

# NOAH, HIS SONS, AND THE GRACE OF GOD

*Genesis 9:20-29*

*The Savior Who Disappoints*

## THESIS

Let him that thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall. Let him that knows he falls, look to him who stands.

## TEXT

Genesis 9:20-29 Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. 21 When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. 22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. 23 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. 24 When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." 26 He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. 27 May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave." 28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years. 29 Altogether, Noah lived 950 years, and then he died.

# INTRODUCTION

## NOAH THE ICON

MTV has an occasional series called "Icon" in which they celebrate the legendary heroes of rock and roll with a musical tribute of their songs. (Janet Jackson, Metallica, Aerosmith, Madonna)

As Christians, we have our "icons" too. Many of them are listed in Hebrews 11. Men like Adam, Abel, Enoch, Isaac, Jacob, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Joshua and Noah.

Genesis 6:9 ... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.

Peter calls him the "preacher of righteousness."

Noah was a righteous, blameless, worker, preacher, savior, father, worshiper and walker with God.

But that was last week.

## NOAH THE DRUNK

This week we see him a bit different.

Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart, they were not the first preachers to bring great embarrassment to their families, to God and to His work.

We find Noah, not peacefully sleeping next to his wife, but lying in the nude, passed out from too much alcohol.

## NOAH THE VICTIM

Ham finds his father uncovered, appears to mock him, and then goes to find others, his brothers, to enjoy the spectacle with him.

Proverbs 14:9 Fools mock at sin, But among the upright there is good will. This is exactly what we see Ham doing.

To their credit, Noah's other two sons act in a more godly fashion. Shem and Japheth are led to the place where Noah lies, but they show the proper respect for their father. Instead of mocking and gloating, they walk in, hiding their eyes and provide a covering for their father.

In apposition to Ham, they are grieved and not amused.

There is not necessarily any reason to read more into this text than what is written here. There is not a whole lot here that would lead one to see sexual misconduct. Although, Ham's name does mean "hot" and the tense of the Hebrew word for "looked" is in the imperfect implying a continued glance or even a gaze.

The primary sin shown here is the breaking of the fifth commandment. Next to God, children are to honor their parents. The honor of parents is chief in the list given by God, after the four commandments related to man's relationship with the Deity.

## NOAH THE INSTRUCTOR

A sad point to mention is this; this is the last mention of Noah in Moses' account. This is the final chapter of Noah's biography. One leaves the story with images of the nude Noah. How would you like this to be the last chapter of your book?

We have commented on Noah the icon, Noah the intoxicated, but for the remainder of the time we will focus on Noah the instructor. God allows us to read of the spectacle of Noah in order for it to be a warning to us.

Let's see what we can learn from Noah to apply to our walk with Christ this week.

## I. WE MUST BE HUMBLE.

We see that no man is immune to sin. Time is the equalizer of all men. Given enough time, all men will fall and disappoint those who are watching.

Noah is no novice or new believer. Noah has walked with Jehovah for years. We see here a mature, seasoned, older Noah, the man who walked with God. But given enough time, his weakness and frailty is made apparent.

The devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour, and our heroes and spiritual leaders are not off limits.

This is a good reason for us to be humble and diligent, as opposed to proudly self-righteous.

Paul said that he was the worst and the chief sinner.

Even a man like Noah, when he is not diligent and on guard, is capable of bringing great disgrace upon his family and upon his God.

The righteous one is now the risqué one.

The diligent is now the drunk.

The great one is now the gross one.

The preacher is now the passed out.

The mighty is now the mocked.

The unmovable is now the unclothed.

The icon is now the intoxicated.

## II. WE MUST BE DILIGENT.

Diligence is the key. Joshua 23:11 So take diligent heed to yourselves to love the LORD your God.

It is my desire for us to leave today more diligent than when we arrived.

Let him that thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall. Let him that knows he falls, look to him who stands. (1 Cor. 10:12)

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?

### A. WE MUST BE DILIGENT IN GOOD TIMES.

Good times can be a tools in the hand of Satan.

Times of peace, prosperity, tranquility and ease can be tools in the hand of Satan.

It is in these times that we are often lulled to sleep.

Our “down times” become our “optimal time” to sin.

We must know ourselves and our schedules.

Spiritual activity and fervency is often a great deterrent of sin.

It is hard to sin when you are battling Satan.

It is hard to sin when life is Hell and you are begging for help and rescue from God.

### B. WE MUST BE DILIGENT WITH GOOD THINGS.

**GOOD GIFTS CAN BE TOOLS IN THE HAND OF SATAN.**

**WE SEE SPECIFICALLY FROM THIS PASSAGE THAT TOO MUCH WINE CAN BE SINFUL.**

The first two references in Scripture to alcohol are both negative. (Noah, Lot)

Let's not be legalists, but let's not be idiots either.

The same God who calls wine a gift, also calls wine a danger.

Prov. 3:9-10 Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Prov. 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

Prov. 31:4-7 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink, Lest they drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the rights of all the afflicted. Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter. Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his trouble no more.

Your life should not be characterized by the love of wine or strong drink.

### **WE SEE FROM SCRIPTURE THAT TOO MUCH FOOD IS SINFUL.**

Feasting and enjoying God's provision are fine.

Wasting and gluttony are a sin.

### **WE SEE FROM SCRIPTURE THAT TOO MUCH SAVINGS IS SINFUL.**

Scripture has commanded us to save and to plan and to invest, but not to hoard.

Tearing down barns and building bigger ones.

The love and the worship of money is evil.

### **WE SEE FROM SCRIPTURE THAT SEX CAN BE SINFUL.**

Any time it is practiced outside of a biblical marriage.

And sometimes in a biblical marriage when one spouse is using the other.

### **WE SEE FROM SCRIPTURE THAT ABSTINENCE CAN BE SINFUL.**

When a spouse abstains from intimacy with the other spouse for a long period of time.

### **WE SEE FROM SCRIPTURE THAT TOO MUCH REST CAN BE SINFUL.**

When one doesn't work.

When one is lazy.

## WE SEE FROM SCRIPTURE THAT WORSHIP CAN BE SINFUL.

When done to another deity.

When done to the proper Deity in the wrong manner.

When not done according to the principles and precepts of God.

## INTERNET, TV, HOBBIES, WORK

### C. WHAT DOES DILIGENCE LOOK LIKE?

#### DILIGENCE INVOLVES CONFESSION.

Confess often and keep short accounts

#### DILIGENCE INVOLVES EDUCATION.

Studying to find God's description of the beautiful life

#### DILIGENCE INVOLVES PRAYER AND THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES.

Sense of dependency upon the H.S.

Someone asked me, "What do I do when I don't want to do what is right?"

I told them, "Pray for new desires". Turn I'd rather have Jesus into a prayer.

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold, I'd rather be His than have riches untold;

I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands, I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause, I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;

I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame, Than to be the king of a vast domain

Or be held in sin's dread sway; I'd rather have Jesus than anything

This world affords today

## DILIGENCE INVOLVES FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY.

Praying with and for others

## DILIGENCE INVOLVES SACRIFICE.

Denying rights in order to be holy.

Know your weak points, your temptations, your trouble-points, and do whatever it takes not to sin. Whatever!

Matthew 18:9 And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

## III. WE MUST BE FEARFUL.

Fearful because we see that the sins of the Fathers are passed on to their children.

### NOAH'S SIN EFFECTED HAM

Noah's sin gave occasion for his son to sin.

If Noah had not sinned, then he would not have been naked, and Ham would not have been given the opportunity to mock his father.

### HAM'S SIN EFFECTED HIS CHILDREN

#### HAM'S SIN EFFECTED CANAAN

Genesis 9:25 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers."

Canaan, once a brother, will now be a servant.

Canaan will now be the servant of servants.

Genesis 10:15-19 And Canaan became the father of Sidon, his first-born, and Heth 16 and the Jebusite and the Amorite



and the Girgashite 17 and the Hivite and the Arkite and the Sinite 18 and the Arvadite and the Zemarite and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad. 19 And the territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; as you go toward Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

They were the founders of evil cities.

They were dwellers in a land that did not belong to them.

They were destined for destruction as they opposed the Israelites coming to take their land.

Canaanites sin effected their children and their households.

Sins of the parents effected all that dwelt in the cities of Palestine

## HAM'S SIN EFFECTED HIS OTHER CHILDREN

Genesis 10:7-12 And the sons of Cush were Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. 8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

Tower of Babel – a town who sought to make a name for themselves in the face of God.

## YOUR SIN EFFECTS YOUR CHILDREN

Parents, Be Careful

The results of the sins of the father are indeed passed on to future generations.

There is no strict individualism here.

Pink states, "In the curse passed upon Canaan we find an exceedingly solemn instance of the sins of the fathers being visited upon the children. In this day of human pride and skepticism, when everything is questioned and challenged, men have dared to criticize the ethics of this hereditary law. It has been termed unmerciful and unjust. The humble believer does not attempt to pry into things which are too deep for him, it is enough for him that the thrice holy God has instituted this law and therefore he knows it is a righteous one whether he can see the justice of it or no."

What you sow, that shall you also reap, and maybe not just you, but your children and so on.

Have I scared you? I hope so.

## V. WE MUST BE PROPERLY FOCUSED

We see better heroes or icons or saints.

We need a better savior or hero than someone like Noah.

Your eyes are not to be fixed on your pastor or any other “man of God.”

Your eyes are to be fixed on the perfect obtainer, author and finisher of your faith – Jesus Christ.

### SCRIPTURE REVEALS THE VERY UGLY IN MEN.

We see here one more evidence that Scripture is indeed inspired by and from God.

We have a tendency to glorify our saints and heroes.

If this would have been a book devised by men, these glaring faults of our heroes would not have been included.

Scripture makes no attempts to hide men’s sin.

#### NOAH, THE SAVIOR, HE FAILS.

He saves from death but does not save from sin. Wickedness still abounds.

#### ABRAHAM, THE MAN OF FAITH, HE FAILS.

He has faith to leave his father’s country and faith to offer Isaac, but not faith enough in the face of danger concerning Sarah his wife.

#### AARON, PRIEST OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, HE FAILS.

#### MOSES, THE PROPHET OF GOD, AND PROMISED LAND GUIDE, HE FAILS.

Moses fails as a prophet in his striking the rock a second time.

He leads the chosen people to the promised land, but not into it.

SAMSON, DELIVERER OF GOD'S PEOPLE, HE FAILS.

JONAH, PREACHER AND MISSIONARY, HE FAILS.

DAVID, AS DIVINE MONARCH, HE FAILS.

David fails as a king through his sin with Bathsheba.

His kingdom did not endure forever in righteousness and purity.

PETER, AS POPE, AS GRAND APOSTLE, AS FEEDER OF CHRIST'S SHEEP, HE FAILS.

Willing to proclaim, leave all, and follow Christ.

But unable to answer a simple question from a young servant girl beside a camp fire.

A better savior is needed.

**SCRIPTURE GIVES US ONE HERO TO WORSHIP.**

Over and over again in Scripture, this is made very clear – all human saviors fall short.

Failure after failure after failure ... Until one comes who doesn't fail.

# CONCLUSION: OUR GREAT HOPE – GOD CHOOSES TO GIVE MERCY TO SOME.

## THE DESCENDENTS OF HAM ARE CURSED.

We have already dealt with this and do not need to do so again.

The fact that God cursed one son of Ham, and not Ham could be seen as an act of divine grace.

This thought is even furthered by the recognition that God blessed Noah and his sons when they came out of the ark. (Gen. 9:1) What God blesses is blessed indeed and can never be cursed.

But if that is so, then how bitter sweet for Ham to receive grace but to realize that Canaan would not receive such beneficence from God.

And how bitter sweet that would be for you and I to taste of divine forgiveness but to be too busy to pass along the faith to our children.

## THE DESCENDENTS OF JAPHETH ARE BLESSED.

Genesis 9:27a May God enlarge Japheth ...

God will cause Japheth's clan to increase.

Greeks and Romans both come from the line of Japheth.

God gives a temporal blessing.

## THE DESCENDENTS OF SHEM ARE REALLY BLESSED.

Genesis 9:26 He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant.

The blessing is not primarily directed at Shem, but to the LORD.

The blessing applies directly to Shem because the LORD is the God of Shem.

Shem is blessed because "Jehovah who saves" is his God.

Psalm 144:15 How blessed are the people who are so situated; How blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

Shem is blessed because through his lineage, the “special seed” will come. (Jesus in Luke 3:36)

We see here the first “election” of the nations. God will differently relate to different peoples.

Why the special blessing of Shem over Japheth?

Because God wanted to

God chose to specially love the seed of Shem

This is nothing more than grace and election.

Not specially merited, not specially deserved, only gifted and granted.

This is God’s sovereign decision to give something to some that he does not give to others.

You only have I known of all the families of the earth. (Amos 3:2)

## **THE DESCENDENTS OF JAPHETH ARE REALLY, REALLY BLESSED.**

God also gives a spiritual blessing.

Genesis 9:27b ... And let him dwell in the tents of Shem.

God will one day cause Japheth to dwell in the tents of Shem.

The massive tribe of Japheth is said to dwell in the tents of Shem.

This would make Shem’s house, Japheth’s house, and Shem’s God, Japheth’s God.

Jews and Gentiles will dwell together as members of the same household.

They will once again share a common house and makeup one body.

God has always loved the nations.

The book of Jonah shows God’s love for the nations.

Christ teaches the engrafting of the nations into one loved family. (Worship of Samaritans, Good Samaritan)

Galatians ...

Ephesians 2:14-15 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the

dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,

Ephesians 3:6 ... the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Revelation ...

And together, under Christ, all the cursed of the world will someday be servants of the righteous. (The phrase, "Canaan shall be your servant" is under both Japheth and Shem. 9:25-27)

There is no greater blessing than for Jehovah to be called the God of Joe, Paul, Terri etc....