

Genesis 7:24-9:17—The Year Of The Great Flood And The Noahic Covenant

Memory Verse

Genesis 3:15 NKJV (God speaking to satan)
And I will put enmity between you [satan] and the woman, and between your seed [the antichrist] and her Seed [the Messiah]; He [the Messiah] shall bruise your [satan's] head, and you [satan] shall bruise His [the Messiah's] heel.”

Outline: (Genesis 7:24-9:17)

1. The timeline of the stages of the flood (7:24-8:14)
2. A summary of evidence for the worldwide flood—the rock layers and fossils required rapid deposition and burial respectively
3. The Noahic Covenant 8:15-9:17

Genesis 7:24-9:17 NKJV

The year that the flood waters were on the earth

7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

8:1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. ² The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. ³ And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. ⁴ Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

⁶ So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. ⁷ Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. ⁸ He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. ⁹ But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. ¹⁰ And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. ¹¹ Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. ¹² So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

¹³ And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.

¹⁴ And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

The Noahic Covenant

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶ “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the

earth.”¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him.¹⁹ Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.²¹ And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.²² “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

9:1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.² And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand.³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.⁵ Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man.

⁶ “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.

⁷ And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it.”

⁸ Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹ “And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you,¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth.¹¹ Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.¹⁴ It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵ and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.¹⁶ The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”¹⁷ And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

1. The timeline of the stages of the flood

Genesis 7:24-8:14 NKJV

7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

8:1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.² The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.³ And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.⁴ Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.⁵ And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

⁶ So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. ⁷ Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. ⁸ He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. ⁹ But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. ¹⁰ And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. ¹¹ Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. ¹² So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

¹³ And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.

¹⁴ And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

Anthropomorphisms

Let's explain a couple of things before we get into the timeline of the flood.

8:1 God remembered Noah: The Bible often ascribes human and animal features and attributes to God, not in a literal sense, but simply so that we can have some understanding of what God is feeling or doing, and well as his attributes. For example, Psalm 91:4 says, "He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge". Now we know that God doesn't have feathers and wings like a hen, but how the chickies take refuge under their mother hen's wings, and feel so safe there, beautifully describes how God longs to look after and protect His "chickies", us. Jesus shared this sentiment in Matthew 23:27 when He says that He so often "wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

An anthropomorphism is a non-literal picture of God in human terms we can understand. When the Bible says that "**God remembered Noah**", it certainly does not mean that God forgot Noah, but rather that God is ready to implement the next part of His plan for Noah.

"He '**remembered**' Noah and the animals in the Ark... is a Hebraism for "began again to act on their behalf", and was ready to start them on their way to the new life they would find in the new world." (Henry Morris)

The timeline of the stages of the flood

1. Days 1 to 40: The fountains of the great deep open up and the flood waters rise (Genesis 17:17-23)

Genesis 7:11-12 NKJV

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹² And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

Remember that all the fountains of the great deep, the vast reservoirs of water under the earth's crust, were broken up on the same day. Last time we mentioned the Hydroplate theory proposed by Walt Brown. Henry Morris describes how the scriptures support this theory:

“The breaking up (literally “cleaving open”) of the fountains of the great deep is mentioned first and so evidently was the initial action which triggered the rest. These conduits somehow all developed uncontrollable fractures on the same day. For such a remarkable worldwide phenomenon, there must have been a worldwide cause. The most likely cause would seem to have been a rapid buildup and surge of intense pressure throughout the underground system, and this in turn would presumably require a rapid rise in temperature throughout the system...

Once the postulated (suggested or assumed) pressure rise caused the first “fountain” to crack open, the pressurised fluid would surge through at this point and further weaken nearby boundaries, until soon a worldwide chain reaction would develop, cleaving open all the fountains of the great deep throughout the world.

The volcanic explosions and eruptions which would have accompanied these fractures would have poured great quantities of magma up from the earth’s mantle along with the waters.

Furthermore, immense quantities of volcanic dust would have been blown skyward, along with gigantic sprays of water and turbulent surges of the atmosphere...” (Henry Morris)

The massive amounts of water going into the atmosphere would necessarily cause massive amounts of water to precipitate back onto the earth, as rain, ice, and snow. This torrential rain lasted for 40 days and nights, just as God said.

2. *The flood continues on the earth for a further 150 days (Genesis 7:24)*

Genesis 7:24 NKJV

And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

It appears that the flood continued at it’s maximum depth for the next 150 days, with the fountains of the great deep still spewing out water, and volcanoes still erupting, albeit probably all underwater now (this maybe why the torrential rain stopped after 40 days). There was still a lot of geological activity going on during this time, especially the laying down of the majority of the horizontal rock layers (containing billions of fossils) that would be folded, buried, and uplifted etc, in the closing stages of the flood.

3. *The flood waters recede for the next 6 months before Noah can leave the ark (Genesis 8:1-15)*

Using the dates provided (see below), we can work out that Noah was in the ark for 378 days. There was a period of seven days before the “fountains of the great deep were broken up” (Genesis 10:11) and the flood actually began. Since it has been 190 days so far since the flood began (see points 1. and 2. above, 40 days plus 150 days), this means that Noah had to wait about another 6 months (181 days) for the water to recede sufficiently for it to be safe for everyone to disembark the ark.

A simplified timeline of the last 6 months goes like this: At the end of the first 190 days (40 days plus 150 days equals 190 days from the start of the flood) the ark came to rest on Mount Ararat. Noah then had to wait another 2 ½ months before the other mountain peaks could be seen. Forty days later Noah then sent out the raven which did not return, and then another seven days later a dove. The dove returns with an “empty beak” the first time, with an olive leaf the second time, and the third time it does not return at all. Noah then waits almost another 3 months before God tells him that it’s okay for everyone to leave the ark. The following is the precise timeline calculated by Henry Morris from the time when the ark had landed on Mount Ararat, which happened 190 days after the flood began:

“After 21½ months, they could see the tops of the nearby lower mountains. Forty days later, Noah released a raven and (seven days later) a dove from the Ark. The dove returned; but the raven, a scavenger bird with no qualms about resting on unclean surfaces, stayed. A week later, Noah sent out the dove again, which returned this time with a fresh olive leaf, indicating that seedlings or cuttings from the hardy olive tree were already beginning to grow again on the mountain sides.

The narrative is not completely clear on the chronological details, but it does seem most likely that Noah sent out the raven on the 264th day after the onset of the Flood, then the dove on the 271st day. The dove was sent out again, and returned with the olive leaf, on the 278th day.

Seven days later, on the 285th day, Noah sent the dove out again. This time the dove stayed away, showing that the land was sufficiently dry and vegetation sufficiently established to support bird life. Noah waited still another 29 days, to the first day of the first month (314 days after the Flood began) to remove the Ark’s covering (presumably a part of the roof) and beheld the dry ground for himself. He must have observed, however, that there was still much water about and a forbidding and barren landscape in general. He thus waited still another 57 days, 371 days after the Flood began, before he determined that they could leave the Ark and undertake life in the new world.

This was on the 27th day of the second month. These months were apparently 30 days in length, as is inferred from the data in Genesis 7:11, 24 and 8:3, 4. The Flood had started on the 17th day of the second month; so they were in the Ark a total of 371 days, a period of exactly 53 weeks.” (Henry Morris)

2. A summary of evidence for the worldwide flood—the rock layers and fossils required rapid deposition and burial respectively

“Not only do such sedimentary rocks abound all over the world, but they give much evidence of having been formed by rapid and continuous depositional processes. Each individual stratum is a distinct sedimentary unit and, in most formations, can be shown by hydraulic analysis to have been formed within a few minutes’ time. Furthermore, it can be shown that within a series of “conformable” strata, each subsequent stratum began to be deposited immediately after the preceding one. When the strata above and below a given interface are not conformable (such a surface is called an “unconformity” by geologists), then a significant time gap is indicated. However, since there are no worldwide unconformities, one can always find a place at which any given formation does grade conformably and imperceptibly into another formation above it, without a time gap.

The obvious conclusion from such syllogistic reasoning is that, since each unit in the geological column was formed rapidly, and since each unit was followed immediately by another unit above it, therefore the whole column was formed rapidly! Thus, the geologic evidence demands a catastrophic, rather than a uniformitarian, explanation. For example, if it is assumed (reasonably) that the average thickness of the sedimentary rocks around the world is about one mile and the average rate of deposition during flooding conditions is one inch of compacted sediment every five minutes, then it would only take 220 days to form the entire column.

The existence of fossils in these sedimentary deposits is further evidence that they were formed rapidly. Fossils are so ubiquitous (everywhere) and so important, in fact, that they constitute the chief means of assigning a geologic “age” to a given formation (as deduced from the presumed “stage-of-evolution” of its fossil contents). However, the preservation of fossils requires rapid burial and lithification [transformed into stone], or else they will be destroyed by decay or scavengers.

In addition to the testimony of the sedimentary processes which formed them and the fossils contained in them, all of the different types of sedimentary rocks (and igneous [from lava] and metamorphic [transformed by heat] rocks as well) give strong evidence that they could never have been produced by modern uniformitarian processes. The same is true of geologic structures such as mountains, canyons, alluvial [rich soil] plains, and so forth. More and more evolutionary geologists today are returning to the concept of at least local catastrophism as the explanation for all types of geological features and formations. More and more creationist geologists and other scientists are returning to the concept that all these local catastrophes were essentially contemporaneous and continuous, making up a complex which was nothing less than a worldwide cataclysm. Clearly, that cataclysm was the Genesis Flood." (Henry Morris)

To put it simply, what would you expect to find (your prediction) if there was a global flood? *Billions of dead things buried in rock layers all over the earth.* What do we find? *Billions of dead things buried in rock layers all over the earth.* What we read in God's word, agrees with what we see in God's world. Truly, the Christian faith is a reasonable faith, a common sense or logical faith, one that makes sense. The same cannot be said for the religion of materialism with its foundation of naturalistic evolution.

2. The Noahic Covenant

A quick summary of the eight covenants in Scripture

There are eight covenants in the Scripture. They define how God relates to man, and man to God. They set the "rules of engagement" so to speak. Some of the covenants are conditional or temporary, meaning that they were only in effect for a certain time period. Whereas some covenants are unconditional, meaning that they are timeless, and apply to all dispensations or periods of earth/human history. The covenants are important as they not only outline how God relates to man, and man to God, but also they also give us many details concerning our salvation, pointing directly or indirectly to the Messiah.

The eight covenants, along with a brief description of each, are listed in the table below for your information:

The three part structure of each covenant

Each covenant or agreement is defined by:

1. Who it is made between (the parties or participants)—either God and mankind, or God and Israel,
2. The specific instructions and consequences given (provisions) and,
3. Whether or not it is conditional or unconditional.

A summary of the 8 covenants and their related dispensations

The Name of the Covenant	The type of Covenant	Made between God and ...	The related dispensation or time period	Notes
1. Edenic Covenant	Conditional	Mankind in general	Innocence (from creation to the fall)	This covenant was broken by Adam when he sinned. It is no longer in effect.
2. Adamic Covenant	Unconditional	Mankind in general	Conscience (from the fall to the flood)	The Adamic covenant is still in force today. Most of the world lives by their conscience, and will be judged by their conscience (see Romans 2:14-16).
3. Noahic Covenant	Unconditional	Mankind in general	Government (from the flood to Abraham)	The Noahic covenant is still in force today. Human government is still responsible for law and order. The rainbow is still God's promise that he will never destroy the world by flood again.
4. Abrahamic Covenant	Unconditional	The nation of Israel	Promise (from Abraham to Moses)	Israel is chosen by God to be His special people and nation. The whole world will be blessed because of the promised Seed—Jesus (see Galatians 3:15-18)
5. Land Covenant	Unconditional	The nation of Israel	The ultimate fulfilment will be during the Kingdom of Righteousness (Christ's Millennial reign on the earth)	God promised to give to His chosen nation, Israel, the entire land of Canaan, extending from Egypt to the Euphrates River (see Gen. 15:18, Deut. 1:7, Josh 1:4). There has only been a partial fulfilment so far. Only when Jesus reigns on the earth will the promise be completely fulfilled.
6. Mosaic Covenant	Conditional	The nation of Israel	Law (from Moses to Christ)	The law was given to show us how sinful we are—it's purpose was to show us that we could <i>not</i> keep it, not to try to keep it. (see Romans 2:19-25)
7. Davidic Covenant	Unconditional	The nation of Israel	The ultimate fulfilment will be during the Kingdom of Righteousness (Christ's Millennial reign on the earth)	God promised David that one of his descendants would always reign on the throne in Jerusalem. The ultimate fulfilment will be when Jesus, a descendent of David, will rule for 1,000 years from the Millennial temple in Jerusalem.
8. New Covenant	Unconditional	The nation of Israel	The ultimate fulfilment will be during the Kingdom of Righteousness (Christ's Millennial reign on the earth)	One day the majority of those who remain of the nation of Israel will accept Jesus as their Messiah, and will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. As a nation, they rejected Jesus the first time, but will accept Him the second time, at His Second Coming, when He returns to the earth (with the church) at the end of the seven year Tribulation.

Quick Revision: The Edenic Covenant (see Genesis 1:28-30, 2:15-17, Hosea 6:7)

A quick summary of the Edenic covenant is as follows:

- The Participants in the Covenant:** It was made between Adam (who represented all of mankind), and God.
- The Provisions of the Covenant:** The instructions or provisions included: Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, govern the earth, have dominion over all the animals, eat only plants, to work the soil and grow crops, and do not eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (if you do you will die)
- The Status of the Covenant:** It was conditional, depending on Adam's continued obedience, and is therefore no longer in effect today.

Quick Revision: The Adamic Covenant (see Genesis 3:1-24)

A quick summary of the Adamic covenant is as follows:

1. *The Participants in the Covenant:* It was made between God and Adam (who represented all of mankind), the woman, the serpent, and satan
2. *The Provisions of the Covenant:* The serpent, satan, Eve, and Adam are individually given different individual provisions (promises, instructions, or consequences). The most important provisions or consequences are physical death because of sin, the ground and the earth being cursed, and the promise of the Saviour, the Seed of the woman, who would one day crush satan's head.
3. *The Status of the Covenant:* Most of the provisions of this covenant are unconditional, meaning that it is still in effect today (e.g. physical death because of Adam's sin). Some parts, like not being allowed to eat meat, were only in place until the time of the flood.

The Noahic Covenant explained

Genesis 9:1-17 NKJV

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ² And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. ³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵ Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.

⁷ And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it."

⁸ Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹ "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. ¹¹ Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴ It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵ and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷ And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

1. The Participants in the Covenant:

It was made between God and Noah. Noah is like Adam—he also represents the entire human race. This is due to the flood destroying all human life except those descended from Noah (and his three sons and their wives). Everyone alive today is a direct descendent of both Adam and Noah.

2. The Provisions of the Covenant (from Genesis 9:1-17):

(a) Repopulate the earth (vs 1, 7)

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. (Genesis 9:1)

And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it." (Genesis 9:7)

Because of man's great sin and wickedness, God was forced to "start again" with Noah and his family. After the flood, the earth was completely empty of people except Noah and his family, the only eight people who trusted God and accepted his invitation and gift of salvation from the deadly flood judgement. This command to be fruitful and multiply is similar to what God told Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:18.

(b) The fear of man was put into the animals (v 2)

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. (Genesis 9:2)

Notice that man still has authority over the animal kingdom. God has placed man over the animals. This is why murdering a baby is so much different to catching a fish. Yes the fish dies, but the fish is not made in the image of God. God made the animals to be a source of food for man—man is above the animals. *Animals were made for man, not man for the animals.* The world today has got this completely mixed up, making animal and plant life either equal to or more important than human life. People are willing to chain themselves to a tree to stop it from being cut down, but have no hesitation in murdering their own baby before it has a chance to be born.

Notice also that the way animals and people interacted changed after the flood. God put the fear of man into the animals. This was for their survival. Before the flood, under the Adamic covenant, mankind was not allowed to eat meat. Before the flood, all people (and animals) were vegetarians. But with the animals becoming food for man, if they didn't have the natural tendency to run from man, then they would become extinct very quickly, and therefore cease to be a food source for mankind.

(c) Man is now allowed to eat meat as well as plants, literally anything that moves (v 3)

Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. (Genesis 9:3)

(d) Man is forbidden to eat blood, the symbol of life (v 4)

But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. (Genesis 9:4)

All animal "life, both man and animal, is blood sustained. Blood is the symbol of life, and the shedding of blood is the symbol of death. Because blood is the symbol of life, God commanded that it not be eaten or drunk." (Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum)

This commandment or provision is also included in the Mosaic Covenant. *“Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust; ¹⁴ for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.’ (Leviticus 17:13-14)*

(e) *Capital punishment is inaugurated, because man is in the image of God (vs 5-6)*

Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man. ⁶ “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man. (Genesis 9:5-6)

People may have their individual views on capital punishment, but the simple, clear, biblical teaching on the matter is that someone who commits first degree murder (the premeditated or wilful taking of a human life) must themselves be put to death. The reason is clear—human life is precious because it is made in the image of God—thus human life has much more intrinsic or inherent worth than any other animal or plant life. This is why human life must be honoured, respected, valued, and preserved. This is why abortion (the wilful murder of unborn children), and assisted suicide or euthanasia (effectively the first degree murder of many older and/or sick people), is so wrong in God’s moral economy. God values human life more than anything else because He made us in His image. Therefore, all humans have this incredibly high intrinsic value that God has placed on us.

Remember that the responsibility for executing capital punishment lies with the human government that God established at the time of Noah. It is not a matter of personal vengeance, but of the exercising of the authority that God has given to human government that He established at the time. Capital punishment is the foundation for the rule of law, without which there is no law and order, and society disintegrates into total anarchy, like it did before the flood. Although no government is perfect, and some governments are much more corrupt and abusive than others, because of man’s sinful nature, some form of restraint is always better than none.

The apostle Paul confirms that this mandate for governments to serve the people for their good and to execute capital punishment is still in place even today.

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour.” (Romans 13:1-7)

(f) God promised to never destroy the earth again by a flood (vs 8-11)

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹ “And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. ¹¹ Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Genesis 9:8-11)

Obviously, there have been many local floods since Noah’s flood. These only set Noah’s flood apart as being very different, something that God will not repeat, a *global or worldwide or universal flood*.

In the future, there will be a passing away and complete destruction of earth's present system, but it will not be by means of a universal flood—it will be by fire instead. *“For this they wilfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (2 Peter 3:5-7)*

(g) The rainbow came to mean that God would never again destroy the earth by a flood (vs 12-17)

And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴ It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵ and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.” (Genesis 9:12-17)

The rainbow is a sign of God’s grace and mercy. Even though man is still sinful, and still deserves judgement, God promises to abstain from this particular kind of judgement and to make it possible for all man to be saved (Noah sacrificing the animals to God was a picture of his faith in the then still coming Messiah, who would Himself be the sacrifice that atones for the sin of the whole world).

There is a rainbow around God’s throne, designating it as a place where we can find grace in a time of need. Let us accept God’s invitation to come and receive His favour and help.

“Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.” (Revelation 4:2-3)

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

3. The Status of the Covenant:

The Noahic covenant became the basis for the Dispensation or era of human government. It is an unconditional covenant, and so is still in effect today (except for the Jews not being allowed to eat some meats).