

GENESIS 8-9

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 8 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen in our study of Genesis, God created the heavens and the earth and all life, including man and woman or Adam and Eve.

And everything was very good. The only thing the Lord instructed Adam and Eve to avoid, not partake of, is the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Only one thing, everything else was for them to enjoy, to partake of. But Adam and Eve had a free will, and they disobeyed the Lord and sin entered this paradise.

Now, through Adam that sin nature would be passed down and it did not take long for man to populate the earth and fill it with evil. Remember what we read in Genesis 6:5, **“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”**

Now hear me out on this. The timeframe from when God created Adam and Eve until the flood, until the earth became polluted with sin, was only some 1,656 years!

(<https://bit.ly/3O9LySp>)

Because of that, God was going to send judgment upon the earth and destroy all life except for Noah and his family, plus animals and birds.

Why did God spare Noah? It was not that he was without sin, no one is. But he loved the Lord and was not contaminated with the evil that was in this world at that time. In fact, we are told why God spared Noah in Genesis 6:8, **“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”**

He didn't deserve it, just like we don't deserve life, but God freely gives it to us through Jesus Christ. It is a grace gift!

And we saw Noah build an ark to preserve his family and the animals and birds. When the ark was completed and everyone was inside, the rain came, the fountains of the deep opened up and the flood waters covered the earth.

And let me share with you where we left off last time, in Genesis 7:24, where we are told, **“And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.”**

That is where we will pick up our study this evening, in Genesis chapter 8 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

GENESIS 8

VERSE 1

As some read this, they come to the conclusion that God forgot about Noah and his family.

It may go something like this, ***“I know I forgot about something. Didn't I put eight people in a boat with a bunch of animals and birds about 150 days ago? Now where did they go?”***

No, God does not forget, He knows all things. So then what is going on here? What is this verse saying to us?

What we see here is an anthropomorphism or a non-literal picture of God in human terms so that we can understand. God didn't forget Noah; He was now ready to turn His attention back to Him and intervene. It was in God's timing.

Think of it like this. When we read that God remembered Noah and his family, as well as all the animals and birds on the ark, we now see that what God has promised Noah, the commitment God made to everyone and everything on that ark, He was now going to fulfill by ending His judgment upon the earth and bringing them from the ark into a brand-new world.

I hope that makes sense to you.

Now how does that apply to us?

Think about it. There are times that we find ourselves in situations and wonder if God is sleeping or not paying attention or He just forgot about us.

He has not, He remembers us constantly, it just may not be the time for Him to intervene, but He knows exactly what we are going through.

It is as Psalm 121:3-4 tells us, **“He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.”**

That is our God!

How did God intervene?

He did so by sending a wind to blow across the waters, causing them to subside. We see wind on the earth now causing water evaporation which formed clouds and weather patterns that would now move across the earth. You see, after the flood God completely changed the way that the earth would be watered moving from an underground irrigation system to an overhead sprinkler system.

Let me take a minute and show you the chronology of the flood to help give you a perspective of what took place.

- There were forty days during which the rain fell and the fountains of the deep were broken up - **40**
- Throughout another 110 days the waters continued to rise, making 150 days in all for their “prevailing” (7:24) - **110**
- The waters occupied 74 days in their ‘going and decreasing’ (AV margin). This was from the 17th day of the seventh month to the 1st day of the tenth month (8:5). There being 30 days to a month, the figures in days are 13 plus 30 plus 30 plus 1 - **74**
- Forty days elapsed before Noah sent out the raven (8:6-7) **40**
- Seven days elapsed before Noah sent out the dove for the first time (8:8). This period is necessary for reaching the total and is given by implication from the phrase “another seven days” (8:10) **7**
- Seven days passed before sending out the dove for the second time (8:10) **7**
- Seven days more passed before the third sending of the dove (8:12) - **7**
- Up to this point 285 days are accounted for, but the next episode is dated the 1st month in the 601st year. From the date in 7:11 to this point in 8:13 is a period of 314 days: therefore an interval of 29 days elapses - **29**
- For the removal of the covering of the ark to the very end of the experience as a further 57 days (8:14) - **57**

TOTAL = 371

- John C. Whitcomb and Henry Morris, The Genesis Flood, p. 3

Thus, if you add the 7 days they waited in the ark before the floodwaters came, the total time was 378 days in the ark before they came out!

And please understand that we have no indication that God spoke to Noah during that time. Noah waited by faith for the flood waters to stop and recede. And we must learn to walk by faith and not by sight, just as Noah did!

Now it would appear that the flood attained its maximum depth after the first forty days and continued to maintain this level for an additional 110 days before beginning to recede.

Never since the world was formed could there ever been such extensive erosion of soil and rock beds, on a global scale, as during the Genesis Flood.

Never before or since could there have been such favorable conditions for the formation of fossiliferous [a rock containing fossils] strata.

In fact, almost all of the sedimentary rocks of the earth, which are the ones that contain fossils and from which the supposed geological history of the earth has been largely deduced, have been laid down by moving waters.

Make no mistake about it, there really was a flood and a man named Noah.

As you look all over the earth, there is evidence of Noah's flood, from seabed to mountaintop. Wherever you look, the physical features of the earth's terrain clearly indicate a catastrophic past, from canyons and craters to local coal beds and caverns.

Approximately 75% of the earth's crust is sedimentary rock and it was not laid down over millions of years but during the time of the flood! These layers of sand, soil, and material – mostly laid down by water – were once soft mud, but now have hardened like stone. Buried in these sedimentary layers are billions of dead things, the fossils of plants and animals that have been buried very, very quickly!

VERSES 2-5

So as the waters began to recede, the ark rested in the mountains of Ararat, which has a height of some 17,000 feet today.

Keep in mind that prior to the flood the mountains were not that high. But with the flood, we see mountains rising up and this mountain in Turkey raised up some 17,000 feet and it is where the ark rested!

And it would be here that Noah, his family and all the animal and bird life would depart to propagate the earth, repopulate the earth after being in the ark for some 378 days!

VERSES 6-12

Why the raven and the dove?

Think about it. The raven will feed on garbage and dead things; thus, he didn't return.

But the dove did return because the dove was not satisfied with garbage.

Then the dove came back a second time and he came back with an olive leaf and Noah waited another seven days, sent the dove out and he did not return. The waters receded; life was coming back to the land.

How does that relate to us?

The old life, the old nature loves to feed on the garbage of this world, the filth.

But the new life we have in Christ is not satisfied with that kind of life, nor should it be!

Listen to how Charles Spurgeon wrote about this idea of the dove not finding a resting place just as the Christian finds no true resting place in this world, it is not our home.

This is what he wrote, *“The world is said to be progressing, advancing, improving; but we cannot discover it. The same sin, the same filthiness, the same universally abounding unbelief, that our fathers complained of, we are obliged to complain of still; and we are weary with the world, weary with the nineteenth century, and all its boasted civilization. There is nothing upon which the sole of our foot can rest.”*

Exactly.

Not only that, but we also see the Holy Spirit, like a dove, searching, He is looking for a place that He can rest.

What do I mean by that, that He is looking for a place to rest?

He is drawing people to Jesus and once that happens, the Holy Spirit indwells that person.

VERSES 13-19

Now we see the Lord speak to Noah once again. Keep in mind that we have no record of God speaking to Noah when he was in the ark, for some 371 days of the flood waters and 7 days prior to the flood waiting, as I have said! But now we see Him speak to Noah.

You see, it was disembarking day and I bet they had some sea legs at this point!

What I find interesting here is that the Lord first called Noah to “**Come**” and enter the ark, that rest that is only found in God.

Now He tells Noah to “**Go**”.

In other words, before we can go and tell others of Jesus, we need to come into that relationship with Him. We need to be saved. You can’t give to others what you yourself don’t possess!

Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:19-20, **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”**

First come to Him and then go and tell others of Him is the idea here.

And listen to the picture that Spurgeon gives to us in regard to departing from the ark. He wrote, *“Noah came out of the ark - no longer cooped up and penned within its narrow limits, he walked abroad, and the whole world was before him where to choose. Was not that a picture of the freedom of the believer who has been ‘buried with Christ,’ and enjoys the possession of God’s free Spirit?”*

Let me share with you some verses dealing with the liberty we have in Christ.

First of all, Paul tells us in Galatians 5:1, **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”**

Yes, we are free in Christ but don’t use that freedom to get you into the bondage of sin, use it for the glory of God!

Also, in II Corinthians 3:17 Paul wrote, **“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”**

And lastly, in I Corinthians 10:23 Paul wrote, **“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.”**

We do have that freedom in Christ but don’t let that freedom cause you to do things that will hurt your walk. Let that freedom you have in Christ help to build you up in the things that you do!

VERSES 20-22

What is the first thing Noah does as he leaves the ark besides praising the Lord for getting him out of that boat?

He worships the Lord through sacrifice, and it was a costly sacrifice. It did cost him something as there were only a limited number of animals.

Folks, our sacrifice to God should cost us something or it is empty. It may cost us our time, our energy, our resources, whatever it may be, but it needs to cost you something.

Remember what David said in II Samuel 24:22-24, **“Now Araunah said to David, ‘Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look, here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood. All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king.’ And Araunah said to the king, ‘May the LORD your God accept you.’ Then the king said to Araunah, ‘No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.’ So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”**

May we have that same heart towards the Lord. Think of the sacrifice that God made for us. And, in knowing that may we not give to Him our seconds or thirds.

In Malachi 1:7-8 we see him rebuke the people of God for their unacceptable sacrifice to the Lord.

We are told, **“You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, “In what way have we defiled You?” By saying, “The table of the LORD is contemptible.” And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the LORD of hosts.”**

May we offer to God a sacrifice that will be sweet smelling in His sight!

In regard to this area where the ark rested, interestingly enough, at about the 6,000-to-7,000-foot level in the foothills of Mount Ararat, in the eastern most boarder to Turkey, is an altar. This could be the altar that Noah built to worship the Lord as he exited the ark.

Here's the thing. If this was a local flood folks, God lied.

What do I mean by that?

Look at Genesis 9:11-17 and you will see that God is saying that He will never destroy the earth by a flood again.

If this was a local flood, and since there have been many local floods, that would make God a liar.

But it was not a local flood, God is not a liar, and the earth has never been destroyed again by a worldwide flood, just as God said.

And the sign of this covenant that God made was He put a rainbow in the sky! The Noahic Covenant is an example of a unilateral covenant whereby God promises to never again destroy the world with a flood – ***NEVER!***

Now that does not mean that He is not going to judge the earth again, He will as we read in the Scriptures, but it will not be by water but by fire!

What is interesting to me in the days we are living in is that the LGBTQ group has adopted the rainbow as a sign of pride in regard to their immorality, the gay, lesbian and the like lifestyle.

Sorry, God put the rainbow in the sky telling us that He is not judging this world again by a flood, as I have said. But judgment is coming and it must be getting close as man flaunts his sin in the face of God!

We also see here the seasons, something that was not around before this water canopy was removed from the earth. Before the flood the world was tropical, from the North Pole to the South Pole.

But now, since the flood, since that water canopy was removed, we have winter and summer, at least here in Wisconsin, we don't seem to have fall and spring. And since the flood and the change in the climate, many species have become extinct, like dinosaurs!

Look at the evidence for a flood. There are vast amounts of coal deposits, and they are the result of large amounts of plant life that grew at one time all over the world, from the North Pole to the South Pole, that was suddenly swept away and as it was covered with layers of mud.

These huge masses of vegetation carbonized by heat and by enormous weight pressures, became the coal and fossil fuels we have today.

This process we don't see going on today or if it is it is at a very slow rate, but it had obviously occurred in the past, we have the evidence.

When you look at the millions of fossils we have, you have to come to the conclusion that something catastrophic occurred to not only kill these creatures, but also to bury them completely which allowed them to become fossilized.

You see, virtually the only way for a body to avoid decomposition is to be buried very quickly, completely, and deeply, thus sealing it from the decomposers, that is the scavengers, bacteria and-so-on.

We actually have fish that have been fossilized as they were in the process of eating another fish, so this had to occur very rapidly!

Folks, when you look at the evidence that is out there, you can see the remains of a devastating flood, brought on because of the wickedness of man, to destroy all but eight people and the animals and birds that were aboard the ark.

Like I have said, there is coming another judgment that we get to warn people of and only those that are in Christ will be saved from it. May we proclaim the truths of God found in the Word of God and see the Spirit of God transform people's lives as He has done with ours!

Now, as we move into Genesis chapter 9 tonight and chapter 10 next time, we will see God expound on this covenant He made with Noah.

You see, it was from the descendants of Noah, his three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth that the world would be repopulated and through the lineage of Shem, the Messiah would come, the seed of the woman!

GENESIS 9

VERSES 1-4

Just as God instructed Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, He instructs Noah and his sons to do the same. The world was void of human life except for these eight people and they would be the ones to fill the earth or at least get it started!

Now, prior to the flood man was a herbivore or they did not eat meat.

But now God instructs Noah that they may eat meat or animals. The only restriction is they were not to drink the blood of the animal because that is where the life is. We understand that today, the importance of the blood, but the Creator knew the importance from the very beginning!

The idea of life being in the blood is an important one in the Scriptures. This word is used some 424 times in 357 verses in *The New King James Version* of the Bible.

Here are some important verses that deal with the life found in the blood:

- Blood was the sign of mercy for Israel at the first Passover (Exodus 12:13).
- Blood sealed God's covenant with Israel (Exodus 24:8).
- Blood sanctified the altar (Exodus 29:12).
- Blood set aside the priests (Exodus 29:20).
- Blood made atonement for God's people (Exodus 30:10).
- Blood sealed the new covenant (Matthew 26:28).
- Blood justifies us (Romans 5:9).
- Blood brings redemption (Ephesians 1:7).
- Blood brings peace with God (Colossians 1:20).
- Blood cleanses us (Hebrews 9:14, I John 1:7).
- Blood gives entrance to God's holy place (Hebrews 10:19).
- Blood sanctifies us (Hebrews 13:12).
- Blood enables us to overcome Satan (Revelation 12:11).

We need to also understand that this post flood world was vastly different. The vegetation was not as lush. There were storms. There were seasons. There were dramatic temperature changes. The life span of man and the life span of animals would be drastically reduced.

And the creation that once lived together in the Garden of Eden and even after sin entered the world now was at odds with each other, they were not going to get along.

All of creation would be fearful of man, but why?

Maybe it is because these creatures were now looked up as food and God put this fear in them to protect them. It is a possibility.

VERSES 5-7

God here institutes the penalty against one person for taking the life of another person and what He is doing is establishing the basis for human government.

You see, part of the responsibility of human government is to keep the peace by protecting the good from the evil and the weak from the strong. Without it we would be in trouble, and we are seeing the violence explode because we have lost the reality of the sanctity of life and the government has become ineffective in controlling the violence.

This command is so important, like I have said, because in it we see the sanctity of life.

You see, man was created in the image of God and thus it is precious to Him.

Thus, if that life is taken, it must be accounted for, there is a penalty to be paid –

DEATH!

Now, before I deal with that controversial subject, listen carefully to what David said in Psalm 139:13-18 regarding how we are created. He wrote, **“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.”**

God not only formed us in the womb, but He has numbered our days, He has planned them out. Thus, may we walk in them!

What we see here is that long before the Law was given to Moses, God issued out the punishment for murder, capital punishment or the person will be put to death if they murder someone.

This was not only because life is precious to God, but to keep order in a society. In fact, God tells us in Numbers 35:33-34 that if those who commit murder are left unpunished, it will defile the land!

And, like I have said, we see people today murder for their own lustful desires and they get lawyers who try to get them off.

We see abortions where over 63 million children have been murdered in the womb, and that is since Roe v. Wade took place back in 1973. And a mother's womb is supposed to be a place that should be safe for them!

It truly has polluted our land!

It is as Luther said, ***“God establishes government and gives it the sword to hold wantonness in check, lest violence and other sins proceed without limit.”***

Can you imagine what our society would be like without laws? We call that anarchy!

Now, doesn't the Bible tell us that we should not murder, and thus, if we put someone to death for murder, aren't we doing the same thing?

That is the argument of some, but they miss the point. There is a difference between murder and killing. You see, there is self-defense, there is war, there are accidental occurrences, but that is not murder.

Thus, capital punishment, where there is due process of the law is not only okay, but God commands that this be carried out to protect the sanctity of life and to preserve a society.

In fact, God even requires this of an animal, that if an animal kills a man he would be put to death! (See also Exodus 21:12-17)

VERSES 8-11

God makes a covenant with Noah and his sons that He will never destroy the world by a flood again. This is a unilateral covenant, as I have said. It is based on the faithfulness of God and not man!

And please understand that in the judgment of the flood, God was not wrong. Sin and rebellion needed to be dealt with or the Messiah could not come.

Not that the flood did away with sin, but as I have said, I believe God was preserving the gene pool from the corruption that some fallen angels, demons had inflicted upon the human race.

We saw that in Genesis chapter 6 as these fallen angels co-habitated with women and now these angels are locked up until the Day of Judgment!

VERSES 12-17

Before the flood there was no rain.

Now, after the flood we see rain and clouds.

Can you imagine how gun shy they might be every time they saw a cloud in the sky, every time it began to rain! ***"Is it going to happen again?"***

No, it won't and the reason I can say that and the reason they could live without fear is because God gave them a sign and a sign points us to something. This sign, the rainbow in the sky points to God's covenant with us. It shows us the faithfulness of God every time we look up in the sky and see that rainbow; we know that God will not destroy this earth by a flood again. It is His promise to us!

Now, do you believe that? I bet everyone here does.

Then, if you do, why don't you believe in all of God's promises to you?

God is faithful and what He has promised He is more than able to bring to pass! It is as Numbers 23:19 tells us, **"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"**

Trust in the Lord and all His promises that He has given to you just as you trust in the sign of the rainbow that He has placed in the sky, God is faithful!

As Paul said in II Corinthians 1:20, **"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."**

The Amplified Bible says, **"For as many as are the promises of God, they all find their Yes [answer] in Him [Christ]. For this reason we also utter the Amen (so be it) to God through Him [in His Person and by His agency] to the glory of God."**

And the Living Bible puts it like this, **"He carries out and fulfills all of God's promises, no matter how many of them there are; and we have told everyone how faithful he is, giving glory to his name."**

Trust in God's promises, He won't let you down!

In Isaiah chapter 54 God speaks of His covenant of peace that He has made to Israel, and I believe this peace also applies to us. He said, **“For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,’ Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.”** Isaiah 54:9-10.

We are children of God, adopted into the family of God through Jesus Christ and thus, as His children we are safe within His arms.

It is as Jeremiah tells us in Lamentations 3:22-23, **“Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”**

Amen to that!

VERSES 18-19

As we move into Genesis chapter 10, a section that has been called the *“Table of Nations,”* we will see the descendants of Noah’s sons.

Now, what I find interesting is that Noah had no more children as far as we are told, in the post flood world, why?

Some say he was too old, which may be the case, he was 600 years old at this time. But I don’t think that is correct.

But maybe something else is going on since he did live another 350 years after the flood.

Maybe the actions of Noah seen in the next few verses caused him to be barren, both physically and spiritually!

Could Noah have had more children?

Of course he could have but maybe the Holy Spirit is editing that out to show us the barrenness of a life that is not walking with God. No matter how you look at this, there is no mention of other children that Noah had after the flood.

Let's read on and you will see what I mean.

VERSES 20-23

Did they make wine before the flood?

The Bible does not tell us but it is possible that this fermentation process was something that took place after the flood and Noah was able to put it all together, and he became drunk.

It is also possible that they did make wine before the flood, especially when you see all the immoral activity that went on before the flood and usually alcohol plays a role in that behavior.

But, in either case, here with Noah, in his later years, he falls into sin!

And let me say this. Drinking is not a sin; drunkenness is a sin. For me, I don't drink, it is a choice I have made.

Let me share with you a few verses from the Scriptures that deal with drunkenness.

In Proverbs 20:1 we are told, **“Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”**

Alcohol is a depressant, and it loosens people up, it depresses their self-control, alters their judgments and they do things that get them into trouble. In fact, the FBI says that 50% of all rapes involve alcohol!

Also, in Proverbs 23:29-35 we are told, **“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: ‘They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?’”**

That truly sums up the person who is addicted to alcohol. Their life is miserable, they see things, they get beat up and they long to have another drink, it has consumed their life! What bondage that truly is.

That is why Paul said in Ephesians 5:18, **“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”**

In other words, who are you going to be controlled by?

And please understand that Paul is not saying that we need to be drunk in the Spirit, as some teach, but we are to be filled with the Spirit! The Holy Spirit is not a depressant as alcohol is but a stimulant you might say as He influences our lives and guides us in what is good!

Now what was Noah doing in this drunken state and what did his son, Ham, do that was so bad?

Some say there was some kind of immoral sexual relations going on, I don't think so.

I believe Noah was drunk, obviously, and laying passed out in his tent naked, a total mess as is the case many times of people who get drunk.

As Ham saw his father in this condition he mocked him, made fun of him and tried to exploit the situation by telling his brothers of what dad was like.

You see, in the Hebrew it says that Ham “**told with delight**” what he saw, he was gossiping, and he was undermining the authority of Noah as a father and as a man of God! He was happy to put his father down!

When Ham’s brothers heard what took place, they took a garment and walking in backwards as not to see their father in this condition, they covered him up.

Did they have the right to expose his sin? I guess they did, but instead of exposing it to the world, they covered it, they tried to help their father, not mocking him or putting him down!

What a lesson for us to learn. It is easy to tear a person down, to mock them, to find fault with them, to put them down, but God has called us to restore people. Restoration not destruction. He wants us to build people up, to encourage them, and yes, to correct them in love and again, with the idea of restoration.

Paul put it like this in Galatians 5:14-15, “**For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!**”

May the love of God be stronger than our desire to put people down!

VERSES 24-27

As you read this it seems that God is not punishing Ham but his son Canaan, and that does not seem right.

That is true, it is not right, that kind of thinking goes against Scripture and thus, something else must be going on here.

You see, in Ezekiel 18:19-20 we are told, **“Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?’ Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”**

Then what is going on here, why is Ham not punished for his sin and his son Canaan is?

It would seem that Ham’s influence on his children was so strong that it was going to affect his children.

Yes, they each had choices to make, but God was showing Ham, prophetically speaking, that his descendants were going to be wicked people.

Now please understand that not every person from Ham was wicked, but that was the general practice of these people.

And I guess, for Ham, in a sense, he was punished knowing the fate of his descendants!

One writer gives us this insight as he wrote, *“Ham was the one who exposed his dad’s sin. Yet it would be his son, Canaan, who would experience the repercussions. We see the same thing today when the son of an alcoholic grows up to be an alcoholic himself, when the son of a child abuser grows up to, himself, abuse children. This is one of the great tragedies of sin. Toss a pebble into a pond, and the circles will grow ever wider. The same is true of sin. The consequences and ramifications grow to include many more people than we ever guess.”*

I think that is what we are seeing here with Ham and his son, Canaan.

Now, who are the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth? We will get that in the next chapter, and we will deal with that next time in our study.

VERSES 28-29

Someone has pointed out that by Noah living a total of 950 years it means that Noah didn't die until Abraham was 58 years old!

What that tells me is that these people weren't really disconnected from one another as you might think. They passed these stories and genealogies down to each other personally.

Now let me expound a little on these last years of Noah's life.

And yes, those 350 years of Noah's life after the flood are silent years, we don't know what transpired.

But it would seem that as much as he walked with the Lord before the flood, he didn't do so after the flood!

Maybe the alcohol affected his life, we don't know, but these are truly silent years for Noah.

What a lesson for us to learn from.

Don't live out your life like the Fourth of July fireworks that burst onto the scene and are colorful, they are bright but as soon as they are seen, they are then gone in a moment.

They only light up the sky for a time and then they are gone.

Or someone running a long-distance race and they start out fast, faster than anyone, but they begin to slow down, they can't keep up that pace and they drop out.

Let me share this with you from Warren Wiersbe. He wrote,

I'm an incurable reader of biographies and autobiographies, and I've often regretted turning the page of a book and discovering a grinning skeleton lurking in the closet of someone I've admired.

American columnist Russell Baker said, ***“The biographer’s problem is that he never knows enough. The autobiographer’s problem is that he knows too much.”***

But when God writes the story, He knows everything about everybody and always tells the truth, and He does it for our own good.

The history of Noah and his family now moves from rainbows to shadows, and we behold the shameful sins of a great man of faith.

Dr. William Culbertson, for many years president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, often closed his public prayers with, ***“And, Lord, help us to end well.”***

God answered that prayer for Dr. Culbertson, but not every believer now in heaven ended the race hearing God’s ***“Well done!”***

However, let’s be charitable and remember Paul’s warning, ***“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”*** (1 Cor 10:12, NKJV).

After all, Noah didn’t think it would happen to him!

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, p. 48

We need to be careful. It doesn’t matter if you are 20 or 120, you can still fall. You need to finish strong.

We need to be steadfast, be immovable, continue to abound in the work of the Lord, don’t give up, and don’t fade away.

Paul, at the end of his life was able to say, **“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”** II Timothy 4:6-8.

Paul is encouraging Timothy, a young pastor and us to continue on, don't give up, finish the race that God has for us and finish it strong!

And the Bible shows us here with Noah, it looks like he did not finish strong.

We saw it with King David, at the end of his life he sinned with Bathsheba, had an adulterous affair. Not only that, but he had her husband, one of his mighty men put to death so he could conceal his sin.

Thirty, forty years of faithful service could be clouded over by a few minutes of indiscretion, of not being steadfast and immovable in the faith.

It is a powerful warning to us. It is not time to sit back, isolate yourself, do nothing because you are opening the door for trouble.

Remember what the Lord told Joshua as his ministry began in Joshua 1:8-9, **“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”**

And, as you look at Joshua 1:6-9 you will see that the Lord told Joshua in those four verses to be strong and of good courage three times.

Why do you think He said that to Joshua?

Because Joshua saw himself as weak and he was fearful of what was ahead!

Now you may be thinking, ***“How can God use a person like that?”***

Because it is much easier for God to use a man who knows he can’t do it on his own and yet he still will walk by faith than one who is self-confident, self-assured, self-reliant, is full of self!

You see, God wants Joshua to be strong in the Lord and not in himself. And as he rests in the Lord, he will see the victories that God will give to him, and I believe the same is true for each of us.

Now that was the beginning of his ministry, how did he finish, did he finish strong?

You bet he did!

We see in Joshua 24:15, **“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

Joshua finished strong and I want to finish strong, and I am sure you do as well.

And I will close with this, how to prepare yourself to finish strong.

In Ephesians 6:10-13 we are told, **“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”**

If you don't stand strong in the Lord and the power of His might, if you don't put on the whole armor of God, you will not finish strong. The battle is too intense!

In I Chronicles 28:20 we are told, “**And David said to his son Solomon, ‘Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God - my God - will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.’”**

You stand strong in the Lord, and He will be with you, and He will equip you to finish the work that He has called you to do. Never forget that!