

## **Major Event: FLOOD**

### **Lesson #2: Noahic Covenant**

#### **Scriptures: Genesis 9**

#### **Central Text: Genesis 9:1, 9:9**

#### **Suggested Subjects:**

Covenant making and keeping God (as unique among world religions), Noah and sons receive same charge to fill earth as Adam and Eve (1:28).

#### **Suggested Attributes:**

- 1 Of God: Veracity
- 2 Of Man: fallen, unfaithful (9:20-25)

#### **Suggested Home Study:**

Isa. 54:8-10 (God's compassion and covenant faithfulness to Judah), John 10:27-30, I Thess. 4:13-18 (God's faithfulness to His church)

**Notes:** Define the word covenant as a contract. Give some examples of contracts. Note that contracts are made to evaluate behavior of both parties. Notice that God is the faithful party to the contract as Noah and son Ham immediately fall into sin. This is a pattern that God repeats throughout the Scriptures (ex. Abraham giving away Sarai twice out of fear and Israelites making golden calf). God remains faithful to His covenants even when we are faithless (2 Tim. 2:16). Note also why this is recorded. Moses pens the Torah as the Jews are about to enter the promised land in order to declare the faithfulness of God. The Jews, not the Greeks are the first historians. History is His Story. History has meaning because the great "I AM" interacts in it and teaches His people through it. God adds animals to acceptable food for men and sets terror of man in animals (9:2,3). This may be an object lesson foreshadowing the need for Christ's atonement. People would now have to understand that in order for them to live something must die. Note that the image of God in man is repeated after the flood. This is theologically significant because it reveals that even in man's fallen condition he bears the image of God (effaced not erased). Also it becomes the basis for human government. God institutes capital punishment for murder because it is an attack on the image of God (9:6). Note God sets rainbow as His signature promise to man and animals that He won't flood earth again (9:13). For older children (at teacher's discretion) note immediate proximity of Noah and Ham's shameful sins as it contrasts with God's Loving covenant. See Deut. 22:30, Lev. 18:6-8 and Ruth 3:9 as to what "saw the nakedness of his father" might mean. Perhaps a homosexual act, but more likely a rape of his father's wife, note curse is on Canaan (Ham's offspring) not Ham. This curse cannot be used to justify racism because all of Ham's descendants were not cursed. Note blessings on Shem and Japheth for proper response (9:26,27).