

# Community Bible Church

## The Book of Genesis

### Chapters 9-10

This week's study in **Genesis chapters 9-10** will conclude the section in **Genesis 6-10** that deals with **Noah and his family**. There are two main parts to this week's lesson:

**The Sign for Noah Chapter 9**  
**The Sons of Noah Chapter 10**

In the Old Testament, God spoke to His people in many different ways, including through angels, prophets, dreams, visions, objects, and directly. Today, God communicates with us through the inspired text of the Bible.

**Chapter 9** has two main sections: **Noah's Sign (9:1-17)** and **Noah's Shame (9:18-29)**. If you look closely at the first section, you will notice that nearly every verse records the words of God spoken directly to Noah and his sons. This makes **chapter 9** somewhat unique, and keep this in mind.

1. What information does God give directly to Noah and his sons in **9:1-3** that differs from pre-flood provisions?
2. The words of God in this paragraph quickly move from the topic of diet to the topic of the value of life in **9:4-7**. What were His instructions in **9:7**?
3. The reason for this prohibition is explained by God in the next several verses, and it is not a health issue, but a theological issue. Blood is a **metonym** for life and God holds life in high value. A **metonym** is when part of a person is used as a substitute word for the entire person, eg. "*I put my finger on the problem.*" **Leviticus 17:11** reads: "***For the life of the flesh is in the blood . . . for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.***" This concept of blood referring to life itself threads its way through the entire Bible. Read **9:5-6** and explain these verses.

4. Read **9:8-11**. What is a **covenant**? What specifically is the **Noahic Covenant** as explained by God in this passage? Note that again the central theme of God's promise is based upon His high view of the value of life.
  
5. In **9:12-16**, God describes a wonderful picture to represent this covenant. Using the image of a "bow"—a weapon of war transformed into a symbol of grace and faithfulness (a "rain-bow")—God describes a beautiful, vivid, multicolored, universal "**bow in the clouds**" (**9:13**) to illustrate the glory of His character. Draw your depiction of this sign of the Noahic Covenant below.
  
6. The text in **chapter 9** moves from the beauty of the **covenantal sign** to the the embarrassment and disrespect of **Noah's shame**. Read **9:18-27** and give a brief description of the narrative followed by an explanation of Noah's prophesy (oracle) for the future nation of Canaan.
  
7. **Chapter 10** is often referred to as the "**Table of Nations**" and is neither a precise genealogy nor detailed history of the families of Noah. Seventy descendants of Noah are listed. The intent seems to show political, geographic and ethnic affiliations among these offspring as the tribes and clans disperse and replenish the earth. History will show that some were blessed, others cursed. As of 2023, Noah's little family has grown to 8.1 billion people inhabiting God's post-flood earth. From **10:1** and **10:32** and write the stated intent of this chapter.
  
8. Look over this chapter and comment on any points of interest or familiarity you notice among Noah's many descendants.