

Sermon Series: The Promised Seed

Sermon Text: Genesis 9:20-27 The Tents of Shem

As the Seed and Savior of Shem Jesus comforts the people of God and subdues the wicked.

1) Hope Deferred. Noah as a type of Christ.

- a) Hope of Lamech (Gen. 5:29): “and [Lamech] called his name Noah, saying, ‘Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us comfort from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.’”
 - i) “curse”—God’s judgment for Adam’s sin
 - ii) “work and painful toil”—anxiety for daily bread
- b) Hope Partially Realized (Gen. 6:8-9:17):
 - i) 6:8 “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”
 - ii) 6:9 “Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.”
 - iii) 6:18 “But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark.”
 - iv) 6:22 “Noah did all this; he did all that God commanded him.”
 - v) 8:16-17 “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your son’s wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”
 - vi) 8:20 “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD”
 - vii) 8:21 “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”
 - viii) 9:1 “And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.’”
 - ix) “I establish My covenant” (9:11); “this is the sign of the covenant” (9:12, 13, 17); “I will remember My covenant” (9:15); “the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh” (9:16)
- c) Hope Disappointed: Adam Redivivus
 - i) “Man of the earth” (9:20)=“man from the dust of the earth” (2:7)
 - ii) “planted a vineyard” (9:20)=“planted a garden” (2:8)
 - iii) “He drank of the wine” (9:21)=“and he ate” (3:6)
 - iv) “Ham saw the nakedness of his father” (9:22)=“they knew they were naked” (3:7)
 - v) “Shem and Japheth took a garment . . . and covered the nakedness of their father” (9:23)=“God made for Adam and his wife garments of skins and clothed them” (3:21)
 - vi) “cursed be Canaan” (9:25)=“cursed be the earth because of you” (3:17)
 - vii) 9:28 “and he died”
- d) **Application:** Even the best of men fail to bring comfort.

2) Promise Preserved. Shem as God’s elect.

- a) Praise to the LORD for covenant relationship (9:26): “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem.”

- i) Shem=Name—reputation, standing, secure position in this world
- ii) Babel—“Let us make a name for ourselves.” (11:4)—In other words, humanity will secure itself against God’s design for the world.
- iii) Abram—“Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘ . . . I will bless you and make your name great . . .’” (12:2)—In other words, God will secure Abram’s life in this anti-Christ world.
- b) Preservation of God’s covenant (9:8-17): “establish” is covenant renewal language; used 4X in Gen. 6-9; “remember” is covenant faithfulness; used 3X in Gen. 8; “sign” is covenant witness; used 3X in Gen. 9
- c) **Application:** God’s promise is relentless.

3) Peace Enlarged. Japheth as God’s elect; Canaan subdued.

- a) Enlarging people (9:27) is a sign of God’s blessing (Gen. 1:28).
- b) Japheth sounds like the Hebrew word for “enlarge” (Japhthe).
- c) Peace on Earth: “let him dwell in the tents of Shem”
 - i) Reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles in Christ.
 - ii) Hospitality among God’s people.
- d) Peace on Earth: “let Canaan be his servant” (9:27; cf. vv. 25, 26)
 - i) Canaan’s unrepentance (Gen. 15:16)
 - ii) The LORD’s Wars against Canaan (Joshua/David)
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Christ reconciles Jew and Gentile as one people of God, “one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.”
 - ii) Christ is putting all things under His feet (1 Cor. 15:25 “He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”)

4) Comfort Created. Christ as the comfort of New Creation blessing.

- a) Comforted in justification from the anxious toil of moralism.
- b) Comforted in sanctification from the anxious toil of self-improvement.
- c) Comforted in reconciliation from the anxious toil of “social justice.”
- d) Comforted in vindication from the anxious toil of persecution.
- e) Comforted in regeneration from the anxious toil of the curse.

Doxology: Psalm 72:18–19 ¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. ¹⁹ Blessed be His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!