

GENESIS

THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S RELENTLESS PLAN

Part 7: The Curse of Bad Choices

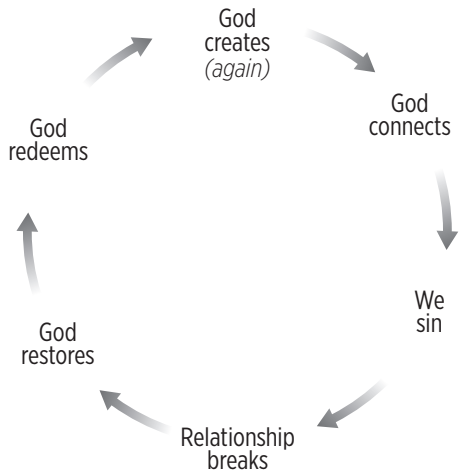
July 22 & 23, 2017 | Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

God's Covenant with Noah—and Us

(Genesis 9:8-11)

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons (Shem, Ham and Japheth) with him: ⁹ "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth.

¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."



Drowning in Bad Choices (Genesis 9:20-27)

²⁰ Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. ²¹ When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. ²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.

²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵ he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers. ²⁶ He also said, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. ²⁷ May God extend Japheth's territory; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth."

Deep Theology from Genesis 9

Bad stuff happens when you're wasted.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit... - Ephesians 5:18

Your words matter.

The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit. – Proverbs 18:21

For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. – Matthew 12:34

But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment
for every empty word they have spoken. – Matthew 12:36

Today's decisions have deep implications for generations that follow.

They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan." – Numbers 13:26-29

Sin didn't drown in the flood.

The truth about sin that no one wants to admit:

1. I'm born with it (Romans 3:23)
2. I choose it (Romans 7:14-25)
3. I'm blinded by it (Ephesians 4:17-19)
4. I'm enslaved by it (John 8:34)

...but that battle against sin is one that we can win!

The truth about my personal battle with sin:

1. Jesus broke the power of sin (Romans 7:24-25)
2. I am no longer a slave to sin (Romans 6:6-7)
3. The Bible teaches me how to make godly decisions (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Small Group Questions

- 1) Honest moment: are you glad it rained in Whatcom County on Thursday? Why or why not?
- 2) If you could go back and change one decision from your past, what would it be?
- 3) Is there a decision your parents made that has affected you positively? Negatively? How does their past decision affect the way you make decisions today?
- 4) How have your words been this past week? Life-giving or curse-bringing?
- 5) Read out loud the truth of Romans 6:6-7, Romans 7:24-25 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What truth can you claim today from this scripture and how can you live it out?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the coming week?