

# NOAH'S POST-FLOOD LIFE

## AN UNFLATTERING SNAPSHOT IN THE OTHERWISE GODLY LIFE OF NOAH

- It is often easy to assume that the godly saints in the OT and NT were without sin or the temptations of the flesh
- But that is not the case...the Bible shows the best and the worst of the saints of old
- Some of the greatest saints committed some of the biggest sins

- Abraham doubted God, lied about his wife, and committed adultery
- Isaac sinned as his father had taught him, lying about his wife Rebekah to Abimelech
- Jacob extorted the birthright from Esau, deceived his father, and raised a family of immoral children
- Moses was a murderer and, acting in pride, tried to steal God's glory by striking a rock to get water from it
- Samson was a womanizer
- David was a ladies man, an adulterer, a murderer, and a poor father
- Solomon was the world's leading polygamist
- Jonah defied God and got terribly upset when the Gentile city of Nineveh was converted
- Martha was a worry-wart
- Peter had a short fuse and denied the Lord three times
- Thomas doubted Christ
- Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit
- Timothy was ashamed of Christ and had to be rebuked by Paul

- Despite the incredible ways God used them, they were all clay pots, prone to the weaknesses of the flesh
- The Lord takes those who seem the least likely to be used by Him and uses them mightily for His purposes
- Since no one is qualified, God's only choice is to use the unqualified
- Such was the case with Noah who, although he was a righteous man, was far from perfect
- Up to this point, Scripture has described Noah at his best – building the ark, preaching righteousness, trusting the Lord during the flood, worshipping the Lord after it
- But now, Noah is seen at his worst

### Noah's Three Sons

**Genesis 9:18-19** ~ Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. 19 These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

- The three sons of Noah are named here for the first time since boarded the ark (7:13)
  - Shem – the middle son, probably mentioned first because from his line came the Israelites and ultimately Christ
  - Ham – the youngest son (see v. 24)
  - Japheth – the oldest son
- Moses notes that “from these the whole earth was populated,” making it clear that all humanity is descended from these three sons...and only them
- No other sons were born to Noah after the flood

- Thus, we are all from the same lineage, tracing our heritage back to the same individual (Noah) through one of his three sons
- We are all of the same race, the human race...and can all trace our genetics back to Noah and his sons

**Acts 17:26** ~ and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

- Interestingly, a new person is mentioned for the first time, Canaan, a grandson of Noah
- Canaan was the youngest son of Ham (Gen 10:6) and one of a number of Noah's grandchildren
- Canaan became the father of the Canaanites, the sworn enemies of the Israelites whom they were to completely eradicate upon entering the Promised Land and who become more in focus in chapter 10
- As this narrative progresses it will become clear why Canaan is singled out

## Noah's Lapse in Judgment

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**Genesis 9:20-21** ~ Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. 21 He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.

- After the flood, Noah took on a new occupation as a gardener and vineyardist
- "began farming" = literally "the man of the earth" where "earth" is the word *adamah*... which means "Adam, ground"
- On the soil, Noah planted a vineyard, raised grapes, and made wine
- Clearly, Noah understood the fermentation process and knew how to make wine, which must have been a common practice in the ANE
- There is nothing wrong or sinful with making wine or even consuming it in moderation
- The Scriptures do, in some sense, speak positively about wine

**Judges 9:13** ~ But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?'

**Psalms 104:15** ~ And wine which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make his face glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart.

**Proverbs 31:6** ~ Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter.

**Matthew 27:48** ~ Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink.

**Luke 22:17-18, 20** ~ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes."...20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

**John 2:7-10** ~ Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. 9 When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, 10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."

**1 Timothy 5:23** ~ No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments

- Noah's sin was not drinking the wine since Scripture never prohibits that

- However, the Scriptures do frequently warn about the dangers of imbibing too much alcohol

**Isaiah 5:11, 22** ~ Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink, Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them!...22 Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine And valiant men in mixing strong drink,

**Proverbs 20:1** ~ Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

**Proverbs 23:29-35** ~ Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; 32 At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things And your mind will utter perverse things. 34 And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. 35 “They struck me, but I did not become ill; They beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink.”

**Romans 13:13** ~ Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.

**1 Corinthians 6:10** ~ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

**Galatians 5:19-21** ~ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Ephesians 5:18** ~ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

**1 Timothy 3:3** ~ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

**1 Timothy 3:8** ~ Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain

**Titus 2:3** ~ Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine...

- Noah’s sin involved violating these biblical principles and becoming drunk
- Noah crossed the line from what was a liberty to what became a loss of self-control
- He abused his liberty and went too far
- “We have every reason to believe, however, that Noah was not ignorant of the potency of the drink he had prepared. But he neglected caution. He who maintained his ground over against a wicked and godless world, neglecting watchfulness and prayer in a time of comparative safety, fell prey to a comparatively simple temptation, which should have been easy to meet. It is not the young and untrained Noah who sins. It is the seasoned man of God, ripe in experience, who is here brought low. The sober tone of the detailed narrative points strongly to Noah’s guilt. Noah drinks to excess and actually ‘becomes drunk.’”<sup>1</sup>
- We are not told the reason that he became drunk, but may include some of the following reasons:
  - He was haunted by his experience during the flood and tried to drown his sorrows
  - It was inadvertent and caused by old age
  - Perhaps he wasn’t experienced with large quantities of alcohol from a cultivated vineyard
- Ultimately, we can’t say for sure exactly why Noah became drunk
- In his drunken stupor, Noah committed further sin when he “uncovered himself inside his tent”
- In that day, the outer garment was used both as a covering during the day and as a blanket at night
- Noah removed his undergarments in preparation for bed but failed to keep himself covered with the robe, letting it fall off in his drunken state

<sup>1</sup> Leupold, *Exposition of Genesis*, 345.

- Ever since Adam and Eve’s fall, nakedness in public has been considered shameful (Gen 3:7, 21)
- Shame at their own nakedness was the first felt consequence of Adam and Eve’s sin
- Thus, when the Bible speaks of “uncovering nakedness,” it is usually referring to some type of sexual sin, perversion, or dishonor
- Nakedness is no longer innocent as it was in the Garden...and wise people do not uncover it in dishonoring ways
- Although he wasn’t necessarily in public, Noah’s nakedness was a shameful act
- This unfortunate event in Noah’s life serves as a reminder that even those saved by the grace of God are prone to sin
- It also stands as a warning that anyone can stumble and, therefore, no one must think that they have arrived at a point of not falling into temptation

**1 Corinthians 10:12** ~ Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

- It’s also a powerful warning about how just one careless decision can destroy the reputation of even the most godly man or woman, which is especially true when it comes to drinking
- Particularly, those in positions of authority must be very careful with this Christian liberty

**Proverbs 31:4** ~ It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink

- There is another implication: “As our world’s morals continue to spiral downward, uncovering nakedness in one way or another has become a favorite pastime. Culture has glorified nakedness and worked to numb our natural modesty by parading nakedness before our eyes. Even children’s clothing is sexualized, and media outlets praise nakedness as ‘bold,’ ‘brave,’ and ‘liberating.’ We watch actors uncovering each other’s nakedness publicly on the big screen. The pornography industry has made a fortune by uncovering nakedness in every possible way, mocking biblical moral standards as archaic and restrictive.”<sup>2</sup>

## Ham’s Folly; His Brother’s Righteousness

**Genesis 9:22-23** ~ Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. 23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father’s nakedness.

- Noah’s drunken episode provided an opportunity for the heart of his sons to manifest itself
- While all believers, Ham’s ridiculing response manifested a fleshly, sinful, divisive, and degrading heart
- He apparently rejoiced to see his father reduced to such weakness
- “Ham managed to spot his father naked, but the text suggests much more than accidental seeing...Leupold suggests that Ham ‘gazed with satisfaction’ at Noah. So instead of honouring his father, who had led him to safety on the Ark, Ham revelled in his father’s shame.”<sup>3</sup>
- He should have looked away...and he should have tried to cover up his father
- Some have suggested that Ham engaged in some sort of sexual impropriety with his father because the term “saw his nakedness” was often associated with some sort of sexual perversion

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/uncover-nakedness.html>

<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 618.

**Leviticus 18:7-8** ~ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness. 8 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.

- Various suggestions for what Ham did include: castrating Noah...sleeping with his mother...engaging in a homosexual act with Noah
- But nothing in the text indicates that Ham was engaged with Noah sexually
- After all, it was Noah who uncovered *himself*...it doesn't say that "Ham uncovered his nakedness"
- It appears that Ham simply saw Noah naked which was a breach of family ethic and resulted in the sanctity of the family being destroyed because the strength of the father was made a mockery
- Ham's sin was gloating over seeing his father in such a state and mocking him for it
- Not only did Ham see his father's nakedness but also went and told his brothers about it
- The circumstances suggest that he told his brothers about it "with delight," wanting them to see their father at his worst
- Ham's actions "expressed a long-hidden resentment of his father's authority and moral rectitude. There was apparently a carnal and rebellious bent to Ham's nature, thus far restrained by the spiritual strength and patriarchal authority of his father. Now, however, beholding the evidence of his father's human weakness before his very eyes, he rejoiced, no doubt feeling a sense of release from all the inhibitions which had until now suppressed his own desires and ambitions. Thinking that his brothers would share his satisfaction, he hastened to find them and tell them the savory news."<sup>4</sup>
- Perhaps this implies a tension between Noah and Ham...a tension that did not exist between Noah and his other two sons
- This suggests that Ham was trying to pit his brothers against Noah, trying to drive a wedge between them
- This was a far worse sin than Noah's drunkenness...because such disrespect for parents was worthy of the death penalty

**Exodus 20:12** ~ Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

**Exodus 21:15, 17** ~ He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death...17 He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

**Leviticus 19:3** ~ Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father, and you shall keep My sabbaths; I am the LORD your God.

- Ham thought that his brothers would share in his delight; however, they didn't respond the way he hoped
- Rather than gawking as Ham did, they respectfully covered up their father, making sure not to look themselves (v. 23)
- They refused to walk into the tent forward lest they see their father's nakedness; instead, they walked in backward to keep from seeing Noah's shame
- They were both righteous men who honored their father rather than ridiculing him
- They reacted with reverence for their father, refusing to join in Ham's sin
- They refused to be drawn into Ham's attempt to split the family
- They refused to side with Ham in wanting to expose the fault of his father
- They aimed to do all they could to honor their father because their response was noble, godly, and above reproach

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<sup>4</sup> Henry Morris, *The Genesis Record*, 235.

- By way of application, the three sons of Noah grew up in the same home, were taught the same way, were witnesses to their father’s righteousness, endured the flood together, and all equally saw Noah’s trust in the Lord
- Yet, they responded in vastly different ways showing that the same environment doesn’t guarantee all will turn out the same spiritually
- This reminds of us the importance of honoring our father and mother (Eph 6:2-3) regardless of the way we were raised
- Although we may not endorse all our parents stand for, we must obey God in honoring them...because this pleases the Lord
- Additionally, we learn from the righteous actions of Shem and Japheth about the priority of maintaining unity within families

**Proverbs 6:16, 19** ~ There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: . . . 19 A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

**Proverbs 10:12** ~ Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.

**Proverbs 17:9** ~ He who conceals a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

## **Noah’s Prophecy About His Descendants**

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**Genesis 9:24-27** ~ When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. 25 So he said, “Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers.” 26 He also said, “Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant. 27 “May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant.”

- The difference in their reactions would have far-reaching implications for their descendants
- These verses contain the only recorded spoken words by Noah in the Bible
- Although the text doesn’t say, somehow Noah found out what happened
- As a result, Noah cursed Canaan (v. 25), the youngest son of Ham
- Why did cause curse Canaan if Ham was the guilty party? → Although the Bible doesn’t answer this questions, there are some possible reasons:<sup>5</sup>
  1. God had already blessed Noah’s three sons (9:1) so Noah couldn’t counter that with a curse on one of them
  2. Since Ham sinned as the youngest son, he would be punished with a curse on his own youngest son (as an outworking of *lex talionis*)
  3. Canaan may have been the one to tell Ham about Noah’s nakedness
  4. Noah discerned that the evil that had appeared in Ham had developed to a greater degree in Canaan, and would continue to increase through his descendants
- Probably the latter reason is closest to the truth
- It seems as if Noah was mainly speaking prophetically about the descendants of Ham

<sup>5</sup> Adapted from Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 621.

- Indeed, the immorality that was in seed form in Ham germinated in Canaan and developed to a revolting degree in the Canaanites

**Genesis 15:16** ~ Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

**Genesis 18:20-21** ~ And the LORD said, “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. 21 “I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

**Genesis 19:4-5** ~ Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; 5 and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.”

**Leviticus 18:3** ~ You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.

**Leviticus 18:21** ~ You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

- Here God gave Israel the permission for the conquest of Canaan much later under Joshua
- “Noah’s oracle predicted that the Canaanites would be in servitude to the Shemites and Japhethites (vv. 26–27). But this was because the Canaanites lived degrading lives like Ham, not because of what Ham did. The point is that nationally, at least, drunken debauchery enslaves a people. This is why, in God’s program to bless Israel, the Canaanites were condemned. They were to be judged by God through the Conquest because their activities were in the same pattern and mold as their ancestor Ham.”<sup>6</sup>
- Noah not only cursed Canaan, he blessed Shem (v. 26)...as the line through whom God would choose Israel
- It is also the line through which the Messiah would come

**Luke 3:36** ~ the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,

- As part of this blessing, Noah indicated that Canaan would be Shem’s servant
- This was fulfilled when five Canaanite kings became servants of Chedorlaomer (a Semite)

**Genesis 14:4** ~ Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled.

- It was also fulfilled later when Solomon made the surviving Canaanite kings his servants

**1 Kings 9:20-21** ~ As for all the people who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were not of the sons of Israel, 21 their descendants who were left after them in the land whom the sons of Israel were unable to destroy utterly, from them Solomon levied forced laborers, even to this day.

- Japheth would be also blessed also in that he would have many descendants and the Canaanites would serve him as well (v. 27)
- That the descendants of Japheth would “dwell in the tents of Shem” indicates that the Japhethites would live with the Shemites on friendly terms
- By way of application, the sin of Ham, perpetuated in Canaan and his descendants, demonstrates a father’s influence on their children
- Patterns of sin can be passed on from one generation to the next

<sup>6</sup> Ross, A. P. (1985). [Genesis](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 41). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

**Exodus 20:5** ~ You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

## Noah's Lifespan

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**Genesis 9:28-29** ~ Noah lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood. 29 So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died.

- Noah lived a total of 950 years, the third longest of any individual (after Methuselah – 969; and Jared – 962)
- This ends the *toledoth* of Noah and prepares the way for the next *toledoth* of Noah's three sons (Gen 10:1-11:9)
- This next *toledoth* will explain how Noah's three sons became the progenitors of many nations (Gen 10) and how the nations divided (Gen 11)

Section	Topic	Reference
I.	Book Preface: Creation Narrative	1:1–2:3
II.	The Genealogy of the Heavens and the Earth	2:4–4:26
III.	The Book of the Genealogy of Adam	5:1–6:8
IV.	The Genealogy of Noah And the Genealogy of Noah's Sons	6:9–9:29 10:1–11:9
V.	The Genealogy of Shem And the Genealogy of Terah And the Genealogy of Ishmael And the Genealogy of Isaac And the Genealogy of Esau	11:10–26 11:27–25:11 25:12–18 25:19–35:29 36:1–8; 36:9–37:1
VI.	The Genealogy of Jacob	37:2–50:26