

**Introduction to the Study of GENESIS Chapter 9:  
The FLOOD's Aftermath: A New World and a New Order**

Chapter 8 ends with Noah and family exiting the ark into a whole new world. Surely it seemed surreal, imaginary, merely a dream. However, it would not take long for the reality to set in. The eight survivors would face a world in which much would be the same but much *more* would be different. In chapter 9 God reveals *His new order for His new world*.

As chapter 9 opens, God blessed Noah and his family and commanded them to be "fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." This same command is repeated and amplified later in verse 7. It also is the *same* command given to Adam and Eve on the first day of their creation (1:28). With these words God's command for man remained unchanged; but man's relationship to every other living creature would change greatly. Now the "fear of man" was implanted within every living creature; and every living creature became food for man. Man's diet was no longer limited to fruit and vegetation. However, the animal's life-blood retained a special sacredness. It was not to be consumed.

In God's new world and new order the significance of *man's* life-blood was also elevated by command. For God would now demand accountability from those who shed the blood of man. "*Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man (i.e., mankind) shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image*" (v.6). It was now a required reckoning from every beast and every man for taking the life of man.

In addition, the concept of "covenant" will play a major part in the order of the new world ("covenant" - a solemn, binding agreement). The word "covenant," introduced in 6:18 between God and Noah, is now expanded to include *all* of Noah's descendants and every living creature. God covenants to never again destroy the earth by flood (v.11). Moreover, a universal sign is given to mark God's covenant: the rainbow in the sky. "It will be an everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth" (v.16).

Chapter 9 closes musically on a minor cord: hitherto righteous Noah suffers disgrace and the destinies of his sons are foretold: sin once again takes its bitter toll. Scripture's first reference to drunkenness now appears; for Noah "became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent." The details of the account are left untold. But its outcome resulted in Noah pronouncing a curse and a blessing on his sons and their offspring, the words of which still bear implications for today. Chapter 9 is no insignificant chapter in both the past and the future history of mankind.

**NOTE:** God's prophetic word to Eve in Genesis 3:15 and His prophet message through Noah in 9:25-27 have shaped the course of human history and in the future will continue to do the same.

## The FLOOD's Aftermath: (9:1-29)

- A.** God's New Order for a New World (9:1-7)
  
- B.** God's Covenant with Noah, His Sons and the New World (9:8-17)
  
- C.** Noah's Descendants, His Disgrace, and the Destinies of His Sons (9:18-29)