

OT Narratives Bible Study Series
Genesis 9-11 - A New Beginning...

For Review: In Genesis 6-8, why did God destroy the earth with a Flood? What warnings and encouragements does the account of Noah and the Flood give us today?

Read Genesis 8:18-9:29

-In what ways does this passage parallel Genesis 1-3? (for example, compare 9:1-3 with 1:26-31; etc.) In what ways does it differ? What's the take-home message?

Read Genesis 10

-What is the significance of Noah's curse on Canaan (9:24-26)? [Who were the descendents of Canaan (10:15-19)? See also Gen. 11:31; 15:17-21; 18:20-21; 19:24-25; Deut. 7:1-6; 20:16-18]

Read Genesis 11

-What was wrong with what the people of Babel were doing in building the city & the tower, and why did God put an end to it?

-Can you think of any modern-day equivalents of the Tower of Babel?

-How do Genesis 10 & 11 parallel Genesis 4-6? How does this set the stage for what's coming in Genesis 12:1-3?

For further reflection

In Genesis 9, we see the beginnings of a "new creation"... of sorts. After the Flood, Noah comes forth into a new world as a "new Adam". And yet, unlike the original Creation, this new world is not pronounced by God to be "very good". The Flood did not remove the taint of sin, and so the reality of death lurks in the background (9:4-6) even as God blesses and commissions Noah and His family (9:1-7). And like Adam, Noah soon experiences a "Fall" that results in a curse with lasting implications on generations to come (9:20-27). After Noah, mankind proliferates and spreads out over the earth (Gen. 10), but as mankind increases, so also does his pride and rebellion against God, as epitomized in the tower of Babel (11:1-4). In the face of all this, however, God is faithful to preserve a remnant - in the lineage of Shem (11:10-32) - through which He will save the world.

The account of Noah and the 'new' but fallen creation around him points to the need for greater 'new Adam' (Jesus Christ!) who will bring his people into a greater 'New Creation' - one that will no longer be marked by sin or subject to bondage to corruption. In Abram, we will see another new beginning - one that will lead ultimately to the greater New Creation that we need.

Spend some time reflecting on the reality that those who have believed in Christ are new creations (2 Cor. 5:17), and that He will one day make everything new (Rev. 21:1-5). How should we be reflecting this reality in the way we live our daily lives?

Additional Resources

CGYG/LIFE website: www.cgygfellowship.com (Resources section)

- Genesis Bible study series: http://www.cgygfellowship.com/BBS_Genesis.shtml
- OT Daily Devotional series

CGC website

- OT Survey and Genesis adult Christian education materials: <http://www.cgctorenglish.chinesegospelchurch.ca> (Resources section)