

GROUNDS OF FAITH CAFÉ: “Genesis” (Subtitled: Is there a snake in your Garden too?) Further subtitled: Lessons from the Garden! Lesson 9. (Gen 7:23-9:17). For lesson copies, go to <http://www.montgomerychurch.org/resources8.html>

Introduction: Last week we learned that while man’s actions were tending toward only evil, God’s response of the flood (6:6-7) was rooted, not in Divine anger, but in His Grief! The literary structure of chapters 6-9 (shown below) presents God’s action in re-creation as paralleling His first creation process. In Gen 1, God pushes dry land up out of a watery mass (1:6-7). So too in 6-9, God submerges that dry land – only to raise it from the watery chaos in order to start again. The “hinge” is God “remembering” Noah.

- (A) God’s creation is riddled through completely with violence (6:11-12)
- (B) God’s opening declaration – His resolution to “destroy” (6:13-22)
- (C) God’s second address – the command to enter the ark (7:1-10)
- (D) The flood begins (7:11-16)
- (E) The floodwaters rise (7:17-24)
- (F) GOD REMEMBERS NOAH (8:1)
- (E) The floodwaters recede (8:1-5)
- (D) The earth dries (8:6-14)
- (C) God’s third address – the command to leave the ark (8:15-19)
- (B) God rescinds resolution to “destroy” and resolves to preserve order (8:20-22)
- (A) God’s final declaration – a call for blessing and peace (9:1-17)

Read: Genesis 7:23-9:17 completely through. This lesson centers on parallels in Scripture between God’s original creation process and His re-creation process in 6-9. The bigger picture of God’s Story in Scripture tells us God will have more to do later. For now, describe what you learn from this portion:

God’s & man’s actions	First Creation (Gen 1-3)	Creation Revisited (Gen 6-9)
<u>God Creates:</u> What parallels or differences exist in the 2 processes? What significance, if any, do you draw from these?	Read 1:1-3, 14	Read 7:11-12; 7:23-8:1; 8:22
<u>God Blesses:</u> 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	Read 9:1-7
<u>Man sins:</u> 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	Read 8:21-22
<u>Man’s offerings to God:</u> What do you learn from these comparisons?	Read 4:2-5	Read 8:20-21
<u>Man’s image:</u> Man is pictured as being created in what image in both processes? What do you think this signifies?	Read 1:26	Read 9:6
<u>God “rests”:</u> 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	Read 9:12-17

Bigger Picture: One potential lesson that might be drawn from all this is that God “saves” a remnant so that the “saved” remnant can become a “saving remnant” to others. Do you agree or disagree? What significance does this have for your own life application, if any?