

A study of Genesis 1–12

WE ARE FAMILY

Almost every discovered civilization holds in common one rule, murder is wrong. Many civilizations justify killing for a variety of reasons—defense, securing wealth/provisions, etc.. However, within a tribe, murder is rarely condoned.

As Noah, his family, and the animals disembark from the ark, the foundation for this universal principle gets laid. God tells the founding family, “*Whoever sheds human blood, by other humans must his blood be shed; for in God’s image God has made humankind*” (Genesis 9:6). Why? Verse 5 gives that answer, “*the man was his relative.*”

By Genesis 11, people and cultures multiply to multitudes, but remain united through the family that survived the flood. Jesus later heightens the universal prohibition of murder by saying that “*anyone who is angry with a brother*” and “*whoever insults a brother*” stands guilty of the penalty of murder (Matthew 5).

Being created in God’s image and as descendants of Noah’s family tree, people have more in common than we think. Maybe if we understood our family origins, we’d see that people may be different than us, but we are still family.

GENESIS 9:7–16

⁷ “But as for you, be fruitful and multiply; increase abundantly on the earth and multiply on it.”

⁸ God said to Noah and his sons, ⁹ “Look. I now confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, including the birds, the domestic animals, and every living creature of the earth with you, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature of the earth. ¹¹ I confirm my covenant with you: Never again will all living things be wiped out by the waters of a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said, “This is the guarantee of the covenant I am making with you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all subsequent generations: ¹³ I will place my rainbow in the clouds, and it will become a guarantee of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ then I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures of all kinds. Never again will the waters become a flood and destroy all living things. ¹⁶ When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will notice it and remember the perpetual covenant between God and all living creatures of all kinds that are on the earth.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

So, hopefully it has been clear that we view the flood as a world-wide event, rather than a local phenomenon. There are many reasons for this, such as the article in the qr code last week.

However, a major reason we believe the flood was world-wide, is what the Bible itself has to say regarding Noah, the flood, and the ark. It’s hard to be a serious student of the Bible, believing in the God who wrote it, and dismiss what the Bible clearly describes as the extent of the flood.



DISCUSSION

If you could go anywhere in the world for free, where would you go and how long would you stay?

1. What did God command? (7)

2. What did God say and do with Noah and his sons? (8-9)

3. Circle each time this passage refers to “every” or “all” living things. (10-16)

4. What did God create as a symbol of this promise? (12-17)

5. Why is it important that God’s covenant is “perpetual” and not based on Noah and his descendants?

6. If you had the opportunity for a completely fresh start, would you take it? What would you change?

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

We’ve covered a lot of ground and hit on many topics in this study. However, a theme that carries through is God’s redemption. Have questions? Talk to your coach today.

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STUDY NOTES

IT'S DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN

Possibly the greatest catcher to ever play the game, Yogi Berra, whose MLB career as player, manager, and coach was only out-shined by his mouth. Berra mixed up words, clichés, and other statements so much that he earned a name for them—“Berra-isms” or “Yogi-isms.” One of my personal favorites, “Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical,” Yogi gave another classic Berra-ism when streakers ran across the field, “I don’t know (if they were men or women fans running naked across the field). They had bags over their heads.”

As we open our passage today, it really is déjà vu all over again. In verse 7, we read God’s command given originally to Adam and Eve, now stated to the new founding family, **“But as for you, be fruitful and multiply; increase abundantly on the earth and multiply on it.”** Here again we see the command as kings and queens to make more kings and queens. To fulfill *this* command, Noah had to obey God’s *previous* command of loading up the ship with male and female animals. Which, I suppose, Noah checked by taking the bags off their heads as he boarded the ark.

We’ve stated in this study that Moses wrote *Genesis* to the generation who escaped Egypt in the Exodus. Each encounter of *Genesis* answered the question, “How’d we get here?” After sin and wickedness brought the world to its knees such that only one man and family was considered righteous, God brought judgment in the form of a flood. That flood changed the world in ways we cannot even comprehend. From the landscape, to the atmosphere, a world-wide flood would have changed everything. Not only that, but the original audience (and us) had an explanation for the world as it now is—where we came from, purpose, why there is sin and pain, how and why sin hasn’t gone unrestrained, etc. Increasingly, the current reality is taking shape. However, before the earth refills with people, God makes a promise that will carry through all times and places. God’s unconditional promise stands forever, marked by a banner across the sky as its reminder.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

“I knew that record would stand until it was broken.” That’s Yogi-ism for the cliché, “All records are made to be broken.” If one characteristic exists that describes our world, it’s that everything changes. However, God made a promise to Noah and his family that would never change—ever.

God made this promise, that we call a “covenant,” **to Noah and his sons.** God starts the promise with the word, **“Look.”** Perhaps a parent or coach has gotten a hold of you and said, “Look here...” This simple word acts like that. God’s not making a ho-hum statement. He’s saying, “Look here folks... pay attention.” ***“I now confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you.”***

Trick question, “Who are Noah’s descendants?” Answer, “Everyone you’ve ever known.” God’s making this promise to us too. And, just so they’re not left out, ***every living creature of the earth.*** The idea of “every living creature” is so important to the covenant, God repeats the idea six times in six verses (10–16).

What does God promise? ***“Never again will all living things be wiped out by the waters of a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”*** As a reminder of this promise God said, ***“I will place my rainbow in the clouds, and it will become a guarantee of the covenant between me and the earth.”***

GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY RULES

We’ve all faced seasons from which we needed a “fresh start.” It doesn’t get any fresher than Noah and his family. Literally, the whole world was theirs to rule. Nothing stood in their way at all—except sin.

If you keep reading in Genesis 9, you see the story of Noah getting drunk and his son making fun of his father’s nakedness. The ground had barely dried when sin and shame returned. The righteousness of Noah did not cure the stain of sin on the world. God’s ***perpetual covenant*** wasn’t that judgment would *never* come. It was ***never again will the waters become a flood.*** Judgment will come, but not until it comes in full. As Berra said, “We made too many wrong mistakes.” We need a life-raft. We need the ark that Christ built with two beams and three nails.

Perhaps you’re anxious to get a fresh start—get out of high school, finish your semester or year, and we all want to leave 2020 behind. However, a fresh start is only as good as the baggage that got *left* behind. Sin doesn’t come from external circumstances; it’s based on an internal condition.

If you’ve never trusted Christ as the ark for your sin, the invitation is open. However, even in Christ, the Bible makes clear that sin can have a foothold in our lives. You know what you’ve done, or longed to do, that nobody else knows about. Like Berra said about baseball, overcoming sin “is 90% mental and the other half is physical.” Christians fight sin, but when we mess up, we must agree with God that our sin is wrong and confess our sin to God.