

# ORIGINS SERIES

## THE ORIGINS OF CIVILIZATION 9

### GENESIS 9:1-17



#### THE ORIGINS OF CIVILIZATION 9—

##### Genesis 9:1-17

In Genesis 9:1-17 (KJV), after the flood, God speaks blessing into a broken world. This passage reveals God's gracious commitment to life, order, and preservation despite man's ongoing sinfulness.

**First, THE PROCLAMATION OF LIFE** (vs. 1) shows that God's blessing always begins with His authoritative Word. "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them..." The Author of life now proclaims the word of life after total judgment. He renews the original creation blessing from Genesis 1:28. In a world filled with death and destruction caused by sin, only God is qualified to speak into the chaos and declare how to live. His Word remains the only credible source of life and direction for us today.

**Second, THE PROMOTION OF LIFE** (vs. 1-3) highlights how God promotes the value of human life by re-establishing His calling for man to populate the earth. He commands them to "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." God also reaffirms man's dominion over the animals and newly grants permission to eat meat as part of His gracious provision to sustain life in a post-flood world. This shows God actively promoting and supporting human flourishing.

**Third, THE PROTECTION OF LIFE** (vs. 4-7) reveals God's care for the sanctity of human life. He prohibits eating blood (because life is in the blood), establishes murder as a capital crime ("Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed"), and requires the death of any animal that kills a man. The foundation for all of this is profound: "for in the image of God made he man." Human life is uniquely valuable because we bear God's image. These laws bring order and protection in a fallen world.

**Finally, THE PROMISE OF LIFE** (vs. 8-17) presents the beautiful Noahic Covenant. God makes an unconditional promise with Noah, his descendants, and every living creature that He will never again destroy the earth with a worldwide flood. The rainbow is given as the everlasting sign of this covenant of common grace. Even knowing the sinful bent of man's heart, God chooses mercy and promises to sustain the seasons and the earth.

#### Application Question #1

Genesis 9:1 says God blessed Noah and his sons and spoke to them. How does this show that blessing begins with God's Word even after great difficulty? Why is God's Word still the best guide for life today?

#### Application Question #2

In Genesis 9:1-3 God commands people to be fruitful and gives them animals for food. How does this show God promoting and providing for human life? What does this teach our family about valuing life and trusting God's provision?

#### Application Question #3

Genesis 9:4-7 teaches that human life is special because we are made in God's image. How should this truth affect the way we treat people and think about the importance of life?

#### Application Question #4

Genesis 9:8-17 describes God's covenant and the rainbow as its sign. How does this promise give us hope, and what does it teach us about God's mercy even when people still sin?

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## LEADER GUIDE

### **Application Answer #1**

God's first words after the flood are words of blessing, not condemnation. This is the same pattern we see throughout Scripture — God speaks life into death (John 6:63). Application: Make God's Word central in your home as the source of guidance and blessing. For kids: "After the big flood, God didn't stay mad — He spoke kind words to Noah's family."

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### **Application Answer #2**

God renews the creation mandate and adds meat as food, showing His care and provision in a changed world. Application: Thank God for food and life every day, and treat creation responsibly as stewards. Family step: Discuss ways to value and protect life (including the unborn, elderly, and vulnerable).

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### **Application Answer #3**

The basis for protecting life is the image of God in every person (v. 6). This is the foundation for biblical justice and human dignity. Challenge: Every person has value regardless of age, ability, or appearance. Application: Speak kindly, help those in need, and stand for the sanctity of life.

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### **Application Answer #4**

This unconditional covenant of common grace (no future global flood, regular seasons) shows God's mercy despite knowing man's sinful heart (v. 21). The rainbow is a permanent reminder. Application: When you see a rainbow, remember God's faithfulness. This covenant points forward to the greater covenant of grace in Jesus Christ. Encourage: God keeps His promises — we can trust Him completely.