



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Starting Over!

Genesis 9:1-29

Message #10 of 50 – S907

Sermon given on August 9, 2020

@ Hawk Ranch, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Starting Over!

Genesis 9:1-29

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 9**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- We just shared Communion – the remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross to pay for our sins
- Before we accepted Christ – we had no relationship with God
- Our sins separated us from Him – but then God made a way for us to start over **Ephesians 1:7**

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace...

- In the riches of God’s grace, we are able to start over with God
- It is part of God’s nature to make a way to start over again with Him
- Tragically, not everyone wants to start over with God
- God will give people every chance to get their relationship right with Him, but there comes a time when the consequences of choosing to not start over again with God must come
- That was what the Flood was all about
- God wiped the world clean and started over again with Noah and his family
- God ushered this new beginning in with a promise
- And it is a promise that we can all cling to today
- Let’s pray and ask the Spirit to speak to our hearts this morning
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Starting Over!**
- The flood is past – God brings Noah, his family, and the animals out of the ark
- The very first thing Noah does is build an altar and make an offering to God – a ‘soothing aroma’ – God was pleased
- So far, so good!
- **Genesis 9:1**

- This is the same thing God told Adam and Eve
- But things weren't going to be the same
- **Genesis 9:2**
- When sin came into the world, wasn't just humanity that was impacted – all of creation
- Someday God to going to reset it all back to the way it was
- Something else seems to have changed
- **Genesis 9:3**
- It seems that until this point, people didn't eat meat
- Here, God says every animal is on the menu
- There are some people who do not eat meat for health reasons
- And for others, it is a matter of choice
- But there are some who matter it a moral issue – saying that eating meat is wrong
- Based on this verse and many other verses like it, they have no biblical basis for saying it is wrong
- If God commands us to do something, it can never be wrong
- So, this afternoon, throw a big juicy steak on the barbecue as an act of obedience to God
- God does give them one exception to this command
- **Genesis 9:4-6**
- Before you eat the meat, drain the blood – blood = life
- All life is precious, but human life is sacred
- God described the world before the Flood as entirely wicked and 'full of violence'
- That tells us that people did not value human life
- God tells us through Noah that human life is exceedingly sacred
- Remember, Moses is the one God inspired to write this
- The Israelites had just come out of four hundred years of oppressive slavery in Egypt where they were abused and murdered
- They are being led into a land that did horrific things like sacrificing their children to false gods and burying them in the foundation of their home for a blessing
- God says that if one human takes the life of another human, the consequence is that the murderer is to be put to death

- There are many reasons why someone might be opposed to capital punishment, but there is no biblical reason – it is God’s law
- Which He then placed into the hands of human government **Romans 13:3-4**

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

- After God establishes the sanctity of human life and prescribes the law of retribution, He elaborates on His promise to Noah not to flood the earth again

- **Genesis 9:8-17**

- The Flood was terrible
- We are going to read at the end of this chapter that Noah lived for 350 after the Flood
- Imagine sitting around listening to him tell the stories to his grandchildren and the generations that followed
- What might you think the next time it rained? Uh oh, here it comes again! Right?
- God promised never to destroy the world again with a flood
- The rainbow was a visible sign of God’s promise
- But it was more than just that
- For thousands of years millions of rainbows have seen all around the world - Each one testifying to God’s faithfulness and His grace
- But it was also a reminder that God once destroyed the world with a Flood – God takes sin seriously
- For each of us, the rainbow should remind us that God always keeps His promises – like **Hebrews 13:5**

Let *your* conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*”

- Or this promise **John 10:28-29**

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand.

- The rainbow is a visible sign of God’s grace and faithfulness
- He also sent us another sign **Isaiah 7:14**

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

- We know that Son born to the virgin by another name – Jesus
- Paul would say later that it is in Him that the promises of God are made sure **2 Corinthians 1:20**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

- Seeing a rainbow in the sky is a great encouragement regarding God's faithfulness, but having Jesus in your heart is how we live in this fallen and sin-broken world
- Next, we are given a quick genealogy
- **Genesis 9:18-19**
- If you want to be a faithful Christian, you must accept and believe what the Bible says – treat it as truth and build your life upon it
- The Bible says that God created Adam and Eve – they didn't evolve
- And here we are told that all of humanity alive today descended from these three men and their wives
- As the study of genetics advances, there is strong evidence that there are three branches of genetic relationship – only three, exactly three
- God cleaned the earth with a Flood and then told Noah's sons to populate the earth with people
- You might imagine these are all good people
- After the Flood the world was different, but the people weren't
- **Genesis 9:20-21**
- Here is blameless and righteous Noah passed out and naked in his tent
- One of the things that makes the Bible so real is the fact that God doesn't hide the weaknesses of his people, even His best ones
- No explanation is given about how or why this happened – it did
- It is what happens next that God wants the people of Israel to understand
- **Genesis 9:22**
- Ham goes into his father's tent and sees him naked, passed out drunk
- Ham leaves him in that undignified states and goes out and tells his brothers – mocking and disrespecting him to his brothers
- There is also an implied attack on Noah's authority to lead the family
- The brothers do what Ham should have done

- **Genesis 9:23**
- This is an act of respect meant to protect their father's dignity
- **Genesis 9:24-25**
- This doesn't sound fair when you first read it
- Why is Ham's son Canaan being cursed?
- This is a word of prophecy
- Canaan was just like his father Ham, and his descendants would follow in his behaviors
- Remember, Moses is preparing to lead the people into the Promised Land, Canaan, which is filled with Canaanites – who are under God's curse – and rightly so – exceedingly wicked
- Practiced all forms of deviance
- The chapter closes with a blessing on the other two brothers and then a description of the end of Noah's life
- **Genesis 9:26-29**
- Noah was the last of the very ancient ones
- With the exception of that one incident, he seems to have lived a righteous life
- It will not be very long before people forget his example and follow their own path – again!
- We live in a world that can easily be compared to the world Noah was living in before the Flood
- The world seems to be adrift in every kind of wickedness and depravity
- What do we cling to in a sin-soaked world?
- Where do we find hope when the world is telling us there is none?
- Where do we look when clouds of despair and suffering fill the sky?
- Look for the rainbow – look for the promises in God's Word
- Cling to the reality that Christ is living in you – He is your hope
- He is the absolute assurance that God is going to keep every promise He made
- God is with you and He is going to get you to the other side
- How do I know? Because He said so – and God always keeps His promises.
- **Pray!**