

Genesis 9:18-29 - Lesson 19

Noah's Sons and Racism

1. 9:18-29

- a. God blessed Noah and all his sons, and makes a covenant with them - Gen 9:1
- b. Time passes: "*father of Canaan*", "*earth overspread*" (Acts 17:26), "*began to be...*"
- c. "*father of Canaan*" - Canaan is mentioned 5x because of their relationship to Israel
- d. Noah became drunk and naked in his tent. What is Ham doing there?
- e. Ham put Noah to an open shame, Shem and Japheth covered it - Prov 12:16
- f. Noah curses Canaan (not Ham), blesses Shem's God, Japheth will increase

2. 9:22-24 - Ham's Sin

- a. Gossip and speculation abound: sodomy, castration, incest (from Lev 18:6)
- b. Nakedness and drunkenness are a shame and disgraceful - Isa 47:3, Nah 3:5
- c. Taking pleasure in it and making it an open shame is just as wrong - Hab 2:15
- d. "*and told his two brethren*" - This is not honor - Exo 20:12, Deu 27:16, Lev 20:9
- e. Why is this recorded? God is honest to record sin; the origins of Canaanite sin

3. 9:25-27 - Curse and Blessings

- a. Canaanites renowned for wickedness - Ge 10:15, 13:13, Le18:2, De 7, 20:10, Nu 33:55
- b. God wants peace, the offer is for servitude, but they want war - Psa 120:7
- c. Canaanites were conquered by Israel, fulfilled in Joshua's day 21:41-45
- d. Japheth fathered the Gentiles - Gen 10:3, Isa 60:3, 1 Kings 4:21, 4:34
- e. If they are prophecies, they concern Israel reigning in righteousness, not races.

4. "Christian" Racism

- a. What is race? *Bible* = run the race; *Man* = family, tribe; genetics (skin color)
- b. Racism ~ inherent differences among races determine superior achievement.
- c. Christian racism ~ the differences and superiority are ordained by God.
- d. The Bible has been twisted to support slavery, segregation, war, sundown towns.
- e. The curse of Canaan turns into a curse on Ham, and an entire race of men.
- f. *How?* The races came from Noah's sons having special ordained 'contributions'
- g. They say, "*servant of servants*" is a good thing. But, then, why is it a curse?
- h. Ham: technology; Shem: religion; Japheth: philosophy, science, theology
- i. *Has history proven it?* Not unless you think circumstances are God ordained.

5. The Cure for Racism

- a. The cure: understanding the dispensation of grace, the manifold wisdom of God
- b. No longer is human achievement the issue, it is what Christ accomplished - Ti 3:5
- c. Israel is fallen. Israel was not spiritually superior. God is not racist - Col 3:11
- d. We are complete in Christ; our full potential is in Christ not our "race" - Col 2:10
- e. We are to know no man after the flesh today in the church - 2 Cor 5:16-17
- f. Paul says: do not heed fables and endless genealogies - 1 Tim 1:4
- g. The fellowship of the mystery to all in Christ is the cure for racism.

Dictionary.com - Random House Dictionary ~definition of 'racism'

"A belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human races determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule others."

Charles Darwin - On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life. (1859)

Jamieson, Fausset, & Brown

Gen 9:25 - "Cursed be Canaan" – This doom has been fulfilled in the destruction of the Canaanites – in the degradation of Egypt and the slavery of the Africans, the descendants of Ham.

"he shall dwell in the tents of Shem" – a prophecy being fulfilled at the present day, as in India British Government is established and the Anglo-Saxons being in the ascendancy from Europe to India, from India over the American continent. What a wonderful prophecy in a few verses (Isa 46:10; 1Pet 1:25)!

Arthur Custance - In his Doorway Paper series, *Noah's Three Sons*, Arthur Custance writes: "This threefold division is more than merely a genetic variation of certain "racial" types: there is evidence that it is intended to indicate that the three branches of the race were divinely apportioned a characteristic capacity which has been reflected in the unique contribution each branch has rendered in the service of mankind as a whole."

Custance goes on in his papers to say that these capacities and aptitudes are genetic and our knowledge of a person's genes could help us understand their unique capacities and contributions.

Richard Jordan - President, Grace School of the Bible

"What you are going to see here is a divinely appointed division of responsibility to care for the specific needs of mankind at three fundamental levels of need. Three racial heads. There is Shem. Then there's Ham; then, Japheth. Those three. God appoints each one of them a specific area of human need to take care of. There is the spiritual need that people have. There are the physical needs that they have, then, there are intellectual needs. ... These three needs are designed to be met by the specific contributions by these three racial groups." - Quotation taken from the Genesis class 103 lesson 5 of Grace School of the Bible

Henry Morris - *The Beginning of the World*, 1977, 2006 edition.

"Truly, they [Hamites] have been the "servants" of mankind in a most amazing way. Yet the prophecy again has its obverse side. Somehow, they have only gone so far and no farther. The Japhethites and Semites have, sooner or later, taken over their territories and their inventions, and then developed them and utilized them for their own enlargement. Often the Hamites, especially the Negroes, have become actual personal servants or even slaves to the others. Possessed of a genetic character concerned mainly with mundane matters, they were eventually displaced by the intellectual and philosophical acumen of the Japhethites and the religious zeal of the Semites."