



Genesis: *Creation and Covenant*

Genesis 9:18-28

Noah and his Sons

Introduction—What this text is NOT saying

- ❖ Ephesians 5:18—*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery,*
- ❖ Proverbs 31:6-7—*Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.*
- ❖ Psalms 104:15—*...wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.*

“Unfortunately, there have been some interpreters who have applied the semitic curse specifically to the Negro peoples, using it to justify keeping the black man in economic servitude or even slavery.¹

“By the 19th century, many historians agree, the belief that African-Americans were descendants of Ham was a primary justification for slavery among Southern Christians.²”

Noah's Sin

❖ **Genesis 9:18-21**

1. The Meaning of the Names

- **Shem's** name means “guilty” or “bearing guilt”
- **Ham's** name means “hot” or “sweltering place”
- **Canaan's** name means “humiliated” or “brought into subjection”
- **Japheth's** name means “enlarged”

2. The Timeline

3. Just like Adam before him

The Son's Responses

❖ **Genesis 9:22-23**

¹ Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Record*, p.238

² <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/01/arts/from-noah-s-curse-to-slavery-s-rationale.html>



Genesis: *Creation and Covenant*

Genesis 9:18-28

Noah and his Sons

1. Ham Mocked Noah
2. Shem and Japheth Covered Noah

◆ A portrait of Christ

- ❖ Psalms 103:12—as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Noah's Oracle of Judgment and Blessing

❖ **Genesis 9:24-28**

1. Why curse Canaan? Wasn't it Ham who wronged his father?

(1) Noah is speaking an oracle of judgment by the power of Holy Spirit.

- ❖ Romans 9:14—*What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!*
- ❖ Romans 9:20-23—*But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—*

(2) Noah likely recognizes Ham's sinful attributes in his son Canaan.

(3) Israel's future is here being prophesied

(4) Canaan's name

- ❖ Numbers 14:18—*The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.'*

(5) Canaan is cursed as a sign of Ham's reprobation.

2. What promises are being made here to Shem and Japheth? How are we to understand this blessing?

- ❖ Genesis 12:3—*...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*



REFORMATION
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Genesis: *Creation and Covenant*

Genesis 9:18-28

Noah and his Sons

- ❖ Isaiah 60:3—*And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*
- ❖ **Ephesians 2:11-22**
- ❖ Galatians 3:27-29—*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 no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*

Noah's Death

- ❖ **Genesis 9:29**