

# BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

## “God’s Covenant With Noah”

Genesis 9:1-29

2002

### Introduction

#### I The Recommissioning Of Man

A. God **blessed** Noah and his sons [Verse 1a]

*Blessed* = Barak = “To confer benefit”

This is a renewal of God’s 1<sup>st</sup> blessing on Adam in Genesis 1:28.

#### Application:

The world often refers to someone who is fortunate as leading a “blessed” life.

But who is really blessed in life?

Ps 144:15 “Blessed are the people ... whose God is the LORD.”

Rom 4:7-8 “Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.”

B. God commanded them: [Verse 1b, 7]

1. To be **fruitful** = Parah = “To bear fruit”

2. To increase = Rabah = “To multiply

3. To **fill** the earth

*Fill* = Male' = “To fill or replenish”

God gives Noah the same commission He gave Adam in Genesis 1:28.

#### Application:

God’s ultimate goal is not to simply fill the earth with people but to fill the new heaven and the new earth with worshippers!!

What’s His strategy?

1. He wants you to bear fruit

John 15:8 “This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

2. He wants you to multiply yourself

2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

C. God put a **fear** and dread of man in all creatures [Verse 2]

Why did God put this fear of man in all creatures?

1. For the protection of animals who will no longer be at peace with man.

2. For the protection of man who will no longer be at peace with animals.

1. He gave them into Noah’s hands

Jeremiah 27:5 “With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please.

D. God granted man **permission** to eat meat [Verse 3]

Why was eating meat permitted after the flood but not before?

1. Possibly because of a reduced nutritional value of post-flood vegetation.
2. As a graphic illustration that life after the Fall of man is made possible only by the death of another creature.

**Application:**

The ultimate fulfillment of this foreshadowing work of substitutionary sacrifice is found in the words of Jesus in John 6:53-54 when He said “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

E. God imposed one dietary restriction [Verse 4-6]

1. Man must not eat meat with the **blood** in it

Why? Lev 17:11 “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.”

Blood was the sign of mercy for Israel at the first Passover (Ex 12:13). Blood sealed God's covenant with Israel (Ex 24:8). Blood sanctified the altar (Exodus 29:12). Blood set aside the priests (Ex 29:20). Blood made atonement for God's people (Ex 30:10). Blood sealed the new covenant (Matt 26:28). Blood justifies us (Rom 5:9). Through blood we have redemption (Eph 1:7). Through blood we have peace with God (Col 1:20). Blood cleanses us (Heb 9:14, 1 John 1:7). By blood we enter God's holy place (Heb 10:19). By blood we are sanctified (Heb 13:12). Blood enables us to overcome Satan (Rev 12:11).

**Application:**

What about eating blood today? Is it O.K. to eat Diran Da'ra'an?

1 Timothy 4:4 “For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.”

2. God will demand an accounting of:

a. Any animal that sheds man's blood

Ex 21:28 “If a bull gores a man or a woman to death, the bull must be stoned to death, and its meat must not be eaten.”

b. Any man that sheds man's blood

Life is deemed so precious by God, that when murder is committed, the death penalty is in order.

Lev 24:17-18 “If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death.”

Here we have the scriptural basis for capital punishment. However, as we’re taught in Romans 13:1-4 this responsibility is the sole prerogative of human government. As the Apostle Paul makes clear, government acts as the instrument of God. It is the agent of God.

1. Why? Because man is made in God’s **image**  
*Image* = Tselem = “Resemblance or likeness”  
 Gn 5:1 “When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.”  
 As a result, human life is inherently precious and cannot be taken without giving account to God.

### **Application:**

This passage sheds some interesting light on the controversial subject of abortion. There have been 42 million abortions since Roe vs. Wade. Mother Theresa: “The most dangerous place in the world is a mother’s womb.”

1. If the life of man is in the blood (Gen 9:4; Lev 17:11) ...
2. If man is not to shed innocent blood ...
3. If a fetus, no matter how small, has lifeblood in it ...

Then, to destroy a fetus is to shed innocent blood and is therefore unquestionably an act of premeditated murder, deserving the prescribed penalty of death.

## **II The Covenant Of God**

A. God covenant’s to never **cut off** all life with a flood [Verse 7-11]

1. Never again will he destroy the earth with a flood

God has kept that promise. There have been many local floods since that time but never a universal one, never again a flood to destroy all flesh. It is not that God will never judge mankind again. The New Testament tells us that God will once again judge the world, but next time it will not be by water but by fire (2 Pet 3:7, 12).

B. God confirms this covenant with the sign of a **rainbow** [Verse 12-17]

*Sign* = 'owth = “A signal or evidence”

Every biblical covenant has an accompanying sign.

1. Noah - Rainbow - Genesis 9:12-17
2. Abraham - Circumcision - Genesis 17:7-14
3. Moses - Sabbath - Exodus 19:5-6; 24:7-8; 31:12-17
4. David - Virgin birth - Ps 89:3-4, 28-29; 132:11-12; Is 7:14; 9:6-7; Jer 33:19-22, 25-26
5. New Covenant - Blood - Jeremiah 31:31-37

1. Whenever clouds appear over the earth and a rainbow appears, God will **remember** His covenant with man  
**Remember** = Zakar = “To be mindful or to recount”  
 It is interesting to note the fact that the rainbow is not designed so much for man’s benefit but for God’s. God said that the rainbow would cause Him to remember His unconditional covenant with man.

C. God fulfills His plan through Noah’s sons

Acts 17:25-27 “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”

### III The Sin Of Noah

Noah was a remarkable man who served God so faithfully in his own generation – so much so that he is listed in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11. Unfortunately, his later years were not as noteworthy.

The time when most great leaders fall is on the heels of a great victory.

Elijah following his great victory over the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18.

Jezebel threatens his life and the man of faith crumbles - 1 Kings 19

A. He **planted** a vineyard [Verse 18-20]

Noah's drunkenness occurred a considerable time after they had left the ark. He had to plant a vineyard, allow it to grow to fruitbearing (3-5 years), harvest a crop, gather it and extract the juice from the grapes, and finally allow it time to ferment into wine.

In other words, there were quite a few steps that led to his drunken stupor.

**Application:**

James 1:13-15 “When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

B. He drank wine and became **drunk** [Verse 21a]

There are literally hundreds of references to wine, strong drink, and drunkenness scattered throughout the Bible. However, in spite of the great attention alcohol receives in the Bible, there is not a binding rule declaring, "Thou shalt not drink."

In Prov 20:1 we are told that “Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.”

But then in Psalms 104:14-15, we are told that God “makes ... wine that gladdens the heart of man.”

In 1 Cor 6:9-10 and Gal 5:19-21 Paul says that drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But then tells Timothy to “take a little wine for his stomach's sake.” 1 Tim 5:23

So, the Bible neither condemns drinking of alcoholic beverages in *moderation* nor does it promote it. However, the Bible does speak very harshly about becoming enslaved to alcohol or allowing it to control a person, especially to the point of drunkenness.

Having said that, alcohol is statistically one of the most destructive behaviors in our culture today and is directly or indirectly associated with:

*48% of all robberies*

*50% of all spousal abuse and all rapes*

*54% of all murders*

*60% of all traffic fatalities*

*62% of all assaults*

*80% of all child abuse and neglect cases*

So my question is this, “Why take a chance? Why participate in a purely optional activity that has the potential to ruin a person’s life?”

C. He lay **uncovered** in his tent [Verse 21b]

**Uncovered** = Galah = “To be disgracefully exposed”

Noah evidently felt warm because of the effect of the alcohol, took off his clothes and then passed out in his tent.

#### **Application:**

Alcohol is a depressant. It "loosens" people up because it depresses their self-control, their wisdom, their balance and judgment.

Eph 5:18 “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

The filling of the Holy Spirit has the exact opposite effect of alcohol. Rather than depressing our physical, mental and spiritual capacities, the Holy Spirit heightens them. He influences every aspect of our being to better and more perfect performance.

D. Ham saw Noah’s nakedness [Verse 22]

There are some Bible scholars who link this episode with the account in Leviticus 18, where, under the Law, this phrase, "to see the nakedness" of an individual is a euphemistic expression for a sexual act. In other words, Ham’s behavior involved some sort of homosexual activity.

Others think Ham’s only sin here was in seeing Noah’s drunken, uncovered state, and making fun of him, mocking him as a father and as a man of God.

Either way, it is clear that Ham looked upon his father in his exposed condition in an ungodly manner.

1. He told his brothers outside

**Told** = Nagad = “To boldly announce with delight”

Ham’s heart was intent on mocking his father and undermining his authority as a man of God. He did nothing to preserve his father’s dignity. To the contrary, Ham probably encouraged Shem and Japheth to go into the tent to see this spectacle for themselves.

Prov 30:17 “The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.”

- E. Shem and Japheth **covered** Noah’s nakedness [Verse 23]

1. They laid a **garment** across their shoulders

**Garment** = “Covering”

2. They walked in backward and covered Noah

**Covered** = Kacah = “To conceal or hide”

3. They **turned** their faces from his nakedness

Ham’s brothers are a living illustration of 1 Peter 4:8 “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

They literally covered their father and refused to look upon his shame, thus they honored their father and won the approval and blessing of God.

#### **Application:**

How do you respond to the sins and failings of others? With delight? With a sense of superiority? By spreading the story?

Prov 17:9 “He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.”

Matthew 7:1-2 “Do not judge [critically], or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

#### **IV The Pronouncements Of Noah**

- A. Noah **cursed** Canaan [Verse 24-25]

Deut 27:16 “Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother.”

The strangest thing in this whole account is that, when Noah awoke and learned what Ham had done, he doesn’t curse Ham, but rather he curses Canaan, the youngest of Ham’s four sons.

The question is, “Why? Why curse Canaan for Ham’s sin?”

The explanation which best seems to answer this question is that the words of Noah are not only a response to the sinful actions of Ham,

but also a prophetic word concerning the moral and spiritual rebellion of Ham's son, Canaan.

1. "The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers"  
A servant of servants will he be to his brothers  
**Canaan** = Kana' = "To humiliate or put into subjection"

B. Noah **blessed** the God of Shem and Japheth [Verse 26-29]

**Application:**

God blessed Noah and now Noah blesses God!! And he blesses Shem and Japheth who were worshippers of God and bore the fruit in their character.

1. May Canaan be the slave of Shem  
Here Canaan is subjugated to Shem who was the father of the Semitic people, from whom the promised Messiah would come.
2. May God **extend** the territory of Japheth  
**Japheth** = Yepheth = "To expand or enlarge"  
1 Chron 4:10 "Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory!"
3. May Japheth live in the tents of Shem  
This does not mean that Japheth would actually live in the tents of Shem, but rather that he would have close "fellowship with Shem."  
This is in contrast with those who "dwell in the tents of the wicked." Ps 84:10  
Psalms 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

**Conclusion**

1. Are you confident that you have the blessing of God?  
Rom 4:7-8 "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."
2. Are you fulfilling your calling to be fruitful, increase and fill the earth?  
Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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