



EPISODE TITLE: "That Darned Flood"

Failing, Falling and Flying, Episode 4

**Featured Guest:** *Terence Fretheim*

Terence E. Fretheim is Elva B. Lovell Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minn., where he taught for over forty years. He is the author of many articles and books, the most recent of which are: *Reading Hosea-Micah: A Literary and Theological Commentary* (Smyth & Helwys, 2013); *Creation Untamed: The Bible, God, and Natural Disasters* (Baker, 2010); *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions* (Revised and Expanded Edition; Fortress, 2009). His current project is focused on the God of the Old Testament.

**Questions:**

1. At face value, what sort of message does the flood story send about God? How does that fit with your image of God?
2. In a universe that is good, but not perfect, does God act to either create or prevent human suffering? Based on your answer, how does that affect our relationship with God?
3. What stood out for you from Genesis 9:8-17?
4. Is it possible to change God's mind? Can a God that never changes in relationship to us be in conversation with us?
5. Has this discussion changed your perspective on the flood story? What new insights have you discovered?

**Pneuma Divina Scripture: Genesis 9:1-17**

9 God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup>The fear and dread of you shall rest on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the air, on everything that creeps on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. <sup>3</sup>Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. <sup>4</sup>Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. <sup>5</sup>For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning: from every animal I will require it and from human beings, each one for the blood of another, I will require a reckoning for human life.

<sup>6</sup>Whoever sheds the blood of a human,  
by a human shall that person's blood be shed;  
for in his own image  
God made humankind.

<sup>7</sup>And you, be fruitful and multiply, abound on the earth and multiply in it.'

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' <sup>12</sup>God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

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