

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Genesis 9:18-29: Noah's Sons and Later Years**  
**1/29/2019 Wednesday PM**

**Introduction**

- Last time we discussed **God's Covenant with Noah**.
- We were able to see how God made the covenant with Noah and his descendants that he would never again destroy the earth with water and that the sign for that covenant was the rainbow.
- Every time God sees, and we see, the rainbow, it is a reminder of the destruction that took place and the judgment that God brought to the earth and how God will not repeat the same judgement again.
- This should spur us to righteousness to know how God reacted in the past and how gracious he is in promising to not repeat the same judgment.
- However, what we see is that the world has continued to decline morally even in the face of End Time events such as the Tribulation which we know God will totally destroy the planet by fire and bring down his ultimate judgment upon the earth.
- That brings us to tonight as we look at **Noah's Sons and Later Years**.

**Genesis 9:18-29**

<sup>18</sup>The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) <sup>19</sup>These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth. <sup>20</sup>Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. <sup>21</sup>When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. <sup>22</sup>Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup>But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness. <sup>24</sup>When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, <sup>25</sup>he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." <sup>26</sup>He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. <sup>27</sup>May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave." <sup>28</sup> After the flood Noah lived 350 years. <sup>29</sup>Altogether, Noah lived 950 years, and then he died.

- **Vv.18-19** – We see here that Noah's sons are being named for the first time since they boarded the Ark in **7:13**.
- Notice that it says, "(Ham was the father of Canaan.)" **Why have that there?**
- The use of parentheses in Bible translation is often used to identify a thought within a thought.
- Here we see the first named grandson of Noah mentioned, Canaan. There must have been a reason to add this.
- What we know, is that some time has passed since they disembarked from the Ark because Ham was Noah's youngest son, and he had time to have children. Canaan was actually Ham's fourth and youngest son.
- The mentioning of Canaan here is important to set up what is about to take place in the account.
- We know that all humanity that is alive today is descended from either Shem, Ham, or Japheth.
- **V.20** – We learn a little something here about Noah. It says that he was "a man of the soil."
- This seems to have been a new occupation for Noah as it was not mentioned before, however, it simply means that he was now in the business of working the ground. He was a farmer of sorts.
- It goes on to tell us that he planted a vineyard. This is also good information to set us what is about to take place.
- **V.21** – Here we see that Noah produced wine from the grapes that he grew, because it says, "When he drank some of its wine." Fermenting grapes to produce wine is something that has been around for almost all of human history
- The people before the flood had 1500 years to uncover the process before being wiped out by the water.
- We know that the wine was fermented because the verse says that after Noah drank the wine, "he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent."
- This is considered the first recorded moral failure of Noah, however, there was no written law at this point either.
- We know from the Bible, that being drunk is in fact a sin and it was even a failure on Noah's part here.
- Not only was Noah drunk, but somehow his robe fell off and he was laying in his tent naked. Remember that our nakedness since the Fall is something that causes us shame.
- Noah was in a shameful state at this point.

- **V.22** – We see here that the verse specially identifies Ham as the father of Canaan. Again all of this has been to set the stage for what is about to take place in this verse.
- It says that Ham, “saw his father’s nakedness and told his two brothers outside.” Keep this in your mind now.
- **V.23** – This verse starts out with “But.” Now we always need to pay attention when this happens because it means what is about to be said is flowing straight from what has just been said and it modifies it in a way.
- We were told what Ham did and now that is being contrasted with how his brothers reacted.
- Shem and Japheth did not look at their father’s nakedness, nor did they speak about it.
- They took a garment, laid it on “their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father’s nakedness.” It goes on to say, “Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness.”
- **What were they covering up?**
- They were covering their father’s shame.
- Now we have a contrast as to how Ham handled the situation and how Shem and Japheth handled it.
- I believe mere logic would show who handled the situation better, however we are about to see the consequences that came for each of them.
- **V.24** – Noah woke up after the drunkenness wore off and somehow found out what Ham had done.
- **V.25** – Noah then proceeds to pronounce a curse. He says, “Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers.”
- Now wait a minute, **Why did God curse Canaan and not Ham?**
- There are several theories as to why God cursed Canaan and not Ham. (The Genesis Account by Johnathan Sarfati)
  - God had already blessed Noah’s three sons in **9:1**, so Noah couldn’t reverse God’s blessing with a curse.
  - Since Ham sinned as the youngest son, he would be punished with a curse on his own youngest son.
  - Canaan may have been the one to tell Ham about Noah’s nakedness, however, this is not stated in the text.
  - It was an act of mercy, because only one of Ham’s sons was affected, not all.
  - Noah discerned that the evil that had appeared in Ham had developed to a greater degree in Canaan, and would continue to increase through his descendants.
- I think that the first two, really make a lot of sense. However, we really do not know exactly why.
- The sin that Ham committed according to the Bible is that he looked upon his father’s nakedness and then we and spread the news to others in utter disregard for his father’s shame.
- This mindset and his actions were not indicative of someone that was closely aligning himself with God.
- The consequences of his actions is that Canaan would be “the lowest of slaves” to his brothers.
- **The curse has nothing to do with race or skin color, nothing at all.**
- Canaan’s descendants turned out to be some of the most wicked people on the earth. Noah may not have gotten his curse directly from the mouth of God, however his prophecy over Canaan seems to have been divinely inspired.
- **Vv.26-27** – We see here that Noah blessed the Lord, the God of Shem. It is through Shem’s descendants that God will reveal His Word, the Bible and the Messiah would be in Shem line (**Luke 3:36**).
- Canaan was also to be Shem’s servant and this was fulfilled in **Genesis 14:4** and in **1 Kings 9:20-21**.
- Japheth was also blessed with an enlarged territory and he would have fellowship with the Shemites.
- The Greeks and Romans were Japhethites and they would eventually conquer the Shemites of Israel, but Israel conquered them spiritually.
- Shem and Japheth were blessed because of their actions while Ham was cursed through his son Canaan. This tells us plainly who was wrong and who was right.
- **Vv.28-29** – Here we see that after the flood Noah lived 350 years which meant that in total Noah lived 950 years before he died.
- Noah was the third oldest person to have lived behind Methuselah (969) and Jared (962).
- This ends the *toledot* of Noah and we will look next week at the next *toledot* of his sons.