



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #32 – God’s Promise to Noah

### Genesis 8:20-9:17

#### PICTURES NEEDED

- 32-1 God’s promise to Noah
- 32-2 What makes a rainbow
- Discussion pictures visual 1-3 and 4-6

#### REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)  
Where did the ark come to rest? How did Noah know that the water had receded?  
What did Noah do after the dove came back with the olive branch?  
What did God tell Noah to do once the land was dry?
- **The Big Question Review:** What can we trust in times of trouble?  
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Psalm 18:2 We can always trust that God is our rock and keeps us safe.

*The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

## LESSON CONTENT

**Note:** The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

The last lesson examined what happened during the flood and afterwards when the waters receded. How did the waters probably recede? Many of the mountains must have been pushed up at that time, making a way for the waters to flow back into the ocean basins. God also sent a wind that would have enabled the land to dry.

What did God tell Noah to do once the land was dry? Once the land was dry God told Noah to come out of the ark along with his family and all the animals. God wanted them to spread out and repopulate the earth.

What do you think was the first thing Noah did when he left the ark? Remember that Noah walked with God and was faithful. Noah wanted to show his gratitude to God for keeping him and his family safe so the first thing he did was to build an altar to the Lord and offer a pleasing sacrifice on it. **(picture 32-1)**

### **Genesis 8:20-22**

*<sup>20</sup>Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. <sup>21</sup>The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.*

*<sup>22</sup>"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

What was God's response to Noah's sacrifice? God was pleased with Noah's sacrifice and made a promise to him that life on earth would continue, according to his design, for as long as the world endured.

What would have been different about the world Noah and his family encountered after the flood? The world would have changed a lot because of the flood. The flood would have left the earth a barren and lonely place since everything on the face of it had been wiped out by the waters. Until the plants and animals reestablished themselves, there would not have been much to eat.

There was no longer a canopy of water vapor protecting the earth from the rays of the sun. The climate would have changed and the earth would no longer have had a perfect and even temperature. There is vast geological evidence that following the flood there was an ice age that lasted several hundred years. In the midst of that altered world, God gave a new command to Noah and his sons that changed it even more.

### **Genesis 9:1-6**

*<sup>1</sup>Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup>The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. <sup>3</sup>Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.*

*4"But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. 5And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.*

*6"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. 7As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."*

What does it mean that the fear and dread of man fell upon the animals? The harmonious relationship that people and animals had before the flood was broken. God had originally designed all his creation to live in a peaceful existence with one another. After the flood that all changed, and the fear and dread of people came upon the animals. Animals that hadn't been afraid were now afraid of people.

Do you remember what God had told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that they could eat? Originally, God told Adam and Eve that they could eat all the seed bearing plants and the fruit from trees. Before the flood, people didn't eat meat. They were vegetarians.

Why do you think God said people could eat meat after the flood? The damage from the flood and the changes in the earth's environment meant that there wasn't an abundance of plants to eat. It may have been that in order to survive both humans and animals had to eat meat. This was a radical change and shows how sin changed God's original plan for his creation. In spite of all this, God's love for his creation never changed and he made a promise to Noah and his sons.

### **Genesis 9:6-17**

*8Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 9"I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 10and with every living creature that was with you--the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you--every living creature on earth. 11I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."*

*12And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."*

*17So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."*

What is a covenant? A covenant is a promise.

What was God's covenant with Noah? Because God was pleased with Noah, he made a promise that he would never again destroy the earth by a flood.

What is the sign of God's covenant with Noah? A rainbow is the sign of God's covenant with Noah. The atmosphere of the earth must have been filled with water vapor because of the flood causing a rainbow to appear. God said that the rainbow would be a sign of his covenant. Because of God's promise, people didn't have to worry when storm clouds appeared in the sky that God would be sending another flood to destroy the earth.

That promise, however, doesn't mean that the earth will last forever. God has said that one day this world will be destroyed and he will create a new heaven and earth. That heaven and earth will be a perfect place where those who love Jesus will dwell with him. Revelations 2:1-4 describes what it will be like.

*<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

What will be the difference between the new heaven and earth and the old? In the new heaven and earth, Christ will be present there and live with men. There will be no pain and suffering. It will be the opposite of the world we live in. It will be a perfect place where Christ reigns as king.

## LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What did Noah do when he left the ark? How did God respond to his sacrifice? What was changed about the earth after the flood? What covenant did God establish with Noah? What was the sign of the covenant? What will eventually happen to the earth?
- **Thought Questions:** What do you think Noah was thinking as he came off the ark? Why do you think God made a covenant with Noah? Why do you think God will destroy the earth eventually?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that his love for all men and his creation never ends and that he has a plan for a new heaven and earth where all things will be made right again. Thank God that he has made a way for you through Jesus to dwell in the new heaven and earth.
- **The Big Question:** **What was God's promise to Noah after the flood?**  
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse:** **Genesis 8:21-22** The earth will never again be destroyed by a flood.

*"Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. <sup>22</sup>"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

## ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Theme: When Noah came off the ark the world was a very different place.

1. Noah made an altar and offered a sacrifice to God. This pleased God.
2. God told Noah that the fear of man would come upon all the animals and that they could eat meat and not just food from plants.
3. God made a promise to Noah that he would never destroy the earth again by a flood. The rainbow is the sign of God's promise.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** What makes a rainbow?

Sunlight is made up of light waves of different lengths and colors, which we just see blended together as white light. When sunlight passes through raindrops (water vapor) in the air, the light rays bend and separate according to wavelengths. That makes the colors of the light waves visible to us. (This can be demonstrated by shining a flashlight through a prism or using a CD to reflect light.)

The top of the rainbow is formed by the rays with the longest wavelength since they bend the least and the shortest waves bend the most. Unscramble the words to see the seven colors of the rainbow in order from the longest wavelength to the shortest: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Note: Indigo is no longer considered a separate color.

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

### What would have caused an Ice Age?

There is vast evidence of an ice age that covered much, but not all, of the earth. Changes in the earth's environment after the flood could explain the ice age. Have the students fill in the blanks on the notes as you talk through this. (picture 32-3)

1. The temperature of the whole world would have probably cooled down due to large amounts of volcanic ash in the atmosphere, which would have blocked the rays of the sun.
2. The ocean waters were probably very warm because of the very hot water that came up from the deep and all the volcanic and earthquake activity. The warmer water is the more of it that evaporates into the air.
3. The land would have been much colder than the water and there wouldn't have been much growing on it.
4. The warm, moist air from the ocean hitting the colder air over the land would have caused precipitation (rain or snow). This would have been in the form of snow in the colder parts of the world.

5. **(picture 32-4)** Snow collecting on the land would have reflected the sunlight back, making parts of the land even colder compared to the oceans and causing more snow to fall. As the snow accumulated, it would have packed down into ice and formed glaciers.

It appears that snow fell in parts of the world for centuries causing huge glaciers to form. These glaciers covered a large part of the land and their flowing movement made even more changes in the earth's surface. It also limited the areas of the world where many animals could live and would have caused more animal species to die out.

Because the huge glaciers took up a lot of the water that would have been in the oceans, there were probably land bridges in some areas across which people and animals could pass, accounting for both the migration of people and animals to different parts of the world.

6. All these changes in the world affected the ability of many animals to survive after the flood. This could explain why so many species of animals suddenly died out, some thing that has puzzled scientists.

How would an ice age have affected the dinosaurs that lived after the flood?

There wouldn't have been that many of them as only two of each kind would have been on the ark. The ice age would have affected their food supply and the climate would not have been very conducive to their survival.

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: How should we proclaim God's faithfulness?

Reading 1: Psalm 28 We give thanks to God for his mercy.

What kind of cry does God hear? What is mercy? Why do we need mercy? What does God in his mercy do for us?

Reading 2: Psalm 29 We ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.

What does it mean to ascribe? What should we ascribe to God? Why? Who are God's people? What does God do for them?

Reading 3: Psalm 30 Our hearts should sing to God.

Is the path of life always easy? Why not? What does God do for those who call on him in difficulties? What should be our response to God's faithfulness?

Reading 4: Psalm 31: 1-8 We commit our spirit into God's hands.

What does it mean to commit your spirit into God's hands? Why can we rejoice and be glad in God?

Reading 5: Psalm 31:14-24 We praise God for his wondrous love.

What does it mean that God's love is unending? How does God show us his love? What should God's love cause us to do?

Reading 6: 2 Peter 3:1-11 What will happen to the heavens and earth?

Reflect on the reading.