

# GENESIS 8:15 – 9:17

## A BRAVE NEW WORLD

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(Speak to the heinousness of the evil prior to the flood and God's justification in killing off all mankind.)

Imagine yourself having been taken from this planet and almost all that you know, then being transported to a whole new world. Imagine that the journey took a year. The only people with whom you have had contact are your immediate family. The only things that are familiar to you are the animals and food that was transported with you. Then, after a year's journey, you feel the vehicle in which you were transported grind to a halt. You are thinking, "Ok, now we can disembark." However, that is not to be the case. You have to wait for an extended period of time.

All you can think about is the journey, the doom and judgment that took place in the world you left behind. You try to imagine what it will be like in this new world, but how can you do that? How can you picture something you have never seen? All you can do is relate, at least in part, the world you knew and attempt to link it to whatever is on the other side of the door.

And that is what Noah and his family had to do. They stepped into an alien world. Gone was the tropical environment they had known. They disembarked and saw familiar plants and trees, but the landscape was vastly different. While they were on the ark the entire planet had churned beneath them. Literally thousands of volcanoes had erupted. Tsunamis had swept across the now deep oceans. All land animals had been drowned and covered under vast layers of sediment. Where there once were only high hills there were now mountains that seemed to reach to the top of the sky. The sun was not as visible as it had once been, for there was still a

great deal of volcanic ash in the atmosphere. In fact, to the north there were glaciers forming which marked the beginning of the ice age. Job would write about snow – something that had never before been seen. The continent we call Pangea, where all the land on the earth was in one place had been broken up into pieces. Nothing, other than some familiar plant life was the same.

As Noah and his family stepped off the ark they walked on dry ground, but there was still wet, damp, muck to be found in the lowlands. I can imagine them stepping off the ark and looking around in awe at the alien landscape. They took deep breaths of air. I'm sure they looked around for a while before turning the animals loose. And this began the migration of the non-domesticated animals. Each pair would find its own niche in the environment and begin to multiply in order to fill the earth once again.

***Gen. 8:15***

***15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. 19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.***

I imagine it was quiet, other than the sounds of the animals at least until they were out of earshot. You could hear their hoofs on the planks as they left the ship. I imagine they were excited as they stepped onto the fertile volcanic soil and were able to eat fresh food for the first time in a year. Eventually, they all move down the mountain and go their separate ways.

Now, what would you do?

***20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma.***

Noah built an altar of the stones that were lying around. He then began to take one of every clean animal he had carried on the ship and sacrificed it to the LORD.

This in itself was an act of faith on the part of Noah. He had just sacrificed 1/7 of his flock. Those animals had to be able to reproduce in order for him to continue to sacrifice. Plus, he was about to get an addendum to his diet. These animals would also be domesticated for food. The earth Noah now knew was rugged, desolate, stormy and somewhat barren. This was truly an act of faith.

This is the first mention of an altar in scripture, although they had probably been used since the first offerings. By this sacrifice, Noah is thanking God for His provision and hedge of protection through the judgment.

In the Old Testament, the entire animal was given to God as an offering with nothing being held back. God smelling a soothing aroma is another anthropomorphism. It is a way of ascribing human characteristics to God. It means that God was satisfied with the offering. Noah was a balanced believer. He walked and talked with God. He lived his life according to his convictions, which came from God.

In New Testament language the sacrifice speaks of Jesus death on the cross.

***Eph. 5:2***

***2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.***

In and of ourselves, by what we are or by what we do; but by faith, we can be accepted in Jesus Christ.

Like the ark saved Noah and his family, Jesus went through the storms of God's judgment for us. Jonah, who is a type of Christ according to Matthew 12:38-40, was a type of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Jonah went through the storm of God's wrath in disobedience whereas Jesus went through the storm IN obedience. Jesus' suffering on the cross was the baptism of which He spoke in Luke 12:50, which was pictured in Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan.

***20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.***

***22 "While the earth remains,  
Seedtime and harvest,  
Cold and heat,  
Winter and summer,  
And day and night  
Shall not cease.***

God spoke these words to Himself in response to Noah's obedience and faith.

But just what did He promise?

- If you remember, God cursed the ground at the fall of Adam. He then upped the ante because of Cain's sin in chapter four. What God did here, in His grace was not to add anything else to the cursing of the ground. In His grace, God decided not to add to man's affliction.
- No more universal floods. Although the flood wiped out the universal wickedness for a time, it could not change the heart of man. No matter how much punishment is dished out upon the disobedient, there is always someone else ready to step up and try it for him or herself. God makes a concession here. He is saying, "Yes, man is evil. And his heart is evil continually. To persist in sin and not his lesson from the flood only shows how evil he really is.
- God saw (In the flood) that a price had been paid for the sins of the world.
- God saw (In Noah's sacrifice) that His Law had been upheld and therefore He could show His grace to a lost world.
- This doesn't mean that God has ceased judging sin.

***Rom. 1:18,19***

***18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.***

- God's judgment against sinners is being revealed by allowing them to live in the consequences of their own actions. The Apostle Paul says that God gives people over to their own lust. One of the greatest judgments God can send is to give

people what they want. They then have to live with their choices.

- God doesn't say that there won't be any more judgment. There will be a future global judgment, but this time it will be a judgment of fire.

***2 Peter 3:6,7***

***6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.***

Can you imagine what life would be like if seasons didn't come in an orderly manner? What if spring just failed to show up one year? Think of what that would do to the farmers, to the people that make their living doing things that must be done in the spring. What if life on earth was like it is on other planets, where violent storms can come without warning, at any time of the year?

The flood had upset the normal order of things. Never again would God wipe out the entire world with a flood. For us to carry on our lives, there has to be some normalcy. There has to be some order. We tend to read over this covenant without thinking about it. And I know it is easy to overlook many of the blessings God gives us, but our lives, as we know them, would not be possible without this covenant. If you think the weatherman is wrong too often now, just think about how it would be if God had not enacted this covenant.

***22 "While the earth remains,  
Seedtime and harvest,  
Cold and heat,  
Winter and summer,  
And day and night  
Shall not cease.***

## ***Chapter 9***

***1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.***

***6 "Whoever sheds man's blood,  
By man his blood shall be shed;  
For in the image of God  
He made man.***

***7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;  
Bring forth abundantly in the earth  
And multiply in it."***

- Be fruitful and multiply. This is the same command given to Adam and Eve.
- All animals will now fear you. Before the flood, animals and man lived in harmony. Everyone and everything was an herbivore. (With the exception of those that were evil)
- "They are given into your hand." Man is once again a steward over the animals but this time he is given mastery over them.
- Now we can have hamburgers and barbeque! This was out of necessity. The post-flood atmosphere was now thinner. Man would need much more protein to live. It was also a way to manage the wildlife. Animals reproduce more quickly than

- humans. It wouldn't take long for them to overrun mankind if this law wasn't enacted.
- You can't eat the blood. Blood is the physical source of life. It was used in the sacrifices. Therefore it was considered sacred. Drinking blood was forbidden. It was also a pagan ritual.
  - This is also the beginning of human government, as we know it. Without the death penalty, civilization would be in chaos. God put the fear in animals so they wouldn't destroy mankind. But He also had to protect us from one another. Once again, the heart of man is evil.
  - All life is the gift of God and to take away life is to put your self in the place of God. The Lord gives life and He alone has the right to authorize taking it away. (Job 1:21) Human government and capital punishment go hand in hand as Paul states in Romans 13:1-7.

***Romans 13:1-7***

***1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.***



Opponents of capital punishment often ask, “Does capital punishment deter crime?” But does any punishment totally deter crime? No: not parking or speeding tickets or any other law. But it does hold things in check so that civilized society can exist in relative peace. (The death penalty will deter the convict of killing anyone else.)

## THE NOAHIC COVENANT

***8 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying:9 “And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you:the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. 11 Thus I establish My covenant with you:Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”***

***12 And God said:“This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:13 I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. 14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”***

In order to help His people remember His covenants, the Lord gives visible signs of those covenants. Here it is a rainbow. For Abraham it was circumcision. For the giving of the Law at Mt.

Sinai, it was the weekly Sabbath which is also a sign of Israel's deliverance from Egypt.

***Dt. 5:15***

***15 And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.***

The mere fact that rain and a rainbow are now possible ensures that a worldwide rainstorm is not possible. There has to be dry weather elsewhere in order for rain to be produced in another place.

If the rainbow reminds us of God's faithfulness and grace, then why do we fret and worry? God didn't promise we would never experience a storm. But He did promise that the storms wouldn't destroy us.

***Isa. 43:2a***

***2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.***

A bow is an instrument of war. But in the case of the rainbow, we should note that the bow is turned toward Heaven. God has transformed it into a picture of grace and safety. Since God has turned the bow towards Heaven, it shows us that God taken the punishment for us, Himself. We know that to be the case from Jesus' death on the cross.

***1 Peter 3:18***

***Christ's Suffering and Ours***

***18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,***

The rainbow is a universal sign to all. It also testifies to the fact that the flood was a universal one.

Wherever we are, we can see it and know that God's promises stand sure.

*Mark Twain and his friend William Dean Howells stepped out of church just as a violent rainstorm began. Howells said, "I wonder if it will stop"; and Mark Twain replied, "It always has."*

He was right. Because when God makes a covenant, He always keeps His Word.

Mark Twain, page 55