

Genesis 9:5-7 **Life-Blood of Man and Capital Punishment**

⁵ “Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of 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 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it.” NKJV

Facts revealed:

- ✧ God made a distinction between the life-blood of man and the life-blood of animals.
- ✧ He set no punishment for the shedding of blood of animals, but only a commandment prohibiting the eating of it.
- ✧ However, for the shedding of the blood of man, God demands an accounting for it. God will even hold animals accountable for shedding human blood.
- ✧ Furthermore, God holds man responsible for the life blood of his fellow-man and calls for a reckoning for it.
- ✧ This reckoning is to be done **at the hand of man as capital punishment**. Notice God said, **“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed.”** [Genesis 9:6]

That is a command for men to put the murderer to death.

It also applies to an animal that kills a man, it is to be killed by the hand of man.

- ✧ The reason for the special sanctification of man’s blood is the fact that man is made in God’s image.
- ✧ Those who teach that the only time that man was in the image of God was in the Garden of Eden, when men were pure and before sin entered the world, are totally teaching false doctrine.

God reminds us that man is created in the image of God after Noah left the Ark which was long after sin had entered the world in the Garden of Eden.

- ✧ The fact that men are still created in the image of God is confirmed in a multitude of Scriptures after the entry of sin.
- ✧ Therefore, it is the “bodily form” of man that God was referring to when He said, **“in the image of God.”**
- ✧ Man’s blood (the “life”) is precious to God and we need to remember that fact.