

***Lesson: Noah and a New Beginning Pt 2 (Genesis 8:1-9:29)***

Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord and was chosen to lead the effort to restart humanity and all of creation. God sent the flood and washed away the evil that had grieved him. Now, God wanted to begin anew so that his purposes might still be fulfilled. With God’s help and guidance, Noah and his family would *try* to restore order in the world. We find that constant commitment to the will and ways of God is necessary to maintain order otherwise chaos will come back.

**Biblical Takeaways (8:1-9:28)**

1. *God remembered Noah and his creation* (8:1-19): When the text says, “God remembered” it is not suggesting there is a possibility that God can have a memory lapse. God does not have a bad memory. But God can choose to forget whatever he desires. We are thankful God chooses to forget our sins (Heb 8:12). God’s remembrance of Noah and his creation is a way of speaking of God’s intent to move on their behalf. After the flood, now God was ready to make creation become what he intended. As the water abated, Noah and his family stayed in the ark until the water dried. He sent a raven and a dove to test the dryness of the land. Both flew back and forth until the land was dry and then did not return. In 8:15ff, God told Noah it was time to depart the ark to restart the world.
2. *Noah gave an offering and God made a promise* (Gen 8:20-22): Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed using some of the clean animals. And it was a sweet-smelling savor for God. God promised to never curse the ground again because of our wickedness, or he would never stop cursing the ground. The earth, as a consequence, will never be destroyed as a whole.
3. *Noah’s new start is a reclamation* (Gen 9:1-10): God blessed Noah and his family and said, “be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.” He also said that every creature would respect their authority (see Gen 1:26-31). God said the same thing in the beginning. God valued human life because we are made in his image (9:6). We may have tarnished the image of God but we are still made in it. This is why murder is prohibited (9:5).
4. *The Rainbow* (9:11-17): God vowed to never destroy every living thing in the world again. God set the rainbow in the sky as a token, a sign, evidence that he would keep this covenant so that life would continue. It shows us when we see rain coming, the rainbow reminds us that it will not overwhelm us to the point of complete devastation.
5. *Noah’s Drunkenness and Curse* (9:18-29): Noah was a farmer and grew grapes and made wine. He drank too much once and was naked in his tent. Ham saw it and instead of attempting to cover Noah’s nudity, he went and told his brothers, leaving Noah nude. His brothers responded by walking backward and covering their father. This was an embarrassment in that culture. Two wrongs do not make a right. As a consequence, Noah issued a curse, against Canaan, Ham’s son, NOT Ham, that he would be a servant to Shem and Japheth. Canaanite people would become sinful and would be punished by God by being removed from the land and overtaken by Israel. They were not cursed people nor does this text prove the curse of Ham existed. It was a white supremacist excuse to defame and enslave black people.