

Intro. When you think of a rainbow, what comes to mind? Maybe Dorothy's song in "The Wizard of Oz"—"somewhere over the rainbow..." Or maybe you think of leprechauns & the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Or in light of society today, you may think of the LGBT movement. But long before any of those claimed the rainbow, God provided the rainbow after the Flood as a sign of His faithfulness never to Flood the entire earth again. As we look at "Building the Foundation of Your Faith" in Genesis 1-11, today we look at the end of chapter 8 & beginning of chapter 9 on "God's Faithfulness."

Theme: God's faithfulness

Background: Because sin was so great on the earth, God determined to start afresh by killing off all human & land animals except Noah, his family & those preserved on the ark.

- One question I didn't have time to deal with last time, but relates to the final verse I read (8:19) is this: **How did the animals repopulate the Earth after the Flood?**
- If most of the land animals were destroyed during the Flood, how did they re-populate the earth? As the continents divided from the massive tectonic plate shifting during the bursting forth of the great fountains of the deep, some land bridges most likely existed (only 180 feet below current topography). Moreover, some animals could have accompanied humans and drifted on floating objects to make it to various islands. A volcanic eruption in 1963 on the island of Surtsey off the coast of Iceland & a similar event on the island of Krakatoa in the Pacific in 1883 killed off many species, only to find hundreds of species inhabiting those islands within a few decades. Thus, animals could have migrated freely across large areas of the world after the Flood. Furthermore, since many species could have died off during the Flood, the fact that fossils of certain species have been discovered in separate continents may simply point to a super-continent that divided during the Flood (we call it Pangea & although earlier scholars say it may have looked like this [show pic of Pangea], today's scholars believe it probably looked more like this [show pic of Indiana]).

➤ **Key Thoughts from this passage:**

1. No matter life's circumstances, worship the Lord (8:20-21; cf. Job 1:20-22)

- Noah could have come off the ark, looked around at a newly formed earth, remembered all of his friends & extended family members & simply mourned & focused on questions like "why?" & "what am I going to do now?" but he built an altar & offered sacrifices (trusting God would bring more animals) to satisfy the wrath of a holy God—about 2,500 years later, God would send One from heaven to live a sinless life & die in the place of sinners to satisfy His holy wrath against sin

Illus: Job could have focused on self-pity in losing all he had, but he worshiped the Lord (Job 1:20-22)

2. God consistently commands husbands & wives to be fruitful & multiply as a blessing (9:1, 7; cf. 1:28)

- I dealt with this back in chapter 1, so I won't say much here, other than it is the very first command God ever gave & it is re-occurring, so we best heed it & multiply—God grants this command as a blessing & children are a blessing from the Lord

Illus: In a fallen world, one of the results of the Fall is disease & abnormalities & sometimes a husband & wife cannot have biological children. That isn't their fault, but they can still consider adoption & adopted children bring just as much joy & happiness, because they are your children

3. **Since the Flood, man is permitted to eat meat (9:2-4)**

- Prior to the Flood, man's diet was purely vegetarian (cf. 1:29-30), as were the animals. Since the Flood, God has allowed man to eat meat, just after it's cooked (not raw with the blood in it).

Illus: Though the Jews had a stricter diet, the Lord has declared all food/meat clean (Mark 7:19; Acts 10)

4. **God established capital punishment for murder, because man is created in God's image (9:5-6)**

- Don't miss this, because it isn't just an issue after the Flood, but it is also a NT issue (cf. Romans 13:4)

Illus: Some Christians are against capital punishment because they think more time may result in the person's repentance & yet they are saying they are wiser than God's plan, who instituted capital punishment & if the imminence of death doesn't get your attention about eternity, nothing will

➤ Because man is created in God's image, all human life matters to God. In light of the blacks killed by police officers this past week in Baton Rouge & Minnesota & the shootings of police officers in Dallas, it is important to remember a few things:

- a. **Black lives matter**—God doesn't look at the color of one's skin. Racism is still alive & well in America & we as Christians need to stand up against racism as an evil to be stopped
- b. **Police lives matter**—at the same time, responding by killing those sworn to protect us isn't the answer. Police men & women put their lives on the line for us & while there may be a few rogue officers from time to time, that doesn't permit anyone from taking the law in their own hands & shooting at officers
- c. **Babies lives matter**—I don't want us to forget about this issue, because all too often people claim things like "Black lives matter" & even "All lives matter," but they are the same ones killing babies by the millions (like Planned Parenthood)

5. **Though man is still evil, God will not Flood the whole earth again & the rainbow is a reminder of His promise (8:21-22; 9:8-17)**

➤ In light of the seasons mentioned in 8:22 & "winter," a question relates to this:

➤ **How Do Creation Scientists Explain the Ice Age?**

- Numerous historians & climatologists point to an Ice Age, a time when as much as 30% of the Earth's land was covered by ice. While such experts often cite numerous Ice Ages (as many as seven), virtually everyone agrees there is evidence for at least one (and some claim, only one). How do Creation Scientists explain such an Ice Age, especially since it isn't mentioned in the Bible?

1. **Because of the catastrophic events of the Flood, it is possible that the climate was changed so drastically that the Ice Age developed.** Seismic activity, plate tectonics, & immense water pressure could have divided the land, causing some land to drift farther North, away from the equator. Add to this change the warmer waters from volcanic activity on the oceans' floor and you would find a higher evaporation level of the ocean. Evaporations at the mid & high latitudes could mix with existent ice sheets, resulting in snowstorms & growing ice sheets.

2. **Based on calculations of conventional climate models, it is possible that ice sheets of several thousand feet thick could have accumulated within 500 years (of the Flood).** Average estimates for a melt equation along the periphery of ice sheets are about 33

feet/year. This rate would melt the entire periphery of large ice sheets within 100 years. Even the interior of large ice sheets could melt within 200 years (millions of years are not needed for an average model).

3. **It is possible that God references the Ice Age in Job 38:29-30.** Another explanation, however, of the lack of biblical evidence is that people mentioned in the Bible lived farther South than the Scandinavian ice sheets and mountain ice caps.
 4. **The fact that many woolly mammoth carcasses have been found frozen in glaciers is a sign that glaciers didn't take long periods of time to form,** but rather the freeze came on much more quickly.
 - While more answers could be given, these answers are plausible explanations of when and how the Ice Age was
 - God established the Noahic covenant—a promise with Noah & his offspring that God would never again Flood the entire earth
- **The Noahic Covenant is**
- a. **Universal (9:9-13, 15-16)**—it is with everyone after Noah & the entire animal world—“all flesh”
 - b. **Eternal (9:11-12, 15-16)**—never again will there be a worldwide Flood, because it is an everlasting covenant made by God
 - c. **Unconditional**—God doesn't place any conditions on it for it to be met (unlike the New Covenant, which includes repentance from sin & faith in Jesus)
 - d. **Remembered in every rainbow (9:12-16)**—God placed the rainbow in the sky as a sign of His remembrance of this covenant with us (remember, if it was a local flood in Noah's day, God has lied, because local floods occur every year, but since it was a worldwide Flood, God has remained faithful)

Conc. When you think of or see a rainbow, you should first & foremost think God's faithfulness. When God makes a promise, He keeps it. One year ago at this time, Annthea & I were in Bulgaria, having just received Joanna a few days earlier. That was a long journey for us. The Lord called us to adopt in 1999, just a few years into our marriage before we had children. We assumed we would have 3 biological children & then adopt, but once we had 4, we didn't give it another thought. Then, in May 2011, I went through Russell Moore's *Adopted for Life* book & told Annthea the Lord had called us to adopt & we needed to obey Him. She replied, “I wondered when you would come around to it.” Once we prayed through & thought about which agency to go with, it took us 3.5 years, but God was faithful & blessed us with a high-energy, big smiling little 4 year old (& high energy is an understatement!). I mention God's faithfulness in our lives as an example of how trustworthy the Lord is. God sent Jesus into the world to seek & to save the lost. Once He saves someone through repentance & faith, He never loses His own, but keeps them by His grace. God is faithful & worth trusting. Will you trust Him today?