

"The Sin of Noah"

Genesis 9:18-29

Part 1

Introduction: Today in our study of the first 11 chapters of *Genesis* we have come to a passage of which I have heard many interpretations. It has to do with Noah and his son Ham.

Years ago there was a show on TV called, "Lost in Space". There was a robot on there that would always announce danger anytime it was around. The robot would say, "Danger, danger Will Robison."

This passage we are about to look at could be called "Danger, Danger". This we will see as we work our way through several of these verses today.

Let me back up before we get started into these verses.

Noah has come through the flood which was Divine Judgment upon the entire world's population as a result of the sin which man was involved in. He has stepped from the Ark and he has been given 4 blessings from God. Then last week we looked at the Covenant which God had made with Noah. It was the Noachic Covenant in which God promised to Noah and to all of his offspring that there would never again be another global flood to destroy life on the earth.

This covenant was based upon the faithfulness of God and it had nothing to do with Noah's faithfulness. It was an unconditional covenant which meant it was resting completely upon God's faithfulness. This covenant would have meant more to Noah than we can imagine.

I am sure that as Noah stepped off the Ark and he thought about this "new life" he was about to embark upon his number 1 concern was, "Would there ever be another flood?" There would be times in which he would endure storms and in the midst of those storms God wanted Noah to know they would never result in another global flood. God did not desire for Noah to live in fear and so God made a covenant with Noah and He then gave him a token to comfort Noah in the storms.

Application:

Let me make an application here for you and me. Last week I told you that in the spiritual picture here Noah is a picture of believer who has placed his or her faith in Christ and now

they are walking in the "new life" God has given to us. In that "new life" in Christ God does not desire for us to live in fear. He desires for us to be filled with an abundance of joy.

Notice the words of Jesus in John 15 and 10.

John 15:11

¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

This is God's desire for us as believers. It was God's desire for Noah as he stepped from the ark therefore God made a promise and He gave the rainbow to remind Noah of that promise. Now listen to what I am going to say, Noah only need to live by faith in order to have peace in the midst of the storms. He could think on the promise which God had made and his heart would be filled with peace.

That same truth applies to you and I also.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The idea here is that we are to go to God in prayer and then have faith in His promises to meet our needs. The result will then be a peace that passes all understanding.

So Noah knew there would be storms but he also knew that the storms were not for his destruction.

That brings us where we are today.

I. Lessons from Noah's Sin.

Notice Genesis 9:18-24

There is so much to consider here within these verses.

A. The existence of sin.

The first thing we need to grasp onto here is that while the pre flood society all drowned and Noah and his family were saved from the judgment of God there was one thing which did not drown and that was sin. While Noah floated in the ark above the judgment of God riding with him in the ark was sin.

Application:

To see the application here we need to keep in mind the spiritual picture here. Noah is a picture of the true believer in Jesus Christ and as he steps from the ark he is seen as entering into the new life in Christ.

He has turned his back on the old life he once knew and he has entered into a new life. But in this new life in Christ we must understand that sin still exists. There is still the potential of falling into sin and falling deeply into sin.

1 John 1:8-10

⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

¹⁰ *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

John reminds us that we are still sinners even after we are saved. There are people who believe that when you are saved that you never sin again. That is a lie. Believers can still sin and they are capable of falling deep into sin.

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

Never think that you have reached a level so high that you are above sin. It is then that you will fall to sin.

Lesson #1

Sin still exists in this new life in Christ.

B. Who sinned?

Notice Genesis 9:20-21

When I read these verses I see right away that it was Noah who sinned in this passage and then it was his sin that led to the sin of Ham. But there is so much more here. Let me get you back again to the spiritual picture. Noah is a picture of the believer who is now walking in his new life. He has fallen into sin and his sin has resulted in the sin of his son, Ham.

There are 2 points I want you to see here.

1. Who to watch for.

In this new life we have in Christ it is important that we know who to watch for so as to be on guard against sin.

In all of this there is a warning for all of God's children. Sin still exists as we just spoke of but there is something else. It was the OLD MAN who sinned here. Noah was the oldest of all of his family therefore it was the OLD MAN who got drunk and uncovered himself. Noah here becomes a picture of the OLD MAN in the believer.

Ephesians 4:22-25

²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

²⁵ Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

The OLD MAN in the Scriptures refers to the sin nature that exists within every believer. It is the sin nature that will crave the sinful things of this world. After salvation there exists within the believer 2 natures. One is the sin nature which we are born with and the other is a Divine nature which is the Holy Spirit. These 2 natures battle against one another.

Genesis 25:21-26

²¹ And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

²² And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

²⁴ And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

²⁵ And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

²⁶ And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

When Rebekah became pregnant there was a struggle within her and the struggle was between the twins which she was carrying. The twins were Jacob and Esau and they are a picture of the 2 natures within the believer. Just as there was a battle within Rebekah so there is a battle within each person who is saved as the 2 natures desire completely different things. Our OLD MAN or sin nature desires the sins that we have come away from in the past. The Holy Spirit desires the things of God and so there is this battle which rages within us.

But there is something else I want you to see within Genesis 25 and that is what God said about the 2 babies. He said the ELDER would serve the YOUNGER. That was the opposite of the way families worked back then. Normally the younger served the elder but here it was different.

The picture is beautiful. In the believer the ELDER nature is the sin nature and the YOUNGER is the Divine nature. We are to live in a way that the sin nature submits to the Divine nature.

That means that we do not allow the sin nature to control us. WE do not give into the desires of the sin nature any longer. The OLD MAN within us will crave sin and will desire to go after every temptation that comes by but we must die to the desires of our flesh and we must surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson #2

Watch out for the OLD MAN!

2. Don't be fooled by age or experience.

Noah was at least 601 years old at this time and you would think he would have known better than to get involved in fermented drink. Fermentation most likely began after the fall and so Noah was aware of what fermented drink could do.

Matthew 24:38

*³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and **drinking**, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

The drinking here is believed to be a reference to fermented drink. Therefore, Noah knew what it would do and you would think that after a man reached 600 years of age he would be on top of his game. But he fell into the sin of drunkenness.

Application:

The point I want you to see is that it does not matter how long you have walked this earth, it does not matter how aged you are, and it does not matter how long you have walked with God; you can still fall into sin.

We must at all times keep our spiritual guard up.

Let me show you some examples.

Genesis 27:1-4

*And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, **and his eyes were dim**, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I.*

² And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:

³ Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;

*⁴ And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, **that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.***

Here is an account where we are told Isaac's eyes were dim and that has a double meaning. They were dim physically and they were dim spiritually. The blessings which he desired to give to Esau was to be Jacob's and that was announced by God before they were born.

Now listen. Here is a man who walked with the Lord and knew the Word of God but his love for his son Esau was greater than his love for the Lord and at his old age he attempted to do something which God said could not happen. Had he given the blessing to Esau he would have ruined the typology of the 2 men as a picture of the 2 natures. He should have known better. But his favoritism for his son was greater than his love for the Lord.

Let me show you his reaction when he came to his senses.

Genesis 27:33

³³ And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.

He was terrified when he realized what had almost happened. The point is he knew better but he had allowed his love for Esau to cause him to disobey God's Word which is sin.

It does not matter how old you are, or what you have learned, or how close you once walked with the Lord. You can fall into sin.

Conclusion:

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day: not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.