

## Activity Sheet, 23 September 2018

### The era of grace we are living in *Genesis 8v20-9v17*

- World before the flood was different to our world
- Flood starts a new era, epoch in history: era of grace

➤ After the flood which of the following was the same, which was different? (a) earth, (b) people

#### **(1) Promise of grace**

- plan for creation continues
- God is the same: life-giving

➤ Who does God make his promise to? (a) Noah, (b) Noah and family, (c) Noah, family, animals and earth

#### **(2) Grace of reversal**

- God changes his response to sin
- in response to sacrifice

➤ What word begins the following verses (6v8, 6v18, 8v1)? How does this word help us to understand what grace means?

#### **(3) Grace of preservation**

- damage limitation
- human rule
- for salvation

➤ “God promises there would be no more disasters after the flood.” True or false?

➤ What was different about what could be eaten after the flood? (Compare 9v3, 1v29).

➤ In God’s plan for the earth are lots of people (a) a good thing, or (b) a bad thing?

#### **(4) Sign of grace**

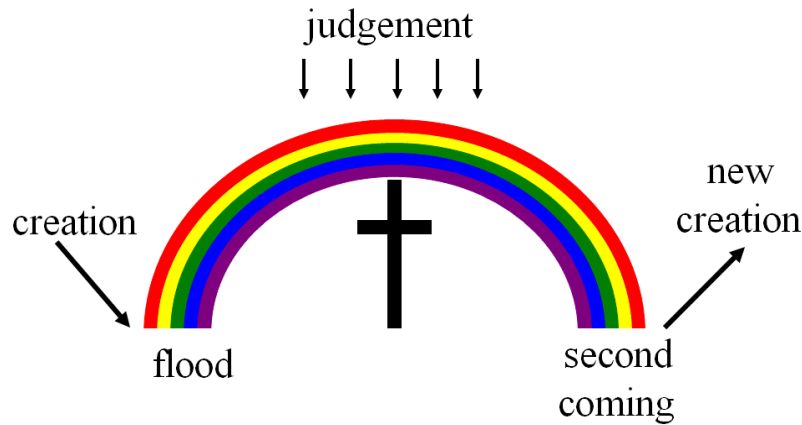
- sign for God
- sign for our world
- ▶ How are you responding to God’s grace?

➤ Which words don’t fit with grace? (a) rights, (b) dependent, (c) superior, (d) guilty, (e) gift

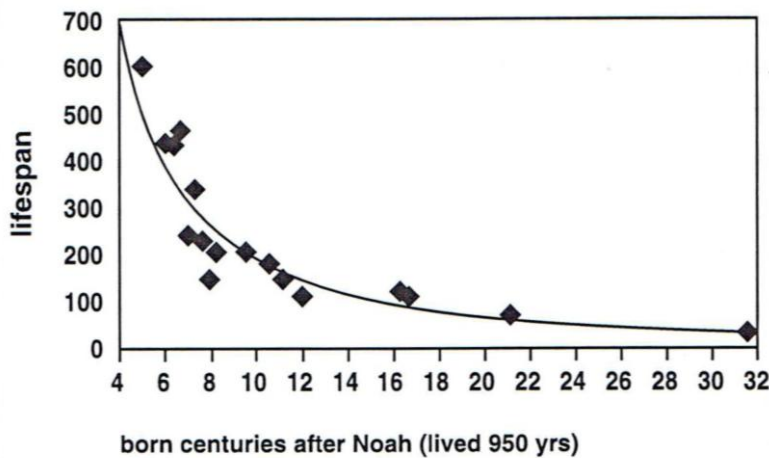
#### **Questions for discussion:**

1. Why is a problem to try and understand the past history of the world (or its future) only on the basis of the processes we see in the present?
2. How can we understand God’s different response to sin before and after the flood?
3. What is the difference between “common grace” (e.g. see Matthew 5v45) and “saving grace”? What is the same?
4. What role in the world does God command for mankind? How does this compare to other ideas today?
5. Why was the flood essential to God’s plan of salvation?
6. How does what God’s rainbow symbolise compare with what rainbows are used to symbolise today?

## Flood in the story-line of the Bible



Declining Lifespan - Noah's descendants



[John Sanford, *Genetic entropy & the mystery of the genome* (Elim Publishing, 2005) p152]

### Grace of reversal: before and after flood

- Genesis 6 v 5 & 7 – sin leads to judgement

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time...So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth..."

- Genesis 8 v 21 – sin leads to grace

The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, for every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done..."

*Also compare:* [Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 1-15* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1987) p188]

- Genesis 6v17a, 18a: "I myself am about to bring the flood, water over the earth to ruin all flesh. But I shall confirm my covenant."
- Genesis 9v8-11: "I myself am about to confirm my covenant...so that never again will all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and there will never again be a flood to ruin the earth."

**Rainbow as sign of the covenant** [Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 1-15* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1987) p194]

Confirm the covenant (9v9-11)

Sign of the covenant (9v12a)

Covenant for farthest generations (9v12b)

**My rainbow (9v13-16)**

Eternal covenant (9v16)

Sign of the covenant (9v17)

Confirm the covenant (9v17)

**Post-flood covenant** [Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 1-15* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1987) p195]

V12 “between me and you and every living being which was with you”

V13 “between me and the earth”

V15 “between me and you and every living being among all flesh”

V16 “between God and every living being among all flesh which is on the earth”

V17 “between me and all flesh which is on the earth”