

Linked-in to all of Life Genesis 8 - 9



What does a rainbow symbolise for you?



Chapter 9:12
¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:



As the flood recedes, humanity has a fresh start in three relationships fundamental to life.



A NEW BEGINNING

Read Genesis 8: 1 - 9: 1

1. What is the purpose of Genesis 8: 1?
In what way is Genesis 8 a reversal of Chapter 7.
2. Genesis 8: 1, 8:17, 9:1 What do these verses remind us of?
(See Genesis 1: 28)

A PARTICULAR RELATIONSHIP TO THE EARTH

Read Genesis 9: 2 - 17

3. ‘Covenant’ is the key word in Genesis 9 that describes God’s relationships with believers? What is a covenant?
4. What is included in this covenant?
9: 2-3
9: 10, 12, 16, 13
5. Where do we see God’s commitment to creation in the storyline of the Bible—creation, sin and the fall, redemption and restoration?
(see Psalm 19: 1-4 Romans 8: 18 - 25, and Psalm 96: 11-14)

A RELATIONSHIP OF JUSTICE WITH ALL PEOPLE OF THE EARTH

Read Genesis 9: 5 - 7

6. What do we learn about God’s attitude to human life?
7. If every human being is made in the image of God, what implications does this have for mercy ministries?
(See quote from Calvin's Institutes 3: 7:6. P 696)



“The bow shall be seen in the cloud.”

Genesis 9:14

By C.H Spurgeon

The rainbow, the symbol of the covenant with Noah, is typical of our Lord Jesus, who is the Lord’s witness to the people. When may we *expect to see the token of the covenant*? The rainbow is only to be seen painted upon a *cloud*. When the sinner’s conscience is dark with clouds, when he remembers his past sin, and mourneth and lamenteth before God, Jesus Christ is revealed to him as the covenant Rainbow, displaying all the glorious hues of the divine character and betokening peace. To the believer, when his trials and temptations surround him, it is sweet to behold the person of our Lord Jesus Christ—to see him bleeding, living, rising, and pleading for us. God’s rainbow is hung over the cloud of our sins, our sorrows, and our woes, to prophesy deliverance. Nor does a *cloud* alone give a rainbow, there must be *the crystal drops* to reflect the light of the sun. So, our sorrows must not only threaten, but they must really fall upon us. There had been no Christ for us if the vengeance of God had been merely a threatening cloud: punishment must fall in terrible drops upon the Surety. Until there is a *real* anguish in the sinner’s conscience, there is no Christ for him; until the chastisement which he feels becomes grievous, he cannot see Jesus. But there must also be a sun; for clouds and drops of rain make not rainbows unless the sun shineth. Beloved, our God, who is as the sun to us, always shines, but we do not always see him—clouds hide his face; but no matter what drops may be falling, or what clouds may be threatening, if *he* does but shine there will be a rainbow at once. It is said that when we see the rainbow the shower is over. Certain it is, that when Christ comes, our troubles remove; when we behold Jesus, our sins vanish, and our doubts and fears subside. When Jesus walks the waters of the sea, how profound the calm!

THINK &
APPLY

AN INTIMATE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Read Genesis 9: 8 - 17



8. What does the rainbow (vs 12) tell us of our relationship with God?
- When does a rainbow appear?
 - What promise is a rainbow a reminder?
 - What does it mean for a rainbow to be at the conjunction of sun and storm?
 - To whom does the beauty of the rainbow point?

9. Ponder William Cowper's words in this poem:
(p 586-7, volume 3, The works of John Newton verses 1-6)
CONFLICT XV. C. Light shining out of Darkenss

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| <p>1. God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.</p> | <p>4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.</p> |
| <p>2. Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works his sov'reign will.</p> | <p>5. His purpose will ripen fast,
Unfolding ev'ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow'r.</p> |
| <p>3. Ye fearful saints fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.</p> | <p>6. Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.</p> |



PRAYER

Praise God for the challenges raised by God's word through this study

Praying for others in your group:

Pray for others in your group



FAMILY
DISCUSSION

How do we apply this passage in our daily life?

Institutes of the Christian Religion Book 3: by Calvin Chapter 6

The Lord commands all men without exception "to do good" (Heb. 13:16). Yet the great part of them are most unworthy if they be judged by their own merit. But here Scripture helps in the best way when it teaches that we are not to consider that men merit of themselves but to look upon the image of God in all men, to which we owe all honor and love. However, it is among members of the household of faith that this same image is more carefully to be noted (Gal. 6:10), in so far as it has been renewed and restored through the Spirit of Christ. Therefore, whatever man you meet who needs your aid, you have no reason to refuse to help him. Say, "He is contemptible and worthless, but the Lord shows him to be one to whom he has deigned to give the beauty of His image.

Now if he has not only deserved no good at your hand, but has also provoked you by unjust acts and curses, not even this is just reason why you should cease to embrace him in love and to perform the duties of love on his behalf (Matt. 6: 14. 18: 35, Luke 17: 3). You will say, "he has deserved something far different of me." Yet what has the Lord deserved? It is that we remember not to consider men's evil intentions but to look upon the image of God in them, which cancels and effaces their transgressions, and with its beauty and dignity allures us to love and embrace them.

PRAISE GOD for his grace & faithfulness to his covenant.

CONFESS that we struggle to integrate faith & practice

ASK GOD for help to see the worth & integrity of each individual

PRAY ALSO for the witness of Scots' Church in the City.



READ AHEAD

Next week's topic is:
Lord of the City

Read: Genesis 10: 31-11:1-9