

## GENESIS 9

God makes a covenant with Noah.

The covenant covers the relationship between God and Noah. Things to do and things not to do. The sign of Gods covenant is the rainbow.

An incident between Noah and his sons is also described.

### **Fruitfulness and increase.**

The command to increase, to have children and fill the earth is given and the earth is populated by Noah's sons.

All the recovered creation will respect them and the provision for them will be abundant.

There was a clear instruction about the presence of blood in what they eat. They should not eat meat which has blood in it.

**Accountability.** Man is to be responsible for the way he treats animals and especially fellow human beings. The instruction to respect life and not kill is given and to understand that man is made in God's image means to take a life means to lose your life.

The ability of man to relate to God is unique to man and does not work with the animal kingdom. We are not just flesh and blood but we have a spiritual part of us which is eternal. God is spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**Gods promise** is that mankind and all the animals will never be destroyed by flood again.

### **The rainbow.**

However many times you have seen a rainbow its beauty remains amazing. A rainbow is a multi-coloured arc made by light striking water droplets. The rainbow is produced when sunlight strikes raindrops in front of a viewer at a precise angle. The colours on a primary rainbow are always in order of their wavelength, from longest to shortest: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.

God sets His rainbow in the clouds and when it appears after rain God is stating that a worldwide flood will not reoccur. God keeps his promise despite the fact that sin and evil still prevails in the earth. The conditions that prompted his judgment are sadly seen in many parts of our world. This covenant is unconditional. It is a sign that Gods hates sin and will be merciful to sinners who repent. However a final day of judgement is coming when all

the heavens and earth will be destroyed and in a new heaven and new earth a new day will begin for those who trusted Christ as Saviour and Lord.

The sons of Noah

From Shem, Ham and Japheth came people who were scattered over the whole earth.

Noah planted a vineyard and drank some of the wine produced. He became so drunk that he fell asleep and lay naked in his tent.

Ham went to the tent and saw his father's nakedness but did nothing to cover his father's shame but just went to tell his brothers.

The two brothers took a garment and covered their father in such a way that they did not see his nakedness.

Remember that nakedness was shameful after Adam and Eve sinned.

When Noah discovered what had happened he pronounced judgment on Ham but blessing on Shem and Japheth.