Noah and his family have disembarked; before them is a world that has been washed clean by the flood, and they must start again multiplying and filling the earth. But is Noah’s family really any better than those who were swept away by God’s Judgement? How will the human race be able to stop history repeating itself? This passage in Genesis chapter 9 tells us about the changes God has made in order to accomplish His design for them.

Q What do most people think is the greatest threat to the survival of the human race?

Q Compare Genesis 6:5 and Genesis 8:21. What has or hasn’t changed about the human race before and after the flood?

Q Read v1-7. What has stayed the same in God’s mandate for the human race? What new features have been added? How do we see God’s provision and protection in these verses?

Q Read 8:20-22 and 9:8-17. What does God promise in His covenant?

Who does God make this covenant with? What are the terms of the covenant?

What is the sign of this covenant? How does the sign function?

Q In the context of the story of the flood, what is really the greatest threat to the survival of the human race?

Q Read Hebrews 8:10-12. What is better about the New Covenant? Why is this the best news for the human race?
Date: 28th May 2023  Passage: Genesis 9:18-29  Preacher: Andy Bruins

Sermon Summary

This story completes the Noah saga; and it's not one that puts him in a brilliant light! Here is an account of Noah's family, 'warts and all'. We must remember that Moses is writing for the Israelites as they are on the way to the promised land, and so he is simply joining the dots to let them know how we got from creation to the days in which they are living – and this story is an important part of that one.

Personal Application

Q Can you think of actions people have taken that have let to consequences (good and bad) in the generations that have followed them?

Q Read v18-22. How did Noah sin? How did Ham sin? Why was Ham's sin so serious?

Q Look up Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 27:16 and Matthew 15:1-6. Why do you think Ham's sin doesn't seem so serious to us? Why is it such a big deal to dishonour your parents?

Q Are there circumstances that might negate this command, or an age at which we no longer need to honour our parents (see Proverbs 23:22)?

Q Read v23. How do Ham's brothers handle the situation? What might be the equivalent for us today?

Q Read v24-27. Why do you think Canaan cursed rather than Ham? What does this tell us about the consequences of our actions?

Q How does the Gospel bring help and peace to those who have sinned in this way? (Romans 8:1, Hebrews 10:15-18)
This chapter (and the chapter that follows) bridges the period of history between Noah and Abraham - we call it “the table of nations”. It contains a list of the names of the patriarchs and people groups that descended from each of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

One of the reasons that this chapter exists is surely to remind us that God knows and is concerned for all of the nations, and not just those descended from Abraham; all of the nations are included in God's plan or redemption (3:15, 12:3).

Q What is racism? What are some of the ways people excuse it? How does a biblical world view exclude it?

Q Read v8-12. Nimrod, a descendent of Ham, is the only person we are given further information about. What are we told about him? What does the saying about him mean?

Q The name Nimrod means, “we shall rebel” (G.Wenham). Where do we see a similar attitude in the world today?

Q What do we know about Babylon (the heart of Nimrod’s kingdom)? (look up 2 Chronicles 36:17-21, Daniel 4:28-30, 1 Peter 5:13 and Revelation 18:21-24). How would you sum up what Babylon stands for?

Q Read Acts 17:24-31. What does Paul tell the Greeks about God? How has the kindness of God towards the nations always been seen (cf Acts 14:16-17)?

Q What is God’s plan for all people? And what role do you and I play in these plans?