

"Noah's Sin"

Part 2

Genesis 9:20-29

Introduction: The last time we were together in our study of the book of *Genesis* we began to look at Noah's sin and in that study we pointed out several lessons.

Today we shall continue that very study and we shall go deeper into the verses which we started to look at in our last study. As we continue our look at this passage there are 5 questions which I want to answer today.

1. What actually happened in this text between Noah and his son Ham?

Notice Genesis 9:20-24

I have heard so many "theories" about what happened here and all of them are nothing but the speculation of man. The most common "theory" is that Noah's son Ham had sexual relations with his father Noah. Let me just say that there is no mention of that in the Bible. That is an example of man inserting his own personal thoughts into the Word of God.

We need to pay very close attention to a word in *Genesis* 9.

Genesis 9:22

²² *And Ham, the father of Canaan, **saw** the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.*

The word "saw" means to "gaze with satisfaction". The idea behind this sin was there seemed to be something between Ham and his father Noah. When Ham realized what his father Noah had done he was delighted.

I get the idea that Ham may have picked up a practice which should not have been a part of his life and his father may have preached to him about the sin. Ham was offended because of the words of Noah and when Noah fell to the sin of drunkenness it was a delight to Ham. Ham then went out and told his brothers what their father had done.

The sin in all of this was that he showed no respect for his father at this time.

Notice Genesis 9:23

When Ham's brothers heard what had happened to their father they placed a garment on their shoulders and they walked backwards and covered his nakedness.

Application:

There is a contrast here between Ham and his brothers that I want you to see.

Ham is a picture of the believer who cannot keep quiet about the failures of others. He or she is always listening for news about other people. When they hear of someone's fall or failure they tell everyone they can about it. If the truth be known they enjoy getting news about other people just so they can talk about it with their friends or family.

Just in case that is a description of your character let me show you some verses which condemn that very practice.

Proverbs 18:8

⁸ The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Leviticus 19:16

¹⁶ Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the LORD.

James 3:5-10

⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

⁷ For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

April 6, 2014

Recorded 10/5/2015

Aired 10/11/2015

AM Service

¹⁰ *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

From these verses we can get the picture that God despises a gossip and a talebearer.

But then in this text we have Shem and Japheth who told no one but instead they covered their father. I see the practice of these 2 men in 2 verses.

Proverbs 10:12

¹² *Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*

Proverbs 17:9

⁹ *He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.*

When we love other people as we as Jesus loved people then we will not even once tell others about their failures but instead we will do all we can to stop people from telling others about what they have done.

2. Why did God have Moses record this sin?

When I look at what is recorded here I am reminded that there were no doubt other sins which were committed by Noah and his family but God choose to record this sin. I am also reminded that Ham's sin here is not what we would call a "serious" sin. I mean he disrespected his father but that is something we see all the time in our society today.

I believe God chose to record this sin to help us to see that all sin is serious. We have a tendency to place sin in categories. People even refer to some sin today as "little white lies". There are people to today who would tell you and I that sin is necessary in order to make it through this life.

Let me show you the seriousness of what happened here.

Remember it started with Noah's sin and it then led to Ham's sin.

Notice Genesis 9:24-25

What we read here is very interesting. The curse did not come on Ham but it came on his son.

Why did it not fall on Ham?

Because Ham was a believer and a believer cannot be cursed. But Ham had other sons so why did the curse not fall upon them? We do not know why for sure but possibly it was because Canaan was the only son of Ham who was not a believer.

Application:

Let me give you 3 really important lessons from these thoughts:

1. **The consequences of sin are directly related to the sin which is committed.**

This very Truth is seen in the very first sin which we looked at in Genesis 3.

Here is the sin:

Genesis 3:4-6

⁴ *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

⁵ *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

⁶ *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Here are the consequences:

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶ *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

Eve sought pleasure and joy apart from God. Now the two places where she would seek to find her greatest joy (children and her husband) would be the very place she would feel the greatest pain.

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Adam disobeyed a direct command and ate of the forbidden fruit. Now he would work in toil and sweat for his food and at the same time he would have a wife that would desire to rule over him.

The consequences of both Adam and Eve were directly related to their sin.

It is the very same way here with Ham.

He brought great shame to his father and his son would bring great shame to him.

2. Our sins always go beyond our lives and touch the lives of people around us.

Ham would feel the pain of his sin but his pain would come through the life of his son Canaan. This son would never be a believer and so Ham would always be reminded that it was his sin that caused his son to be under a curse.

Application:

I know we have talked much about this before so I don't want to labor the fact but it is so clear here that our choices not only have an effect on us but also on those who are around us.

Exodus 34:5-7

⁵ And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

⁶ And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

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⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

3. Even "small" sins can bring devastating consequences.

So many people have missed the severity of what happened here.

Notice Genesis 9:26

Many stop here and believe that Canaan and his offspring became servants to all the world. I have also heard this taught that this applies to the black people and that is why slavery existed. That is completely wrong.

I will get into this prophecy a little more next week but I want you to see the severity of what happened here.

Genesis 10:15-18

¹⁵ And Canaan begat Sidon his first born, and Heth,

¹⁶ And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgasite,

¹⁷ And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite,

¹⁸ And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad.

Now let me show you the military manual which was given to Israel before they entered the promise land.

Deuteronomy 20:16-17

¹⁶ But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:

¹⁷ But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:

Many of these people would die because of the sin of Ham back in Genesis 9.

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Conclusion:

Let me just remind you that sin is very serious. The consequences run longer and impact more people than we can ever begin to imagine.

Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman told of a distinguished minister, Dr. Howard, from Australia who preached very strongly on the subject of sin. After the service, one of the church officers came to counsel with him in the study. "Dr. Howard," he said, "we don't want you to talk as openly as you do about man's guilt and corruption, because if our boys and girls hear you discussing that subject they will more easily become sinners. Call it a mistake if you will, but do not speak so plainly about sin." The minister took down a small bottle and showing it to the visitor said, "You see that label? It says strychnine -- and underneath in bold, red letters the word 'Poison!' Do you know, man, what you

asking me to do? You are suggesting that I change the label. Suppose I do, and paste over it the words, 'Essence of Peppermint'; don't you see what might happen? Someone would use it, not knowing the danger involved, and would certainly die. So it is, too, with the matter of sin. The milder you make your label, the more dangerous you make your poison!"