

GOD'S GLORY THREATENED!!
GENESIS CH9:1-17

ILLUSTRATION

How are Rainbows formed? Rainbows are formed when sunlight is scattered from raindrops into the eyes of an observer. Most raindrops are spherical rather than the often depicted 'teardrop' shape and it is this spherical shape that provides the conditions for a rainbow to be seen. The position of the sun and the raindrops in relation to the observer need to be just right for a rainbow to form:

1. The sun needs to be behind the viewer
2. The sun needs to be low in the sky, at an angle of less than 42° above the horizon
3. The lower the sun in the sky the more of an arc of a rainbow the viewer will see
4. Rain, fog or some other source of water droplets must be in front of the viewer

The size of the raindrops does not directly affect the geometry of a rainbow, but mist or fog tends to disperse the effect more. Rainbows only appear semi-circular over level ground at sunrise or sunset, when the sun is exactly on the horizon, the majority of the time a smaller segment of an arc is seen.

GOD'S GLORY NOT AT RISK! V1+7

What did God say back in Genesis Ch1:26? "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"

But why did God create us? When you make something, you have a reason for making it. Can we answer this question this morning?

The Bible can! Through the Old Testament we learn the answer to this question, for example, in the Book of Isaiah it says ***"everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made"*** (Isaiah Ch43:7), tells us that we are created ***to show God's glory*** throughout the earth. It speaks of the earth being filled with the knowledge of the Glory of the Lord.

Genesis Ch1:28 and here in verse 1+7, God blesses human beings to go forth and be fruitful and multiply. This is the heart of God, that the earth that He has created, be filled with human beings carrying out God's revealed will, by being fruitful and multiplying under the protection of His Word, by obeying it!

But what do we see? We see a world in rebellion against the Creator. Just like before the flood!

GOD'S GLORY THREATENED BY MAN AND BEAST! V1-7

The mission to fill the earth with God's glory is threatened, as these verses reveal, by men as well as animals, "And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning; from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image" (Gen Ch9:5-6).

Before the flood God kept for Himself the whole prerogative to take life. You recall God threatened sevenfold vengeance on anyone who slays Cain, even though Cain was a murderer (Gen Ch4:15). But now God makes a provision for murder to be at least partly

restrained by man. He makes murder a capital offence!

Man is created in God's image. God's purpose is that people in his image fill the earth with his glory. Therefore, when a man presumes to stop this from happening, by murdering his fellow human being, he attacks God in such a way that his own execution by men becomes a part of God's purpose. Later on God reveals some of the practical legal implications of this (e.g., Romans Ch13:1-6); but here the point is that a special provision is made by God to protect His mission from the threat of men.

GOD'S GLORY THREATENED BY GOD! V8-17

Finally, there is the threat from God Himself! How shall the earth ever be filled with His glory if His wrath overflows again in a flood against sin? To protect all human beings and creatures against this threat God makes a covenant with Noah and his sons. Look at how many times the phrase "my covenant" (v9, v11, + v13) occurs in these verses.

It is God's covenant, Kent Hughes refers to it as "This grand covenant was/is universal, unilateral and unconditional. It's universality is evident because it encompasses not only every human being (good or evil) but every living creature on the planet. It is unilateral in that God alone is the sole initiator..... It does not require assent, action or ratification from mankind-not even acknowledgement. It is unconditional because there will never be another cosmic destruction by water no matter what we earthlings do" (Kent Hughes, Commentary on Genesis, pg147).

God knows that "sin" will be just as much a problem after the flood as before! The flood of judgment did not do away with sin forever! The covenant of grace between God and Noah (Gen Ch6:8) did not guarantee long term righteousness. ***The story of Noah and the flood is incomplete in itself as God still hates sin and no adequate remedy for sin was found!*** If God's purpose was to fill the earth with the glory of His righteousness, then we must conclude one of two things:

1. God is a failure!
2. God is preparing for something greater in the future!

God is not a failure!

So what is God preparing for in the future? Where does that leave us? How do the writers of The New Testament see the flood?

1. The flood as a foreshadowing of the final judgment with fire (2 Peter Ch3:5–7)
2. The ark as a foreshadowing of final salvation (1 Peter Ch3:20–21)
3. The days of Noah as typical of the last days before the coming of the Son of Man (Matthew Ch24:37)

APPLICATION

It leaves us looking to the cross of Christ! As God protects all "life" through His covenant with Noah, with all people (Christian or non-Christian), the story of Noah, interpreted by the New Testament writers, points to Jesus and His death on the cross, for the remedy of sin! Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, ultimately deals with all sin, past, present and all future sin, for those who turn to Christ. Like Noah escaped God's wrath through the ark, those who turn to the cross of Christ, will escape God's wrath, His righteous response to sin!