

Genesis 9

1,2 God blesses Noah and his sons. The animals now start to fear man because they are his food. He is the master of creatures not merely another like them. Sorry animal rights activists. We should not abuse our role but we should not ignore the position given us either.

3 Sounds like they were vegetarians before. 1:29 I wonder if the lack of the canopy made nutrients found in meat necessary. The clean animals were not designated as clean because they were edible for all were edible until the Law.

4 Because of blood born diseases God had man drain the blood from the animal. Does this have some spiritual significance of Christ's blood being poured out for us so that we can partake of Him? See Acts 15:20 The early church went to the word before the Law when deciding what requirements to place on Gentile believers.

5,6 Because man was made in the image of God - his life is not to be taken. The act would be punishable by death. It may have been important to clarify this since man can now kill animals for food. It may be that in taking the life of an animal, man may ignore the value of life in man. But man is more than an animal. He has not only a body and mind, but the spirit added to him makes him a living soul, a contemplating being capable of considering his past present and future. He has been given the option of choosing to commune with God. He was made to worship his Creator and to be clothed in his glory.

7 Man was to repopulate the earth with people. He has done that pretty well. I wonder why God wanted so many people when so few come to Him and so many are going the broad road?

8-10 God makes the covenant not only with man but with the animals also. The first covenant mentioned in Scripture. 6:18 When they entered the ark God told them He was going to make a covenant with them. Here He establishes it.

11-13 Never again will there be a total destruction by water. The next cleansing of the earth will be by fire. See 2 Peter 3:10 The rainbow is a reminder of that covenant. If the sun had never shone directly through the clouds before, that this would be the first rainbow they had seen. It is placed in the heavens between us and God.

14-16 I think God has no problem with memory but man needs to be reminded that God remembers his promise. Imagine the trauma they would experience the next time they had a good rain if God had not made this covenant.

17,18 Why does God single out Ham here? Perhaps it is because of the later link with Canaan and its wickedness.

19-21 The consumption of the alcohol was not called a sin and remember God sees Noah as righteous. The excess caused Noah to be in a situation that invited the sin of another.

22 Is this an excessive case of modesty or did Ham do something? vs 24 The Hebrew word used for 'nakedness' denotes some kind of shameful action.

23 Walking backward so as not to be tempted to do the same? Or was this a carry over from Eden when God covered the first couple's nakedness.

24,25 He cursed his son and his descendents. There must have already been slaves in the old world.

26,27 So God blessed the two sons through Noah but this one action caused the sons of Ham to carry a curse. Because of the promise of slavery many see Ham as the father of the black people. Certainly all races have been slaves in different time periods. It was common for a victorious nation to make the conquered slaves regardless of ethnicity. Historically there may have been more blacks made slaves than any other race but that would be hard to verify.

28,29 The end of the canopy did not end the length of life but we do see each succeeding generation shortened. This would also disprove any theory about length of days before the flood.