

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT? (and Rainbows)

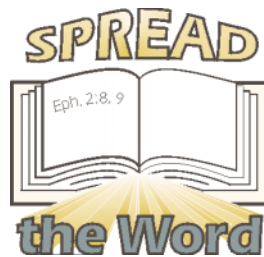
**taken from
Genesis 9**

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Divine Viewpoint

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WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND RAINBOWS?

Genesis 9. Chapters 9, 10, and 11 are really packed full of information and principles. Most people are confused about some of the principles that are here. Probably most people have never studied these parts of Scripture, or if they have, they probably have forgotten them.

We're in Genesis 9:6. In the section that we have coming up, I'll tell you some of the subjects that we're going to study. You may want to quit reading now. One of them is in verse 6, capital punishment. Then we're going to study something about drunkenness and the first drunk in the human race, and what does the Bible have to say about drinking. We'll take all the passages involved. Is drinking a sickness or a sin? We'll answer that question, too.

The next subject that will come up, as a result of drunkenness is homosexuality, and we'll answer that question too, whether homosexuality is a sickness or a sin. Now before you draw your own conclusions, drunkenness and homosexuality are not sicknesses, but are both sins. **The only way that they can be cured is by one Person, the Lord, not some psychiatrist or sociologist. Only God can forgive and cleanse sin. The AA can't solve it and neither can any of these rehabilitation organizations when it comes to drunkenness or homosexuality.** It's found in this chapter.

We will also study how these different trends in the human race exist and why they exist and why certain people are the way they are. How come certain people in the human race are always oppressors. It came out of Ham, Shem, and Japheth. These are interesting passages and if you want to know some of these trends, we'll find them out.

In verse 6 it says, *"Who sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."* The expression, *"by man"* means the proper constituted authority. Why? Because *"in the image of God made He man."* Now, we studied the

image of God in the first chapter of Genesis. It refers to three things.

"In the image of God" doesn't mean that man looks like God physically. "Image of God" means that God has essence. God has different characteristics. And man has certain characteristics, certain essence.

In man is self-consciousness. That's the image of God. Self-consciousness means that I'm aware of myself and things around me. I know that I exist. I'm aware of myself.

Also inside of man there is another characteristic called moral reasoning or mentality. I think I ought to do this and I think and I ought not to do that.

Also in man is self-determination which is more or less self-consciousness or norms and standards. Man has self-consciousness, he's aware of himself. He has moral reasoning, I ought to do this, I ought not to do that. And he has a conscious with norms and standards and free will. That's what is meant here by image of God. Man has his own volition. He can choose for himself. He can choose his course in life.

And because man has the right to choose for himself, you do not have the right to destroy his free will by destroying him. This could be chemically induced or physically removing him. So, when it says that someone has the right to take man's life when man sheds blood, then man should take his life. Man violates the law, the law here is murder.

Immediately we have the principle of an authorization for human government. In other words, Divine Institution number 4, nationalism, protects Divine Institution number 1, which is the free will of man. So, the basic principle of human government is the court room, judge on the bench, and the policemen on the corner. That's government.

Law is the basis of government. **There's only one way to put teeth in the law. No matter how good your law is, your law is no**

good without capital punishment. We're suffering from that right now.

If you omit capital punishment, then no matter how good your common law is, it's no better than the enforcement of it. The ultimate in law enforcement is capital punishment. For example, people get into the habit of killing one another for one reason or another. The old sin nature goes into operation. So, a person murders someone, then that person gets 10 years. Because of good behavior they get out in two. **He can now come out and murder someone else.** Now, that happens all the time. **When someone murders someone and they're not executed, that hurts the law.** Then you say, "Well it doesn't bother me." **Just wait until some person that you're related to is murdered.** So, the teeth in the law is capital punishment, that's Genesis 9:6. **And the abolishment of it shows you how rapidly the nation is going down.**

So, the sword, for the first time, is placed in man's hands, in verse 6. **In the Antediluvian Civilization, before the flood, God Himself processed all criminal cases.** But now, after the flood, the authority is given to man for the first time. And with this authority, we have human government. In the previous civilization, Cain and Lamech were both murderers. But they were not tried and punished by man.

In verse 6, the basis for capital punishment is said to be the image of God. The image of God means soul. Man has a soul and he has free will, Divine Institution number 1. Man possesses self-determination. He must take the consequences of his own decision. If his decision involves the transgression of law and if his decision involves murder, **then he must take the consequences for his own volition.** If he chooses to murder someone, then he must face the consequences of his decision. So, let's understand the context.

Genesis 9:3, 4 we have the right to kill animals for food, but it does not give us the right to kill men, verses 5, 6. But there are two exceptions where man has the right to kill, not murder. There's a difference. **Number 1 is**

capital punishment, which has just been stated. This is the operation, the function of justice, in punishing unusual crime. **Number 2 is warfare.** Under the concept of warfare, when one is representing his national entity, he not only has the right to kill, but as part of his Christian testimony, he is to be the best. If you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and your country goes to war, you have no right, for example, to be a conscientious objector on the basis of the Word of God. **As a Christian, as a part of your testimony, you should take the responsibility of being in the military.** You don't have to sit back somewhere and roll bandages or work as an orderly in the hospital. I mean you get right in there on the front line.

I want you to stop and think for a minute. We've had marvelous freedoms in this country. **We've had a country with enough freedom whereby the Gospel has been declared, whereby there have been great evangelistic movements, whereby missionaries have gone all over the world.** These freedoms have existed in a marvelous and a wonderful way. **I want you to realize that the freedoms that we have in this country have been paid for by the blood of many born-again believers who fought and killed other people. If they hadn't killed other people, we couldn't sit here today and study the Word of God.**

I mean there's a time in national emergency where it's not only Christian responsibility to fight, but to be the best and the most effective soldier. Scripture says *"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might"* (Ecclesiastes 9:10), *"as unto the Lord."* I know this sounds brutal to you, but this is part of the Word of God. We have it in Genesis 9:6 and we also have it in Romans 13:1-7. Before you allow your emotions to be disturbed by this principle, this is found in the Word of God. Furthermore, we are free today because Christian men and women have died on battlefields in many wars, in many places. This is why we have freedom today.

If the ideas and the attitudes that permeate our country today were the ideas and the

attitudes during the War of 1812, we wouldn't be the United States of America today. And we wouldn't have worldwide evangelism in the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. I know of friends that I had that died in World War II and I know of some friends who have died in the Korean War. Some of them were believers and they knew their responsibility before the Lord and they did it before the Lord. That's why we're free today.

Believers in the 20th and 21st centuries take the satanic position, this dear brotherhood position, the position that starts out with the universal brotherhood of man and the universal fatherhood of God. We're not all brothers and not all men are equal.

The passages that we're developing today, Genesis 9, 10, and 11, develop these principles. You then find out that some of the ideas that people have are satanic and they run in connection with Socialism and Communism and all the rest of these ideas.

You must remember that Satan is the ruler of this world. Satan is the god of the air, the prince and the power of the air. His viewpoint is widespread in the world because he's the ruler of this world. The satanic viewpoint is a very simple one, we're all brothers, don't kill your brother, no capital punishment.

"It's not his fault. He had a bad childhood. When he was a child, his father spanked him three times and he's only shot 14 people, but it's because he's misunderstood. So, let him alone, the poor chap. What he needs is love, and kindness, and understanding." You might as well say to a rabid dog, dashing in your direction, frothing at the mouth, just waiting to bite you. But what he needs is a little understanding and kindness. So, just stoop down and pet him and he'll be all right.

Listen. **This is a Doctrineless generation.** We had recently in the newspaper, a guy who refused to be drafted and he went to jail. The draft doesn't mean you're going to go anywhere. They're not drafting anyone into the service. It's just putting your name on the

role in case there's an emergency. But this guy doesn't want to put his name on the role. He's going to remain home. Now he goes to jail. I'll tell you something. I would not go to jail on any case in the 20th century, if you know what goes on in jails. He'd be better of being drafted than going to jail. That's crazy.

Can you imagine a person that doesn't want to put his name on the paper to be responsible for his country yet he goes to jail where he will be raped, he'll be taken advantage of and everything else. He should enlist. This is avoiding responsibility. Somehow these people think they are avoiding responsibility because they are Christians. But that's not it at all.

Capital punishment is one of the reasons why the shedding of blood is here. The other is warfare. Those are the two things. Verse 6 tells us these principles and they are important.

In verse 7 there is a second command to repopulate the world. It says, *"And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the Earth, and multiply therein."* Notice the command to perpetuate the human race is repeated because the means for protecting and perpetuating the human race has been established, verse 6. **Divine Institution number 4 is developed for the protection of the human race.**

Therefore, in the human race there must be a number of national entities. Each government, or national entity, must function under a segment of the human race. **There must be no government that functions over the entire human race.** That would be internationalism. **Because any form of internationalism gives Satan direct and complete control of the Earth.**

Satan is the ruler of this world until the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ returns, the first form of bona fide internationalism will go into operation. **Christ will rule the world. But until that time, the Devil is the ruler of the world.** The Devil is frustrated in his designs by a large number of national entities. Each national

entity has organizations within itself. It has law within itself, it has authority, and control to encourage law and protect law-abiding citizens.

Furthermore, by maintaining its own sovereignty as a government, when other governments try to take over the world, because some man gets control of the government and has power lust, there is warfare, and balance of power is maintained.

The only way we can have any measure of world peace is by a balance of power among national entities. **You can never have world peace by any form of internationalism. Any form of internationalism, whether it's the United Nations or Communism, is spawning grounds for warfare and violence.** The chief principle of the social gospel of the National Council of Churches, is disarm. **When you disarm a strong national entity, they say it helps to maintain peace, but it doesn't. You destroy the peace. One of the worst things that can happen to this country is to disarm. You destroy any possibility of balance of power. You put other nations, as well as yourself, into slavery.**

It's interesting because they are trying to legislate guns. People say that guns are dangerous. But remember, that's why they were made. Guns are made to be dangerous. You always find people trying to legislate against guns, but the most fascinating thing in the world is trying to legislate against a gun, because I can tell you of some things that are more dangerous than guns. They haven't been outlawed ... blondes, electric fans, automobiles kill more people than guns, knives, and ice picks.

Here's a most unusual thing. Occasionally you find people having a Sullivan Law, like they do in New York City. They take guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens and make the job of the criminal that much easier. That's what the Sullivan Law is. When a criminal in New York City sticks a gun into someone and asks him for his possessions, he knows that he will not get any opposition. **He knows that the individual is not a criminal so he doesn't have a gun. He can't defend himself**

in New York City because it's against the law. But a criminal carries a gun. Why? He doesn't care about the law. They all carry guns. When a criminal in New York City breaks into an apartment, he knows that no one is going to shoot him. It is against the law for them to have a gun. So, he comes in with his gun and he gets whatever he wants.

Consequently, the average Christian who doesn't know the Word, has a mental attitude of socialism or anti-Christian, and adopts the attitude of "get rid of guns." That just means that the person doesn't know what's going on. These principles are found in these chapters and we'll keep emphasizing them because they're contrary to a lot of people's thinking. **Don't let them disarm. It's in our constitution. Don't let them sell you on internationalism.** Those are two things that are protecting us right now.

In Genesis 9:8-17 we have God's covenant with Noah and his progeny, which, in effect, is God's covenant with the whole Postdiluvian civilization, of which you and I are a part. We are in the Postdiluvian civilization.

We'll now study verses 8 through 17. I'll make some comments on them after I read them to give you a better understanding of these passages.

Verse 8, *"And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying."* Verse 9, *"And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you."* Verse 10, *"And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the Earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the Earth."*

Verse 11, *"And I will establish My covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the Earth."* **Remember that one!** Verse 12, *"And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations."* **Remember that,** *"for perpetual generations."* Verse 13, *"I do set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of*

a covenant between Me and the Earth." Verse 14, "And it shall come to pass when I bring a cloud over the Earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud," that's interesting. See the significance of the cloud and bow?

Verse 15, "And I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh." Verse 16, "And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the Earth." Verse 17, "And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the Earth."

This is it. This is the second half of the Noahic Covenant. One part of it was found in Genesis 8:21, 22. You can tell from a very quick reading of this particular covenant, two primary factors involved. First, we just read that God would never again judge the Earth through universal flood. A token of this was the word "bow," which we call today a compound word, rainbow. In verse 8 the parties of the covenant are stated. The party of the first part is God. The party of the second part is Noah and his sons and the entire Postdiluvian civilization, which includes us. We are a part of this. In other words, the Postdiluvian civilization goes from after the flood to the Second Advent of Christ. We are in that bracket.

In verses 9 and 10 we have the scope of this covenant. It was with Noah and it was with the Postdiluvian civilization and it's also with lower creation. The previous provision of the covenant had been made in Genesis 8:21, 22 and the principle is that **God will never again destroy the Earth by flood.** The human race will never be judged by water as an entity. **There will be another judgment for the human race in the future.** But that's stated in 2 Peter 3:6, 7. **It's judgment by fire as well as by atomic fission or fusion.**

You know, there's a great deal of anxiety about the Russians and the Chinese destroying the Earth by "pushing the button." This passage says to me that it's never going to

happen. That God's going to do it after we're gone. After the Church Age. After the Tribulation. After the Millennium. So don't let them scare you. **When that occurs, we'll have a resurrection body and we'll go on through it.**

In verses 12-17 we have the sign of the covenant. We have the parties in verses 7 and 8, we have the scope in verses 9 and 10 and we have the sign in verses 12-17. Notice that several times the "bow" is mentioned, "bow in the cloud."

No one ever saw a rainbow before the flood. When did rainbows start? Not until after the flood. **According to Genesis 2:6, in the Antediluvian civilization there was no rain. The water which was used to help the Earth came from below the Earth.** There was no rain for the first 2000 years before Noah.

The rainbow is nothing more or less than light broken down by refraction. I assume that most of you are familiar with the spectrum of light and all the colors that are involved. This is very interesting because in 1 John 1:5 it says, "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all." When we begin to realize that God is light, you may think of something bright and shiny or something good. But there is more to it than that. **You have to understand that light is pure white.** Every ray of light is pure white. Light has in it also all the colors that exist in the human race. We call this light spectrum. The only time that you see various colors in the pure ray of white light is when light strikes something. There are a lot of analogies here because **when you take the light of the Word and you put it on a situation in life, you can really see what it is.** Otherwise you can't. That's the same thing we're talking about here. The only time that you see various colors in a pure ray of white light is when that light strikes something or when it's refracted.

For example, if you're wearing red tonight and light strikes the clothing that you're wearing, which is red, it means that everything else in the spectrum is absorbed – yellow and blue. Red is reflected. If you're wearing yellow, it means that the blue and the red are

absorbed and the yellow is reflected. Yellow, red, and blue being the primary colors. They haven't changed that in school yet, have they? If you're wearing blue tonight, it means that the red and yellow are absorbed. If all of the light is reflected, you have white. If all of the light is absorbed, you have black.

Here's something for your information. This is what you can learn from the Bible. If you have a black car, it's much hotter in Houston in the summer than a white car. A black car absorbs all the light and the light is heat. Consequently, without an air conditioner, a black car can be at least 10° hotter than a white car, because the white car reflects the light.

The same thing is true of clothing. White clothing is ideal for summer because it reflects the light. Whereas, black clothing absorbs the light and heat and makes you a few degrees warmer.

Everything in nature is colored by light. It's only when light strikes something that you can see any color, because part of the light is absorbed and part of the light is reflected.

In every ray of white light you have all the colors. This is also true under conditions of refraction, for example, a rainbow. You have a rainbow when the rain begins to cease, when the rain becomes just a bit of a mist. This causes the refraction of light by the sunlight hitting the drops of rain, or the mist. The bow assumes the form of a concentric circular series of arcs that have a common center by the line that joins your eye to the sun. The line is on an angle of about 42 degrees. That's all academic.

Consequently, because of that angle, you are able to see the various colors in the spectrum. **The rainbow usually occurs when the rain is about to stop.** It's caused by refraction of light by the sun's rays. **It becomes a marvelous illustration of God's Grace.** That's why it is here. Do you think that the Lord is just hung up on rainbows? He's trying to communicate something. You know, "*the heavens declare the glory of God. The firmament show His handiwork.*" Day unto day utters speech. **There is no language in the whole world where**

His plan is not known. This is God making things available.

This is a token of God's promise that He'll keep His Word. Whenever it stops raining, and the sun hits the mist or the little bit of rain that is left, a rainbow is formed. There's a perfect analogy here to God Himself. There are certain characteristics which are involved in the covenant which we're studying here. Remember that this covenant here is called the Noahic covenant. It's nothing more or less than God's promise not to destroy the Postdiluvian civilization, regardless of who has the bomb.

Remember that we are a part of the Postdiluvian civilization. The Antediluvian civilization was the civilization before the flood and it went from Adam to Noah. After the flood we have the Postdiluvian civilization that continues to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. **The Postdiluvian civilization includes the dispensation of Israel and the dispensation of the Church,** which is the one we're in. It includes the Tribulation and then the Millennium.

That Millennial civilization is different. There's going to be different activity as far as nature is concerned. There's going to be differences in animal life. Animals will lose their ferocity. The lion and the lamb will lie down together. The child will put his hand in the cobra's den and pet the cobra without being hurt. Snakes will be pets in the Millennium like they were in the Garden. We are not in the Garden and we are not in the Millennium, so don't pet snakes. The desert will blossom like a rose. There'll be tremendous changes in nature.

After the Millennial civilization, we have the final one, which is really endless. In the Eternal civilization we have new Heavens and new Earth. But in Genesis 9 we're still talking about the Postdiluvian civilization and the Noahic covenant. This civilization from Noah to the Second Advent can never be destroyed by water. **We are guaranteed the perpetuation of the human race.** In order for the human race to be perpetuated, Divine

Institutions must be in operation as much as possible. There are four of them: 1) Free will; 2) Marriage; 3) Family; 4) National entity.

God is one. When it says "*God is one*," **it means that God is one in essence. Not that there's only one God, but that He's one in essence.** We're talking about His essence. There's a passage in 1 John 1 (verse 5), where it says, "*God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.*" So, when we see the essence of God, we think of Him in terms of light. **But this essence is made up of many different characteristics.** I want to show you how they operate on this promise. **In other words, He's Sovereignty, Righteousness, Justice, Love, Eternal Life, Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Veracity, and Immutability.** These are all different characteristics of God.

These are comparable to various colors in a ray of light. If you say, "*God is light*," and you refer that light to essence, since there are colors in light, there are characteristics in God. When you have conditions of refraction and conditions of reflection, some colors are brought out. Certain characteristics of God are brought out, for example, in this Noahic covenant.

In other words, **God's love is brought out with this rainbow covenant.** How is God's love brought out? Love is the basis for God's Grace and God has very graciously and lovingly promised not to destroy the human race. Period.

God is also *justice*. We're talking about the rainbow now. This is brought out by the perpetuation of the Divine Institutions. He's fair. **He's given us the Divine Institutions so we can perpetuate the human race.** God is also veracity. This is brought out by the fact that He makes a promise never to destroy the human race again by water, and **that's a Truth based on His character. It'll never happen.**

His *immutability* is brought out in this promise also, because He refrains from a complete and universal judgment of the world until the end of the civilization. In other words, He says He won't do it, and He won't change

His mind about it. That's immutability. *Omnipotence* is another characteristic, or one of the lights in the spectrum of God's essence. This is brought out by the fact that He is able to keep the world from being destroyed in this particular way.

Not all of His characteristics are brought out, but certain ones are by this Noahic covenant. So, this analogy becomes quite obvious. **Just as certain characteristics of God's essence are brought out by the covenant, so we have in the rainbow, we see the white light, a light broken down into many colors.** Certain of the colors are revealed in the rainbow whenever we see one.

Now, God is light. He makes this promise. You see the rainbow. It's a promise that the world will never be destroyed by water. The rainbow can only occur when water begins to decrease and lessen. The Noahic covenant depends on certain attributes of Divine Essence, just as light is made up of various colors. So, just as the rainbow is a joint production, it's a production of a storm and sunshine, so **God's Grace is a joint production.** It's a production of His love and His holiness. Here is a beautiful illustration of the **Grace of God.** God's provision for man in salvation, by way of analogy.

Speaking of analogies, this is a great time to show you a great analogy between Adam and Noah. In case you never put those two people together, both were beginners. Adam was the beginner of the Antediluvian civilization. Noah was the beginner of the Postdiluvian civilization. I want you to notice a few points of analogy between the two, before we go on to the rest of this chapter, which has a great deal to do with the future as well as the present human race.

The first point of analogy: Adam was placed on a planet which emerged from water. The water of the deluge, Genesis 1:2. The Earth was completely covered with water. Water was there for thousands of miles, into what we now call space. That's found in Genesis 1:2, 12. The analogy is that Noah disembarked from an ark from which there was water.

The planet had been covered with water. The waters were not decreasing. So, both of them started with being surrounded by water.

Second analogy: Adam was blessed by God and told to replenish the Earth. That's in Genesis 1:28. Noah was blessed by God and told to replenish the Earth. That's found in Genesis 9:1.

Third analogy: Adam sinned and transgressed by eating of the tree. Noah transgressed by drinking of the fruit of the vine. You probably don't realize what happened there.

Analogy four: Adam became naked and was covered by someone else. God clothed him. Genesis 3:7, 21. Noah became naked also and was covered by two of his sons.

Analogy five: Adam's sin brought a curse upon his posterity. In other words, "*In Adam all die,*" Romans 5:12. **Noah's sin brought a curse upon one segment of his posterity,** Genesis 9:24, 25. The curse of Ham and Canaan.

Analogy six: Adam has three sons mentioned in the Bible – Cain, Abel, and Seth. He had

more, but three are mentioned. Noah had three sons mentioned, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Out of one of the sons (that are mentioned) of Adam, came the Messiah. Out of one of Noah's sons came the Messiah also.

Seventh analogy: Adam, after his fall, received the prophecy of salvation, Genesis 3:15. After he fell, there was a promise given of the Seed of the woman. Noah, after his fall, received the prophecy of human history, Genesis 9:24-26.

There are three great prophecies in Genesis.

- The prophecy of salvation, Genesis 3:15.
- The prophecy of the Postdiluvian civilization, our history, Genesis 9:24-26.
- Finally the prophecy of the tribes of Israel, Genesis 49.

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