Genesis Chapters 1-11
The Book of Beginnings

INSTRUCTOR
STEVE ESMOND
November 20, 2014

Psalm 117

(1) Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
(2) For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Micah Chung
www.psalmsproject.bandcamp.com

Methuselah Tree

• Estimated birth 2832 BC
• At 4,800 years old, is the oldest living organism currently known and documented.
• Is a bristlecone pine in the White Mountains of California, located 250 miles due north of Los Angeles.
• Exact location is currently undisclosed to the public as a protection against vandalism.
Noahic Covenant (p. 58)

Genesis 8:20-9:17
• Covenant terminology (*berith*
• Legally binding obligations
• Covenant-making phraseology
• Covenant pledges or oaths
• Covenant signs
• Covenant witnesses
• Covenant consequences, whether kept or not kept
• Covenant conditionality

Noahic Covenant (p. 58-59)

Genesis 9:15 – The Parties
• The entire human race
• The animal kingdom

Genesis 8:21-22 – The Promise
• All life will never again be wiped out
• The four seasons and its meteorological cycles will be preserved

Genesis 9:12-17 – The Sign
• The (rain)bow (see p. 59).
Implications of the Noahic Promise

God promised to sustain the earth, and that the earth’s climate would continue to have four seasons and normal diurnal cycles (8:21-22). In order to make good on such a promise, God of course would need to be in control of the climate. Not only that, He would have to be in a position to protect the planet from being destroyed in a collision with a celestial object such as a large comet. And in order to make that assurance, God would have to exert control over everything in space.

Rosetta Mission 11/12/2014

Osiris tracks Philae’s descent to comet Philae settles on dust-covered ice

Implications of the Noahic Promise

- God claims to control earth’s weather.
- What does this say (and what does it not say) about the current debate concerning global climate change?
- Read the claims on pp 60-61.
But Who Owns The Rain?

- Residents of Washington State aren’t allowed to collect runoff from their roof, it belongs to the State. City of Seattle obtained a city-wide permit from the State which empowers their citizens.
- Colorado residents can’t collect runoff from their roofs unless they’re disconnected from a public water supply, and then any captured water must be used only for essential purposes.
- In Utah, you’re allowed to harvest rainwater but only up to a limit of 2,500 gallons.
- In Tucson Arizona, you’re required to harvest rainwater and use at least 75% of it for landscape irrigation.
- In Arizona, you can get a tax credit of 25% of the cost of a rainwater diversion system up to a limit of $1,000.


The Promise:

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

Gen. 8:22

The Sign:

“I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.”

Gen. 9:13

Earth’s climate controls

Energy balance: solar energy in = Earth radiant energy out

Source: American Chemical Society
Integrating Science and Scripture


1. “The Lord of the Heavens governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord of all.”

2. “Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance.”

Precipitation Systems Alter H₂O, Redistribute Both H₂O and Heat

Fig. 7. A precipitation system changes the water vapor in the atmosphere, which directly or indirectly affects the water vapor and cloud properties, and thus the Earth’s natural greenhouse effect.

![Diagram of precipitation system]

Ocean or Land

H₂O >> CO₂

A rain shower removing Earth’s primary greenhouse gas – water vapor.
GHG Primer

- A GHG absorbs and emits radiation in the thermal infrared range.
- All molecules made of 3 or more atoms are GHGs. This includes H2O, CO2, CH4, NO2 and O3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Formula</th>
<th>Contribution (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water vapor</td>
<td>H2O</td>
<td>36-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon dioxide</td>
<td>CO2</td>
<td>9-26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methane</td>
<td>CH4</td>
<td>4-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozone</td>
<td>O3</td>
<td>3-7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


GHG Primer

- The oceans uptake about half of the CO2 in the atmosphere.
- Half-life of CO2 in the atmosphere is ~ 100 yr.
- Most CO2 emissions come from coal.
- The US is the largest per capita CO2 emitter, China is the largest total CO2 emitter.
- AB32 established a goal requiring California’s global warming emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020.

Directly-measured temperature

Fig. 1: Globally averaged temperature variations between 1500 and 2007 show the emergence from the “Little Ice Age” in the early 1800s, slight cooling from the mid 1800s to early 20th century, and warming since then. Temperature data from the U.K. Met Office and Univ. of E. Anglia.
James Hansen (Oct 2006)

The causes of global warming are totally driven by human activity. Greenhouse emissions are the cause. The aim is to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions.

There is a complete certainty that at least 1/4th of all CO2 that we put in the atmosphere will stay there forever.

We must close down all coal fired plants between 2025 and 2050.

Another ice age cannot occur unless humans become extinct.

Two irreversible processes are: ocean level rise, and extermination of the human species.
A Sun-Climate Link?

The Promise:
“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”
Gen. 8:22

The Sign:
“I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.”
Gen. 9:13

A Biblical View of Nature
Dominion covenant with man and nature (Gen. 1,2,8,9)
Man is steward of nature
His “naming” requires revelation to guide it

Fall & Flood
Two of the three greatest ecological acts in history

Christ as 2nd Adam will complete the dominion mandate for man and nature
**Gen 9:1, Adamic Mandate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis 1:28-29</th>
<th>Genesis 9:1-3,7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directed to Adam and Eve</td>
<td>Directed to Noah and sons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be fruitful</td>
<td>Be fruitful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiply</td>
<td>Multiply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fill the earth</td>
<td>Fill the earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdue the earth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have dominion over the animal kingdom</td>
<td>Animal kingdom will fear you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetarian diet</td>
<td>Animal and vegetarian diet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A) Plural verbs indicate Eve has been created and the commands apply to both her and Adam.
B) (Insertion top of p. 62, notes).

---

**Gen 9:1-6, Civil Government (p. 62)**

“God established civil government in Genesis 9:1-6. In the post-Flood world, man would be enticed by the lust for power. Thus, the human race would be continuously drawn between anarchy versus the oppressiveness of monarchy. Justice cannot be administered without civil government, because the poor are less able to defend themselves. As well, punishment cannot be administered by one individual against another without upsetting the balance of power among members of society. Civil government is vexing to us because it is a post-fall institution that points to our rebelliousness.”

Ref: Clough, The Framework

---

**Gen 9:1-6, Civil Government (p. 62)**

Romans 13:1, “Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”

Daniel 4:17, “The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes, and sets over it the lowliest of men.”

1 Peter 2:13-14, “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.”

Luke 12:5, “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!”
"The constant cycles of revenge killing involved with tribal warfare, a centuries-old ethic in PNG, came to an abrupt end when two heavily-armed white men intruded into their world. They declared that murder would no longer be tolerated, in fact, it would be punished. Luke 12:5 was read to them, to which they responded: 'We fear God, and the fear of God kills our own fear of everything else.'"

Ref: Neil Anderson and Hyatt Moore, In Search of the Source, 112-115.

"He who kept his ground against the flood succumbed to wine." [Matthews]

Proverbs 20:1, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise."

Genesis 9:21, Noah uncovered himself, *golah* (גָּלָה) in the Hithpael mood, indicating intensive and reflexive. Drunken stupor and loss of modesty, but no evidence he left his tent.

The point of this passage is not Noah's misdeed but the consequence of his action.

Genesis 9:24: Ham, the "youngest son," (cf. Gen 5:32). *Qatan* (קָטָן) could mean "smallest son."

Adam was clothed by God (Gen 3:21); but Ham left his father bare (see p. 62).

Proverbs 11:13, "He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter."

Genesis 9:23. The other brothers blinded their peripheral vision while covering the nakedness of their father. They imitated God in the garden when He had covered Adam and Eve.

Ham "saw" (first word in 9:22), whereas his brothers "saw not" (last word in 9:23). Note the contrast, emphasis.
Gen 9:18-24, Depravity (p. 62)

There is no evidence of sexual misconduct. The Bible is straightforward in such instances (Gen 19:5, 30-35; 34:2).

Ham “saw” (first word in 9:22), whereas his brothers “saw not” (last word in 9:23). Note the contrast, emphasis.

Public exposure was later condemned by Moses (Ex 20:26; 28:42).

Ham abrogated the Fifth Commandment, and ridiculed his father’s downfall.

Note how the sin of one man (Noah) was met by the sin of another (Ham).

Table of Nations, Gen 10 (p. 63)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genealogy of Noah's Descendants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japheth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Noah Damning Ham

19th Century painting by Ivan Stepanovitch Ksenofontov
The threefold prayers of invocation to God, who alone controls the future.

When did this occasion take place?

- At least 1-2 years after landing the ark (maybe longer), allowing time for grape planting, harvesting, and fermentation.
- Noah’s grandson Arpachshad was born 1 yr after landing the ark, (perhaps Canaan also).
- Nine generations of Noah were all alive at the time of his death.
- Therefore, Noah would have known Canaan for at least 1 year, perhaps up to 348 years, and could have known many of Canaan’s descendants.

Content of the threefold prayers of invocation to God

1. Cursed be Canaan …
2. Blessed be the YHWH, the God of Shem …
3. May God enlarge Japheth …

Noah’s words had no magical powers, these are not prophecies.

Canaan would become “a servant of servants” (the humblest servant), not by reason of ethnicity but for moral failure.

Divine blessing would come to Shem.

Japheth would receive benefit through Shem’s blessing.
Gen 9:25-27 Curse/Blessing (p. 62)

Curse of Ham (so-called)
1. Ham is not cursed, nor is skin color ever mentioned.
2. Muslim writers in 7th Cent spoke of the "Cure of Ham" as a defense for enslaving black Africans, in which Ham, black skin, and slavery became a single curse.
3. This view was advanced only sporadically during the Middle Ages, was widespread among slave traders and slaveholders during the 18th and 19th Cent. and from time to time by renegade theologians.
4. No Jewish or Christian writing relates black skin to a curse whatsoever, nor was this view was ever adopted by Judaism, Roman Catholic, Eastern, or Protestant churches.

Gen 9:18-24, Depravity (p. 62)

Why punish Canaan, Ham’s son, and not Ham? Does not Deut 24:16 make it clear that a person receives punishment for his own crimes, not another’s?
Ham had three other sons who were not cursed.
Some of Canaan’s descendants would later inhabit Sodom and Gomorrah, where they were judged for sexual perversion.
Other of Canaan’s descendants would later inhabit the Promised Land, becoming Israel’s arch-enemies, and be known for their lewd behavior, sexual immorality, and offenses against the Lord (Lev 18:3-30).
Canaan’s idolatry would eventually become a threat to Israel’s fidelity toward God (Deut 20:17-18).

Gen 9:25-27 Curse/Blessing (p. 62)

Archaeologists have found thousands of Canaanite deities to the 10th-6th century BC in Jerusalem’s Jewish Quarter.
This in violation of God’s command accompanied by dire warnings.
"They will be turned back and be utterly put to shame, those who trust idols, who say to molten images, "You are our gods." (Isa 42:17; 44:9-17; Jer 11:9-10; 44:15-25)

Reference: Philip King, Life in Biblical Israel
Controversy Over The Conquest

Divine Instructions for the OT Conquest (1406-1400 BC)
First, Israel was to offer terms of peace (Deut 20:10-11). If a peace treaty was accepted, then no war.
If a peace treaty was rejected, then war was to be waged using two rules of engagement:
1. Rule 1: For non-Canaanite cities, men were to be killed but women and children spared (Deut 20:14-15).
2. Rule 2: Canaanite cities in the land, everyone was to be killed (Deut 20:16-17).
The reason was theological: Deut 20:18. Israel was to be intolerant of idolatry in the Land.

Controversy Over The Conquest

Divine Instructions for the Church
• There is no national issue, no national interest, with respect to Christians. “Our citizenship is in heaven,” (Php 3:20).
• Christians should “recognize no man according to the flesh,” (2Cor 5:16).
• [Jesus]: “You people judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone,” (John 8:15).
• [Jesus]: “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment,” (John 7:24).
• Christians should marry “only in the Lord,” (1Cor 7:39).
Consistent with the OT, Idolatry is the ultimate concern.

Table of Nations (Gen 10)
God is portrayed as the creator of all people. Acts 17:26-27, "and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” Deuteronomy 32:8, "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel.”

Race – inherited physical traits that characterize peoples such as cranial shape, facial features, skin color.


People [Heb.] ('am) and peoples ('ami) – a covenant community bound by devotion to their god, not strictly by territory, language, or common derivation.

Nation – a political term describing a geopolitical state in a specific locale whose citizenship consists of interconnected communities.

Tribe – an ethnically related subdivision within a total community or nation.

“Race” as we think of it today was not important to ancient people (including the Hebrews) and rarely appears in the Bible text.

The Hebrews and other ANE peoples typically identified foreigners by their language, locale, region, or customs (Num 21:29; Isa 33:19; Amos 1:3).
The word “race” is used twice in NASB OT:
Ezra 9:2, (צֵרוּעַ, זֵרוּעַ) “seed.” Some Jewish leaders expressed concern over the inter-marriage of Levite priests with Canaanite women. The reason for this prohibition was a safeguard from idolatry (Deut 7:4).
Zech 9:6 (מַמְזֵר, מַמְזֵר) “bastard of incest.” This was a prophecy that the Philistines, who occupied Ashdod during the time of Alexander the Great, would vanish from the land, only be replaced by a people of mixed nationality as a divine judgment against them.

The word “race” is used four times in NASB NT:
Genos (γένος): descendant, ancestry, posterity
1. Mark 7:26, identification as a Syrophoenician woman, whose daughter healed.
2. Acts 7:19, historical reference to the Jewish nation while enslaved in Egypt.
3. 1 Peter 2:9, (γένος, γένος), reference to the Christian’s spiritual status as a born-again, child of God (which crosses all ethnic and racial boundaries).
Phusis (φύσις): nature, essential character

NT Perspective:
[Jesus]: “You people judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone,” (John 8:15).
[Jesus]: “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment,” (John 7:24).
“From now on we recognize no man according to the flesh,” (2Cor 5:16).
Racial Differences are Trivial

Genetic differences we attribute to “race” are absolutely trivial.

Genetic differences controlling skin color, eye shape, and similar characteristics of appearance, involve only 0.012% (6% of 0.2%) of the genetic code.

Ref: Ken Ham, Don Batten, and Carl Wieland, One Blood: The Biblical Answer to Racism, Creation Ministries International.

Table of Nations (Gen 10)

Revelation 5:9, “For You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”

Table of Nations (Gen 10)

Conclusions

- There is only one race among Homo sapiens. No other racial distinctions are made in the Bible.
- Many Christians have fallen victim to evolutionary ways of thinking about race.
- Racial superiority is not taught in the Bible. All biblical distinctions are made on the basis of nationality or language, not skin color or physical appearance.
- OT prohibitions marrying foreigners on the basis of theological reasons.
- NT directs Christians not to marry non-Christians.
- Thus, there is no such thing as interracial marriage.
- Ecclesiastes 3:11, “He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time.”