

***IN THE BEGINNING GOD*****Noah and his Descendants      Genesis 9:1—11:32**

*“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you  
and with every living creature....”* Genesis 9:8, 9a

**Day 1: Read Genesis 9:1–7.**

1. The charge God gives to Noah is similar to the charge he gave Adam, yet sin has brought about differences as well.
  - a. What mandate is humanity still being called to fulfill? (Gen. 1:22; 9:1, 7)
  - b. How has humanity’s relationship with the animals changed now that sin has entered the picture? (vv. 2, 3)
  - c. How is the way humans relate to one another different now that sin has entered the picture? (vv. 5, 6)
2. God gives the animals to man for food, but makes what stipulation concerning their consumption? What purpose does the blood of animals serve in the OT sacrificial system? (Lev. 17:11)
3. God permits people to kill animals, but forbids animals and people to kill people. What reason does God give for this prohibition? What penalty does God prescribe for those who break this law? (vv. 5, 6)

**Day 2: Read Genesis 9:8–17.**

4. With whom does God establish his covenant? (vv. 8–10, 15, 16b, 17)
5. What promise does God make to humans and all living creatures? For how long is God’s promise good? (vv. 11, 12)
6. What sign does God give of his covenant? Why is this a poignant reminder of God’s promise?
7. Try to put yourself in Noah’s place. What would it be like to live through the holocaust of the flood: to see everything you have and care about — your home, your town, your neighbors—your whole world destroyed right before your eyes? What insight does this give you into why God reiterates his promise numerous times to Noah? (vv. 8–17)
8. God commits to never again destroy the earth by flood. He does this knowing full well that humanity will continue to bring grief and pain to his heart. (Gen. 6:5, 6) What does this say about his love for his image-bearers?

**Day 3: Read Genesis 9:18—10:32.**

9. What does Ham do? Why would this make Noah so upset? What is the result?
10. How does this curse affect the relationships among the descendants of Shem, Japheth, and Canaan? (9:25–27)
11. As the Israelites hear these Genesis narratives for the first time, they stand poised to enter the land of Canaan and conquer its inhabitants (Canaan’s descendants). Why is it important for the Israelites to know this family history?
12. Nimrod, the builder of Nineveh (in Assyria) and of Babel (eventually Babylon), was a descendant of what son of Noah? (10:6–9) How does the enmity between the descendants of Noah eventually play out in the history of Israel? (2 Kings 17:5, 6; Dan. 1:1, 2a)

**Day 4: Read Genesis 11:1–9.**

13. What two purposes do the men who settled in Shinar give for building a tower that would reach to the heavens? (vs. 4) How were these men trying to achieve significance?
14. In what ways does the Tower of Babel stand in direct opposition to the mandate God gave Noah and his descendants (9:1)? (Ezek. 28:2)
15. Why does God intervene and what does he do? What are the results of his intervention?

**Day 5: Read Genesis 11:4–32.**

16. In verses 10–32 we are introduced to the descendants of Shem. What descendant of Shem will play a very significant role in the future of God’s people? (vs. 26) (Also, peek ahead to 12:1–3.)
17. Who is Abram’s father? Who are Abram’s brothers? Who is Abram’s wife? (vv. 27–29)
18. In contrast to those who were trying to make a name for themselves, who makes a “name” for Abram? (12:2) Why does he do this? (12:3)
19. In what ways do you seek to “make a name” for yourself? What is our calling instead? (Is. 24:15; 26:8)