

NEW TRIALS FOR MANKIND

Genesis 9:1 - 7, 18 - 29

Although the flood was now over, the trials of mankind were not. The flood seems to have had an effect on the earth itself, which made necessary some changes in the life of mankind afterwards. Read about these changes below:

A. God's Instructions After the Flood: Read Genesis 9:1-17

1. What did God want the animals to do after the flood? Genesis 8:17b

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2. What did God tell Noah and his sons to do after the flood? Genesis 9:1, 7

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3. What new relationship was to exist between men and the beasts, birds, fish and other creatures of earth? Genesis 9:2

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4. Why would this be true? Genesis 9:2b, 3

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5. Had this been so before? Genesis 1:29

NOTE: The fact that many men had a life span of more than 900 years before the flood without eating meat would seem to indicate that conditions on the earth were ideal for the survival of human beings. Vail believes there was a protective lens of ice around the earth which strained out the rays of the sun which cause decay and fermentation. The fact that now men are commanded to eat meat would seem to indicate that something happened to change these ideal conditions at the time of the flood. Vail believes the ring of ice melted and fell as water in some places, causing the flood, and as ice in other places, causing glaciers. In spite of their eating meat, notice as you study the following lesson what happened to the average life span during the 200 years immediately following the flood.

6. What one part of the animal must they not eat, and why? Genesis 9:4

NOTE: This is a fact of medical science which, although it was recorded in the Bible here and in Leviticus 17:11 and Deuteronomy 12:23, was not discovered by medical men until very recently. One of the two major types of blood vessels was named the artery (AR-ter-i) because it was always empty when examined by medical men after the death of the patient, and they thought that it carried air to the body, and that air was the life of the being.

7. Who was now to punish man for the sin of murder? Genesis 9:6

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8. Who had previously done this? Genesis 4:9-12

NOTE: Notice that governments, not individuals, were to carry out this punishment (See Exodus 21:23, 24; Romans 13). Thus was instituted the age of human government, which continues to this day. For the ending of this age, and the beginning of the next, (See Revelation 19:6-20:6).

B. Noah's Behavior After the Flood: Read Genesis 9:18-21

1. What did Noah begin to do after the flood? Genesis 9:20
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NOTE: A husbandman is a farmer; a tiller of the ground.

2. What two shameful things happened to him as a result of this? Genesis 9:21
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

NOTE: Most Bible scholars agree that this decline in the morals of Noah must have been due either to his old age, or to changed conditions upon the earth at this time. It is entirely possible that there had been no fermentation upon the earth before the flood, and that its presence in the grape juice now caught Noah unawares.

C. The Behavior of Noah's Sons After the Flood: Read Genesis 9:22-29

1. Which of Noah's sons saw his pitiful condition and did nothing about it? Genesis 9:22

2. What was the name of this son's son? Genesis 9:22b

3. Which two sons covered their father, taking care not to sin while doing so? Genesis 9:23

4. When Noah realized what had happened, what did he do
 - a. to Canaan, the son of Ham? Genesis 9:25

NOTE: This would lead us to believe that Canaan in some way shared or even instigated the sin of his father.

- b. to Shem and Japheth? Genesis 9:26, 27

5. What position would Canaan and his descendants have from now on? Genesis 9:25b, 26b, 27b

NOTE: Watch for indications of the fulfillment of this prophecy in your future studies.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do "good" people always avoid falling into great sins? (See Isaiah 53:6) What could have Noah done to avoid this terrible sin? (See Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 3:5, 6)

2. What is my attitude toward those who fall into sin: Do I ignore them, or revel in the fact that they have sinned? Or do I have compassion for them, and seek to help them, taking care that I myself do not sin in so doing?
