and come up with a cat. You can make a horse and a horse and come up with a rooster. It will not happen.

[4 : 56] God told Adam to replenish the earth, fill the earth with your kind, fill it with humans for my glory, for my good. It's the whole purpose of the human population, it's to bring glory unto the maker.

And God told them to replenish the earth and told them to be fruitful and to multiply, replenish the earth. And he told them, in the fear of you and the dread of you, shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveeth upon the earth and upon all the fishes of the sea, into your hand are they delivered.

He was giving Noah a promise here. He said, hey, you need to get off this boat or you're off of this boat, I'm sorry. You need to go for, multiply, but here's even better news.

I'm getting under you, every beast of the field, every fowl of the air, every fish of the sea. They're there for your taking, they're there for your use.

Hey, God, don't just throw us out here and let us roam around not knowing what to do. God makes a way for us. This was not only a way for Noah's fear to be made smaller, for Noah's fear to be evaded.

[6 : 14] This was a way that God was taking care of Noah and his wife and his sons and his daughter-in-laws. It was a way that God was planning to nourish them while they were going forth, doing his work to replenish the earth.

God does the same for us. God does not give us a commandment. Anywhere in the scripture that he will not give us the grace to fulfill.

That he will not give us the ability to fulfill. But some folks will argue that. They'll say, what about where the scripture says, be holy for I am holy? Because men can't be holy, I beg to differ.

We can be holy. The only way that we can be holy is by Jesus Christ. The only way that we can be seen as holy or seen as righteous or seen as clean for that matter is with the blood of Jesus Christ. When it washes away our sins and when God performs a miracle in our life and saves our soul, then are we made holy. Then are we made righteous and not before them.

[7 : 23] It's done then though. God will not give us a commandment, including to be holy, that we cannot fulfill by his grace. And we can't fulfill by something that God has instituted unto us.

No different than this bow that was promised over in the clouds folks. That's the main concentration. I wanna focus on the segment. There's a rainbow that was placed in the cloud.

He told Noah here, he said, this will be a token for this covenant that I've made. But folks we have to remember and we have to read here in the scriptures. He said, ah, even our ah, behold, ah, we'll do this thing.

I will make this covenant. And it's a covenant between me and you. But folks, just because God made the covenant, it was not dependent on whether Noah accepted that covenant or not.

It was all of God, completely of God. And Noah, not a great thing, the covenant Noah would have had no faith in the rainbow and the token of the covenant.

[8 : 27] If Noah had not had these things, God would have found somebody that did. But Noah had faith in building an altar in Genesis 8. It shows that he had faith.

It shows that he had fear. It shows that he had all of these reverences from the maker, all of these reverences that he had for almighty God. But Noah had these things, the folks as I said, as far as that token of the covenant goes, as far as seeing the bow in the cloud goes, that that was nothing more than a token.

That wasn't the promise itself. The promise was the word of God that he spoke. The word of God that he not only spoke within his heart at the end of Genesis 8, but the word of God that he spoke to Noah personally.

When he said, I will not do this again. I will not destroy the earth by blood again, folks. That was a promise of God. It was a covenant of God.

This was thousands of years ago and it has yet to be broken. It will not be broken. My God is a God of covenant and he will keep his part of the covenant.

[9:39] Regardless of whether we do or not, we will not and cannot tell our. He told Noah, so this is the token.

Said, I will establish my covenant, folks. I and my is reiterated by God a few different times in this passage of scripture. It is God's covenant.

And he said it is my covenant. I will establish this covenant, folks. And it's like the only time this happens in the scriptures. You fast forward just a little bit over into Exodus.

You read in Exodus 12, once the children of Israel are prepared to be delivered by God. Once he told him, he says, you'll take this land. You're gonna solder this land. You're gonna eat this land. You're gonna take the blood of this land. And you're gonna strike it up on the doorposts of your houses. And he says, I, even I will pass through each of this night. But when I see the blood, I will pass over you.

[10:38] I will pass over you, folks. That was a covenant that God made with the Israelites through Moses. And God came God on that covenant.

And even today, that covenant still stands true. Just not the blood of a lamb, not the blood of those particular lands, not a Passover lamb. It was a blood of the Lamb of God.

Not a land that God wanted them to literally eat. Literally eat, but a land that was sent. A land that was slain from the foundation of the world, the scripture said.

That's the land. That's the covenant land. That's the covenant of Almighty God, folks. We got covenants all through the scriptures. Those are the Davidic covenant. You rewind, pre-messengers, where we just were.

Go back to Genesis 15. You'll see an Abrahamic covenant that God made with Abraham. Abraham was upset. Abraham was a little discouraged. And he told God, he said, hey, I'm still without child, and you promised me a child.

[11:39] What's gonna be the token? What's gonna be the sign that you're gonna come through on this? And God told him, he said, take a heifer of three years. Take a ram of three years.

Take a she-yoke of three years. And a turtle dog and a pigeon and Abraham done these things. He divided them up except for the birds. But I've been sleep-falling on Abraham.

Oh, Abraham did not make that covenant with God. God made that covenant with Abraham. The scripture says that while that deep sleep was on Abraham, God came down in the form of a burning lamp and a smoking furnace.

And he's the one that passed through the sacrifice. Abraham never stepped through it. Abraham didn't make that covenant. God made it to Abraham. Folks, as far as the New Testament church is concerned, there's a covenant.

There's several covenants, but there's one man covenant. There's one man covenant, we find it in Romans chapter 10. That if we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, there are that we confess the Lord Jesus Christ.

[12:52] And we believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead, that he'll shout me, say, oh, that's a covenant from God. It's right there in God's word that that's the case.

So if we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, if we confess the Lord Jesus Christ, and we believe that God raised him from the dead on that third and appointed morning, God must save us because his word says that he will save us.

That's a covenant of God. Folks, this bow in the cloud, it was no different than that covenant. As far as God's faithfulness is concerned, it was a promise made to Noah.

Anytime Noah would look up, anytime it rained thereafter, and Noah could look up. And if he could see that bow somewhere, it would remind him of that promise of God.

But folks, that's not what God was concentrating on in this scripture. It wasn't whether or not Noah could see it. God said, when I read a cloud over the earth, I will see the bow and I will remember.

[13:59] It's not whether we can see the rainbow or not. Not whether we can remember the promise or not. It's whether God can remember or not. And I assure you that he can.

And I thank God for that. Because I forget a lot. Y'all don't know what got me on this. Couple of weeks ago, I guess, this is how we're going home from church.

And there had come a great big rain. Missy was looking around. He said, there's gotta be a rainbow. Gotta be. The rain had dissipated at that point.

But hey, when do you see the rainbow? And the rain stops. What makes a rainbow? There's all kinds of theories on it. Basically, it's the sunlight hitting the droplets of water. And it creates a prism effect. And that's what causes us to see it. And Missy was looking up the windows of the vehicle. She said, I can't see the rainbow. That's what got me thinking about this. [14:58] It don't matter if we can see it or not. It don't matter one eye out if we see it. God sees it. And the thing is, what creates clouds? What creates clouds is condensation, is it not?

It's water vapor that creates any cloud. You see whether it's white or whether it's a black storm cloud. It doesn't matter. It's water vapor that creates that. So when God said, when I bring the cloud over the earth, hey folks, we may not see that bowl from down here.

We may not see it above the white clouds that are up in the sky above our house, or out in our yard, or wherever we are. But God is forever above the earth. God is forever thrown up there.

He can see every bowl, see every cloud, and see everything. That is what matters. Not the fact whether or not we can see it. God can see it. And God does and will remember His covenant. Praise God for that. He remembers mainly though the covenant through Jesus Christ, the covenant that He made over and over throughout the Old Testament.

[16:02] And I preach it all the time. We go from G-tago, that's OK. There was a sea in Genesis 3 that was promised to bruise the head of the serpent. Most of it was the first messianic prophecy in the scripture.

Was that sea that was going to bruise the head of the serpent? And that promise that, hey, that was a covenant of God. And that covenant runs flawlessly through the scriptures.

It runs smoothly through the scriptures. And Noah believed in that. Moses believed in that. David believed in it. All the prophets believed in it. All these people believed in that.

But it came into full form when Jesus Christ walked this earth when He was born, when He preached in His ministry, when He died, and when He was resurrected.

Praise God, all that happened. But there's coming a day when the Satan will be loosed out of the bottomless pit after 1,000 years.

[16:58] God will squash Him all by Himself. He will need my help, or your help. He will squash Him. He will cast Him into hell where He belongs.

He might bruise the heel of the sea. Folks, He might bruise our heel. Folks, that's all He can do. He might hurt us just a little bit physically.

He might hurt us just a little bit. But my God has promised I'm going to bruise His head. Folks, that means the serpent will no longer be in play.

No longer will there be evil, folks, because that serpent's the very reason that evil came into the world. That serpent was the father of lies. Satan is the father of lies himself. He lied to Eve.

Not completely, he told her a half truth. But he lied to Eve when he convinced her to eat of that fruit. But God told him, He said, you're going to bruise the heels of the sea, but the sea is going to crush your head.

[18:00] And He said that He would eat the dust from the earth all the days of His life. Folks, that was a cursed late old Satan. You're going to come after my people.

You're going to nip at their heels. You might even bruise their heels. You might hurt them just a little bit here and there. But one of these days, your head's going to be crushed. Folks, here in Genesis chapter 9, there was an entire world from Genesis 6 through 8 that was killed.

But folks, in the midst of all that, in the midst of judgment, and that's all that flood was, it was judgment on sin. And folks, the evidence of that judgment was still around when Noah and his family stepped off of the earth.

The evidence of the judgment was still all around them. The only animals that were left on earth were those that were on the earth. The only other people that were on the earth were those that were left on the earth.

God's judgment was evident even as Noah performed the burnt offerings unto God. The judgment of God was evident. Folks, that showed Noah God's power.

[19:05] It showed Noah God's life. Showed Noah what God was capable of doing. And Noah revered that. He feared that, and he was faithful unto God.

My offering of burnt sacrifice, burnt offerings unto God. Now listen, you read the rest of this chapter. You'll see Noah wasn't perfect. We ain't going to preach that tonight. But you read about the last, I guess that'd be about a third of the chapter.

And you'll see Noah wasn't completely faithful. But that's a whole other sermon. Here, God says, the token of the covenant, which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for how long?

For a perpetual generation. Folks, the token that God made to bruise the head of the serpent was for perpetual generations.

The token that God made saying, I will send the deliverer. I will send a Messiah. I will send the perfect sacrifice. I will send someone.

[20 : 10] When God said these things, it was for perpetual generations. Meaning it was an everlasting covenant. It could not be broken, not because of who Noah was, not because Noah found grace in the eyes of God, but because the same God, the Noah found grace in the eyes of that God, give grace unto Noah.

That God was graceful. He was merciful to Noah and his family by saving them before the token here and the promise here for perpetual generations was not because of Noah.

It's because of that. It's who my God is. That is how my God works. That's how he acts. That's how he operates. When he does something, he does it right.

And it is forever. It was for perpetual generations. He says, I do set my bow in the cloud. It shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the folks.

These tokens all throughout the scripture. And then God told Abraham. That's where not long after God made the covenant with Abraham by walking through the midst of all those divided animals, it wasn't long after that that the circumcision came into them.

[21 : 28] God told Abraham. He said, this is a sign. This is a sign of the covenant. This is a sign that you are my people. He didn't say, this makes you my people.

He said, this is a sign. This is a token that you are my people. And folks, that's what the Jews in the days that Jesus roamed the earth, that's what the Jews were depending on.

They weren't depending on the covenant itself. They were depending on the sign of the covenant.

That's why you read so much about the circumcision in the New Testament.

That's why these Jews were concentrating on. That's what they were depending on. It was a physical act that they performed themselves, not on the act that God himself had performed and would perform in Jesus Christ.

That's what we got to defend. Folks, we can talk about it under our arm all day long, every day of the week. We can shout hallelujahs all day long, every day of the week. We can come in and sing songs.

[22 : 29] We can tell people about Jesus Christ. We can pray over our food before we eat. We can do all those things. But if we don't have faith in the one that we're praying to, if we don't have faith in the one that we're professing, if we don't have faith in the one that we're preaching or singing about, it is all for naught.

Because that's something that God did. That's a covenant that God made. Folks, I can preach to my lips turn blue. I can preach to every band talks on my head.

I can preach all day long, shout and scream, spit and slaughter. But folks, if I ain't got faith in the one that I'm preaching about, it is all for naught. It is all for nothing.

This bow and the cloud, yes, no one in his family could see it. Now listen, that scripture goes on further. That wasn't just a covenant that God made with no one in his family.

It's a every creature. He made it with the entire earth. The folks that bow was up in the heavens. It started in the clouds, but it descended on one side of the ground and on another side of the ground.

[23 : 37] Folks, that's exactly how the grace of God acts in our lives. It begins in the heavens. It descends from the heavens. And it is worldwide the grace of God right now in the sage of grace that we live in.

It is worldwide. We know that it is because God hasn't called the church out. We know that God hasn't destroyed it yet with fire as his promise.

We know that God is expending His grace upon the entire world. And that was another promise.

Another promise that was given in the Old Testament that came to be in the New Testament.

But just as this bow in the cloud, just as this bow, it begins up there. It goes across the heavens and it descends on the earth to all who are around.

But folks, we might have a rainbow, I don't know, 10 yards next to the church here. If I'm in Bluff City, I doubt I'll be able to see that.

[24 : 40] That doesn't mean it's not there. That doesn't mean it. Just because I can't feel the grace of God sometimes. And hey, we've all been in that boat. We've all been in that boat where we can't quite feel the spirit like we'd like to.

Like we can't feel grace like we'd like to. Like we're not experiencing mercy like we feel like we should. We've all been in that boat at some point in our lives. But that does not mean that God has ran out of it.

That doesn't mean that He has broke His covenant. Hey, God's mercy and God's grace. God's covenant is long-suffering and the blood of Jesus Christ was shed for all.

It is given to all for perpetual generations, for everyone that will take of it. Amen. Noah here, he had faith.

He had faith. Now, what was the purpose of all this? It was to show Noah, as we've already said, the power of God. The power of God was showing him the flood.

[25 : 36] Yep. Also, he showed Noah that, hey, God's got control over all this. Because he said, when I bring the cloud over the earth, he said, I will set my bow in.

So those are things that are done by God. Those are natural things. As far as we're concerned, as far as we can tell, those are natural things. That was something that was started by God, by the Maker.

Folks, is a rainbow not one of the prettiest things you ever saw in your life? Is it not one of the most vivid things you ever saw in your life? How typical is that of the grace of God? How typical is that of the mercy of God?

The most beautiful thing that's ever been is the grace and the mercy of a God that would look down upon a bunch of wretches like ourselves and say, they need redemption.

They need salvation. They can't do it on their own or by themselves. I have got to step in and do something about it myself. That's precisely what he was showing Noah here.

[26 : 38] He said, I'm going to step in. I'm going to show you these things. Folks, Noah already had faith. But God was showing him, keep your faith. Keep your faith whenever you see a bow.

Whenever you see a bow after the rain, you remember this covenant that I've made. You remember this, folks. What does faith do? Faith looks towards hope. Faith looks towards hope.

Hey, read Romans chapter five. Don't take my word for it. Paul gets into that. Read the books of Peter. He kind of touches it on that a little bit himself. Faith looks towards hope.

Faith takes what's present. Faith will take the present blessings. It will take the present gifts of God. But hope looks forward to future blessings. It looks forward to future things of God.

If God is blessing this people now, I promise you that God will bless us in the future. Faith concentrates on the here and now.

[27 : 34] Hope concentrates on what's after. Now, and folks, we can't have much hope if we don't have faith in God.

We can have hope in this world, but what good is that going to do us? Jesus addressed that himself. He said, what good would it do if a man should gain the whole world and lose his own soul? We can hope to gain the world. We can hope to gain finances. We can hope to gain health. We can hope for these things. But folks, if we're not hoping on the promises of God that are given us in the scriptures of God, what good will that hope in the world do us?

It'll do us no good. I hope in God because God's already shown me. Because of faith in God, He has already shown me what He's capable of. He saved my unworthy soul.

Therefore, I hope in God that the rest of this scripture is true, that the rest of this scripture will be fulfilled. At some point, I know that it will because it's covenant that God has made and God will not break those covenants.

[28 : 41] That faith will take what's here now. Hope looks forward to what's coming and it shall come to pass. When I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud and I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh.

Like I said, folks, it wasn't just for the humans. It was for everything that was here on this earth. He would remember that covenant. And the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

And the bow shall be in the cloud and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

It is a covenant between God and every living creature and every living creature had nothing to do with that covenant. Not man, not beast, not fish, not fowl, no living creature had anything to do with

that.

It was all of God. Folks, salvation is the exact same way. It is all of God. Grace is the exact same way. It is all of God.

[29 : 48] God presents something. He presented something to Noah here. He said, look up there in the sky. Look at that bow. Do you see what I've done there? He presented something. But folks, as I've already said, it does no good to have the token if you don't have the faith in the one that made the promise.

We've got to have the faith and the promise. That's another thing that faith does. Faith looks up toward the promiser, does it? No. But what does hope do?

It looks forward to those things that were promised. Faith calls us to lift our heads up toward the heaven, at the promiser, toward the promiser, toward Almighty God.

But hope is what keeps us looking out in the future on the things that He has promised to us. Folks, this is an everlasting covenant between God and never living creature.

And God said to Noah, this is the token of the covenant which I will establish between me and all flesh that is upon the earth. As I said, there's all kinds of covenants, all kinds of tokens, all kinds of things like this heading the scriptures.

[30 : 54] And there's stains of the natural aspect that God has used. There's stains of the man made, the aspect that God has used. You look over in the book of Numbers, there was one time that the Israelites, they were complaining against Moses again.

They were murmuring and complaining and God was tired of it and He sent the fiery serpents into the camp and they come complaining to Moses saying, hey pray to God that He take these things away, pray to God that He stopped this, but Noah hurt Moses, prayed to God and God told him, you make a brass serpent, you raise it up so that everyone can see it and any man that looks upon that, he will be held.

Folks like Jesus saying the new testament, say if I be lifted up, I will draw all men to me.

All men, that doesn't mean all men will accept them, but if I be lifted up, I will draw all men, all men to me. Folks the Holy Ghost draws those men. The Holy Ghost draws women, it draws everyone.

The Holy Ghost draws them dead.

That was a covenant that God made with Moses, you make this brass serpent, you raise it up in the air and it wasn't something that just a few of them could see, it was on the pole so it could be raised high up in the air.

[32 : 14] So that if you were way down in the distance, you could see it. If you were up close, you could see it. If you were crippled and on the ground, you could probably still catch a glimpse of it. That anyone that laid eyes on that, they were healed.

That was a covenant that God made. Another covenant in Jesus Christ that said those that are drawn unto him, that accept their sacrifice to wash away their sin, they will be forever healed.

And forever whole. Praise God. It's a covenant. It's that simple. It's a covenant. Folks, we need to think of it less of work.

Less of work on ourselves. Yes, we got to believe. Who gives us that faith to believe? God. Who gives us the grace to believe? God.

God does all these things. God ain't going to give us a token, a sign, or a covenant without supplying us the means necessary to believe it, to have faith to believe it, and to have hope for all that lies within it.

[33 : 23] His covenants are sure, His covenants are true, and He will not renege on those covenants. You read all the times in the scriptures when the Israelites would backslide on God, when they would go, as Roger talked this morning, when they go whoring after other idols, whoring after other nations, whoring after other cultures and other religions, and all these other things that they would do.

What would God do? God would go chasing after them. God would rebuke them. God would chastise them. Why?

Because they belong to Him. That's why we get our backsides tanned sometimes by the Almighty.

Because we belong to Him. Why do we belong to Him?

Because of a covenant relationship that we have with Him. And that covenant is not of our own work. It's not of anything that we've done. That covenant is through Jesus Christ.

Without Jesus Christ, God wouldn't even look at us. God wouldn't even consider us. God would do nothing but cast us into hell, come judgment day without Jesus Christ.

[34 : 29] But with Jesus Christ, I praise God when He looks down upon me. He doesn't see my wretchedness, doesn't see my sin or my filth. He sees the blood of His precious Son that has cleansed me and made me completely and utterly whole.

That's the covenant, is the blood of Jesus Christ.