

# CONCERNING THE WAY

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## LESSON 14: GENESIS 9

### Introduction - The Noahic Covenant

In Chapter 9 we see Noah and his family leaving the ark after the flood and God entering into a covenant with man, the first mentioned in the Bible. When God makes a covenant with man, it is something very important - a new program, a new way of living, and something we should pay close attention to.

- Dusty Rhodes

*Genesis 8:20 Noah built an altar to the LORD. He then took some of every kind of clean animal and clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

How good it is to see that Noah's first recorded act after leaving the ark is to build an altar to the Lord. He showed no resentment toward God at the thought of so terrible a flood, but worships God in gratefulness for bringing them through safely. Evidently God's awesome judgment of the ungodly world increased within Noah a healthy, reverential fear of the God of all the earth.

*Genesis 8:21-22 And the LORD smelled the soothing aroma and said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, even though the inclination of their minds is evil from childhood on. I will never again destroy everything that lives, as I have just done. (22) "While the earth continues to exist, planting time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."*

1<sup>st</sup> covenant God entered into with humanity - the Noahic Covenant

### Provisions of the Noahic Covenant

1. Actually, the first provision was made back in chapter 6:18, where God promises to spare the human race through Noah.
  2. God will never again destroy everything that lives
  3. Uninterrupted seasons - from now on the earth will go into cycles of seasons - heating and cooling of the earth is part of normal cycles
    - a. After the awful catastrophe of the flood, who could foretell that for the rest of earth's history there would a constant pattern of "planting time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night." No one but the Creator Himself would even venture to suggest this.
    - b. Today we look back upon thousands of years which testify to the faithfulness of this promise. God has made nature utterly dependable. This predictability is the basis of all modern science and investigation. God has created a nature that is dependable and upon which men can rely. The only mistake scientists make is that they rule out the possibility of divine intervention and that, the Bible makes clear, is always God's reserved right. He can intervene in his own scheme any time he chooses, and has done so in the past.
- Why did God say what He did in verse 21?
    - Even though God wiped out sinful humanity with the flood, and thwarted Satan's plan to destroy the Messianic line, man is still corrupted with sin

nature and is in need of the coming redeemer

- Israel is reading this as she becomes a new nation in the Promised Land, understanding that this is why she exists as a nation, to bring the coming messianic blessings to the world, reminds Israel of her purpose.
- This verse looks forward to the future sacrifice of Christ pictured in the offerings, the only refuge for man. It is interesting too that, while in Chapter 6:5 we see that the reason for the flood was that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually," yet this same fact becomes a reason that God would not curse the earth again (v.21). The reason for this is that in the sacrifice of Christ there is a remedy for the evil nature of man.
- If this declaration is not true, then the story of Jesus Christ is not true, and the need for God's redeeming grace is denied. This is why God tries to impress this fact upon us. It is the fundamental fact we must learn. In order to teach it, God establishes human life in such a way as to make men face up to this overwhelming fact. It is the one fact above all others which man most strongly resists. Read the analyses of the world's thinkers, and everywhere you see how they cling to the big lie that man at heart is decent and good and loving.
- Every provision of this covenant made with Noah and the whole human race is designed to impress upon man the helplessness of his evil condition, and thus to drive him to the love and grace of God. Only God can save man. That is the whole point of history. God begins by making nature stable and dependable, so that man cannot blame his evil on the capriciousness of nature.

*Genesis 9:1-3 Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. (2) Every living creature of the earth and every bird of the sky will be terrified of you. Everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea are under your authority. (3) You may eat any moving thing that lives. As I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.*

“Re-creation passage” - similar to Genesis 1 - everything starting fresh, except man still has sin nature

4. The animals now fear man (man is, sadly, often their greatest enemy). Actually, it is a mercy to man that this is so, for if the animals, some with superior physical strength, had no fear of man, they could have practically destroyed all human population.
  - a. This is also designed to teach us that man is not what he once was. He is no longer lord of creation, with the animal world in loving, obedient subjection to him. Now he finds the animals fearing him, hiding from him, and running from him. It is the way God has of reminding us that the image of God in man is twisted and distorted, and love has been replaced by fear.
5. Mankind was no longer limited to a vegetarian diet. Animals, birds and fish were allowed him as food, just as fully as herbs and fruits. There were no restrictions such as were later introduced for Israel under law (Lev.11), and lifted again after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Acts 10:11-16; 1 Tim.4:4-5)
  - a. This is designed so that every meal should remind us that life is made possible only by the death of another creature. We are alive only because other creatures have died on our behalf to sustain our life. If not animals, then plants, at least. We do not live in and of ourselves, we live by feeding upon

other life. Now this ought to impress upon us a fundamental fact of life, that we are not independent creatures, going our own way, master of our own fate. We are the most dependent of creatures. That is why Jesus said, in fulfillment of the truth toward which all this points, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (John 6:53-54). He did not mean that literally, but symbolically, spiritually. We are to feed on him, and draw from him all that we need. He is designed for life, and without Jesus Christ we can never fulfill the humanity that throbs in each one's being. He is our life!

*Genesis 9:4-6 But you must not eat meat with its life (that is, its blood) in it. (5) For your lifeblood I will surely exact punishment, from every living creature I will exact punishment. From each person I will exact punishment for the life of the individual since the man was his relative. (6) "Whoever sheds human blood, by other humans must his blood be shed; for in God's image God has made humankind."*

6. Verse 4 - this admonition will become part of the Mosaic law later

- a. There is tremendous significance in this passage. We are told that man may eat the flesh of animals, but not the blood. Why? Because, says God, the life is in the blood, and life is God's property. It is never man's property. Man does not give life; he does not originate it, and it does not belong to him. Therefore, he has no right to take life. That is what this teaches. Life is God's property. Even in the proper taking of animal life (which is permitted man), he still must recognize the sovereignty and authority of God over life. Therefore, says God, do not eat the blood, because the blood is the life of the animal.

7. Verses 5-6 - Institution of human government - provision for capital punishment - notice that this was long before the law given to Israel - this is part of God's law for all of mankind, starting here with Noah. Why?

- o 8:21 - God knows that man has a depraved nature, and the only thing that will hold him back from committing murder is fear, fear that his own life will be taken - the concept of deterrence
- o A reality that has to happen to keep law and order, because man in his basic nature is evil
- o Gen. 6:11 - God is trying to prevent the world from regressing back to the massive violence that existed before the flood
- o The only thing that holds some men back from committing evil is the threat of governmental punishment - you can see that this is not some political ideology, but this concept came from God
- o Our founding fathers of the U.S. said that man will either be restrained by the Bible, or he will be restrained by the bayonet.
- o What restrains evil in society is a Christian worldview where I decide that I won't go rob the bank because it's not the Biblical thing to do, because I have the Holy Spirit living inside of me, a new nature. But if I don't have these things, what will hold me back? Only the threat of punishment by the government.
- o Why does God hate murder? When you murder someone, you destroy a being that bears the image of God, someone who has value with God (Notice that man still retains God's image even after the fall - it has been effaced, but not erased, man still has worth)

- Institution of human government is a Biblical institution - see Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-14, Titus 3:1, 1 Tim. 2:1-4
- What happens when the threat of government reprisal is removed? L.A. riots are a good example
  - Many of the families in those inner city areas of LA are broken, influence of the Christian churches have broken down, and you have people with a mob mindset
  - The only thing that holds them back is the threat of getting caught
  - During those riots, there was a period of time where the police could do nothing to stop crime in those areas, and people realized they would not get caught, so they just walked into stores and took whatever they wanted
  - Not a race issue - it was white, black, asian, Hispanic people, etc.
  - This is what is truly in people's hearts, it is what the world looks like without any internal restraint on the sin nature - no Bible, no presence of the Holy Spirit, and no governmental authority - you would have mass looting, violence, mayhem, etc. - probably like it was before the flood
- Of course human government is not perfect - our founding fathers set up our country with checks and balances because they KNEW man was corrupt. But, would you rather have a corrupt government, or no government at all?
- The Christian, then, is obligated to respect and obey the government
  - Only exception is when the government tells you to do something that is against God, against the Bible, only when there is a blatant conflict between the laws of man and the Bible
- Objections to capital punishment
  - CP violates the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment - but it's not "Thou shalt not kill", it's Thou shalt not murder. The Bible draws a clear distinction between justifiable homicide and unjustifiable homicide. Murder is killing with intent, malice aforethought - CP is justifiable
  - Contradicts the sermon on the mount - "turn the other cheek", "blessed are the peacemakers", etc. - but the sermon on the mount has nothing to do with government, the context is personal interactions, how we're to treat one another
  - Christians are not under the law, so we're not bound to this law - but this admonition of God precedes the Law given by Moses - the Noahic covenant is universal, governs the whole world
  - Deterrence doesn't work
    - Specific deterrence - if you kill a murderer, he will not murder again
    - Putting them in prison does not solve the problem
      - You have escaped or released convicts who murder again
      - Some convicts have arranged murders while in prison
      - Convicts murdering each other in prison
      - On average convicted murderers:
        - only spend 11 years in prison
        - Get 11 appeals between conviction and execution
      - One reason why deterrence doesn't work as well any more is because we don't have swift justice any more

- General deterrence - Deut. 21:21 - swift justice does make criminals afraid to commit a crime. God says deterrence DOES work
- What if you put to death an innocent person?
  - There is no proof that has ever happened for the last 100 years
  - It is true that a few that have been on death row have been found innocent, but no one has ever been innocently executed
  - Fix the system - don't get rid of CP - even in the Mosaic Law, it wasn't a rush to judgment - Deut. 17:6 - you can have safeguards in place to keep an innocent person from being executed

Genesis 9:7 *But as for you, be fruitful and multiply; increase abundantly on the earth and multiply on it."*

8. Populate the earth again - In the light of what we have just seen that seems a strange thing for God to say. Recognizing, as he does, that man is the slave of an evil principle within him, why should he want the earth to be filled with this? Why should he command that the earth be populated by means of human reproduction?
  - a. One answer is that in isolation man finds it easy to maintain the illusion of his basic decency and his independence from God. In isolation we do not have to look at ourselves. But as the world fills up and we can no longer move away from those that irritate us, we are forced to face our own sinfulness. As the cities increase in population, the earth fills up, the continents overflow, and there is no place to run, men discover what has always been true: that under crowded conditions the thin veneer of culture disappears fast and all that is hidden underneath breaks out. Winston Churchill once commented on the fact that men labor under the delusion that man is basically decent and good. But, he said, given sufficient stress, put under the proper pressure, Modern man will do anything, and his modern woman will back him up."

Genesis 9:8-11 *God said to Noah and his sons, (9) "Look! I now confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you (10) and with every living creature that is with you, including the birds, the domestic animals, and every living creature of the earth with you, all those that came out of the ark with you — every living creature of the earth. (11) I confirm my covenant with you: Never again will all living things be wiped out by the waters of a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth."*

9. God has kept this promise. There have been many local floods since that time but never a universal one, never again a flood to destroy all life. By this promise God indicates that he has changed his method of judgment. It is not that there will not come a judgment of humanity again; the New Testament tells us there will be one, not by water but by fire.

Genesis 9:12-17 *And God said, "This is the guarantee of the covenant I am making with you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all subsequent generations: (13) I will place my rainbow in the clouds, and it will become a guarantee of the covenant between me and the earth. (14) Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, (15) then I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures of all kinds. Never again will the waters become a flood and destroy all living things. (16) When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will notice it and remember the perpetual covenant between God and all living creatures of all kinds that are on the earth." (17) So God said to Noah, "This is the guarantee of the covenant that I am confirming between me and all living things that are on the earth."*

10. The rainbow will be the guarantee of this covenant
  - First reference to a covenant in the Bible
  - A covenant is a lot more than a promise - is a binding relationship between God and man - God binds Himself to this covenant, will move heaven and earth to see it fulfilled
  - The rainbow is the sign of this covenant - other covenants God makes in the Bible also have a sign
    - Sign of the Abrahamic covenant in Gen. 15 is circumcision

- Sign of the Mosaic covenant is the Sabbath
- Sign of the New Covenant is Communion (Luke 22)
- Notice the responsibility for this covenant is all on God's side, not man's

These biblical covenants are not agreements with God hammered out at a bargaining table. God is never forced to come to terms with the rebellion of man. He is always in control of history; he always has been and always will be. Man is never a threat to the government of God. We must learn to understand that or we will never have any comprehension of the course of history. Therefore, these covenants must never be thought of as bargains that man makes with God. These are, rather, rules of the game under which all humanity must live. We do not have any options. It is God who determines them, and man obeys them whether he likes it or not. It is impossible to break the laws of God; you can only illustrate them. If you jump from a 30-story building you will not break the law of gravity; you will only illustrate it. (That is what's called jumping to a conclusion.) *Ray Stedman*

**Genesis 9:18-29** *The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Now Ham was the father of Canaan.) (19) These were the sons of Noah, and from them the whole earth was populated. (20) Noah, a man of the soil, began to plant a vineyard. (21) When he drank some of the wine, he got drunk and uncovered himself inside his tent. (22) Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers who were outside. (23) Shem and Japheth took the garment and placed it on their shoulders. Then they walked in backwards and covered up their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so they did not see their father's nakedness. (24) When Noah awoke from his drunken stupor he learned what his youngest son had done to him. (25) So he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves he will be to his brothers." (26) He also said, "Worthy of praise is the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem! (27) May God enlarge Japheth's territory and numbers! May he live in the tents of Shem and may Canaan be his slave!" (28) After the flood Noah lived 350 years. (29) The entire lifetime of Noah was 950 years, and then he died.*

### Post-flood sin

- Notice that this is a condensed account of this event, evident in the fact that Noah's drunkenness occurred some considerable time after they had left the ark. There was time to plant a vineyard, time to allow it to grow to fruit-bearing maturity (anywhere from three to five years), time to harvest a crop, to gather it and extract the juice from the grapes, and time to allow it to ferment into wine.
- There seems to be no blame expressed toward Noah in this account, even though afterward drunkenness is everywhere condemned in Scripture and regarded as sin. However, it appears that Noah is not the promised Messiah, he's just a normal man who is capable of sin.
- Until this point in the narrative, you might have thought that Noah was perfect, sinless, that he may have been the One promised - that is why this story is given to us, to show that Noah was not the coming Redeemer
- This is the impression that Moses wants to give the Jews as they're reading this, that the Messiah is yet to come, and through them
- What was the sin of Ham? Gazing on the nakedness of Noah and showing disrespect for him, his two brothers came and covered him
  - It was as if Ham had satisfaction that Noah had sinned and was naked, and perhaps even jokingly broadcast it to his brothers
  - It is hard for modern people to appreciate why seeing another's nakedness was such an abomination, because nakedness is so prevalent today. In the ancient

world, especially in a patriarchal society, seeing another's nakedness was a major offense. Ham showed a total disrespect for his father

- Why does Noah curse Canaan instead of Ham?
  - Noah could have known that sexual perversion would break out in an intensified form in at least one of his children. Thus, guided by divine wisdom, he unerringly selects the one boy of Ham's four sons in whom this perversion will find outlet and expression. So the curse is pronounced upon Canaan. It seems clear here that Noah knows that though in Ham this perversion may not manifest itself any more openly than a mere tolerance and acceptance of it, yet in his son it will be greatly intensified. Therefore, the curse rests upon Canaan.
  - Now all this is proved in the book of Joshua (and also in I Kings) where we are told that the Canaanite tribes are all descendants of Canaan. They are listed for us in Genesis 10:15, "Canaan became the father of Sidon his first-born, and Heth, and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites." The names of these tribes appear many times throughout Old Testament history. These were the inhabitants of the land of Canaan when Israel came up out of Egypt. It was because of the morally perverted ways of these people, that God commanded the children of Israel to exterminate them when they came into the land. This bothers a great many people when they study the Old Testament; how can God order a whole people wiped out? Well, there was good reason for it. These people were a moral blight upon society, and it was necessary for them to be totally eliminated in order to preserve society from the deterioration and degradation that they represented. When Israel failed to do this, they became, as the curse of Canaan here suggests, "...hewers of wood and carriers of water," a servant of servants to the people of Israel, as recorded in Joshua 9:23.
- People point to that (the eradication of the Canaanites) to compare Judaism and Christianity with the violence of Islam - they say that we teach violence as well
  - In some sense it seems so, but when you look at the Biblical reasons for this it becomes clear
  - God gave the Canaanites 400 years to repent and change (Gen. 15:13,16)
  - Leviticus 18 - describes what the wicked Canaanites were doing - they were involved in the grossest of depravity - very similar to the days before the flood
  - The difference between Christians and Islam is that there is no open-ended commands in the Bible by God that tells us to go around killing people, in fact it teaches the exact opposite
  - The eradication of the Canaanites was a one-time command that God allowed to happen to advance His divine purposes
  - Islam has open-ended commands to kill that it's followers still obey today - that's why terrorists believe they are being faithful to Islam
- All of this information is being given to Israel to help her understand what her purpose is
- From these verses, from which of Noah's three son's do you think the Messiah will come through?
  - Verse 26 shows a hint that the Messiah will come from the line of Shem

**The Three Families of Man** - more about this next lesson on Chapters 10 and 11, but here are some introductory comments about the descendants of Noah's sons

- The descendants of Shem are the semitic races - Jews, Arabs, Assyrians, Persians
  - Notice that Shem is given religious primacy among mankind. The Semitic people, the descendants of Shem, were responsible under God to meet the spiritual needs of mankind. That is their role in humanity. It is most striking that the three great religions of earth all come from the Semitic family: Judaism, Mohammedanism, and Christianity. There is much distortion of truth in these, granted, but the sense of mission by the Semitic families of earth is very evident. This family includes the Jews, the Arabs, certain ancient peoples, as well as other modern groups.

- The descendants of Ham are Egyptians, Africans, Ethiopians, Phoenicians, Hittites, Orientals, Sumerians, Babylonians, and Canaanites
  - Canaan was to be a slave, but the rest of the sons of Ham were to fulfill a servant relationship as the practical technicians of humanity. If you study ancient history, you will learn that all the earliest civilizations, with their discoveries and technological achievements which were in many ways the equal or superior of much that we have today, were founded and carried to a high technological proficiency by Hamitic people. This is the role in history given by God to the descendants of Ham. The Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Mayans, the Aztecs, all were Hamitic people. They were the great inventors of mankind. It may come as a shock to some, who think of Americans as the most inventive people on the earth, to know that almost every basic invention can be traced to the Hamites, rather than to the Japhethites, which we represent. All that Japhetic people do is to develop the philosophy of science and applied technology, but the actual discoveries are largely traceable to the Hamitic peoples of the earth.
- The descendants of Japheth are the European and most North American peoples, East Indian peoples
  - Japheth was promised enlargement. The Japhetic people are, in general, the peoples of India and Europe, the Indo-European stock. It is largely from this family that we Americans come. It is most interesting that history has recorded their geographical enlargement. The entire western hemisphere of our globe is settled by Japhetic peoples, and the Indians (Hindus) are of the same stock. But there is much in history to suggest that the enlargement promised here to Japheth is also intellectual. Historically, all the great philosophers are Japhetic. The Greeks, who founded modern philosophy, are descendants of Japheth, as we will see in the next chapter, also the Hindus. The Greeks and the Hindus are the two truly great philosophic races of earth.
  - Some take the phrase, "May he (Japheth) live in the tents of Shem" as predictive of the Cross, when the spiritual guidance of humanity passed from the Jews to the Gentiles, i.e., from Shem to the Japhetic family. To Shem was given the primacy of religious teaching, but there comes a time when Japheth enters that field ("lives in the tents of Shem"), and philosophy (which is essentially Japhetic) was married to theology. This has been the case since the dispersion of the Jews around the world.

#### Parallels from the three families of man to the New Testament:

- We have, for instance, the so-called Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), which are very similar to one another and quite different from the Gospel of John. Yet Matthew, Mark, and Luke are not copies of one another, but they represent different approaches; they are aimed at different types of people. The interesting thing is that when you inquire as to the identity of these people, you find that they are Shem, Ham, and Japheth, in that order. Matthew is aimed at the Semitic people. It is the Gospel for the Jews, above all others. Mark is clearly the Gospel of the servant. This is stressed by Bible teachers whenever they teach Mark; his Gospel is profoundly the presentation of the servant, the practical mind, the Hamitic mind. Luke is clearly aimed at the Greek, or the Japhetic mind.
- It is also interesting that three groups are recorded in the New Testament as specifically coming to seek the Lord Jesus. They are the shepherds, the wise men, and the Greeks (John 12:20). Here again the order is repeated: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The shepherds were Israelites, Semitic. Most Bible scholars feel that the Magi, the wise men from the East, were really not from the East (that was a general term) but from Arabia, and represented the Hamitic peoples. The Greeks are clearly Japhethites. So there again, always in the same order, we have Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- Also, the gospel was first preached in this order. In the book of Acts we are told that on the day of Pentecost Peter stood up and said, "Ye men of Israel," and addressed the gospel to them. Then in the next section we find Philip called to leave a revival in Samaria and go down to preach to a single individual in the desert, who is a Hamite, an Ethiopian, the treasurer of Ethiopia. Then, a little bit later on Peter is sent to the Japhethites, preaching the gospel to Cornelius, a centurion of Rome.
- All three of these groups are represented at the crucifixion. Each branch of mankind took part in the crucifixion. The moral responsibility for it fell upon the Jews. It is they who said, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." The physical burden of bearing the cross fell upon a Hamite, Simon of Cyrene (a part of North Africa), a stranger in Jerusalem who was impressed into the task of bearing the cross for our Lord on the Via Dolorosa.

Finally, as you know, executive responsibility for the crucifixion rested with the Romans, who gave the official order for the death of our Lord.

This shows how accurately the Bible previews history and how it deals realistically with these matters. There are often hidden in these biblical passages amazing truths which, when we once begin to trace them, carry us into vast and exciting fields of discovery. We have looked at enough to confirm to us this fact: the race, the whole race, is but the individual written large. There are three divisions of mankind, as there are three divisions in man, in you. To each of these divisions is given the responsibility for meeting one of the basic needs of man: spiritual, physical, and intellectual. In each one of us these same three divisions are found. We have a capacity to worship; we have a capacity to reason; and we have a capacity to work with our hands. These are the things that distinguish us from the animals. This is the image of God in man. Each of them needs to be held in perfect balance. The world is in a state of confusion, uncertainty, and despair because the balance God intended has been left unfulfilled. So also, in your individual life you may be in a state of confusion, despair, frustration, weakness, or whatever, because you have neglected to fulfill the threefold capacities of your own nature.

It is wrong to think of man as primarily spiritual. He is also intellectual and physical. It is wrong to think of him as being essentially physical, developing athletic abilities to the neglect of the others; he is also spiritual and intellectual. The interesting thing is that in the Bible the intellectual is put last. If the order of Scripture obtains for the individual as well as for the race, the order within us is also Shem, Ham, and Japheth. First the spiritual, then the physical, then the intellectual. In that order mankind finds its complete fulfillment. If we understand ourselves, we will also understand the world around us. The glory of the gospel is that it addresses itself to mankind exactly on those terms. We find ourselves being what we were intended to be when we open our lives to God through Jesus Christ, making that priority number one; then developing the physical life, taking care of physical needs, physical demands; and through these two working together, developing the intellectual to an understanding of ourselves. *Ray Stedman*

#### Closing Comments:

*Next lesson we will conclude our intensive study of the foundational chapters of Genesis by looking at chapters 10 and 11, which contain the Table of Nations and the account of the Tower of Babel, the 4<sup>th</sup> major event so far in Genesis. Remember at the beginning of our study we said that Genesis is about 4 major events and 4 important people? Well, we have one more event to go, and then we'll have a lesson on each of the four important people. With those lessons, we'll take more of an overview approach to the lives of these men, not a verse-by-verse study. I hope you are learning as much as I am!*  
*Dusty Rhodes*