

## **Week 7 The World After the Flood**

*The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.* Psalm 119:64

Q25 How do man and animals relate after the flood?

A Man can eat animals, and animals are afraid of man. Gen. 9:1-3

Q26 What rule did God give to protect man from murder?

A Man has authority to punish a murderer by death. Gen. 9:4-7

Q27 What is the rainbow?

A The rainbow is the token of God's promise not to destroy the earth by flood. Gen. 9:8-17

Q28 How did God populate the earth after the Tower of Babel?

A God confused the language of man and scattered man over the earth. Gen.11:1-9

Tips for using this catechism and devotional:

1. Read all the questions and answers on Monday, so that the scope of the week's concepts will be introduced.
2. Each day begin with the memory verse for the week. Read it, and take a moment to work on memorizing it. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized with a little effort.
3. Read the Scripture reading for the day.
4. Ask the Question for the day, and read the answer. Memorize the answer, so that when the question is asked, the answer comes automatically.
5. Read the commentary. If you have young children, you may need to either explain the "Thinking Deeper" section, or skip it and come back to it when the children get older.
6. Each day review the catechism questions that have been learned from the previous days of the week. On Friday, review all of the questions.
7. Close with prayer.

**Monday      Week 7      The World after The Flood**

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Q25 How do man and animals relate after the flood?

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Wild animals are shy creatures when it comes to man. Have you ever gone outside and seen a wild animal that didn't see you? Do you remember what it did when it finally spotted you? It probably ran. Rabbits and squirrels and birds and fish and butterflies and deer and coyotes and chipmunks and weasels and beavers: all of them are afraid of people. They hide or run or swim away when they see a person come too close.

A hunter was walking in the woods when he heard something coming his way. He paused and waited. Soon a black bear lumbered into sight. It came straight toward the hunter. When it came so close that he could have hit it with a rock, the hunter stomped his foot. That big black bear took one look and then ran off, fast. What made it run? The Bible tells us that after the flood, God told Noah that the fear and dread of man would be in the animals.

Thinking Deeper

The first place the Bible speaks about eating meat is after the flood. That's when God told Noah that the animals were food for man. Until then man was apparently a vegetarian. After that God gave man instructions for eating meat. There was the instruction about not eating blood. There were later instructions about how animals should be brought to an altar of sacrifice, ceremonially offered, and then used for food.

Numerous times the Bible describes how animals were used for food. Abraham had a calf killed to offer his angelic visitors. Isaac loved the venison his son Esau brought him. On one occasion, the Lord fed the Israelites in the wilderness with quail. The Lord gave detailed instructions to Moses about clean and unclean animals, and which were to be eaten and which were not. Solomon's court enjoyed different varieties of meat daily. Jesus spoke about "killing the fatted calf" in celebration of the prodigal son's return. Peter saw a vision of all kinds of animals and the Lord told him, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." These are but a few of the times eating meat is mentioned in the Bible.

It all started after Noah left the ark. God put the fear of man in the animals, and then gave man the permission to use animals for food. But man is not to misuse animals for we read that "the slothful roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious" (Pr. 12:27). As a steward of God's creation, man is to be responsible in his use of natural resources, including the animals.

## **Tuesday      Week 7 The World after The Flood**

*The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.* Psalm 119:64

Q26 What rule did God give to protect man from murder?

A Man has authority to punish a murderer by death.

Bible Reading: Gen. 9:4-7

When the western part of the United States was still wild, there were a lot of stories about men who would shoot each other. It wasn't all just cowboys and Indians. One man was killed while sitting in a saloon and playing cards. His name was Wild Bill Hickok. He was a lawman who had been involved with shoot outs with quite a few desperados. He was so quick with his pistols that no one could ever out draw him. One day, however, he was playing cards at a saloon in Deadwood, South Dakota, with his back to the door, when a man named Jack McCall stepped behind him. "Take that," he said, and shot him. Wild Bill died instantly. It was later learned that McCall had been paid to kill Wild Bill Hickok by a man who held a grudge. Jack McCall was tried and found guilty of murder. He was hanged at Yankton, South Dakota on March 1, 1877.

The first law about murder was given to Noah after the flood. God told him that if a man killed another man, then the people who are in authority are to sentence the killer to death.

### Thinking Deeper

God's instructions to Noah after he left the ark are sometimes referred to as the Noahic Covenant. These instructions went further than the instructions God gave man in the Garden of Eden. Man now had a societal/governmental responsibility that Adam never had. Before sin entered the world, man's relationship to other humans was without problems. There was no need for societal laws. But after the fall, sin ravaged human relationships. The evil started with Cain killing Abel, and expanded until by Noah's day "the earth was filled with violence" (Gen. 6:11). After the flood God gave Noah instructions that confirmed what He had told Adam (be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth), but now also dealt with the need for the death penalty. Here was the beginning of the principle that the penalty must fit the crime. After Noah, Moses' writings, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, expanded the principle by the phrase "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." If a man put out another's eye, his punishment was to lose an eye of his own. If he broke another's tooth, his punishment was to lose a tooth. It would not have been appropriate to merely require a tooth of someone who destroyed an eye. The eye is much more important. The punishment must fit the crime.

Later, Jesus gave instructions for individuals to use the law of love instead of relying on the legal requirements of "an eye for an eye." But for government, the law of fitting the punishment to the crime is still valid, as evidenced by Paul's inspired warning in Romans 13:4 that the authority "beareth not the sword in vain." It is the legitimate responsibility of government to protect the lives of citizens in implementing penalties for crimes that fit the crimes committed, including "whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

## **Wednesday Week 7 The World after The Flood**

*The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.* Psalm 119:64

Q27 What is the rainbow?

A The rainbow is the token of God's promise not to destroy the earth by flood.

Bible Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

A songwriter wrote a song about rainbows that helps remind us of the rainbow colors. The first line goes like this: "Rainbows Over You, God's Blessed Vow." The first letters in those words are the first letters of the colors Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue and Violet, which are the colors of the rainbow. If you memorize that line, you can remember the right order of colors when you draw a rainbow. The next time you see a rainbow, check to see if that is the order that the colors appear against the sky.

Rainbows are so beautiful that most people stop and look when one appears. Rainbows are in the sky for a reason. God said he put the rainbow in the sky as a reminder that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood. That didn't mean there would never be floods in various places in the world. It did mean God would never again use a flood to destroy the whole world with all the people in it like he did in Noah's day. Whenever you see a rainbow, thank the Lord for His promise to us.

### Thinking Deeper

The Bible records two major changes in the earth's atmosphere after the flood. One is that before the flood, it did not rain on the earth (Gen. 2:4-6). Instead, the earth was watered by a mist that rose up from the ground. When the rains came during Noah's Flood, the whole atmosphere changed in major ways. Rain was a new thing. The second change is the creation of rainbows. God set rainbows in the clouds, and told Noah that the rainbow was a sign of God's covenant with Noah, and with all mankind. This was new. Both rain and rainbows were changes on the earth after the flood. These are not incidental changes. The Bible gives descriptions of both in clear words. New things happened. This poses a challenge for evolutionists. Either they discount the Bible as pure myth, as the atheists do, or (if they are theistic evolutionists) they must somehow use a new method of interpretation of the Bible (a new hermeneutic). They would say something like this: since science has proven that rain must have occurred for millions of years, and rain and rainbows have really always been on earth, we must find the meaning behind the story of rain and rainbows. This method of interpreting the Bible would fit well with either classical liberalism (which denied the truth of the Bible), or with neo-orthodoxy (which set man's interpretation of the Bible as primary). In both cases the truth and authority of the Bible is denied. It is dangerous to give up on the historicity of the Biblical record. That is the first step to unbelief and apostasy.

## **Thursday Week 7 After the Flood**

*The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.* Psalm 119:64

Q28 How did God populate the earth after the Tower of Babel?

A God confused the language of man and scattered man over the earth.

Bible Reading: Gen.11:1-9

It was the first day of First Grade and Stephan had a problem. He didn't know how to speak English. His parents were both from Russia and they spoke Russian in the home, even though they lived in America. Stephen went to school where they spoke only English. It was hard at first because he couldn't understand the teacher. She would say, "No school tomorrow. It's a vacation day." The next morning Stephen walked to school. No one was there. The door was locked. After he waited around for about half an hour, Stephen decided there was no school and went home. Yet Stephen didn't give up. He kept going to school until he learned to understand English. Because he liked to learn, he became a good student.

There are many different languages in the world. Some of them are very, very different from others. If you ever go to a foreign country, you will probably hear a language you don't understand. The Bible tells us that God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel so people would spread out over the world.

### Thinking Deeper

The instructor in the college language class made fun of the Biblical account of the Tower of Babel. "We know that all of the languages on earth do not have one origin. They are too dissimilar. Therefore, they couldn't have come from Babel." But the instructor's theory of language development was not at all convincing. If, as she intimated, language evolved, then we would expect that languages have a common origin. Or the various languages would have had to have evolved simultaneously among various people groups, who themselves were evolving. That is too fantastic to be believable.

Actually, the account of Babel fits the worldwide language condition the best. The Bible describes the confusion of languages in a moment, not a gradual evolving of various languages as people drifted away from Babel to populate the earth. Actually, the languages were confused at first, and then people drifted away. Language didn't change because people became separated from each other, as evolutionists would predict. Rather, they divided into groups and then drifted away from each other because they couldn't understand one another's languages at all.

Contemporary linguists who hold to evolutionary theory are frustrated because they have no good clues to the evolution of language. There are no "primitive" or "simple" languages among apes, or even among so called "primitive peoples," just as there are no transitional forms of evolving animals in the fossil record. The Bible's description of what we find in the world is much more believable than the theories accompanying the mythology of evolution. "The Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

## Friday Week 7 The World after The Flood

*The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.* Psalm 119:64

Review the Week's Questions

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Have you ever heard the story of Santa Claus coming down the chimney with a sack of presents? Have you ever heard the story of how Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem? Both these stories are told at Christmastime. One of them is a fairy tale, and one of them is true. At Easter, there are also two stories. One is the fairy tale of a bunny who stops at the homes of good children and leaves colored eggs or candy in their baskets. The other is the true story about how Jesus was crucified on a cross and buried, and then in three days he arose from the grave. There are also two stories told about how the world became like it is. The Bible tells the true story of the sin of man, the flood and how God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel. People who don't believe in God tell a story of how man and the world just happened over millions and millions of years, with no God. Make sure you know the Bible, so you can know what is true and what is a fairy tale.

Thinking Deeper

Postmodernists have basically given up on the ability of anyone to really know what is true, or even if there is something that is really true. But they don't live their lives like postmodernists when it comes to some things. They can't just decide that Kansas City is twenty miles from New York. Even a postmodernist puts more than one gallon of gas in his car to make that trip. He doesn't decide half way that New York doesn't exist, either. It's in the areas of morals and education and social interaction that people want to be post modernists. And unless he is on a drug trip, or has completely lost contact with reality, a postmodernist doesn't depend on the Easter bunny to bring him his breakfast. And even though a postmodernist decides to have an abortion, believing that what she has done is just fine, she can't deny the tears of sorrow that flow unbidden in the dark of her sleepless night.

The truth is, we live our real lives in the world that God created, and His Word, the Bible, describes how things are, how they got this way, and the consequences that come for choices we make. Real truth is found in Jesus Christ.

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