

Genesis 9:22

And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

How often do people want to blame everyone else for their sins?
It was the way I was raised.
It's those friends you hang out with.
It's those darn video games corrupting our children, and adults too.

Now don't get me wrong, the things we watch on TV, at the movies, on our cell phones and tablets and computers, the music we listen to, the video games we play, the people we hang out with and so on, all have an effect on our lives. It's even said that if you look at the friends that people hang out with, you can see what kind of a person that that he or she is or will become. Once again, which is all true... sort of.

In today's devotional verse, this is referring to Ham, one of Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. And this is some time after the flood and Noah and his family or off the ark. And at this time, there are only eight people on the earth, Noah, his wife, his three sons and their three wives. And as you read this story in Genesis chapter 9, we read that Noah was enjoying the fruit of his labor as a farmer, growing grapes... Okay, simply Noah got drunk.

† **Genesis 9:20-21** *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 if you think about it, we may think that Noah deserved a good drunk after all he had been through, spending 120 years building an ark, then taking care of all those animals for a year, and being stuck in a boat with his family for a year. But that's our mentality today, but not back in Noah's time. Also I notice that it never says that God rebuked Noah for getting drunk. So you may be wondering, "Is it ok then to get drunk?" I would say no, because as we read in the bible how it does not condone drinking or getting drunk. but actually warns against it. Also, reading this story we see the effects that one drinking binge by Noah had on his family.

† **Genesis 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."*

But think about this, Noah's son, Ham (the father of Canaan) chose to do this sin against his father. It's hard to understand what is really going on here, but to put it subtly, Ham has a sexual relationship with his father when he was passed out drunk.

But I say that Ham chose to do this, and I say that because if you think about it, Noah (who walked with God (Gen 6:9) had three sons, and two out of those three sons chose to walk with God as well. But one, Ham, chose not to.

Think about it, Ham had a godly father, Noah, two godly brothers Shem and Japeth and saw all that God had done to the earth because of its sins against God. But even though Ham had all these godly influences in his life, he still chose not to follow them as well. He didn't have his friends, or social media, or movies or ungodly music, or the influence of commercials or anything else we blame for why he sinned. Yet still he chose to be the way he was. And even though we have all these ungodly influences in our lives all around us, we are still responsible for our choices.

Jesus walked the same roads everyone else did, but He chose to be obedient to God. And we too have those same options, to follow God like Jesus and Noah did, or follow the world like Ham did.

- † **Proverbs 12:26** *The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.*
- † **Jeremiah 15:19 (NLT2)** *This is how the LORD responds: "If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me. If you speak good words rather than worthless ones, you will be my spokesman. You must influence them; do not let them influence you!"*
- † **Psalm 18:21 (NLT2)** *For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I have not turned from my God to follow evil.*