

When You Fall into Sin

Genesis 9:1-29

After being in the ark for one year and 17 days, Noah made a sacrifice to God, and God reestablished His covenant with some modifications. God did not create the earth to be a beautiful ornament of His creation, but for what purpose according to Isaiah 45:18?

God created the earth for the express purpose of being inhabited, so He would have a means of displaying His love and grace. Therefore, God says to Noah and his sons, "*Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth*" (9:1). Then, God emphasizes...

The Sanctity of Human Life - 9:2-7

To emphasize the preeminence of humans, God says, "*The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts,*" including birds and fish (9:2). This would be a means of protection. Otherwise, the wild animals, which would multiply far more rapidly than humans, might have exterminated humans.

To show humans are a higher level of life, God says, "*Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything*" (9:3). Adam and Eve were vegetarians, but now all animal life is available to supplement the human diet. Probably anticipating future false beliefs, God makes a vast distinction between humans and animals. This clearly reveals the fallacy of those who equate animals with humans, claiming animals should have equal rights. Such views deny the fact only humans are made *in the image of God* (9:6). Also, this is a death blow to reincarnation, which teaches that humans with bad "karma" come back as animals.

Vegetarianism is not commanded in Scripture, for even Jesus ate meat (Luke 24:41-43). Under the new covenant we are free to eat any meat we choose or refrain from eating any food for health or personal reasons because of what truth found in Galatians 5:13?

Then God says, "*But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it*" (9:4). Because the blood represented life, they were to drain the blood from slain animals and not eat or drink it, as would be the practice of some pagan religions for extending life. The word *lifeblood* implies an important physical truth not discovered until the 1620's when English physician William Harvey discovered the circulatory system. Harvey's discovery became the foundation of modern medicine, because it was then understood that blood is critical for the preservation of life. Before that, doctors removed blood from the sick through a bleeding process, but now doctors give blood to the sick. This is consistent with what truth found in Leviticus 17:11a?

Though God had destroyed the earth by the Flood and now allowed the killing of animals for food, He did not want man to think He views human life as cheap. Therefore, He says, "*And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting... Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man*" (9:5-6). This means a murderer is to be executed.

In Matthew 26 when Jesus is being arrested by the temple guards to face certain death, Peter takes a sword and cuts off the ear of a servant of the high priest. In response to Peter's behavior, what does Jesus say in Matthew 26:52b?

Jesus does not mean that every person who takes up a sword will die by the sword. He is referring to the divine law that those who commit murder will face punishment by the state. The *sword* represents the common means of execution in the ancient world; therefore, Jesus is repeating the divine law of Genesis 9:6 (see also Rom. 13:1-4). The Bible teaches that the state, not individuals, has the divine right to give punishment to wrongdoers.

God repeats His command to *be fruitful and increase* (9:7). As a result, the world's human population has grown from eight to more than five billion. After emphasizing the **sanctity of human life**, God gives...

The Sign of the Covenant 9:8-17

The Flood was a traumatic experience for Noah and his family. The scars of the flood experience are probably the reason for the repetition of the word *covenant*, which is used seven times in verses 8-17. God then says to Noah and to his sons... "*I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you... Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth*" (9:8-11).

The covenant is *for all generations to come* (9:12), and God sets a *rainbow* as a *sign* or reminder of the covenant. Circumcision would be the sign of the covenant with Abraham (Gen. 17:11). What would be the sign of the covenant with Israel, according to Exodus 31:16-17?

When I perform a marriage, I almost always say, "You have chosen rings as tokens of your marriage covenant." As husbands and wives, we need reminders of the covenant of marriage with each other before God. As believers we need reminders of our new covenant in Christ, and based on 1 Corinthians 11:24-25, how are we to remind ourselves of the new covenant?

The Sin of Noah - 9:18-29

Verses 18-19 tell us from *the three sons of Noah... came the people who were scattered over the earth*. We will look at this in detail in our next lesson and find from which of the three sons of Noah you are a descendant.

The life of Noah up to this point has been fantastic. He was chosen by God to build the ark and begin the human race again. It was with Noah that God made the first covenant recorded in the Bible. After the Flood, *Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard (9:20)*, because like his father Lamech, Noah was a farmer.

After all the good things we have learned about Noah, verse 21 is shocking. It says Noah drank wine... *became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent (9:21)*. I almost wish this verse wasn't in the Bible because it tarnishes the life of a great saint in the Bible. Why is this verse in the Bible? Because God always tells "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." The inclusion of things like Noah getting drunk and making a fool of himself convinces me the Bible is the inspired Word of God. If it were written by uninspired men, they would cover up, not expose, the sins of its heroes.

This verse reveals no one is above falling into sin. Noah was 600 years old when the Flood came, so he had lived a righteous life before God for centuries. But now, in his latter years, he mars his testimony. This is an example of many biblical people who in their latter years fall into sin. List below the people and circumstances in whose lives this is true:

1. Numbers 20:7-12

2. 2 Samuel 11:2-5

3. 1 Kings 11:2-4, 11

At any age in our spiritual life we can fall into sin. But what is a Christian to do when he or she falls into sin? That is one of the easiest questions to answer about the Christian life. The same Bible that condemns sin also makes what special promise to believers who sin (1 John 1:9)?

Satan brought down Noah, Moses, David, and Solomon, and he can do the same to you and me in one way or another. It may be through being a workaholic, prideful, bitter, jealous, etc. When this happens, we need to remember our God not only saves but also restores.

If God only used perfect people, who would He use? No one! None of us are perfect, but God can use us anyway, if when we sin, we take advantage of His promise for cleansing and restoration. Ham is designated as *the father of Canaan* (9:22) because he reveals himself to be the true father of the Canaanites. Archaeological discoveries have shown their worship included sexual immorality. Ham *saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside* (9:22). He could have covered his father as his two brothers did (9:23), but instead he made fun of his father's nakedness, which was a breach in family sanctity and human decency.

From this event comes one of the most remarkable prophecies in the Bible. Noah awoke from his drunken sleep, *found out what his youngest son had done to him*, and said, "*Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers*" (9:24-25).

Sin was clearly the exception, not the rule, in Noah's life, and though not recorded in this passage, Noah did repent of his sin, for God continued to use him to speak His Word. The curse was placed on Canaan, one of four sons of Ham, probably because Canaan was the only son of Ham sharing his irreverent attitude. The Canaanites were later conquered by the Israelites led by Joshua. It is clear from reading the conquest of Canaan in the book of Joshua that the curse was conditional, for because of faith in Jehovah what do we read about one of the most famous Canaanites in Joshua 6:25 and Matthew 1:5?

Noah also prophesies, "*Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem*" (9:26). This is a prophecy about the grossly immoral people of Canaan, being conquered by the Israelites, the descendants of Shem.

Then Noah prophesies, "*May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave*" (9:27). As we shall see in the next lesson, the descendants of Japheth have established some of the greatest nations in the history of the world.

Noah lived 350 years after the Flood, for a total of 950 years, and then he died (9:28-29).

In this passage we have learned about **the sanctity of human life, the sign of the covenant, and the sin of Noah**. What lesson can you learn from Noah to use **when you fall into sin**?