

## Genesis 9:1-29

### "The Sword & The Spirit"

Ch 8 leaves off w/Noah's life being "altared". Having gone out of the ark w/all of his family; every animal/bird of the air & creeping thing, we took note of his 1<sup>st</sup> order of business... It wasn't to seek out a fresh water bath, it wasn't to grab a basket and have a picnic, it wasn't to run free knowing he could go anywhere safely or to get alone & have a good cry thinking about everything he'd been through recently... But rather we find in the 20<sup>th</sup> Vs of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ch of the book of Genesis that Noah built an altar to the Lord, & took of every clean animal & every clean bird & offered burnt offerings on the altar to God.

Noah was a man who *walked w/the Lord, who worked for the Lord, who witnessed for the Lord, who waited upon the Lord & who worshiped the Lord*. He was a man who said, "God what ever You want to do, I belong to You." The burnt offering wasn't something you shared, Noah didn't eat any of it, he gave it all to the Lord. The burnt offering was the "I'm all in" offering, it was the "everything I have belongs to You" offering, it was that, "the whole of my heart, everything I am, I surrender completely, in totality to You" type offering.

It was a sacrifice *truly*; it was something *costly*, each of these animals were on the "endangered species list" of Noah's day. Yet God looked *upon* this & was well-pleased *w/this, why? Not because of what Noah sacrificed, but because of the position of Noah's heart in the sacrifice...* You guys, it's not the act of giving that God is looking to (though certainly the bible tells us that it's more blessed to give than to receive), but it's our heart *behind* the giving, the motive *in* our giving that God is searching out. *Why* do I do what I do? *Why* are you giving what you give?

The Pharisees gave a lot... it didn't impress Jesus one bit. If it's just a ritual, simply something you do, or it cleanses your conscience (makes you feel better about your week [sort of a purchasing of indulgences, type thing]) than you would do better to just keep it. Because God doesn't need our money 😊. But if it's an act of worship, a way through which you *sacrifice* to God, give of *yourself* to God, if through it you're saying, "God here's my life, I'm all in, I give willingly, cheerfully, it's my joy; take my life, I surrender completely, in totality to You..." That's altogether different, you see? God is searching our heart...

& As God looked to *Noah's heart*, it moved *His heart* & He said in His heart, "Never again will curse the ground for man's sake...nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done." Not because *we're* so good, but because *God* is so good. Amen?

Noah is in a good place right now. But how many of you realize that when you're in a good place that's when we can be in the most dangerous place?

When we see the storm coming, when the storm is really blowing & the waves of turbulent times are beating relentlessly upon our lives it seems like even though things are bad, they're good in that those things have a tendency to drive us to our knees, to keep us on our face, in desperation *before* God, depending moment by moment *upon* God... & That's a *good* place to be. That was a life lesson Paul the apostle had to learn when God had allowed some physical affliction some "messenger of Satan" (as Paul said) to buffet him lest he should be exalted above measure (or puffed up w/pride) due to the abundance of revelations that he'd received. He says that he pleaded w/the Lord over & over & over again to remove the affliction. But Jesus said to him, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (Check this out) Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*<sup>1</sup> How radical is that mindset? Paul realizes that *tribulation*; drives him to *desperation* which causes him to rely completely upon Christ & that's where our strength *truly* lies, in Christ.

However, conversely; when things are going good, & we sorta hit cruise control, or find ourselves on autopilot that's when things can go horribly wrong. Again we read the words of the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul, *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."*<sup>2</sup> It's when we know we're weak that we rely on Christ, it's when we think we're strong, that things are all good, that we walk in our own ability... & The sad reality is that none of us are exempt, from the baby believer to the most seasoned saint we're a step away from stumbling...

Ch 9 deals w/human government, what's needed on a public level & what's needed on a personal level. The basis of human government *publicly rests* in the power of the *sword*, the basis of government *personally requires* the power of the *Spirit*.

### Vs 1-4

As we've mentioned before the world that Noah entered going *out* of the ark was significantly different than the world he left coming *into* the ark a little over a year prior to this.

<sup>1</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (2 Co 12:9-10). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (1 Co 10:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

In essence he becomes like a 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam in that things are beginning all over & God instructs him & his family to be fruitful & multiply, & fill the earth. Yet at the same time there's going to be some changes now.

Prior to the flood man was a vegetarian, but now (for reasons we don't know) God says, "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs." Perhaps the earth would be less productive agriculturally after the flood due to the ecological changes, but (for whatever reason) God gave man permission to eat meat, praise God?!

However along w/that there would be a forfeiture of the harmony in nature that man had previously enjoyed. Evidently prior to the flood there was no fear of man in animals, there was no threat from either side & so there was a harmony there that was enjoyed. The bible tells us that when Jesus comes again to rule & reign upon the earth for 1,000 yrs that He will restore that order. Isaiah tells us, *"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them."*<sup>3</sup> & Again, *"The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea."*<sup>4</sup> God will restore the original order of creation, but for now God would put the dread of man in every beast of the field.

Really it would serve as a means to protect them, so that they wouldn't just walk up to us in full trust & take a bullet by the hand of some cruel idiot who thinks its funny.

God has "given" them to us which makes us accountable as stewards of His creation, managers who will be held accountable. Jesus told us that God is concerned even for a single sparrow that falls to the ground; we're not to brutalize animals. The bible says, *"A righteous man regards the life of his animal,"*(Prov 12:10)

Having said that, it's not sin to eat animals, as a matter of fact it's sanctioned by the word of God. However there is a restriction that God places on the matter here. He says, "But you shall not eat flesh w/it's life, that is, it's blood."

We're not to pounce down on a deer from a tree, knock it out & start tearing into it while it's alive... We're not to go all "call of the wild"/barbarian mode, but we're to make sure it's dead & bled.

<sup>3</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 11:6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>4</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 11:8-9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

There's to be a respect for the blood. In case you haven't picked up on it yet in your reading of the scripture allow me to let you in on something, "Blood" according to God's word, is a BIG deal! The word "Blood" is used no less than 424 times in 357 separate Vs in your bible.

It was blood that was the sign of mercy for Israel at the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover (Ex 12:13), blood sealed God's covenant w/Israel (Ex 24:8), it sanctified the altar (Ex 29:12), set apart the priests (Ex 29:20) & made atonement for the people of God. We read in in the book of Leviticus, *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."*<sup>5</sup> When a sacrifice was made, it centered around the spilling of blood, the giving of a life. The idea was that of one life standing in the gap on behalf of another, one life being laid down on behalf of another, the innocent on behalf of the guilty... Of course you can see where this is headed. It really wasn't about the spilling of the blood of bulls & goats, those things were a prelude, a foreshadowing of the substance that would be fulfilling in Christ. The Lamb of God who would shed *His blood* for the sin of the world. Who would lay down *His* life, & stand in the gap on your behalf & mine.

It's through the blood of Christ that the *new covenant* has been sealed, the blood of Christ brings us redemption from God, justification/sanctification & cleansing in the sight of God, peace w/God, entrance into His presence & power to overcome all the forces of the enemy (Matt 26:28, Rom 5:9, Eph 1:7, Col1:20, Heb 9:14, 1 John 1:7, Heb 10:19, 13:12, Rev 12:11). Write it down & look it up later Rom 3:21-26. Whenever you partake of communion, that grape juice is to remind us of the shed blood of J.C. & the fact that He gave His life as a willing sacrifice for you & me. So God says when it comes to the blood, there's to be a respect, a realization of the life that's been laid down.

Now... Some people wonder about eating a rare steak or something today. Listen, by the time you get your meat, it's been bled. The life has been "drained" out of it. 1 Ti 4:4 says, *"For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;"*<sup>6</sup> So as for rare steak, I think it's gross, if you think it's good, knock yourself out.  
Vs 5-7

Listen to me, like it or not, the basis for human government is founded upon the premise of capital punishment.

<sup>5</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Le 17:11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>6</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (1 Ti 4:4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

God says here that when it comes to someone taking the life of another man He *demand*s a reckoning (a settling of the account). If an animal takes a man's life, the animal's life is to be taken, if a man takes another man's life than his life is to be taken by man. Why? Because man has been made in the image *of* God, meaning his life is inherently precious therefore it can't be taken w/out giving an account *to* God.

You see, it's not that we don't hold life as sacred; to the contrary life is highly sacred & therefore to the one who would take a life, his life must be taken. Now we're not talking about killing another man w/in the context of war, or perhaps self defense of the defense of your family. We're talking here about murder. It's the murderer who places no value on human life. The bible makes a very clear distinction between killing & murder. Again killing could be found w/in the context of war, or self-defense, an accident (choppin wood, axe head flies off) etc. Murder (on the other hand) is a very intentional act that shows blatant disregard for human life & utter contempt for God since man is made in the *image* of God.

So here God establishes the basic premise for human government. He's not going to destroy the world by a flood again, so He gives mankind a means to govern themselves in a manner that's to maintain a sense of order & respect for life. Because the human heart is evil (6:5, 8:21) so God is placing a means of punishment in place that will help to restrain the one who would act on that evil impulse to murder another individual... We recognize that the law can only restrain, it can't regenerate; regeneration comes by grace through faith in the Person of J.C.

Something else we should point out is that punishment of the guilty isn't the responsibility of the individual, but the role of human government. In other words I'm not to go on a vigilante kind of spree where I make it my personal responsibility to make sure everyone is paying for their crimes. Capital punishment isn't my personal responsibility, it's the governments role in society. Of course the further we get away from it the more crime rates go up. If I can do what I want & not fear a serious repercussion than evidently crime *does* pay & I'll role the dice. But if I know that by doing this it might cost my own life, I'll think twice before I act.

"Well Jeff, that's an OT premise." To which I respond w/a NT passage. Turn to **Rom 13:1-4**. The power of the sword (speaking of capital punishment) is the foundational, fundamental basis for human government. Capital punishment is not *disregard* for human life; to the contrary it's the *highest* regard for human life; it teaches mankind to respect life.

**Vs 8-11**

This is what we call an unconditional covenant. God says, “Listen, I’m establishing My covenant w/you & your descendants after you, Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

It doesn’t mean there won’t be local floods (we see those all the time) but no global flood. & It’s not predicated upon man, it’s predicated upon God therefore it cannot fail. Because God keeps His word. (Btw God would have us [as His children/representatives in this world] to be a people of *our* word as well. If you tell someone something, if I give someone my word concerning something, we should keep our word. Let your “yes” be “yes” & your “no” be “no”.) Don’t be someone who always promises but rarely comes through. Be truthful, be faithful, God keeps His covenant, & we’re to keep our word.

**Vs 12-17**

Can I just say that I can’t stand the fact that the homosexual community has taken the rainbow & set it as an emblem of the support of their sin... God gave the rainbow as a sign of His everlasting covenant between Himself & every living creature that He wouldn’t flood the earth again. It’s to be something that brings us hope, reminds us of God’s grace; that He loves us & is faithful to us. But instead when you see a rainbow on a window decal or someone’s shirt or whatever all you can think is, “Evidently they’re gay” or “apparently they support the homosexual agenda”. & It’s sad that what God meant for good man has taken it & twisted it in such a way as to support their perversion.

Now just for the record, I have no agenda against the homosexual community. I want for them what I want for all of mankind, that they turn from their sin & trust in J.C. But the rainbow isn’t a sign of support for the homosexual community, it’s the sign of God’s covenant w/man that He would never flood the earth again.

He says, “I’ve set my bow in the cloud”. He didn’t want mankind to freak out every time it got cloudy & began to rain so He set a reminder in the clouds that there was no need to fear, because God is faithful to His word.

He didn’t say there would never be another storm, we experience storms in life; don’t we? But we’re reminded not to fear, God is faithful. We read in the book of Isaiah, *“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;”*<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). [Is 43:2-3]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

God says, "I've set My bow in the cloud", it's translated "rainbow" here but it's the same word that speaks of a "war bow" elsewhere. God says, "I'm hanging up my bow, I've shot the arrow of judgment upon mankind but no more in this capacity." Now the bow is turned toward heaven & Christ took the shot, He bore the judgment of God on our behalf, the just for the unjust.

So when you look upon a rainbow, 3 things are going on. #1 We're reminded that God has "hung up His bow" He's never going to fire that arrow again, never again will He flood the earth. It's an emblem of peace. #2 We're reminded of the fact that the bow isn't facing down toward the earth but it's tension is aimed up toward heaven reminding us that Jesus took the full brunt of God's wrath on our behalf. He bore the penalty we deserve & suffered in our place. & #3 We're told that God looks upon that rainbow as well, so when you're looking at a rainbow, know that God is looking at it to & becomes a bridge of sorts kind of bringing us together on the basis of His word.

Ok. We've seen why there's the need of the power of the sword when it comes to governing mankind publicly. Let's consider for a moment the need for the Spirit to govern my life personally.

### Vs 18-23

The power of the sword is necessary publicly, the power of the Spirit is necessary personally. Do you remember when we began our time I told you that Noah was in a good spot, but we're to realize that when things are good we're but a step from stumbling?

How often it seems like when we're being tossed about upon the oceans of life, we're drawing near to God, being obedient to God, walking w/God, but when things return to relative peace... how easily we slip from God & fall into sin. Noah had walked w/God for over 600 yrs; being a "seasoned saint" doesn't exempt us from slipping off into sin.

We make no excuses for Noah's sin. The bible doesn't condemn wine specifically, but it condemns drunkenness categorically. Prov 20:1 says, "Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise."<sup>8</sup> Alcohol will sneak up on you & bite you like a serpent, it makes fools of us, exposes us in our shame.

We need the power of God's Spirit at work in our lives. Listen to me there's no justification for the term "drunk in the Spirit". It's just the opposite effect that God wants to bring into your life.

<sup>8</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Pr 20:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

That's why the bible says, *"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,"*<sup>9</sup> The word "dissipation" speaks of "behavior that shows lack of concern or thought for the consequences of an action—senseless deeds, reckless deeds." Like getting drunk, getting naked & passing out (Noah).

Eph 5:18 isn't a correlation, it's a contradiction. Alcohol is a depressant, it loosens you, impairs your self-control, your wisdom, your balance, your judgment. The Holy Spirit has the exact opposite effect upon you. He's a stimulant, influencing every aspect of your being to a better, more heightened performance. Don't get drunk & be brought down into sin; be filled w/the Spirit of God & be lifted up, be encouraged, think soberly & be strengthened to walk righteously.

Ham (the father of Canaan [as in the land of] whom the children of Israel were going to dispossess from their land when Moses was writing these words) walks in, sees his father's nakedness, gets some kind of twisted pleasure in seeing his father in this fallen position & spreads the word to his brothers.

Now we don't have time to go too deep into this but I want to say this. Why did Ham talk about his dad's sin? I don't know, but neither do I know why we're so eager to talk about the sins of each other... Shem & Japheth sought to cover Noah's sin, his shame, Ham sought to "spread the word". How many of you realize that unbelievers are just looking for a reason to discredit your message of hope in J.C.?

Nothing serves their purpose like hearing us talk about one another, spreading the news of the sin in someone's life. "Shouldn't we talk about problems?" If it's your problem, go ahead. If it's someone else's weakness, nakedness, vulnerability do them a favor, don't gawk at it & spread the word about it, pray for them & seek to cover it. *I'm not saying if you have an abusive/alcoholic husband to turn a blind eye to it. I'm saying don't find delight in slandering someone else in their sin.* The bible says, *"Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins."*<sup>10</sup> It doesn't *cleanse* sin, only the blood of J.C. does that, it doesn't *condone* sin, but neither will it go around exposing sin, seeking to demean a man or take from him his dignity. What does the bible say? *"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*<sup>11</sup> You say, "What is the law of Christ?" It's the law of love... Don't dog your spouse or your kids to other people, love them, look out *for* them.

<sup>9</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Eph 5:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>10</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Pr 10:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>11</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ga 6:1-2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



**Vs 24-29**

Ham dishonored/shamed his father, & his son would dishonor/shame him. Listen, if you think for a moment that the way you lead your life doesn't influence your children, you're only deceiving yourself.

Noah could see Ham's character in Canaan & prophesied the end of that character accordingly (much like Jacob did in Gen 49).

Abe would come through Shem (leading to Christ) & the gentile nations would come through Japheth, yet they would find communion w/God by His work through the Jews (in the tents of Shem) Canaan would be all but wiped out when Israel entered the Promised Land. They were subdued & placed into servitude just as Noah prophesied.

& Noah lived 350yrs after the flood making it to 950 yrs; & he died.

The sword is necessary publicly, but how we need the Spirit personally that we might think soberly & walk in victory.

**Prayer Points:**

God we thank You for the washing of the water by Your word. We thank You for the reminder that even as "seasoned saints" there's but a step between us & sin & how we need Your Spirit so desperately that we might walk in victory. God may we be held in check should we begin to expose the shame of another situation & may we be those who cover sin (not condone it, but cover it) in love.

Perhaps you're in a place whereby far from needing a covering, you need a cleansing. Listen to me, it's the blood of J.C. that cleanses us of all sin. It's His blood that makes atonement for our souls, I'm not asked to understand it, I'm asked to believe it. Believe upon the Lord J.C. today, find forgiveness & new life in Him.

Time of Crisis, storm, fire overwhelmed, overflowed come forward, maybe rather than covering someone in love, you've been exposing their shame & today you're turning away from that, you're going to cover that. Perhaps you're aware of a situation whereby someone needs encouragement but you've been too embarrassed, too afraid to approach them, God hasn't given us a spirit of fear, but of power & of love & of a sound mind. God maybe wanting to use your life in an instrumental fashion to bring restoration to them (shem, Japheth, bring that covering) come forward pray for boldness... Perhaps you're experiencing affliction, you've been praying that God would remove it, but God wants you to recognize the sufficiency of His grace in the midst of it, come, pray that God would give you eyes to see His sufficiency, that you would recognize that it's when you're weak that you're strong.