



“Blessings and Cursing”

What’s in Your Spiritual DNA

Genesis 9:18-28

Honoring God involves attention to:

I. Restraint - “that went forth from the ark” (vs. 18-21)

Stop oneself from doing something.

Being aware of the danger of:

A. **Involvement** – “drank of the wine”

B. **Indulgence** – “was drunken”

C. **Indecency** – “was uncovered”

II. Respect – “saw the nakedness...and told” (vs. 22-23)

Being aware of what we:

A. **See** – “saw the nakedness of his father”

B. **Say** - “told his two brothers”

C. **Strive** – “took a garment”

III. Residuals - “Cursed be Canaan” (vs. 24-29)

continuing, lasting, enduring, lingering.

Being aware of passing down :

A. **Honor** – “a servant of servants”

B. **Holiness** – “Blessed be the Lord God of Shem”

C. **Harmony** – “he shall dwell in the tents of Shem”

Sentence Sermon:

“God will honor them that honor Him.”

Additional Verses

- **Deuteronomy 9:5; 20:16-18**
- **Leviticus 18:1-3, 27**
- **I Samuel 2:30**
- **I Peter 5:8**
- **Romans 12:10-11; 18**
- **Ephesians 5:18**
- **Luke 21:34**
- **Romans 14**
- **James 3:1**
- **I Timothy 3:1-13**

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Why did God place this story in the Bible?
- 2. Did Noah do wrong in this story? If so, where?
- 3. What does the Bible say about alcohol? Are there different standards for leaders? What sins are associated with alcohol?
- 4. How is the idea of nakedness in this passage and in Leviticus 18 relevant to us today? Does it speak to modesty in our clothing?
- 5. What are some practical ways that we can utilize to honor and respect others in our lives?
- 6. Who are some Bible characters who are a good example of honor and respect towards others? Who are bad examples?

INTRODUCTION

The more things change, the more they seem to stay the same. The problems in our text today are indicative with the struggles people struggle with today in 2012. First let's note an interesting parallel between today's passage and that of the sin in the garden.

Interesting Parallel between the Fall of Adam and Noah (Slide)

- 1. Both commanded to fill the earth and exercise dominion**
- 2. Both are actually the ancestor of everyone in the present world.**
- 3. Both sinned by partaking of a fruit.**
- 4. Both resulted in being naked and having to be clothed by someone else**
- 5. Both resulted in a curse that affects man ever since.**
- 6. Both situations ended with hope of a blessing and anticipation of ultimate salvation.**

Here's a short version of that story: Noah got drunk, got naked, and passed out in his tent. Ham saw it, told his brothers; they refused to look, and covered their father. Noah wakes up and pronounces a curse not on Ham but

on Ham's son Canaan, prophesying slavery for him (and ultimately for his descendants).

Here's an even shorter version: Noah got drunk. Ham showed disrespect to his father. Noah woke up and pronounced a curse on his grandson, Canaan.

Even shorter: Father gets drunk. Son takes advantage. Grandson is cursed.

V. 18

- Went forth of the ark = they were believing sons who had experienced God's grace**
- Ham is the father or Canaan = several years had passed ...a couple of decades?**

V. 19

- The three sons of Noah = all the people of the earth could be traced back to one of these three men.**
- Was the whole world overspread = the whole earth was their domain and theirs for the taking. The only influences on their children and grandchildren would be theirs.**

V. 20

- Noah began to be an husbandman = farmer ...including grapes**

v. 21

- He drank of the wine = no condemnation for it**
- Was drunken = a compromised state**
- Was uncovered within his tent = vulnerability and potential for harm**

- They saw not their father's nakedness = honoring when it is tough to honor.

v. 22

- Ham, the father of Canaan = author wants us to hang on to this connection
- Saw the nakedness = gazed upon it ...to consider it with bad intentions...Almost see his fiendish grin...
- Of his father = not just Noah...but his father = emphasizing a person of authority, respect, honor, and standing
- And told his two brethren = literally "told with delight" ...to publish or make common knowledge

v. 23

- Shem and Japheth took a garment = sought to correct the situation not just talk about the problem.
- Laid it upon their shoulders = understood the process is as important as the product.
- Went backward = difficult measures for principled reasons
- Covered the nakedness of their father = serve the one who had served them so many times before
- Faces were backward = respect for Noah and for God (not rebellion or resentment of a standard)

V. 24

- Noah awoke...and knew what his younger son had done to him = the truth gets out eventually...God will judge rightly...character is what you do when no one is looking.
- Younger son = Canaan is Ham's younger son.

V. 25

- Cursed be Canaan = the curse on the youngest son was meant to connect :
 - The hurt that Noah felt with his youngest
 - The perpetuity of the curse or description to all of Ham's descendents

A servant of servants = all three sons were servants of God...but Ham's people would provide a service for the other sons.

(Slide) Ways Ham's descendents served mankind

1. The original Explorers and settlers
2. First to Develop most basic types of Building tools and Structural forms
3. First to Cultivate the most basic food staples (corn, potatoes, beans, cereals) and domestic animals
4. First to Develop fabrics for clothing as well as sewing and weaving devices
5. First to Discover and invent a variety of medicines, surgical practices, and instruments.
6. First to Discover most of the concepts of basic practical mathematic, surveying and navigation.

7. First to Develop the machinery of commerce and trade – money, banks, postal systems.

8. First to Develop paper, ink, block printing, movable type, and other concepts of communication.

v. 26

- **Blessed be the Lord God of Shem = notice only here is the full title of God “Jehovah Elohim”**
- **Canaan will be his servant = He will provide service or stewardship for God and Shem’s people**

v. 27

- **Shall enlarge Japheth = “pathah” – probably meaning mental enlargement ...usually rendered “enticed” or “persuaded”**
- **Dwell in the tents of Shem = “have fellowship with”**
- **Canaan shall be his servant = will do the work of a steward for him.**

v. 28

- **After the flood three hundred and fifty years = Abraham would have been around fifty years old at Noah’s death.**

v. 29

- **950 years = 20 years more than Adam, ---- only two older people – Methusaleh = 969 & Jared 962**

Love one another.

Accept one another.

Bear with one another.

Forgive one another.

Encourage one another.

Bear one another’s burdens.

Honor one another.

Live in peace with one another.

Pray for one another.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).