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The Rainbow

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **September 3, 2017**

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:8-17

Introduction: This chapter continues the story of the **Flood**, including the period of the **ark's** flotation, its coming to rest, and the decrease of the waters (Genesis 8:1-5), the sending forth of the raven and the dove (Genesis 8:6-12), the disembarkation (go ashore out of a ship or boat) (Genesis 8:13-19), and **Noah's burnt-offering** with God's response (Genesis 8:20-22).
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/genesis-8.html>)

Genesis 8:20-22, And **Noah** builded an altar unto **the LORD [Yahweh]**; and took of every CLEAN beast, and of every CLEAN fowl, and **offered burnt offerings** on the altar. And the LORD (Yahweh) smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD (Yahweh) said in his heart, **I will NOT again curse the ground** any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing LIVING, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, **seedtime and harvest**, and **cold and heat**, and **summer and winter**, and **day and night** shall NOT CEASE.

NOTE: "Noah builded an altar ..." As Willis and other scholars have noted, "This is the FIRST TIME that an ALTAR is mentioned in the Bible. The fact of this having apparently been a **free-will offering**, NOT the result of a specific command from God, and the further fact of the animal sacrifices of antiquity being used universally as **food** for the **worshippers**, as later confirmed in the Mosaic regulations concerning such things, we are perhaps justified in seeing in this, strong evidence that the **antediluvians** (one who lived BEFORE the Deluge: flood) were **carnivorous** (eating or feeding on flesh) and **NOT vegetarians**, as apparently indicated also by the fact that the FOOD taken into the ark probably included, at least in part, a certain number of those clean beasts taken aboard.

Many have commented on the proportion of Noah's sacrifice. In regard to the relation of the number of the total supply of clean creatures available, assuming that some had been **consumed for food**, and that therefore the total must have been far less than seven each. And in view of the fact of Noah's presenting to God a **burnt offering** of "**every clean beast**, and of **every clean bird**," it must be concluded that this was indeed an appropriate and **tremendous sacrifice**, offered by **Noah** from the **gratitude** of a **faithful heart** for the marvelous DELIVERANCE that God had provided for him and his.

"**Burnt-offering ...**" We find agreement with Unger that such sacrifices were NOT first initiated by Moses, but "that they were instituted from the Fall of man.

"**And Jehovah smelled the sweet savor ...**" The Hebrew word for God here is NOT [~'Elohiym] but [~Yahweh], as frequently used in connection with **God's covenant actions** and in exhibitions of **His grace**.¹⁷¹ Such name changes in the references to God have absolutely nothing to do with various alleged documents which some think were combined to form the Book of Genesis. Here is another example of the impassable gulf that exists

between **mythical** and **Biblical accounts**. God's smelling the "sweet savor" of Noah's magnificent sacrifice is merely an anthropomorphism (representation of the Deity, or of a polytheistic deity, under a human form, or with HUMAN attributes and affections) to describe **God's acceptance** and **approval** of it. On the other hand, the vulgar Babylonian myth represents "the gods" as being "gathered like flies above the offerer of sacrifice,"^[18] as if they were hungry and even starving because they had not been fed by sacrifice in such a long time! Even the most casual glance at the various **mythical stories** with accounts of a **great flood** reveals them as distorted and perverted accounts of the event ...in Genesis. **"I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake ..."** Some believe that this is the nullification (nullify: revoke; annul; repeal) of Genesis 3:17-19; but that is an ERROR. This merely means that, "The curse will NOT be applied again in the same way as it was in the Deluge (flood)."^[19] Whitelaw pointed out that:

"This is NOT a revocation of the curse of Gen. 3:17-19, nor pledge that such curse would NOT be duplicated. The language refers solely to the **Deluge (flood)**, and **promises** NOT that God may NOT sometimes visit particular localities with a flood, but that another such **world-wide catastrophe** should never overtake the **human race**.

Genesis 3:17-19, And unto **Adam** he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast EATEN of the TREE, of which **I commanded thee**, saying, Thou shalt NOT eat of it: **CURSED** is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken...

"For that the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth ..." Although this is sometimes mistakenly assigned as the reason for the ensuing promise, such a view is erroneous. What is really meant by it is that Noah and his descendants will NOT be any better than were the posterity (descendants) of Adam.

"While the earth remaineth ..." This is NOT a promise that the established order will continue ETERNALLY, but that "as long as the earth itself exists," that order will continue. The Scriptures make it explicit that there is still another event that shall **annihilate** the **whole world** in the **FIRES** of the **eternal judgment** (2 Peter 3). The same world that was destroyed in the Flood has yet another appointment on the **"day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."** This great promise that God would preserve the orderly constitution and course of NATURE "till the end of the world," is sometimes called God's COVENANT of the day and night. (See Jeremiah 33:20, 25).

"Seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night..." Josephus described the necessity for the promises in these verses as follows: "But as for **Noah**, he was afraid, since God had determined to destroy mankind, lest he should drown the earth every year. So he offered God burnt offerings and besought God that nature might hereafter go its further orderly course. He also prayed God to accept his sacrifice, and to grant that the earth might never again undergo the like effects of his wrath." If this reasonable opinion should be accepted, then the event of the **RAINBOW covenant** mentioned in the next chapter would appear to be, at least partially, the result of Noah's fearful petitions (request of a solemn or formal kind).

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/genesis-8.html>)

Genesis 9:1, And God blessed **Noah** and his **sons**, and said unto them, Be **fruitful**, and multiply, and **replenish** the earth.

Replenish 4390, to fill, replenish [To fill AGAIN after having been diminished or emptied; to stock anew].

Genesis 9:2-4, And the **FEAR** of you and the **dread** of you shall be upon every **BEAST** of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the

fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. **EVERY moving thing** that **liveth** shall be **meat (food)** for you; even as the **green herb** have I given you all things. But flesh with the **LIFE** thereof, which is the **BLOOD** thereof, shall ye **NOT** eat.

Thought 1. This is pointing to the fact that humans should look to only Jesus' blood and body for spiritual food/drink. To become Christians, we ate his flesh and drank his blood!

John 6:53-56, Then Jesus said unto them... Except ye eat the **flesh** of the Son of man, and **drink** his **blood**, ye have **NO LIFE** in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh **my** blood, **HATH eternal life**; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is **meat (FOOD)** indeed, and **my blood** is **drink** indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **dwelleth** in me, and I in him.

John 6:59-63, These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of HIS disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can **hear (UNDERSTAND)** it? **When** Jesus knew (*the Spirit revealed it*) in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this **offend** you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the SPIRIT that **quickeneth (give life)**; the **flesh (body) profiteth NOTHING**: the **WORDS** that I **speak** unto you, they are **SPIRIT**, and they are **LIFE**.

Genesis 9:5-6, And surely your blood of your lives will I **require**; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I **require** the life of man. Whoso **sheddeth** man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the **image** of God made he **MAN**.

NOTE: Keil called the **divine order to execute murderers** a command "that laid the foundation of all civil government ... a barrier against the supremacy of evil." Right here is also the explanation for two DIFFERENT words in the Hebrew Scriptures for killing. They are [**ratsach**] which means **murder**, and [**harag**] which means **put to death**. [**Ratsach**] is in the Decalogue, "Thou shalt not kill"; and the other is in Deut. 13:9: "**Thou shalt surely kill** ([**harag**]) him," referring to a legal execution. It is gross ignorance that tries to find in the Bible a **prohibition of capital punishment**, for it is precisely there that one reads the Divine institution of it and the unqualified order for men to enforce it. Of course, the manner of the enforcement of such a commandment was not prescribed here at a time prior to the establishment of human government, and that is the reason the next of kin under the patriarchal dispensation was given the responsibility, such an individual being called "**the avenger of blood**." In our own times the police authority of the central government is charged with the task, but in both instances, "The **powers that be are ordained of God**" (Romans 13:1). These verses are the account of such powers being ordained. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/genesis-9.html>)

Genesis 9:7-9, And you, be ye **fruitful**, and **multiply**; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein. And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, **behold (lo! [LOOK!])**, I establish my **COVENANT** with you, and with **your seed** AFTER you...

Covenant defined 1285, a compact [AGREEMENT, a **CONTRACT** between parties]: Contract, a PROMISE upon lawful cause which BINDS the parties to a performance.

Psalms 89:34, My **covenant** will I NOT break, nor **alter (change)** the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Genesis 9:10-11, And WITH every living creature that is **with** you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from **ALL** that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And I will **establish** my **COVENANT** with you, neither shall **all flesh be cut off any more** by the **waters** of a FLOOD; neither shall there any more be a FLOOD to **destroy** the earth.

NOTE: neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters... neither man nor beast, at least NOT all of them, and especially by water: neither shall there be any more a flood to **destroy** the earth; NOT a general deluge (flood), otherwise notwithstanding this **promise** there might be, as there have been, particular inundations (overflow of water), which have overflowed particular countries and places, but NOT the **whole earth**; and this hinders NOT but that the whole earth may be **destroyed** by **FIRE**, as it will be at the **LAST DAY**, only **NOT** by water any more...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/genesis-9.html>)

Genesis 9:12-16, And God said, This is the **token (sign)** of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for **perpetual (eternal)** generations: I do set my **bow (arch)** in the cloud, and it shall be for a **token** of a covenant between **me** and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a **cloud** over the earth, that the bow shall be SEEN in the cloud: And I will **remember (be mindful** [bearing in mind;; observant], **think on)** my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the WATERS shall NO MORE become a flood to destroy ALL flesh. And the **bow** shall be in the **cloud**; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the **everlasting covenant** between God and every **living creature** of **ALL flesh** that is upon the earth.

NOTE: Articles of **agreement** among men are usually **sealed**, that the **covenants** may be the more SOLEMN, and the performances of the covenants the more sure, to mutual satisfaction. God therefore, being willing more abundantly to show to the heirs of promise the immutability of his councils, has confirmed **his COVENANT** by a **seal** (Hebrews 6:17), which makes the foundations we build on stand sure, 2 Timothy 2:19.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/genesis-9.html>)

NOTE: ...do set my bow in the cloud Or "I have given", or "have set it"; which seems as if it was at that instant SET; this is the same we call the "rainbow": and so Horace calls it "arcus pluvius": it is called a "bow", because of its form, being a **semicircle**, and a **"rainbow"**, because it is seen in a **day of rain**, and is a **sign** of it, or of its being quickly over, (Ezekiel 1:28) and this appears in a moist dewy cloud, neither very thick nor very thin, and is occasioned by the **rays** of the **SUN** opposite to it, **refracted on it**: and this God calls "**his bow**", not only because made by him, for, notwithstanding the natural causes of it, the cloud and sun, the disposition of these to produce it, such a phenomenon is of God; but also because he **appointed it** to be a SIGN and TOKEN of his **covenant** with his creatures; so the Heathen poets call the rainbow the messenger of Juno. It is a question whether there was a **rainbow BEFORE the flood**, and it is NOT easily answered; both Jews and Christians are divided about it; Saadiah thought there was one; but Aben Ezra disapproves of his opinion, and thinks it was **FIRST now made**. The greater part of Christian interpreters are of the mind of Saadiah, that it was from the beginning, the natural causes of it, the sun and cloud, being before the flood; and that it was now after it only appointed to be a sign and token of the covenant; but though the natural causes of it DID exist before, it does NOT follow, nor is it to be proved, that there was such a **disposition** of them to **produce such an effect**; and it might be so **ordered** in Providence, that there should NOT be any, that this might be entirely a **NEW thing**, and so a wonderful one, as the word for "token" signifies...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/genesis-9.html>)

Psalms 111:5, He hath given meat unto them that **FEAR (morally, reverent** [disposed to REVERE]) him: he will EVER **be mindful** of **his COVENANT**.

Genesis 9:17-19, And God said unto **Noah**, This is the **token** of the **covenant**, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth. And the **sons** of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were **Shem**, and **Ham**, and **Japheth**: and **Ham** is the father of **Canaan**. These are the THREE sons of Noah: and of (from) them was the whole earth overspread.