

Rainbows & Family Connections

Genesis 8:20-10:32

Introduction: These verses have three parts: Fruitful and Multiplying, Noahic Covenant, Blessings & Curses from Ancestors

Fruitful and Multiplying - Genesis 1:22, 28; Genesis 8:17; Genesis 9:1, 7 contain the statement, "be fruitful and multiply"; the first was to Adam and Eve, the second to Noah as he exited the ark and the third is found in our text.

Summary: The command to "be fruitful and multiply" in this text speaks of physical children but when Jesus co-opted this statement and gave us the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20) he was saying we should be fruitful and multiply spiritually.

Noahic Covenant - Genesis 6:18; 8:21b-22; 9:8-17 - This kind of covenant was called a "Royal Grant Covenant" in the ancient world.

Summary: The Noahic Covenant reminds us that God always keeps his promises and the sinfulness of man and mankind will never change that. God will redeem mankind by a means that does not result in the death of nearly everyone, rather by the death of someone who has the power to redeem many by his shed blood.

Blessings & Curses from Ancestors – Genesis 9:18-10:32 – We should see this section as a prophecy of what generally takes place with Noah's three sons. Shem leads to the family of Abraham; Ham points to the Canaanites who populated the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea and Japheth points to the Indo-European lines that enjoyed the blessings of Shem's tent.

Summary: My ancestors matter; but my choices matter more! (2 Samuel 24:10; Psalm 32:5; 51:2-5).

Conclusion: Japheth - Genesis 10:2-5; Ham - Genesis 10:6-20 and Shem - Genesis 10:21-31 should remind us of Psalm 16:5-6. An adult is someone who takes full responsibility for their choices. Choices matter more than family iniquities.

The fruitfulness that is enjoined in these verses is primarily speaking of physical progeny but the New Testament challenges God's people to be involved in spiritual children and grandchildren, sons and daughters who walk in the works and ways of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Genesis 6-9 is referenced in Hebrews 11:7 - Part of the definition of 'faith' in Hebrews 11:1 is "the conviction of things not seen". Noah believed God and that belief took the form of obedience that resulted in construction of the ark. This belief and obedience is at the heart of "becoming an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith" (7b). Faith is believing and acting on that belief is a matter of life and death.