

Heirs of Grace and Heirs of Disgrace

Genesis 9:24-29

Halifax: 25 January 2015

Introduction:

What will you leave to your children?

- There are many different ways to answer this question.
 - The thing that usually comes to most people's minds when this question is asked is "What material possessions will you leave to them?"
 - This is actually an important matter.
 - In a society like ours, families that are diligent and that do not spend up all of their resources are often able to leave an inheritance to their children that will enable them to flourish—and to be more generous.
- But of course there are more important inheritances than houses and lands.
 - Jesus instructs us to lay up treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt and where thieves do not break in and steal...
 - Parents also leave their children with a spiritual inheritance.
 - Some leave their children the heritage of a false religion, and some leave their children with a mere pittance of the true inheritance,
 - but parents who have been diligent to train up their children in the means of grace leave them with a precious heritage of faith...
 - If parents have walked in the truth and guided their children in doing so, they leave their children with a habitual pattern of holiness that they can walk in...
 - This is truly a precious inheritance.
- But as you know, even the most godly families have areas of weakness: distorted beliefs and distorted practices, that they pass on to their children.
 - One family might struggle with doctrinal error, another with laziness, another with greed, another with complaining, another with fear, another with over indulgence, and yet another with gossip.
 - Of course children can repent of these sins and correct these errors,
 - but many times they continue them—and sometimes they even go deeper into error—often it grows.
 - Almost always they at least struggle with them.
 - Sometimes, these sins grow up into total apostasy in some of the descendants of believers.
 - That means that both parents and children need to be careful.
 - Parents need to be careful that they do not leave their children a heritage of error,
 - and children need to make sure they embrace whatever godly heritage they have been given and that they reject whatever is wrong.

This week as we move on to the next verses at the end of Genesis chapter 9, we will see that it has a lot to say to us about this whole subject of spiritual inheritance.

- Here, the LORD has given us an example of how the principle that is given to us in the second commandment is worked out...where the Lord says:
 - **Exodus 20:5-6: For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.**
- Last week in Genesis 9:18-23, we saw the drunkenness of Noah and the shame into which he fell...
 - And we saw how Ham gloried in it and went to show his brothers...
 - But how Shem and Japheth showed their love for the Lord by honouring their father and doing what they could to cover his shame.
 - Ham showed his wickedness by glorying in his father's sin...
 - Shem and Japheth showed their love for God by refusing to glory in sin.
- Genesis 9:24-27, our text for today, shows us the consequences that came upon each of Noah's sons for the way they responded—
 - It shows us how the Lord visited of the iniquity of Ham upon his descendants—at least on one branch of his descendants (the Canaanites)—
 - and then it shows us how He visited mercy upon Shem and Japheth and upon their descendants because of their love for God that was demonstrated.

In order to give you the context, I will read the portion we looked at last week that is so closely connected to the portion we are looking at this week.

- So we will begin our reading at Genesis 9:18.
 - Please give me your careful attention because this is the Word of God.

Genesis 9:18-29: Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. ¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. ²⁰ And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness

of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. ²⁵ Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren." ²⁶ And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem; and may Canaan be his servant." ²⁸ And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. ²⁹ So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

May the Lord bless the reading of His holy Word.

As I said in the introduction,

- Here we learn about how God visits the iniquity of fathers upon their sons, and shows mercy to thousands who love Him and keep His commandments.
- We will look at what we can learn from what is said about each of Noah's sons.

I. First of all, with Ham, we see how God's curse can be passed on to our descendants because of our sin.

A. The curse that Noah pronounces upon Canaan in verse 25 is clearly on account of Ham's sin.

1. Look at verse 24 and 25 and you can see this...

- It says:
 - **Gen 9:24-25: So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. ²⁵ Then he said: "Cursed *be* Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren."**
- The connection with Ham having gloried in his father's sin and shame with the curse on Canaan is very obvious here.
 - Noah pronounces it after he finds out what Ham, his younger son, had done to him.
 - We are not told *how* he finds out, but we are told what he did *when* he found out, so the curse is a consequence, a visiting the iniquity of Ham upon his son Canaan.

2. Understand that this is much more than an angry reaction of Noah. It is not just a wish...

a. Noah is here speaking a prophetic oracle from God.

- A father has no right or authority to inflict a curse from God upon his son...
 - He can cut his son off from his inheritance and such, but he cannot conjure up a curse or a blessing from the sovereign God!
 - That is a pagan doctrine, but the God of heaven cannot be manipulated by curses or incantations.
 - It is the LORD who has mercy upon whom He will and who hardens whomsoever He will as we saw in Romans 9.
 - It is His prerogative to bless and to curse as determines.
 - Noah is not taking the name of the LORD his God in vain here as men do when they are angry and start cursing people.
 - Noah is speaking a prophetic oracle from God!

b. We can be sure that this is an oracle from God on two grounds...

- 1) First, because the oracle is fulfilled—if it had merely been Noah's decree, it is unlikely that God would have honoured it...
 - Some of the prophecies of this oracle reach far into the future and are fulfilled in marvellous ways as we will see today as we proceed.

- This was not according to the will of Noah, but according to the will of God who used the sin of Noah and his sons' responses to reveal this prophecy—
 - to teach everyone that He is the LORD who declares what He is going to do and then does it.
 - As He says to Isaiah, no other god does this—
 - It was prophecies like this that made it clear that the LORD is God and no other.
 - That He is the one who curses and blesses.
- 2) Secondly, we can be sure this is an oracle from God because of the example of the other patriarchs who spoke similar oracles, establishing a pattern that shows us how God speaks prophecies in this way...
- We have the example at the end of Genesis where Jacob blesses his sons—and also proclaims the loss of blessing to Reuben, Levi, and Simeon on account of their sins...
 - And it is clear that when Jacob does this, it is the LORD who is speaking through him as a prophet...
 - And likewise, there is the familiar example of Isaac and his blessing of Jacob and Esau.
 - You remember how Jacob steals the blessing from Esau and gets his father to bless him by pretending to be Esau.
 - When Isaac realizes what has happened, he also realizes that God has spoken through him and that he cannot take back the oracle that has been spoken.
 - The oracle is not according to his will, but God's will.

TRANS> So we conclude that the curse upon Canaan is an oracle of God—spoken by Noah, but decreed by the LORD.

B. From this curse on Canaan, learn that your sin can have devastating effects upon your posterity!

1. Beware! Even godly Noah contributed to this.

- Noah, one of the godliest men who ever lived, brought a curse upon a whole line of his descendants.
- a. All it took was one sin—all it took was one occasion of drunkenness to ruin a whole line of his offspring.
 - This is written to discourage you from sinning.
 - It is written to discourage you from thinking you stand when it seems easy and comfortable.
 - It is written to urge you to rely on the LORD, to put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand.

➤ I emphasised this last week...

- b. And here today we see that one sin can have very far reaching consequences.
 - In this we see how offensive sin is to God...
 - We know that it was sin that brought Jesus to the cross...and if it is that serious an offense that the Son of God had to die—it is very serious indeed!
 - And if it is that serious, it should not surprise us if sin brings a curse upon our posterity when God so chooses.
 - We have no right to complain.
 - Noah would have the pain of seeing his overindulgence multiplied in the Canaanite branch of his posterity.
 - What a grief it must have been to him to see how that seed grew!
 - God is very merciful, but that does not mean He never does this.
 - He forgives sin in us personally if we come to Christ, but many times we see the sin we have sown grow up in our children.
 - God often does this in fact!
 - He did it with Abraham.
 - He did it with Eli.
 - He did it with David...and with many others.
 - He does it with many godly persons today.
 - It is to deter us from sin and teach us not to be so careless and indifferent about it.
 - Sometimes, He does it in the most godly of His servants even for lesser sins because they are the most responsible.
 - c. So the application is obvious.
 - Guard yourself—put on the whole armour of God that you may not give way to temptation and endanger your offspring...
 - Plead for mercy when you do sin—as long as you live, plead earnestly that the LORD would have mercy on your children.
 - And do not complain—humbly accept it if God visits your sin upon your children—
 - Don't try to compare yourself to others and say, but I am a man after God's own heart and other people are worse than me—why did God visit my sin upon my children?
 - Humble yourself—if you had more grace, you had more responsibility.
2. Beware! Even more of the sin of Ham—the sin of glorying in sin!
- a. Ham is the son of a godly man—and may we not conclude that he was a believer?
 - Probably so—at least a professing one.
 - He was one of eight persons who in faith entered the ark.

- He was probably a believer, but here he did something that was very inconsistent with being a believer—
 - he gloried in the sin of his father—as we saw last week.
 - b. Noah’s small sin precipitated this much larger sin in Ham.
 - Noah planted the seed of over indulgence—Ham gloried in it—and Canaan reaped a harvest.
 - The Canaanites fell more and more into bondage to detestable practices--
 - Their whole life was spent glorying in shameful things!
 - They were totally addicted to shameful practices!
 - We see incest, sodomy, homosexuality, drunkenness, detestable practices in worship—
 - They were wholly without restraint.
 - c. Learn from this the danger of glorying in sin...
 - It can lead you and your offspring into bondage!
 - How many are enslaved in our day to pornography—it began with a look followed by repentance—then went to glorying in it—then to full enslavement...
 - That is how sin can develop in an individual or in a family.
 - How many are enslaved to drunkenness or drugs—it began by glorying in them.
 - Sin is not to be gloried in—if it is, it can destroy you!
 - If you have gloried in it, repent quickly and plead for mercy!
3. And then there are the Canaanites themselves.
- a. They were delivered over to bondage, but even they ought to have repented.
 - If sin has a stranglehold on you, you do not have to stay there.
 - Jesus tells you that if you will come to Him for salvation, He will not cast you away.
 - He came to seek and save, not the righteous, but sinners.
 - That is why He ate with them.
 - Even one of His disciples had formerly been a tax collector.
 - b. We have encouraging examples of Canaanites that found mercy too.
 - They were not all doomed...and no one can make that excuse.
 - 1) There was Rahab the harlot who feared God when Israel was preparing to destroy Jericho.
 - She heard what had happened in Egypt and she believed, so she repented and joined herself to God’s people in Israel.
 - She ended up being one of the mothers from whom the Messiah came! And she was a Canaanite!

- 2) There are also the Gibeonites—a tribe of the Canaanites that came to Joshua deceptively, but in the true fear of God, to find mercy...
 - And the LORD God gave them mercy!
- 3) There are other more obscure examples, but the point is that you should never blame your parents for your sins!
 - You should repent of the sins you inherited from them!
 - Why would you go to hell like Eli's sons and Canaan's descendants and several of David's sons instead of repenting?
 - Would you follow Absalom or Rahab?
 - I have neighbour who says it is too late for him—that is a wicked excuse, but if he doesn't repent, it will be self-fulfilling prophecy.
 - Even when there was an oracle from God, Rahab and the Gibeonites were able to escape.

C. And now let's take a look at what became of the Canaanites as a whole...of how this prophecy was fulfilled...

1. I have already mentioned that they inherited the sin of their father Ham which began in seed form in Noah...
 - They gloried in shameful deeds and were delivered over to bondage in those shameful deeds...
 - a very desperate state of existence—very dehumanising and soul destroying sins that God delivers men over to when they are cursed by Him.
 - That is part of what was included in being cursed—those who are cursed are cut off from a godly life...
2. But you see that the prophecy also says that they will become the servant of servants to their brethren.
 - This speaks of the misery into which they will be brought as a punishment.
 - Being a servant of servants is very strong language which speaks of them losing the ability to do their own will.
 - They have their dominion completely taken away from them and put into the hands of others who have power to do what they wish with them.
 - Sin always leads ultimately to slavery of the worst kind.
 - This was fulfilled in part when Israel (descendants of Shem) was sent by God to utterly wipe out the Canaanites and they found themselves helpless before Israel...
 - They were brought under the dominion of Israel...though not completely at first because of Israel's sin...
 - But they were eventually wiped out completely—in fact by the sons of Japheth—the Romans...
 - In 146 BC, they wiped out the last colony of them at Carthage.

3. This curse—becoming the servant of servants—goes even deeper than being wiped out.
 - a. It is ultimately the same curse that is upon Satan and all of his seed—all who follow him in rebellion against God.
 - The Scripture teaches that Jesus will crush the serpent’s head as we have seen many times in Genesis 3:15...
 - And it teaches that all who are outside of Christ will be cast into the Lake of Fire with Satan...
 - We are told in scripture that all of Christ’s enemies will be put under His feet...the slain will fill His path...
 - They will not be able to go on in their rebellion against Him and against God.
 - This is Psalm 18-K.
 - They will be utterly brought under dominion as the servant of servants—abject, desperate slavery, desperately out of control.
 - b. In Hell, they will serve the LORD as the very worst kind of slaves.
 - Their service will be to display forever the wrath and vindictive justice of the God of heaven—or the Lord Jesus.
 - As we read in Romans 9, they will be vessels of wrath, fit for destruction.
 - God’s glory will be seen in their punishment.
 - c. That is the slavery to which you are headed if you are refusing to come to Christ.
 - You will serve Him whether you like it or not.
 - Right now, you are preparing to serve Him either in Heaven or in Hell.
 - What destruction—what bondage sin brings!

TRANS> Well let’s move on to better things!

- God visits the sin of the fathers upon the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him, but He shows mercy to thousands who love Him and keep His commandments!
 - Mercy is His preference!

II. With Shem we see the great mercy of having God as our God.

- A. Notice that the blessing is not actually pronounced upon Shem...
 - It is pronounced upon *Jehovah, the God* of Shem, rather than on Shem himself.
 - We have it in verse 26. It says:
 - **Gen 9:26: And he [Noah] said: “Blessed *be* the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant.”**
 - Blessed be the LORD!
1. The LORD, of course, is ever blessed, and this is an acknowledgement of that.

- He has blessing in Himself, and all who are in fellowship with Him are able to enjoy His blessedness...
 - He naturally pours out blessing on all His works unless they have turned to rebellion.
 - He is full of glory and His friends are able to see the perfect wisdom, the holiness, and the beautiful love between the three persons of the Trinity...
 - This is what Jesus refers to as the glory He had with the Father before the foundation of the world—
 - This is the blessed one in whose image we were made and our great crime is in spoiling that image...
 - But God Himself is still blessed forever!
 - And that is what is declared here in Noah’s oracle from God.
2. But note well that something very excellent is said concerning Shem—
- a. Something that is the greatest blessing a man can have is said to be true of him...
 - It is here declared that the ever blessed LORD God of heaven is *his* God!
 - It says that He is the God of Shem!
 - b. That does not mean that He is merely His creator, for He is the creator of every human being.
 - Having God as his God means that Shem is reconciled to Him and that he has fellowship with Him.
 - God being our God is the promise of the covenant of grace that is celebrated from Genesis to Revelation.
 - In Revelation 21:3, it says:
 - **Rev 21:3: And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”**
 - It is the same as was spoken to Abraham when the LORD came to him and said,
 - **Gen 17:7: “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”**
 - c. This was the special blessing that God gave to the descendants of Shem—Abraham, of course, was a descendant of Shem.
 - And the LORD God promised to be a God to him and to his seed.
 - This meant that God would give him eternal life, because He is not the God of the dead, but of the living!
 - It meant that He would save him from his sins, because He is not the God of sinners without making them righteous.

- It meant, as the LORD said to Abraham, that all the families of the earth would be blessed through his seed...
 - And of course that seed was Jesus, who Himself is the eternally blessed God who came to bring the blessing of salvation to His people!
 - In Israel, the Semites had this marvellous blessing.
 - Shem had the blessed LORD God as His God.
3. By declaring the blessing upon the LORD God of Shem rather than upon Shem, it shows us that Shem does not have the blessing in himself.
- Nobody does.
 - Shem is blessed only through the LORD God,
 - He is blessed only if God is his God...
 - And of course not all of Shem's descendants had God as their God!
 - The blessing only truly belongs to those who are of faith.
 - We read Romans 9 where Paul laments that even many in Israel did not have God as their God because of unbelief.
 - They were not the true children of God;
 - Only the remnant which God preserved by election were saved—the rest were hardened.
 - But the blessing of having God as his God was a blessing that fell distinctly upon Shem and his descendants in a way that it did not fall on others.
 - Blessing never originates in man, but blessing comes to the one who has God as his God by the grace of God.
 - It is God who chooses us because otherwise we would all go astray.

B. What great mercy is shown to Shem and his descendants!

1. God comes to Abraham in sheer mercy and calls him into fellowship, promising to be his God.
- He promises to bless him and his descendants and tells him that all the families of the earth will be blessed in him.
 - Abraham had done nothing to deserve this—it was mercy!
 - And then all through the generations until Jesus comes, God preserves a remnant—He continues to be the God of Abraham's seed (and Shem's seed) and to have them as His people.
 - He promises them forgiveness of sins through the temple and its service, and He continually enlarges the promise of the Messiah.
 - And then that promised one, Jesus the LORD God, comes from heaven and brings reconciliation through the blood of the cross.
 - He come to save His people from their sins.
 - Shem's descendants are connected to the LORD God as His people.

2. And not only that, Canaan is also brought under Shem...
 - Shem will have dominion over Canaan—
 - Shem who does not delight in sin and shame as Canaan does will at last triumph over Canaan so that Canaan is a servant of servants to him.
 - This is ultimately accomplished (as we saw) when Jesus casts the Canaanites and all who glory in sin and shame into Hell where they are vessels of wrath, displaying the glory of God in His holy judgement upon them.
3. You can see in this that what Shem did when Noah got drunk and lay in his tent uncovered has a connection with the blessing he receives for his posterity...
 - Shem, who loves God, sees blessing upon his descendants—at least upon some of them—to a thousand generations.
 - This is all of mercy, not of works...
 - Shem's upright action in covering his father is the result of the LORD being his God and putting enmity in his heart for the serpent and his ways...
 - This opposition to sin and shame is what characterises all those who have God as their God—as Shem does.
 - It is a mark of grace in all that believe.
 - It is God's mercy given to Shem's descendants—the elect seed in Israel.

TRANS> That is the blessing of Shem—to have God as his God.

III. And now let's look at Japheth where we learn that blessing comes to non-Semites from dwelling in the tents of Shem.

- A. So how was this prophecy concerning Japheth fulfilled?
 1. The promise to enlarge Japheth is easy to see...
 - In Hebrew, the name *Japheth* (yapet) is from the parent verb that means *enlarge* (yapt).
 - And the LORD certainly did enlarge the descendants of Japheth!
 - The Japhethites are the people of the west—the Indo-Europeans—including the Greeks, the Romans, the Germans, the Italians, the Spanish, the Baltic peoples, the Russians, the French, and the English.
 - They have clearly multiplied, but they pretty much moved to the west and did not particularly dwell in the tents of Shem over the years.
 - There was some interaction, but not much that could be called dwelling in the tents of Shem.
 - The Jews could not see how this prophecy was fulfilled, and that is because it was not fulfilled until later...

2. This part of the prophecy was not fulfilled until a much later time...when Christ, the eternally blessed LORD God came to save His people, the Israelites of Shem, from their sin!
 - When Jesus came, He established a house for Shem, and it was then that the Japhethites came to dwell in that house...
 - It was truly, as Jesus described it, a house of prayer for all nations.
 - Abraham was told that in his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed, and it was the Greeks and the Romans that came first, and then later what was called the Holy Roman Empire that came in droves to His house. This was Japheth!
 - The Japhethites became partakers of the inheritance of Israel through Jesus.
 - Isaiah 2:2-4 was fulfilled by them...
 - **Isaiah 2:2-4: Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**
 - Zechariah 8:23 was also fulfilled by them:
 - **Zec 8:23: Thus says the LORD of hosts: "In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."**
 - Paul speaks of this in the passage we looked at a couple of Sunday afternoons ago—Ephesians 2:11-22 where we are told that we Gentiles are now part of the same house as Israel, we have come into the tents of Shem
 - In verses 19-22, it says:
 - **Eph 2:19-22: Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**
 - This is Japheth dwelling in the tents of Shem and sharing in the inheritance they have in having God as their God!
 - In Shem's tents, we have the forgiveness of sins!
 - In Shem's tents, we have reconciliation with God!

- In Shem's tents, we have the oracles of God, instructing us in His law and in His gospel!
 - In Shem's tents, we have access to the throne of God.
 - In Shem's tents, we have full communion with God.
 - In Shem's tents, we have Jesus Christ, the ever blessed Son of God!
3. No nation has these blessings on their own—only in the tents of Shem where Christ is when we have God as our God through Christ.
- a. Paul explains in Romans 11, that we Gentiles are engrafted into Israel.
- In Rom 11:16-18, he says to the Gentiles about the Jews...
 - **Rom 11:16-18: For if the firstfruit is holy** [that is, the Shemites who had God as their God], **the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches were broken off** [the unbelieving Jews], **and you, being a wild olive tree** [the Gentiles], **were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.**
 - There is no life for us apart from the tents of Shem—
 - but it is not in the temple of the Old Covenant that we have this blessing—it is in reconciliation by the blood of Christ—both Jew and Gentile are made near by the blood of Christ...
 - Christ, the eternally blessed God who came for Shem and from Shem, and who now receives all nations into His house for blessing through faith.
 - As Paul said to the Greeks he wrote to at Galatia...
 - **Gal 3:26-29: you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**
- b. And let me say that there are many Hamites that have also come in to the tents of Shem to share in this glorious inheritance...
- But the Japhethites are the ones that are spoken of in this prophecy—
 - The prophecy is precipitated off of the beautiful picture of Shem and Japheth working side by side as brothers, to cover their father's shame—
 - They are united in their opposition to sin, just as years later they were united in Christ Jesus...in opposition to sin—in the advancement of God's kingdom.
- B. And as the Japhethites come into the tents of Shem, they stand with them in opposition to the Canaanites who follow Satan in his rebellion...
- To use the language of Genesis 3, God has put enmity in their heart against the serpent.

1. And so it is also said of the Japhethites that Canaan will be their servants as well—brought under the dominion of the Japhethites in the house of Shem.
 - As we have seen, the physical descendants of Canaan as a people are wiped out now—
 - but they represent all others in the world who do not come to Christ and so are not reconciled to God, but in opposition to Him.
 - If they do not come to Him, their service will be as vessels of wrath, bearing the punishment that all men deserve because all have sinned.
 - Upon them, the wrath of God will be displayed for ever and ever.
 - It is the very worst kind of servitude...
 - They will serve both Shem and Japheth who unite together in Christ to serve in His kingdom of righteousness.
2. While it is true that the descendants of each son of Noah roughly fulfilled the place that was prophesied concerning them,
 - the truth is that there are many Semites and Japhethites who are spiritually Canaanites, and many Hamites who are spiritually Japhethites.
 - What matters is not which son of Noah you descend from or what parents you descended from,
 - but what you do with the inheritance your parents have passed on to you...
 - If it is an inheritance in the kingdom of God,
 - then by all means embrace it and pursue it with all your heart by the grace of God,
 - And if it is an inheritance in the kingdom of Satan—
 - then by all means repent and come into the tents of Shem—to Jesus—and inherit the kingdom of heaven.
 - And if you are a parent, see to that you pass along to your children an inheritance in the kingdom of God.
 - Cherish it, live it out, and pass it on by the grace of God by earnest use of the word, sacraments, and prayer in your household.

Conclusion: Indeed, we conclude with where we began—So what kind of inheritance will you leave to your children?

- A Canaanitish inheritance?
- Or an inheritance in the house of Shem with the very blessed LORD as your God?
- God's promise if you are in the tents of Shem is that He will be a God to you and to your descendants after you—if you and your house continue in faith.