

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #27

### Genesis 9:18-29

No matter how old one is, how godly one is, how much one has been used of God and blessed by God, if we let down our guard for one moment we are capable of falling into serious sin.

**WHEN A FAITHFUL MAN OF GOD FALLS INTO SIN, THOSE WHO DISRESPECTFULLY DEMEAN HIM WILL BE CURSED BY GOD, AND THOSE REPECTFULLY TRY TO RESTORE HIM WILL BE BLESSED BY GOD.**

Noah was normal in the sense that he had a sin nature, but he was abnormal in his relationship to God.

#### NARRATIVE COMPONENT #1 - The sons of Noah. 9:18-19

Purpose #1 - To establish that they were Noah's sons. - Noah deserved their loyal respect

Purpose #2 - To establish that they were blessed because of Noah. 9:18b - Noah had covenant - 6:18

Purpose #3 - To establish that they survived the flood. 9:18c - Survival due to Noah's godliness

Purpose #4 - To identify the sons that survived the flood. 9:18c - Various lineages and sins

Purpose #5 - To establish that they were Noah's only sons. 9:18c,19a - No additional sons

Purpose #6 - To establish that Ham was the father of Canaan. 9:18d - Major antagonists to God

Purpose #7 - To establish the source of the nations. 9:19 - Only one race of men

#### NARRATIVE COMPONENT #2 - The sin of Noah. 9:20-21

There was some lapse of time between Noah's exit from ark and his sin because he had time to farm, plant a vineyard, harvest grapes, crush grapes and allow the juice time to ferment.

The sin of Noah was not that he drank wine, it was that he got drunk drinking the wine (9:24).

Apparently before passing out, he became warm with the wine and removed his clothing.

This is the first mention in the Bible of wine and the picture it leaves people with is not a favorable one.

#### NARRATIVE COMPONENT #3 - The discovery and reaction of Ham. 9:22

This verse has been interpreted three ways:

- 1) Some suggest this refers to homosexual activity on the part of Ham.
  - A. "Saw the nakedness" is euphemistic for sexual activity (Leviticus 18:6-19).
  - B. Verse 24 "had done to him" could refer to an act more than just a look.
- 2) Some suggest this means Ham was immoral with Noah's wife, while Noah was passed out
- 3) Some suggest Ham went into the tent and saw his father's nakedness and then went back out and told his brothers, while mocking and laughing at his dad. Instead of Ham trying to cover his father's sin, he is mocking it and acting disrespectfully concerning the one person on earth for whom he should have had the greatest respect. We favor this view - it is literal.

#### **NARRATIVE COMPONENT #4 - The reaction of Shem and Japheth. 9:23**

These two had the utmost God-honoring reverence and respect for their father. They intentionally refused to look at their father in his sinful condition and purposed to cover his failure. They were not godless talebearers (Proverbs 18:7-8) but were sin coverers (I Peter 4:8), doing what they could to restore Noah in a spirit of meekness (Galatians 6:1).

#### **NARRATIVE COMPONENT #5 - The curse of Canaan. 9:24-25**

Canaan was one of the four sons of Ham (Genesis 10:6). This curse was more than a punishment, it was also a prophecy. Canaan would end up being one who serves, not one who dominates.

Verse 25 is a favorite verse of the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups. They use this verse in an attempt to support racial segregation and their suppression of black people. Their claim is that black people are descendants of Ham and therefore should be kept in slavery and submission. **Those who believe this nonsense in no way rightly divide God's Word here:**

- 1) The curse is against only one branch of Ham's sons - Canaan. Ham had three other sons and the curse is not against them (10:6)
- 2) This curse is a prediction of what **would** happen to Canaan, not a command what **should** happen.
- 3) It is a known Biblical fact that Canaan did end up being dominated by Israel and others (i.e. I Kings 9:20-21).
- 4) There is nothing in this curse about color of skin.

This text has **nothing** to do with racial prejudice or segregation. It is a text designed to show Israel she had a right to her land and a right to subdue her land that was presently held by the Canaanites. **Any attempt to make this passage one to support racism against black people is pure heresy.**

#### **NARRATIVE COMPONENT #6 - The blessing of Shem and Japheth. 9:26-27**

The blessing to Shem would be the LORD, God – literally Abram would come through Shem's line (Genesis 11:10, 26), through Whom Jesus Christ - the LORD, God would come (Matthew 1:1). Japheth would receive the blessing of physical prosperity.

#### **NARRATIVE COMPONENT #7 - The blessings of Noah. 9:28-29**

God blessed Noah with a long life. Even though he had fallen, God still honored him and he lived another 350 years after the flood. But no matter how much Noah accomplished, he still died for the exact same reason you and I will die, we are sinners and sinners inherit the death penalty.

The good news is that One would eventually come through Shem's line who could save us from our sins. If you will believe on Jesus Christ you will have eternal life, not eternal death.