

Genesis 9.1-17

“Government and Covenant”

HS teacher – write Essay on ANYTHING – EXCEPT – Politics OR Religion
BOTH PRIVATE MATTERS – NOBODY ELSE'S BUSINESS
SURPRISE, SURPRISE! – text today talks about Religion AND Politics!

OPEN CAN OF WORMS – talk politics – little consensus – strong opinions
Palestinian State / Northern Ireland / Afghanistan / Somalia – no government / bandits
This week Dutch Politician - with strong and controversial ideas - shot dead

?Role of Gov't – CARE from the womb to the tomb? / OR – Leave us Alone!

Genesis 9 – Time of New Beginnings – Noah & family emerged from Ark
RENEWAL OF CREATION MANDATE – going out much like first man – ADAM
SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE – FLOOD-SCARRED Earth – SINFUL World

1. God's Government / Common Grace

GOVERNMENT – the way things are GOVERNED – way things are ordered / run

NOT TOLD – SPECIFIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT // republic, socialism
GOD is GOVERNOR – SOVEREIGN over CREATION – Theocracy / Gov't of God

a. God is Faithful

Still God's World – FLOOD HAS DISTORTED BUT NOT DESTROYED
v. 1 “Then God blessed Noah and his sons”

Still in God's Image - FLOOD HAS DISTORTED BUT NOT DESTROYED
v. 6 “for in the image of God has God made man”

MAN CANNOT BE CLONED / UNIQUE CREATION OF GOD / Body and Spirit
More than Chemicals and Body Tissue / Spiritual creature – spirit will never die

Still in God's Care - food

v. 3 “Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.”

PRIOR THIS MAN WAS VEGETARIAN / NOW ALSO CARNIVOROUS

v. 4 “But you must not eat meat that his lifeblood still in it”

SHASHLIK IS ACCEPTABLE / ROADKILL IS NOT

PAUL at Lystra “God has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy”

Acts 14.17

b. Man is to be Faithful

v. 1 “Be fruitful” – QUANTITY of Life

3 FRUITY COUPLES – Mr. & Mrs. Shem, Mr. & Mrs. Ham, Mr. & Mrs. Japheth

“Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him” Psalm 127.3

LOTS OF AVAILABLE REAL ESTATE / OCEAN – FRONT PROPERTIES

More than 136,000,000 square kilometers available / whole earth was waiting

10.1 “This is the account of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah’s sons, who themselves has sons after the flood”

WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF ADAM – ALL CHILDREN OF NOAH & sons

Paul told Athenians “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live”

Acts 17.26

v. 1 “fill the earth” – QUALITY of Life / More than DENSITY – also DOMINION

LIVING ON EARTH AS GOD’S VICE REGENTS / Kingdom Ambassadors

PSALMIST “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord” 150.6

Isaiah “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea”

11.9

God’s World / All that is in it / MANIFEST GOD’S GLORY

c. Man is Responsible Noah was to Go-forth for God / So are We

FLOOD MADE THIS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS / doomed by their bad decisions

1) Fear v. 2 “The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth”

8 HELPLESS PEOPLE – prowling lions, and tigers, and bears! Oh My!

ANIMALS HAVE INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF MAN / God protects Human Race

Lived in Africa – Wild Animals in Game Reserves – Drive through and See
Some people found them so irresistible – GOT OUT OF CAR TO GET CLOSER
GOT REAL, REAL CLOSE – INSIDE THEIR STOMACH'S

WORLD NO LONGER A PEACEFUL KINGDOM

Man vs. Man / Nature vs. Man / Man vs. Himself

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” Pr 18.10

WISE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL – FEARS GOD THE ULTIMATE GOVERNOR

STATE IS ESTABLISHED BY GOD – STATE IS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD

Trial of Jesus before Pilate / NOT TRIAL OF JESUS / Trial of Roman Gov't

CAME ABOUT – Amazing statement of Jewish Chief Priests – John 19

“We have no king but Caesar!” – RELIGIOUS LEADERS, FAR FROM GOD

RESULT – GOD IS OUT OF THE PICTURE – NO DIVINE JUSTICE – NO FEAR

EARTHLY RULERS LEFT to THEIR OWN DESIRES – whims, cruelty, corruption

No RESTRAINT to their EVIL – WILL EVEN CRUCIFY the HOLY SON OF GOD

INNOCENT VICTIM RIGHTLY REMINDS this Abusive Government Official

“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above” Jn 19.11

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POWER AND AUTHORITY

1985 Speaker at Christian Conference at Makerere Univ in Kampala, Uganda

- drove 300 miles across Uganda to get there – passed thru over 100 Road Blocks

STICKS in Road / Boys with Guns / Few uniforms / Ready to Shoot

TERRIFYING POWER – BUT NO AUTHORITY – NOT ARMY, ALL REBELS

ANOTHER SPEAKER AT CONF – Ugandan pastor John Wilson

Driven to Kampala from another part of Uganda, with wife and his parents

ONE ROADBLOCK – Armed men asked for John's car – JOHN AGREED

As John was handing him the keys, Man shot John dead

MAN WITH GUN HAD POWER / BUT HE HAD NO RIGHTFUL AUTHORITY

JAMES BOICE “Without God in the picture, there is no rein on Caesar. And Caesar needs a rein! In America, we recognize this secularly, for we have developed a system of checks and balances according to which one branch of government limits another. Congress makes laws that govern all citizens; but the judicial branch can declare them unconstitutional. The President appoints the Supreme Court justices; but Congress has authority to impeach the President. The President may initiate programs; but Congress must fund them. We recognize

the need for checks and balances on the secular level because we know that men in power are untrustworthy. But if this is true on a merely human level, how much truer it is on a cosmic level. God is ultimate. If we forsake God, we are at the mercy of our governors. Christians must remind the state of this ultimate responsibility. Government derives its authority from God and is responsible to God. Our role is to remind the state of that fact and challenge it to operate accordingly. Can we? Will we? Not as we are presently living – for self and substance! We can do it only as we are possessed by the Lord Jesus Christ and determine to follow Him at whatever the cost. There are three necessities. First, we must fix in our minds that God is truly sovereign in human affairs, including affairs of state. Second, we must know the Bible and its teachings. The reason for this is that one may be willing to do the right thing and yet not know what the right thing is, since the issues are not always black and white but gray. We can respond to such situations properly only when we know what Scripture teaches. Third, we must be willing to surrender everything, even life itself, if that is necessary. Nothing is achieved by those who refuse to sacrifice. Our self-indulgent age desperately needs to learn that. But it will not learn it from the state, which sacrifices nothing. As a moral force, the state is destitute. The world can learn sacrifice only from Christians, who learn it from their Lord.”

2) Force – WRONG WILL BE PUNISHED / Evil will not go Unchecked

v. 5 “And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.”

ROBERT CANDLISH “The earth was filled with violence. Now a new kind of government is to be introduced; there must be a sterner rule than the mere discipline of the home. Society must be thoroughly organized and compacted; law must speak with a more authoritative voice, and power must enforce with a higher hand the sanctions of law. Especially, and by all means, life must be preserved.”

COMMON SIGHT – MANY UNIFORMED POLICEMEN – Satellite Dishes / Hats
THEIR FORCEFUL PRESENCE CONVEY’S INTENDED EFFECT OF FEAR

PAUL TELLS TO ROMANS “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established...

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves...if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword – ORANGE BATON– for nothing” 13.1

TODAY in WESTERN CULTURES – REBEL AGAINST NOTION OF FORCE
Last MONTH Americans participated in one of greatest voluntary exercises in history
AMERICANS DO THIS VOLUNTARY EXERCISE EVERY YEAR IN APRIL

The way the American - Internal Revenue Service – describes TAXES
Every April 15 noble, civic minded Americans willing volunteer - send \$ to Gov't

Try to write friendly people at the TAX office – “this year I do not volunteer to pay”
MANY WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION – NOT ALL FRIENDLY

Closing accounts / Taking Wages / Seizing your Assets / Taking you to Jail
Majority of Americans willing participate - Great Voluntary Exercise – every April 15
AMERICANS too Sophisticated and Civilized to talk of FORCE / beyond primitive

PASTORED CHURCH IN AMERICA – saw this very clearly

“Mrs. Smith we miss your little son Johnny in Sunday School. Not coming any more?
JOHNNY DOES NOT WANT to COME – LIKES TO WATCH TV Sunday morning
“And we would never think of FORCING Johnny to go to Sunday School”

They would think of forcing Johnny to – Go to bed at night, Brush his teeth, Eat his
vegetables, Clean his bedroom, Take a bath, Wear a sweater, or Go to School

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FORCING JOHNNY TO HEAR WORD OF GOD TO SAVE
HIS SOUL FROM HELL – MRS. SMITH WOULD NEVER FORCE HIM

God's Gov't / Common Grace – God's love for all people / Restrain evil in world

2. God's Covenant / Saving Grace

“Covenant” 1st 6.18 “I will establish my covenant with you” / 253 x's OT / 20 in NT
PROMISE – like Solemn Marriage Vow (should be!) – FOREVER, IRREVOCABLE

DEF. “Bond in blood sovereignly administered”
PROMISE OF GOD TO PEOPLE HE IS DEALING WITH IN A SPECIAL WAY

WHY DOES GOD SHIFT FROM GOVERNMENT TO COVENANT HERE?
LAW to CONTROL BODIES / NEED COVENANT TO RESTRAIN CONSCIENCE

a. Scope of the Covenant – Eternal – ALL HUMANITY, ALL CREATION

v. 8 “God said to Noah and his sons”

v. 9 “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you...
every living creature on earth”

LAW to CONTROL BODIES / NEED COVENANT TO RESTRAIN CONSCIENCE

GOV'T – at Best – MORALLY NEUTRAL / More Often – Morally BANKRUPT
MORALITY BEST COMES FROM A GRACIOUS COVENANT GOD

GOVERNMENT CANNOT DEVELOP OR CREATE MORALITY

v. 6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed;
for in the image of God has God made man”

DEATH PENALTY INSTITUTED – because Life Belongs to God – IT IS SACRED
Man’s Blood is Sacred – “It is ON LOAN from God”

LAW IS VALID WHEN IT IS BASED ON MORAL TRUTH
LAW IS NOT VALID WHEN IT IS NOT BASED ON MORAL TRUTH

Government of State of Hawaii – exploring an Interesting Idea – Same-Sex Marriage
Pastors licensed to perform marriages in Hawaii by the State Government
MANY of us WENT to STATE CAPITAL – REFUSE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE
IMMORAL PREMISE – God says marriage is one man to one woman, for life

SOME AMERICAN STATES – Jim Crow Laws – Enforce Racial Segregation
IMMORAL PREMISE – Some people are INFERIOR to other human beings

TODAY LEGAL ABORTIONS – terminate life of unborn children while in womb
IMMORAL PREMISE – Unborn child is NOT A PERSON

LAW IS VALID WHEN IT IS BASED ON MORAL TRUTH
LAW IS NOT VALID WHEN IT IS NOT BASED ON MORAL TRUTH

GOVERNMENT CANNOT DEVELOP OR CREATE MORALITY

Making Abortions ILLEGAL – WOULD NOT STOP THEM – may reduce number?
JUST LIKE LAWS AGAINST NARCOTICS DOES NOT STOP THEIR USAGE

GREAT TRAGEDY OF ABORTION – CRUELTY IN A MOTHER’S HEART
Millions of mothers have chosen to murder their own children
CHANGING LAWS WILL NOT CHANGE THEIR HEARTS

BEST GOV'T CAN DO IS MAKE LAWS AND TRY AND JUSTLY ENFORCE
GOV'T SOLUTION to CRIME – more laws, more police, more courts, more prisons

GOD'S CRIME SOLUTION – LAWS BASED ON MORALITY –
NOT ON PRAGMATISM (what works) or CONSENSUS (what everyone wants)

LAWS BASED ON MORALITY – REVEALED IN RELIGION – The Bible
COVENANT PEOPLE LIVE ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISES – obey from Heart

b. Substance of the Covenant – Unilateral – God alone decrees the terms

v. 11 “I will establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth”

GOD DID NOT NEED TO REPEAT THESE WORDS – but graciously did so
NOAH WAS HAPPY TO HEAR THEM – AGAIN AND AGAIN

NOAH WAS WOUNDED IN SOUL / NOAH NEEDED SUCH REASSURANCE
Bible is filled with such Precious Promises / Encourage weary saints / Press ON

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, (to Noah, to the faithful in Kazakhstan) – and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins”
Isa 40.1

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO FILL THE EARTH / LIVE FOR HIM ON EARTH

v. 7 As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase
GOD DESIRES HIS PEOPLE TO LIVE UNDER THE SMILE OF HIS BLESSING

ONLY MORAL PEOPLE CAN CREATE A MORAL GOV'T, MORAL NATION
Without God the Gov't becomes Corrupt and Tyrannical
GOV'T CANNOT CREATE MORALITY – EVEN w/ Christian Leaders of Gov't

GOV'T CAN FORCE OUTWARD CONFORMITY
ONLY GOD CAN CREATE INWARD COVENANT RIGHTEOUSNESS
Only God brings Moral and Spiritual Renewal to Individuals and Nations

Point made in one of best known Scriptures about National Renewal – 2 Chron 7.14
KING SOLOMON's prayer of Dedication for Temple of God in Jerusalem

AFTER PRAYER – GOD ANSWERS “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”

GOD'S CURE FOR NATIONAL HEALING? Better Government, More Laws,
Christian Governors, More Religion, More Rituals and Sacrifices, Bigger Prisons??

CURE – BOTH MORE SIMPLE AND MORE DIFFICULT – Repentance from Sin,
Earnest Prayer, Holy Living – BEGINNING WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ONLY MORAL PEOPLE CAN CREATE A MORAL GOV'T, MORAL NATION
HEALTHY GOVERNMENT NEEDS A HEALTHY CITIZENRY

c. Sign of the Covenant – Grace

v. 13 “I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant”
IN FLOOD RAVAGED EARTH / GOD DISPLAYS SHIMMERING BEAUTY

BEAUTIFUL PICTURE TO ALL MANKIND, FOR ALL TIME – Grace of God

6.8 “Noah found favor in the eyes of God” GRACE FOUND NOAH

GOD MADE SUCH A COVENANT PROMISE TO KING DAVID “Your house and your
kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever”
DAVID RIGHTLY RESPONDED “Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that
you have brought me this far? Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign
Lord?”
2 Samuel 7.16,18

RAINBOW SIGN OF BEAUTY AND HOPE –

Never again, never again - will earth be destroyed by flood water
NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT RAINS HERE IN ALMATY!!

1000's of years later GOD DECLARED ANOTHER COVENANT SIGN in the SKY
“An angel of the Lord appeared (to shepherds), and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news
of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to
you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips
of cloth and lying in a manger”
Luke 2.9-12

GOD'S SIGNS OF HIS COVENANT OF GRACE

A rainbow, A baby lying in a manger, A blood stained Cross, an Empty Tomb

“A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, who will
declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into this wonderful light” 1 Pt 2.9

GOD'S GOVERNMENT / GOD'S COVENANT