

Wali Fejo, quotes from “The Voice of the Earth: an Indigenous Reading of Genesis 9,” in Norman C. Habel and Shirley Wurst, eds. The Earth Story in Genesis (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000)

“The Earth needs to be healed so that it can be renewed and unpolluted life can again replenish the land. The flood is the cleansing, the covering. God covers the hurt earth with water, just like we place a cut finger in our mouths to cover it with moisture from our bodies. ...

“The flood is like the fires which we Indigenous Australians once used to light in order to burn off part of the land. The surface is burned and the debris is removed to stimulate new life in the land....

“When the Earth community in the ark touched base with the Earth, everything made connection with God again...God’s invitation to touch the Earth and experience that interconnection is an invitation to touch God. ...

“The covenant with all living creatures in Genesis 9 is the voice of God speaking from within the Earth to Earth’s creatures....