

A New Beginning: The God Who Values Life

Genesis 9.1-17

The flood is over, and it's a new beginning. God judged the earth in dramatic fashion: Sin leads to death! Will God always deal with sin this way? No. God's covenant with Noah – and all creation – shows that He values *life*...and we should, too.

Starting Over: The Value of Life (9.1-7)

- Produce human life: 'Be fruitful and multiply'
- Provide for human life: Plants and animals for food
- Protect human life: Animals fear, murderers die

God's Covenant: A Promise to Preserve Life (9.8-17)

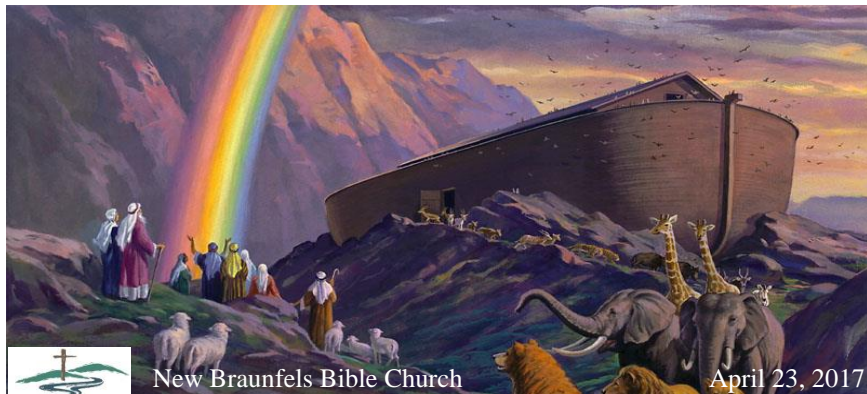
- God's Promise: Never another worldwide flood.
- God's Covenant Sign: The Rainbow
- God's Word: *I will remember My covenant.*

Application for Today

What 'new beginning' is God having in your life?

How are you reflecting God's heart in honoring life?

God keeps His covenants: Are you trusting Him?

**Digging Deeper**

1. The world after the flood was a 'new beginning.' Noah takes Adam's place as the head of all human life. What similarities are there between God's commands to Adam and Noah? What differences?
2. What is God revealing about Himself in these verses? If God demonstrated His holiness and omnipotence in the flood, what is He showing now? Is there any 'contradiction' here?
3. Focus on verses 1-7: Life (and death) is the theme here. God is concerned with the world going forward. What is important to God, and thus – what should be important to us? Why is 'meat with its lifeblood still in it' (v4)? Why does God forbid eating it? What was God teaching about the value of blood (see Lev. 17.11)? What is He instructing us about treatment of all life?
4. Capital punishment is a hot topic today. What is God's view of it? Why? In v5, "I will require" is repeated three times (better translated "I will demand an accounting"). To whom does all human life belong? To what human institution has God given His authority to exact capital punishment today (Rom. 13.1-4)?
5. God's covenant with Noah was actually not only with him, but who else (9-10, 17)? What is the covenant (v11)? What is the sign of the covenant (12-13)? Was this covenant unconditional or conditional? Notice how God describes how He will respond when He 'sees' the rainbow (14-16). What was God teaching Noah – and Israel, and *us* – about His faithfulness?
6. A broader theme of the flood narrative is God's dealing with the 'seed of the serpent' (wickedness on the earth) and preserving the 'seed of the woman' to a renewed earth. Compare this with the future destruction of this present evil world by fire, and the preservation of people of faith to inherit a new earth (Matthew 24.30-31, 37-39; 2 Thess. 1.5-10; 2 Peter 3.3-7, 10-13).