

**GROUNDS OF FAITH CAFÉ: “Genesis” (Subtitled: Is there a snake in your Garden too?) Further subtitled: Lessons from the Garden! Genesis Lesson 9 (7:23-9:17): Some Summary Thoughts:**

**Reminder:** We noted last week that in chapter 6, God is described as starting over. In this new beginning, however, He covenants never to destroy the whole earth in such a fashion again. The prophet Isaiah describes this covenant as God’s “*Covenant of peace*” which stems from God’s steadfast love – a covenant that will not be removed (Isa 54:9-10). So, in Genesis 6-9, we encounter our God who brings His creation back from the brink of chaos (triggered by human rebellion) by His process of re-creation. The earth is once again fully peopled. Now, the question is: will this new humanity, created in the image of God, learn from its ancestors? The answer will come in chapter 11.

Several parallels exist between God’s creation activities in the first 3 chapters of Genesis and in His re-creation presented in chapters 6-9.

God’s & man’s actions	First Creation (Gen 1-3)	Creation Revisited (Gen 6-9)
<b>God Creates:</b> What parallels or differences exist in the 2 processes? What significance, if any, do you draw from these?	Read 1:1-3, 14: In the beginning, by His Word, God creates from nothing. The universe starts from a state of being “formless and empty”; is comforted/cherished by the Spirit ( <i>Ruach</i> ); develops seasonal cycles	Read 7:11-12; 7:23-8:1; 8:22: Now God works with a developed creation; returns it to a state of being “formless and empty”; warms it by His Wind ( <i>Ruach</i> ); reaffirms seasonal cycles
<b>God Blesses:</b> Who receives God’s blessings and what are they? What does God command & what do you think this means?	Read 1:28-29; 2:18-20: God blesses humans (creation given as support); entrusts animals to care & protection of mankind; commands all to “be fruitful & multiply.” Perhaps being fruitful & bearing fruit (Romans) are equal?	Read 9:1-7: Noah & sons are blessed & same concluding call “to be fruitful & multiply” is given. Animals still entrusted to mankind, but now given as food as well as for care.
<b>Man sins:</b> What occurs as a consequence of man’s first sin & what does God promise in His new creation?	Read 3:17-19; 4:11-12; 5:29: Earth is cursed; Noah marks beginning of relief from the curse.	Read 8:21-22: No more curse on earth; earth to be affected more by Divine faithfulness than man’s sin.
<b>Man’s offerings to God:</b> What do you learn from these comparisons?	Read 4:2-5: Cain offers less than his best, perhaps in a vain effort to secure God’s favor (4:8); in effect, plays God; denies sin & refuses to accept responsibility & be accountable for actions	Read 8:20-21: Noah does not question nor complain; He lives responsibly in God’s Will (true meaning of “righteous”) & “walks with God” (6:9) First act in new creation is to “worship God” (expression of gratitude not means of seeking Divine approval)
<b>Man’s image:</b> Man is pictured as being created in what image in both processes? What do you think this signifies?	Read 1:26: Mankind described as created “in the image of God.”	Read 9:6: After the flood, mankind is still described as created “in the image of God” – right design, but can we live up to what is required? The answer will eventually be a “savior” (Christ).
<b>God “rests”:</b> By hanging His “rainbow,” God “rests” His “warbow (Hebrew word for rainbow)” – ceasing His warfare against creation. What do you think this signifies?	Read 2:2-3: God “rests” (not a cessation of work, but careful review of past accomplishment & declaration that it is “good”).	Read 9:12-17: God rests His “warbow” (rainbow) as a mark to all mankind of His promises – to cease warfare & provide for reconciliation.