**The World's Do Over**
Genesis 9
(preached Pine Grove 1/6/18; Sunday PM)

**Introduction**

Take your Bibles and turn to Genesis 9.

WE have taken a really a couple month break from the book of Genesis on Sunday nights.

WE did a series on the city of Bethlehem to go along with Christmas.

We also had some time off for plays and suppers, but tonight we get to go back to the very beginning of the Bible and continue to equip ourselves with the absolute truth of how the world began.

I want to remind you that I don't take lightly what I choose to preach and teach to you each week, each month, each year.

My aim to be helpful in your life as a church.

To equip biblically to live in the world.

To further your confidence in the Bible.

To help you know the character of God.

And so our time in the book of Genesis is not haphazard or accidental.

I don't throw darts at a board to see what to preach next.

There is a purpose in my heart to take us through these opening chapters of the book of Genesis.

I mentioned last week that the OT is under assault in some churches.

Andy Stanley is not the first or the last to try and move Christians away from the OT.

But it is shocking to see the son of a solid Bible believing man like Charles Stanley openly attack over half of the Bible.

IT is also shocking to see a church in Atlanta Georgia support such nonsense in the pulpit.

Yet, this is the world we live in and this is the culture we are called to take the truth into.

In my opinion, Stanley's attempt to kick the OT out of the church are intended to further the homosexual/ transgender agenda.

He has openly supported and affirmed those who call themselves “gay Christians.”

He has allowed homosexuals to join his church and even serve as volunteers in ministries at the church.

And the reason he wants to remove the OT is because of its clear instruction about the sinfulness of homosexuality and other sexual sins…

Unfortunately, he will eventually have to exclude the NT since it affirms the sinfulness of homosexuality as well.

But for now, Stanley is content to try and remove the OT.

Now, he is not the first.

Many Christians evolutionists have assaulted the OT as well, especially the opening chapters of the book of Genesis..

Many have wrongly classifies the opening chapters of the book of Genesis as poetry in an attempt to make it mean whatever they want it to mean..

Many have also wrongly called the opening chapters of Genesis a fictional story, seeing Adam and Eve as characters and not actual, historical people.

You see, the book of Genesis lays the foundation for the entire Bible.

It is the table of contents and the introduction and the first chapter on how to understand God, how to understand the world, how to understand man, how to understand sin, and how to find salvation.

And if critics can cast doubt on the first book of the Bible, they can undermine the rest of it with ease..

This is why we must battle for the beginning of the Bible.

This is why we must affirm a literal understanding of God making the world in 7 24 hours days.

This is why we must see Adam and Eve as real people who committed real sin and were really cursed because of it.

WE must see Genesis 6-8 as real flood where a real Noah built a real boat to save his real family..

These things must be non-negotiables for us if we ever hope to convince people that the gospel is also non-negotiable.

How dare we tell our kids that Genesis 1 is poetry and that God used evolution to make the universe while also

telling that Jesus was real and died on a real cross outside of Jerusalem..

How dare we tell our kids that the Bible is completely true but that the flood was just a nice story that was told to teach us about God's judgment..

How dare we raise a generation in the church who thinks that the OT has nothing to teach us but that the rest of the Bible is to be believed.

This is why we are in Genesis tonight and why we have been in it for some time.

This is why we are using an Answers in Genesis curriculum for our children's Sunday School.

WE must affirm the Bible and not assault it.

Scripture doesn't need me to defend it.

It has stood the test of time, of science, of history, of scrutiny for centuries..

And the reason for that is that it completely true and it completely the Word of God.

With that said, let's get back to the book of Genesis after a little break…

And we resume our study of Genesis is a very pivotal chapter.

Now, let's do a quick review to get our minds back in gear..

Genesis 1 is the account of how God made the universe in 7 literal days…

Genesis 2 provides a closer look at the sixth day of creation by giving us the details of Adam and Eve and their relationship.

Genesis 3 is the description of the Adam and Eve's sin against God and the consequences that followed.

Genesis 4 describes the further sinking into sin as Adam and Eve's son Cain murders his brother Abel.

The end of Genesis 4 and all of Genesis 5 give us a picture of division between good and evil in the world as we see the descendants of Cain and the descendants of Seth..

Genesis 6 describes the further sinking into sin of society before introducing us to Noah who was be the only one to survive God's wiping out of this evil society..

Genesis 7 and 8 gave us the details of the flood…

And we ended in Genesis 8 the last time we were together with Noah and his family getting off the ark to a world filled with death and destruction…

Noah immediately builds an altar and worships the Lord for saving him and his family from such destruction..

This brings us to Genesis 9 which is also more of the aftermath of the flood…

I call this **the world's do-over.**.

We were were kids, we played football in the middle of a pretty broad street in Whitmire.

The name of the was North Main Street, but it wasn't as busy as it sounds..

The main problem with the street was not the cars but a number of low hanging branches…

This made throwing the football difficult at times..

If you were playing defense and one of the wide receivers on the other team beat you off the line and was running wide open behind you,…

The only hope you had was the quarterback throwing the ball to high and hitting a limb..

If that happened, we all yelled “do-over” and the play never counted and we got a fresh start…

There were many times that I called do over when I was the one beaten on the play..

Well, Genesis 9 is a do over of sorts in the world.

In a snese, Genesis 9 and Genesis are fraternal twins..

They are not exactly alike but there are a lot of similarities..

And what you are going to see in Genesis 9 are really the foundations of society…

Genesis is not outdated and irrelevant truth..

In fact, the truths that we will look at tonight in the first 7 verses of Genesis 9 are very much applicable in 2019..

In fact, what you are going to discover is this..

The unbelieving world is trying to work against the 5 truths that we are about to be reminded of..

So take notes..

The truths you see tonight are truths you need to live and share with the world..

We will begin in verse 1 of chapter with what I call…

**I. The Foundation of Family (1)**

***1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.***

In Genesis 1, God gave the same command to Adam and Eve, and he restates it to Noah here, but why?

Well, imagine getting off the ark and seeing the death around him.

I am sure that Noah and his sons had second thoughts about bringing children into a world death and sin had brought so much destruction..

Even today, married couples are hesitant to bring kids into such an evil world, yet God's mandate for the world hasn't changed.

Man is told to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

Which means that men marry women and have kids and grow the population…

That is God's design.

That is God's command to people..

The family is foundational to God's working in the world.

This is why homosexuality, transsexuality, adultery, and all sorts of sexual immorality are sinful.

They oppose God's design for the world and prohibit the carrying out the command of this verse.

Two women or two men cannot multiply and fill the earth..

Even if they have children, they cannot do so on their own.

Marriage and family and child bearing are not up for debate.

God has established the family of one man and one woman having children since the very beginning.

He gave that command to Adam.

He repeated it to Noah.

And it still stands today.

This is why the family is attacked.

This is why the world wants to change the definition of marriage..

This is why the world wants to change the definition of even what it means to be a man or a woman.

The fight is not for equal rights and freedom.

The fight is against God's established order for society.

Now, on top of the fact that families furthers the filling of this command, families also bless people.

Incredible blessings come from the life we share with our spouses and our children..

Even unbelievers are blessed by the family.

This is why we call family a common grace.

You don't have to be a believer to enjoy your family.

Though Christians families are the most blessed, the blessing of family is universal, and the reason for that is simple.

When you follow God's design for life, he blesses that obedience..

However, the family is going to attacked in 2019 and every successive year until the Lord returns.

This is why we must promote family.

This is why we don’t cheat on our spouses.

This is why we don’t pursue divorce as a first course of action.

This is why we oppose gay marriage, transsexuality and sex before marriage.

While the world destroys family, may we as the church promote it and live it.

Let’s move from the foundation of family to the distinction of man in verse 2..

**II. The Distinction of Man (2)**

God continues his instruction to Noah in verse 2..

***2 The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the [a]sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given.***

Again, we see almost a repeat of Genesis 1 here, where God told Adam to rule over the animal kingdom.

Now the relationship between man and the animal world has been a topic in Genesis already.

You may remember that God brought all the animals before Adam to be named by him, which was further evidence of Adam's authority over the animal world..

You may also remember that God brought the animals to Noah to board the ark, and the animals remained under Noah's authority while on the ark..

But now that Noah and his family and the animals exit the ark, God is once again clear that Noah is distinct from the animal world.

In fact, Noah is given dominion over the animals.

They are put into his hand to serve his needs in a frightening new world..

In fact, God tells Noah that the animals will fear him.

This is a new idea that God didn't give to Adam, but it is true that animals in general fear man.

Now, I am not going to the jungle and scare a lion or an elephant, but for the most part, animals respect and even avoid people.

Now why is this important?

Simply put, man has command of the animal world.

This may sound like common sense to you, but it doesn't to many people in the world today who simply see people as another animal in the world..

Science books that describe humans as the highest mammal are way off.

We are not just another mammal.

We have dominion over every mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish, creeping thing on the earth.

Now clearly, this isn't permission to abuse animals and torture..

No one would want to do that, but God is clear.

Man rules the animals and they exist to serve his needs as he attempt to subdue and rule the earth..

Man is not an animal.

He has a soul.

He is eternal.

And He has been given charge of the animals by God.

And that is as true today as it was the day that Noah stepped off the ark with two of every animal behind him..

I want to listen to the stupidity of Ingrid NewKirk, who founded PETA, which is short for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals..

“"There is no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. Six million Jews died in concentration camps, but six billion broiler chickens will die this year in slaughter houses.”

Those are the words of a foolish woman.

Those are the beliefs of someone who not only ignores Genesis 9, but actively works to oppose God's giving of the animal world into hand of man..

In case you are wondering if verse 2 gives man the right to eat animals, God makes that abundantly clear in verse 3..

We will call this..

**III. The Liberation of Food (3)**

Verse 3..

***3 Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant.***

When a married and faithful cattle farmer with kids sits down to a plate of steak and salad, God is pleased.

Not only has he honored verse 1 by having kids and filling the earth..

Not only does he make a living by ruling the animal world..

He also eats beef and lettuce which furthers the command of God in verse 3..

In case you are wondering, your diet is not limited by anything in the Bible..

As long as you aren't a glutton, you are free to eat meat and greens to the glory of God.

I don't want to camp out too long here, but I hear Christians, sometimes well-meaning Christians talk about the need to follow dietary laws of the Bible.

And this has no application today.

Israel had dietary laws to set them apart from their neighbors and to protect their health, but those laws passed when the New Covenant came with Christ.

I can eat a shellfish.

I can eat pork.

I can eat a chocolate covered ant if I desire.

God told Noah that his diet could consist of any animal and any plant.

That freedom was restricted in Israel for a time, but the NT in several places reminds the Christian that we aren't under any dietary laws in the church..

Now look, you can be a vegetarian if you want, but that is not a command or even a pattern in Scripture.

You can go on a diet if you want to improve your health but that is not a command in Scripture.

The animal world is in man's hand to help him work, to help him enjoy life, and to help him fill his plate at dinner time..

Again, we see the blessings of common grace here.

You don’t have to a believer to enjoy family..

You don’t have to be a Christian to have authority over the animals..

And God has given you taste buds whether you believe or don’t believe in Him…

Food is meant to bless your life, whether it comes in the form of an pear or a piece of fried chicken..

However, there is one quick note her about food…

Verse 4..

We will call this..

**IV. The Prohibition of Blood (4)**

Verse 4..

***4 Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.***

Don't have a lot of time to spend here, but as God gives incredible freedom in our diet, he offers one restriction..

Don't eat a live animal..

In order words, cook your animals before you consume them..

Now what is at work here?

Couple things real quick.

#1 - Blood is symbolic of life.

This is going to be very important as God brings a sacrificial system to Israel..

Blood is going to be tied to life and sin and forgiveness..

So, God is clear.

Don't consume it.

But there is a second and more practical issue at work here as well..

#2 - Uncooked meat and blood areas sources of disease and illness.

God wants to protect life to ensure that the earth is filed with families who live and reproduce..

And if people are eating raw meat and consuming blood, they are ingesting all sorts of microscopic organisms that can sicken and even kill them…

Only God would know this in the days before microscopes and medicine.

So he simply tells Noah to get the grill hot and flip his steak a couple times before he eats it..

This is why God gave the world fire..

It cooks food and provides warmth for survival..

So eat the salad and the at least medium rare steak..

A fifth and final foundation of society is seen in verse 5..

We will call this..

**V. The Protection of Life (5-7)**

As Noah exit the ark, death is everywhere..

Dead plants, dead animals, dead bodies.

It would very easy for Noah and his sons to forget the value of life amid such devastation..

I don't mean to be unsettling, but relief workers that come in after natural disasters often pile bodies in a certain area to help with identification…

One rescue worker said this..

"In the midst of a recovery project, it is so easy to forget that you are collecting husbands and sister and mothers and children into this piles of destruction. I had to quit doing it because it was so difficult to separate my work from my compassion."

Look, Noah has just witnessed God's wrath on humanity.

And if anyone was ever tempted to think that life doesn't matter, it was Noah..

So God reminds him in verses 5 to 7 that life is precious and to be valued.

People are made in God's image and they are to be protected..

Look at verse 5..

***5 Surely I will require [b]your lifeblood; [c]from every beast I will require it. And [d]from every man, [e]from every man's brother I will require the life of man.***
***6***
***"Whoever sheds man's blood,***
***By man his blood shall be shed,***
***For in the image of God***
***He made man.***
***7***
***"As for you, be fruitful and multiply;***
***[f]Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it."***

In a fallen world, God has declared that life must be protected.

In other words, murder is wrong.

And those who murder others should expect their own life to be taken as a result of their sin.

This is the foundational truth for the establishment of capital punishment.

God is going to tell Israel “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” but long before that, God says “a life for a life.”

And this applies to the animal world as well..

In fact, Israel will be given a law that requires the death of any animal that kills a person..

And if that animal isn’t killed and kills again, the animal and the owner were to be killed..

Capital punishment is biblical.

It demonstrates the value of life.

It affirms that everyone is made in God’s image..

In the same way that there are homosexuals and animal rights advocates and those who tell you not to eat animals, there are also people who oppose capital punishment…

Yet God established the punishment here.

He repeated it to Moses.

Paul repeated in the Romans in the NT and Jesus affirmed it in his ministry on earth.

And it should lie supported by believers today.

Every human life has value and those who take it put their own life in jeopardy..

Now let me make two notes here…

First, this supports the notion of self defense..

You can protect life with deadly force if your life or the life of someone else is threatened…

Second, this is not license for revenge killing.

If someone you love is murdered, you can't murder to avenge that death.

The government is the only agency given that power by God..

And the government needs to exercise it way more in my opinion today.

If folks who committed murder were tried quickly and punished quickly and justly, murder rates would plummet overnight…

This is God's design for the world.

Yet, a person can kill someone else.

Not go to trial for a year or two.

Then not only avoid a death sentence, but spend only a few years in prison..

Then there are people who kill babies in the womb and never go to jail their entire life..

This is lunacy.

Yet, God values life so much and promotes life so much that He commands the taking of life to protect further loss of life.

**Conclusion**

Where do we land on all this?

***#1 - God has a design for the world.***

Life is not a free for all where people just do what is right in their own eyes..

You can just do what makes you feel good and supports your view of the world and not expect trouble in your life..

God has created the world to be filled with families of men married to women having children and obeying Him.

God has created the animals to serve people and further their mission in the world.

God has given animals for food to be enjoyed by people.

God has prohibited blood consumption to promote the survival of people.

God has established capital punishment to promote life and the continuance of society..

***#2 - Unbelievers have a design for the world.***

Though unbeliever speak of freedom and tolerance.

Those are simply nice ways to say that they hate God's design for the world and wish to oppose His plan at every turn.

The design of unbelief is to rid the world of God and run the world they way their foolish hearts desire to run it.

***#3 - Believers obey and promote God's design.***

I often hear believers say, "I really don't want to get involved in this."

Look, I understand my role to be a peacemaker.

I don't like controversy and drama.

But if you are a believer, you are already involved in the fight to promote the design of God in the world.

If you are married and have had kids, you are in this fight to defend God's design for the world..

Ultimately, the world is going to move farther and farther from God's design with each passing day.

But our pledge should be to prevent that on our watch in whatever corner of the world that God has given us..

God’s design for the world is not the best way.

It is the only way to truly find satisfaction and joy in a fallen world..

May God give us the courage to support and promote and obey his design for the world..

Let us pray.