

Genesis 9:18-29

Verses 18-20 - Noah as the second Adam

- Noah 'begins by planting'
- Parallels to the Garden Story:
 - o Creation task is taken up
 - o Nakedness after eating fruit
 - o Intrafamilial conflict
 - o Curse
 - o Covering of nakedness
- Noah's three sons: progenitors of the human race.

Verses 21-23 - Ham's offense

"Genesis does not stop to moralize on Noah's behavior. It is neither condemned nor approved."

- Victor Hamilton, OT Professor, Asbury Seminary

- What did Ham do wrong?
 - o Castration, sodomy, incest, etc ?
- **Is there more to nakedness?**
- Other examples of 'nakedness in the OT'
 - o Genesis 19 - Lot's daughters sleep with him.
 - o Leviticus 18:7-8 - nakedness of father would include mother.
 - o Leviticus 20:11 - sexual relationship as 'uncovering nakedness'.

"Too speculative and reconstructive to accept with confidence."

- John Walton, OT professor, Wheaton

Verses 24-29 - Pronouncement vs Prophecy

"Cursed be Canaan" - Noah's first words in scripture!

- Prayeful request, wishful thinking, or immediate decree?

"...these pronouncements are never given as a message from God, nor are they presented as received revelation by the patriarch. In other words, God is under no obligation to fulfill these, and they do not necessarily reflect his will and plan."

- Walton

Is it too harsh of a punishment for the crime?

- Potential overreaction
- This may have not been Ham's only transgression.
- It may have been said in the heat of the moment.

Takeaways:

- Bad interpretation: to justify slavery.
Longtime claim: Ham was the forefather of the African race therefore their slavery was biblically mandated.

- This may be primarily a statement on the relationship between children and their parents.
 - o “Israelites considered family of extreme importance in the created order; any deterioration in the quality of family life could only disrupt the creational intentions of God.” - Terrence Fretheim, OT Professor, Luther Seminary

- Could there be a lesson on keeping confidence?