

### 3. Our relationship to God

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16 Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." 17 So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."  
Genesis 9:12-17

- **What do the "clouds" represent?**

The storms of life brought on by mankind's continual sinning. There are still sinners on the ark aren't there?

- **What does the "rainbow" represent?**

The rainbow represents grace. It represents God's wrath going away. **Here's the main thing.** The word translated here as *rainbow in verse 13* is used at least 75 times in the Old Testament. Every single time it's used it's talking about a bow, the weapon that shoots arrows.

Therefore a rainbow imposed on the retreating storm by the shining of the sun is a picture of God's battle bow laid aside, a token of grace staying the wrath of God.

- **What does it mean that the rainbow comes together where the sun and the clouds meet?**

The rainbow only happens where the light and darkness come together. The rainbow only happens where the mercy and judgment have come together, where the sun has penetrated all the way into the heart.

The upside down bow-



What Genesis tells us about God and life.

### How God Covenants With Mankind After the Flood Genesis 9:1-17

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. 2 The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. 3 Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. 4 "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. 5 And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. 6 "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. 7 As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it." 8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons 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." 12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16 Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." 17 So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

## God Directs Mankind in 3 Key Relationships Post Flood

In chapter 9:1-17 God is **reforming his covenant** with mankind.

### 1. Our relationship to animals and all creation.

The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. 3 Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. Genesis 9:2,3

#### But the Covenant is not just for mankind.

<sup>12</sup>And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you **and every living creature** with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ...<sup>16</sup>Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God **and all living creatures** of every kind on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me **and all life on the earth.**”

Genesis 9:12,16,17

<sup>13</sup>I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me **and the earth.** Genesis 9:13

For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. <sup>20</sup>Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, <sup>21</sup>the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. Romans 8:19-21

#### God intends to restore all life and creation from the destruction of Mankind’s fall into rebellion.

### 2. Our relationship to one another.

“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. 6 Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.” Genesis 9:5,6

#### God is upholding the inherent dignity of mankind because they are created in God’s image.

#### Positive law versus natural law debate.

**Positive law:** says we can’t believe that there is a God, so who’s to say what God’s law is? Who’s to say what’s right and wrong? Therefore, justice is up to the will of the people.

**Natural law:** The Christian alternative is that the basis of justice is not majority rule. The basis of justice is natural law, or the law of God.

#### John Calvin says in the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*:

“The Lord commands all men without exception ‘to do good.’ Yet the great part of them are most unworthy if they be judged by their own merit. But here Scripture helps in the best way ... whatever man you meet who needs your aid, you have no reason to refuse to help him. ... Say, ‘He is contemptible and worthless’; but the Lord shows him to be one to whom he has agreed to give the beauty of his image. You will say, ‘He has deserved something far different of me.’ ... It is that we remember not to consider men’s evil intention but to look upon the image of God in them, which cancels and effaces their transgressions, and with its beauty and dignity allures us to love and embrace them.”

**What’s Calvin saying?** The basis of justice is that human beings image God, every one, and you can never treat one as less than the other.

Christians have far better, far more solid foundation, to work for social/racial justice, to take care of the weak, the marginal, the poor, of the oppressed, the elderly, the sick, the orphan, the dying, and to be a steward of the environment, than anybody else.