Genesis

## **“This is how it’s going to be…” (9:1-10:32)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible.*

## **God’s Covenant (9:1-17)**

* Shortly after leaving the ark, in v. 18 the Lord declares that He will never again strike down every living creature.
  + So with the command in 9:1 to once again, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth,” Noah and his family have the Lord’s seal of approval and permission to have families…
    - Without fear of their destruction.
* But something will be different…
  + The animals are now afraid of man.
    - What about the lions and tigers and bears? (oh my!)
  + Delivered into man’s hand by God
    - God’s gift to man
  + And just as man could eat every green thing…
    - Genesis 1:29
    - Now everything that lives shall be food.
      * Except meat that still has its blood in it.
        + Respect of the gift.
        + Parallels the animal sacrifices that were made to the Lord.
        + Not to be devoured like a wild beast would eat its prey.
      * What about clean and unclean animals?
        + Luther contends that Noah knew there was a difference (Genesis 7:2), and therefore would only eat that which was acceptable to the Lord.
* Just as the lifeblood of the animals is set apart…
  + So is the blood of man.
    - Genesis 4:10-11
    - Don’t murder. Period.
      * The same goes for animals that take the life of a human.
        + Exodus 21:28
      * Human life is different from animal life.
  + Therefore, “whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed,”
    - A transition has taken place from Cain
      * Though punished, the Lord spared Cain.
    - Now we are given a law to be carried out to keep sin in check.
      * Romans 13:3-4
      * God’s establishment of government
        + “This text is outstanding and worthy of note; for here God establishes government and gives it the sword, to hold wantonness in check, lest violence and other sins proceed without limit.” – Luther
    - Why?
      * Genesis 1:27
      * Although we have lost this image because of original sin, it will be restored through Word and Spirit.
      * God wants us to respect what He has created
    - Why?
      * God loves life!
        + Isaiah 45:18
* “If you didn’t hear Me the first time”
  + A repetition of Genesis 8:20-22
    - After everything they had experienced, the Lord wanted Noah reassured what they were about to set forth and do would not be in vain.
    - So do not fear!
* To show how serious God is about this…
  + A rainbow
    - A sign of the covenant
      * God’s promise to endure until the end of time.
        + And then…
        + Revelation 10:1
    - Old or new
    - Colors
      * Four
        + “Fiery, yellow, green, and watery or blue”
      * Or two
        + “Fiery and watery” – Luther

Watery is a reminder of God’s bygone wrath

Fiery is a reminder of God’s future judgment

“Let us, therefore, be reminded by this sign to fear God and to trust Him, in order that, just as we have escaped the punishment of the Flood, we may also be able to escape the punishment by fire.” – Luther

* + - A sign for us and for the Lord God
      * Has God forgotten?
      * 1 Kings 8:23
    - A repetitive reminder
      * God loves His creation.

## **Loose Lips Sink Ships (9:18-27)**

* Noah’s sons
  + Shem, Ham, and Japheth
    - Ham being the faither of Canaan
      * Foreshadowing of what is to come for Noah and his descendants
* Imagine all the work Noah had to do.
  + High Priest of the church
* Yet we learn of Noah’s hobby
  + And he’s drunk-naked
    - Why this account and not others more lofty?
      * “[The Holy Spirit] wanted the godly, who know their weakness and for this reason are disheartened, to take comfort in the offense that comes from the account of the lapses among the holiest and most perfect patriarchs. In such instances we should find sure proof of our own weakness and therefore bow down in humble confession, not only to ask for forgiveness but also to hope for it.” – Luther
  + And Ham has trouble with this
    - A better-than-dad mentality?
      * Passes judgment on his father
      * Takes delight in Noah’s sin
      * 4th Commandment issue
      * Takes up the mantle of those who mocked Noah pre-flood
        + A pupil does not rebel against his teacher unless he has first lost all due respect for his teacher. – Luther
      * Habakkuk 2:15
    - A word of caution
      * Be careful how you respond when others fall
  + Shem and Japheth respond with above and beyond respect
    - Galatians 6:1
    - 1 Peter 4:8
  + And Noah wakes
    - And Noah knows?
    - And Noah curses
      * Ham’s descendant
        + Sins of the father
        + Guilt from Noah as how he did/did not deal with Ham prior?
        + A servant of servants

Disobedience towards parents is, therefore, a clear indication of an impending curse and disaster. – Luther

* + - * + No repentance of Ham?
      * Third curse in Scripture
        + 3:14-19, 4:11
    - And Noah blesses
      * The LORD God of Shem
        + We know where Shem’s blessings will come from
        + Don’t forget the Seed

The Israelites will come from the line of Shem

* + - * But does He?
        + Canaan will become one of the largest parts of the world…

For years, Shem and Japheth’s descendants will live in Canaan’s shadow.

* + - * And for Japheth
        + The opportunity to dwell in the tents of Shem

Oh, and Canaan is his servant.

* + - * + Gentiles

The promise is for them also!

John 4:22

* + - * “Therefore not even a Jew will share in this promise unless he has the God of Shem, that is, unless he believes. Nor will Japheth share in the promise unless he dwells in the tents of Shem, that is, unless he is his partner in the same faith.” – Luther.
        + It applies only to those who have the God of Shem.

## **Noah’s Years (9:28-29)**

* After the flood Noah lived for 350 years, for a total of 950 years before he died.
  + Noah would have lived for 58 years of Abraham’s life.

## **The Nations Begin (10:1-32)**

* It is in the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth we see the nations of the world begin.
* From these lines, we will see the continuation of the Seed through Shem
  + And the issues that will arise between the nations, that still cause problems today.
    - Nimrod is not as cool as he sounds
* Yet through them all, God’s Word still goes forth.