

# FAMOUS Chapter 9

## Genesis 9: covenants and rainbows

I will admit this is more of a famous chapter than I first thought. I said “let’s do famous chapter nines.” I did famous three’s a few years ago. What I did not realize is that there are not many famous ones. In fact, there are not that many chapter 9’s. I have read this chapter many times before. Yet, this time so much jumped out. There are rainbows. God makes a covenant with Noah and his descendance. Plus, there are a few surprising extras.

First, let’s take look at a theory. It’s tradition that it had not rained before the Noah story. That seems farfetched. Yet, if you go back to Genesis 1:6-8 it says:

*“And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.”*

The Bible story of creation has water below and above. If a great flood were to happen, then a large amount of water needed to fall. (an ocean worth?) We know that this chapter is really famous because of the promise of a rainbow. Rainbows happen when rain falls. Water breaks white light into seven colors. This is a new covenant with God. It’s also the first time they ever saw a rainbow. Meaning, that it’s the first rain too. It is just a theory, but it’s an interesting one.

Secondly, God makes covenants with his people. That is a contract that God makes and God keeps. There is no responsibility on our part. Its Gods promise to honor. God said he would never flood

the earth again. This flood may have happened over 8000 years ago. So far so good. There are evidences of a large flood. In ancient times the local world was the world. They knew so little beyond their area. Was the flood local or worldwide? Many ancient writings talk of a large flood. God appears to keep his covenants.

God tells Noah to be fruitful and multiply. That means have lots of sex and babies. This is a sticky point in the Bible. Was Noah the only people who survived the flood? Bible tradition implies yes. Yet, clearly this family encounters people from other places. How is that possible? I will point out two possibilities. One, is that people claimed to live hundreds of years. There are also gaps in time. These gaps could make a bunch of babies over hundreds of years. Secondly, of course is the local flood theory. Noah and his family survived a local flood. We just don't know.

A couple more interesting facts. God tells them to eat meat. He demands a sacrifice for shedding of blood. God also points out that humans are sacred. No killing. Remember, the Ten Commandments did not exist at that time. As the Bible continues through time. God puts deeper definitions of his laws and commands. We see that from these simple commands to an expansion of the law of Moses. Jesus even goes further with the sermon on the mount.

Finally, we have God saying "I" a lot. God sets the parameters between creation and himself. He takes responsibility for all of it. He only asks that we respect the creation he made. These days there is little respect of God. I find that the earth is sick. Sick of sin? I am in no way trying to make excuses for the choppy information we have from Genesis 1 to 11. Did you know (time wise) almost half the Bible story is done in the first 11 chapters of the Bible? So much time and so little story and facts.

I'll say this in closing. This chapter is important. God said he would never flood the world again. Till now, that remains true. We do eat meat. There are some signs of a great flood. What I am saying is there is some credibility to the things told in chapter nine. I would lastly like to mention the last part of

chapter nine. Noah gets drunk and his family falls apart. Cain and Abel came from fallen parents Adam and Eve. They sinned. God flooded the earth to reset. Then we see Noah slowly going the wrong way. His sons father nations that went the wrong way. There is plenty of evidence that we still fell from grace, even after a flood. Yet, God had kept his word, always providing us a way through. The last blood sacrifice was Jesus on a cross for all our sins. This chapter nine never ended at the end of that chapter. The effects of it still play a role in our lives today.