

Genesis 9

Verses 1-3

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ²The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every animal of the earth and on every bird of the sky; on everything that crawls on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea. They are handed over to you. ³Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I have given everything to you, as *I gave* the green plant.

"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

This is the same commission that was given to Adam and Eve in the beginning
Noah and his family are a new start for the human race.

And the fear of you and the dread of you

This was a change in man's relationship to the animal kingdom.

Every living thing that moves shall be food for you

The greater quantity of "clean animals" on the ark makes sense

God had planned to change what was allowed for food

Man was now given permission to eat meat by a Divine edict

After the fall men may have taken it upon themselves to eat meat

Especially when we consider the sinful attitude of man before the flood

But we don't know with certainty that this was so

In either case, the prohibition against eating meat was lifted

Verse 4

But you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood.

Just as the distinction between clean and unclean animals came long before the law

So this prohibition about not eating blood came long before the law was given

Verses 5-6

⁵ I certainly will require your lifeblood; from every animal I will require it. And from every person, from every man as his brother I will require the life of a person.

**⁶ Whoever sheds human blood, By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God He made mankind.**

⁶ Whoever sheds human blood, By man his blood shall be shed,

God just instituted capital punishment for murder

When Cain killed Abel he was punished but he was not put to death

But over the 2200 years from Cain and Abel to the global flood the population grew, and so did the evil in men's hearts

This would have happen again if nothing was done to restrict men's evil ways

Who was now responsible for putting a murderer to death?

The brother of the man who was slain

Later, under the patriarchal system, the next of kin was given the responsibility

It was not limited to a brother

In the 1st century the Roman government was in charge of this task

See Romans 13:1-4

Verse 7

**As for you, be fruitful and multiply;
Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.”**

This is the same commission given to Adam and Eve

Verses 8-13

⁸ Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, ⁹ “Now behold, I Myself am establishing My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the livestock, and every animal of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, every animal of the earth. ¹¹ I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be eliminated by the waters of a flood, nor shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations; ¹³ I have set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall serve as a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.

I Myself am establishing My covenant with you

This word occurs some 200 times in the O.T.

This covenant was unusual because it was unconditional

Nothing was required on the part of man

This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you

I have set My rainbow in the cloud

Whenever the rainbow is seen:

Men are to remember that God will keep His Word

Never again will the earth be destroyed by a global flood.

Verses 14 – 17

¹⁴ It shall come about, when I make a cloud appear over the earth, that the rainbow will 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; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the rainbow is in the cloud, then I will look at 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.”

When I make a cloud appear over the earth

Many people believe that rain had not fallen on the earth prior to the flood

See Genesis 2:4-6

But these verses also say that this was before God had created man

We know there was an ocean and rivers prior to the flood

4 rivers are mentioned in Genesis 2:10-14 after man was created

So was there no evaporation and rain for 2200 years?

It seems rather unlikely

This would mean that God created the system of evaporation just before the flood

The creation was complete at the end of day 6

Verses 18 - 24

¹⁸ Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. ¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

²⁰ Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. ²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it on both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.

Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard

We don't know what his occupation was for the first 500 years

But he probably had some good carpenter skills given the job he was given to do

This new occupation was necessitated by the small economy at the time

One family with 8 people

He drank some wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent

A significant amount of time had passed since the flood

Because he had to plant a vineyard

And then it would take a number of years for it to produce grapes

Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father

Canaan was Ham's 4th son

See [Genesis 10:6](#)

And his first son was not born until Ham left the ark.

So this may have taken place at least 10 years after the flood

Ham did sin against Noah, but his sin was one of impropriety

If he looked at his father by accident, he should have covered him up and remained silent about the incident

Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his youngest son had done to him.

Canaan went into Noah and dishonored his grandfather

So why does it say son instead of grandson?

The use of "son" instead of "grandson" is not uncommon in the Bible

Verses 25-27

²⁵ **So he said,**

**“Cursed be Canaan;
A servant of servants
He shall be to his brothers.”**

²⁶ **He also said,**

**“Blessed be the Lord,
The God of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant.**

²⁷ **May God enlarge Japheth,
And may he live in the tents of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant.”**

Cursed be Canaan

The condition of servitude was based on his sin

In this case a sexual perversion-----Not the color of his skin

The time frame for this is maybe 10 years after the flood. (3088 BC)

Some think this applied to his descendants when Israel captured the land of Canaan

But that seems unlikely considering the two events are separated by 1600 years

God enlarge Japheth

This was fulfilled in the populations of Europe

See map 905



And let him dwell in the tents of Shem;

Japheth and Shem received a similar blessing for respecting their father

And let Canaan be his servant.

Canaan, the son of Ham, suffered the curse of slavery for his actions

And he was to serve both of his brothers

Verses 28-29

²⁸ Noah lived 350 years after the flood. ²⁹ So all the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

Noah died in 2748 BC; 250 years after the flood

See chart 910

	Father	born	son	died	age
1	ADAM	5340	230	4410	930
2	SETH	5110	205	4198	912
3	ENOSH	4905	190	4000	905
4	CAINAN	4715	170	3805	910
5	MAHALALEL	4545	165	3650	895
6	JARED	4380	162	3418	962
7	ENOCH	4218	165	3853	365
8	METHUSELAH	4053	167	3084	969
9	LAMESH	3886	188	3133	753
10	NOAH	3698	502	2748	950
11	SHEM	3196	100	2596	600
	Flood	3098			
12	ARPHAXAD	3096	135	2561	535
13	SHELAH	2961	130	2501	460
14	EBER	2831	134	2427	404
15	PELEG	2697	130	2358	339
16	REU	2567	132	2228	339
17	SERUG	2435	130	2105	330
18	NAHOR	2305	179	2001	304
19	TERAH	2126	130	1921	205
20	ABRAM	1996	100	1821	175
21	ISACC	1896	60	1716	180
22	JACOB	1836	91	1689	147
23	JOSEPH	1745		1635	110