

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 9:1-17

Psalm 25:1-10

Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love & faithfulness. (v10)

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, & in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Genesis 9:1-17

¹God blessed Noah & his sons, & said to them, "Be fruitful & multiply, & fill the earth..." ³Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; & just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning: from every animal I will require it & from human beings, each one for the blood of another, I will require a reckoning for human life. ⁶Whoever sheds the blood of a human, by a human shall that person's blood be shed; for in his own image God made humankind. ⁷And you, be fruitful & multiply, abound on the earth & multiply in it." ⁸Then God said to Noah & to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you & your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, & every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, & never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me & you & every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds [rainbow], & it shall be a sign of the covenant between me & the earth... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh..."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How do vv1-7 express a strong ethic for life, that life is a give from God, & that blood as sign of life belongs to God? *See Exodus 21:28; Leviticus 17:11, 13-14; Deuteronomy 12:23-24; Numbers 35:31*
2. At least four tenets of God's universal/natural law (not Jewish/Mosaic law) are revealed in vv3-7: No homicide, no fornication, no idolatry, no consumption of blood. How does this help make the case for God's universal judgment of humanity? *See Psalms 9:19, 67:4, 82:8, 96:10; Isaiah 2:4; Joel 3:12; Micah 4:3*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Consider *Genesis 6:5-7, 8:21 & Psalm 51, esp. vv2, 5, 10, 17*. How does Jesus expand this understanding further (*Mark 7:17-23*)? What difference does "giving your heart to Jesus" make? *See Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 5:1-5; Ephesians 3:16-17; Colossians 3:15*
4. What connections do you find between vv13-16 & the description of God's throne as surrounded by a rainbow? *See Ezekiel 1:28; Revelation 4:3; hint- imagine you're on this throne looking down at the earth*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. "How are you?" "Fine." Lutheran pastor Paul Hill suggests we answer that question, "Grateful." How would that change our everyday conversations? How about making that your 2024 Lent discipline: giving-up "fine" for "grateful" instead? What impact would it have on your heart & the hearts around you? *See vv15-16*
6. Noah makes a sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving, & gratitude in *Genesis 8:20*. If asked why you make economic/financial sacrifices to God at your congregation, how do explain the connection between your gift (or lack) & your praise, thankfulness & gratitude (or lack)?

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First Sunday in Lent

Series: Guaranteed!

02.18.24

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

God doesn't go back on his word

A Bad Heart

Humankind's heart is defective, God promises a new way & new heart

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Whoever sheds the blood of a human, by a human shall that person's blood be shed; for in his own image God made humankind. (v6)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes
from the mouth of God. (*Matthew 4:4*)**

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