

Genesis

Chapter 9:18-29

✚ **Genesis 9:18-23** *Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. 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.*

Noah has now become as farmer. And Noah was enjoying the fruit of his labor. But you could say he enjoyed it a little too much. Let's read it from the NLT.

✚ **Gen 9:21-22 (NLT)** *One day he became drunk on some wine he had made and lay naked in his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers.*

Noah got drunk and in his drunkenness he basically passed out naked. So what happens? His son Ham sees him and runs and tells his brothers, making fun of his dad, Noah. As I read about this I have to think of all Noah just went through, and normally you would say, "Noah deserved a good drunk after all he went through with the animals and being with his family for over a year not having any time to himself."

We go out and play so hard on the weekends that we need a day off from our weekend off. The world goes out and parties and talks about how much fun they had, and the massive hangover they had the next morning.

I remember a time in a restaurant where someone wasn't happy with their food so the manager came over and offered to buy them a drink. "Yeah, a little alcohol, that fixes everything. It makes my troubles go away and it makes me forget".

At least that's what people think, but they forget that it also makes you stupid.

Did Noah forget after a year what he was saved from, and the way the world was back then?

Have you forgotten what the Lord took you out of, maybe you are slowly sliding back into it, You say, "I deserve this, I've earned it"?

† **Galatians 4:8-10 (NLT2)** *Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years.*

We go through trials and we call on God, but what about when the trials are over, do you slip back into our old ways? Maybe your trials are too much to bear, so you try to make things up saying that God is doing this to fix the problem. But it is a sinful thing that you are doing, being blinded to the truth of God's word. God does not want you to sin to get out of the situation that you are in. God wants you to look to Him, not the world. Satan may be whispering in you ear saying, "This is making you happy and that's what you really want, and what God wants for you, right?"
Going through trials is not a happy experience, but the end results are.

† **Heb 12:11** *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

What are you doing to fix the pain you have been having? Are you allowing the world to fix or cover the pain, or are you allowing God to see you through the pain. Maybe God has blessed you with something just as God blessed Noah with a good crop of grapes. What are you doing with what God has blessed you with? Are you using it for His glory, or to sin?

Looking back at Noah, the word nakedness refers to the complete nakedness of a person. A little more bluntly, Ham saw Noah's modest parts. And the word "saw: is not what you would think of, like you saw it by mistake and looked away, it was more of an examining. In fact the word "saw" means to examine. So to put it together Ham examined Noah's modest parts. Even the Jewish people read this from the original writings that Ham had sexual relations with his father as he was passed out.

God even mentioned this in the law in the book of Leviticus specifically referencing the land of Canaan.

† **Leviticus 18:1-3** *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'I am the LORD your God. According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.' (underlined for emphasis)*

God remembered what Ham did and the prophecy of Noah. And God reminds the children of Israel of this also as we read further on in Leviticus.

† **Leviticus 18:6-7** *None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD. The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness.*

But Shem and Japheth were not like Ham, they were and example of one of God's 10 commandments

† **Ex 20:12** *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

Shem and Japheth were adults at this time with their own families, but they still honored their father. Have you ever tried to walk backwards and not seeing where you are going? It's tough, you may fall or trip, but Shem and Japheth did just this, without even looking back. They basically didn't think of themselves, but thought of the well being of their dad, Noah.

They did not see their father's nakedness. They didn't even run up to the tent to see if it was true, but then I don't think they had to, Ham was probably convincing enough.

✠ **Gen 9:24-25** *So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."*

I wonder how Noah felt after all this was over?
The Bible say's:

† **Eph 5:18 (NLT)** *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.*

Noah had to face, not only what he did, but also the consequence of what he did, and how it affected his family.

Once again we see the name of Canaan, this was a curse, so to speak or a judgment against Ham for his sin against his dad, Noah. The question comes up as to why God cursed Canaan and not Ham. Think about it, if you did something wrong, wouldn't a worse punishment be for your son to pay then you?

But then God did the same for us. He allowed His son to become a curse for us so that we could be with Him.

† **Gal 3:13** *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),*

Jesus became that curse for us, so that we may live!

Noah's words were also a prophecy against Canaan.
Here are a few verses showing how this prophecy has come to pass:

† **Gen 17:8** *"Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."*

† **Gen 28:1** *Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan."*

- † **Gen 28:8** *Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.*
- † **Ex 23:23** *For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.*
- † **Judges 3:5-6** *Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.*

Let's look a little more about the Canaanites.

- † **Gen 10:19-20** *And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.*

Sodom and Gomorrah, we know this as the city of sin that God destroyed because of their sin. And what was their sin? One of their major sins was homosexuality. Kind of sounds like Ham doesn't it? Here in this next verse we see that the people of Canaan served other god's.

- † **Deuteronomy 7:1-5** *When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.*
- ✠ **Genesis 9:26-29** *And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant." And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.*

But God is a forgiving God. Did you know that one of the 12 apostles was a Canaanite?

† **Matt 10:2-4** *Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.* (underlined for emphasis)

Shem and Japheth were blessed for their obedience to God and their father Noah. Remember that the commandment of honoring your mother and father is a command with a promise, if you obey.

† **Deut 5:16** *Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

As adults we sometimes feel we don't have to follow this command because we are parents now ourselves, or we are all grownup. But the bible teaches us differently.

† **Prov 23:22** *Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.*

† **Prov 16:31** *The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness.*

Finally, beware of who you make fun of or disrespect. These kids learned this the hard way from Elisha.

† **2 Kings 2:23-24** *Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.*

You can chew on that until next week's study.