

Some touchy subjects tonight for Baptists

- Drunkenness
- Nakedness
- Taking advantage of and gloating over another's shame
- Gossip
- A national curse

Rough Outline

- One of the most difficult and contested portions in all scripture
- Many commentators have taken extreme liberty with the passage and go beyond what is written
- Our righteous hero of the flood gets drunk and uncovers himself in his tent
- Ham discovers his father naked and tells his brothers
- Noah finds out what happened, and curses his grandson

Issues

- Why does righteous Noah lose his self-control and uncover himself?
- Why does Ham tell his brothers, but Canaan is the one cursed?
- Why does the birth order of Noah's sons seem wrong in different translations (Gen 10:21)
- How can such a seemingly minor incident lead to God's cursing an entire people group?
- We are going to try to take the bible at face-value and learn what we can from the passage

Gen 9:18-124, ¹⁸ 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 ^[a]populated. ²⁰ Then Noah began ^[b]farming and planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. ²² 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 ^[c]turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.

- QUESTION? When Noah's family got off the ark, what else got off with him?
 - Animals
 - What else? Sin! Did the flood do away with sin? Absolutely not!
- QUESTION? Why would Noah overindulge after the flood?
 - Some of men's biggest failures come right after their greatest victories
 - Noah was a hero. He saved the human race
 - Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal and then ran and hid in a cave
 - Peter was praised by Jesus, and the next moment was rebuked as satanic
 - The culmination of following Jesus for three years and then denying him
 - I believe there can be such a thing as moral exhaustion, especially when we operate within the limits of our own strength (which we tend to do)
- Let's talk about Noah getting drunk!
 - Noah planted a vineyard. QUESTION? Did he plant anything else?
 - Probably, but the bible doesn't say! God wanted to focus on this
 - Noah lived for 600 years before the flood, probably he knew about wine before
 - The bible doesn't record any event where Noah overindulged before the flood

- So, as far as we know, this probably wasn't a problem for him
- One of the characteristics of a fallen world is fermentation (like leaven for bread)
 - Almost any juice will ferment in time, creating alcohol
 - Juice is delicious and nutritious, but leave it for a while and something happens
 - Apple cider when I was a kid
 - The natural process of yeast breaking down sugars produces ethanol
 - QUESTION? What is alcohol?
 - Ethanol: $\text{CH}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{-OH}$
 - Show the graphic
 - It binds to the receptors of nerves and changes the way they work
 - Show the video
 - QUESTION? How is alcohol metabolized? I'm glad you asked
 - An enzyme adds an atom oxygen and breaks ethanol into an acetaldehyde and water, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}$ (acetaldehyde) plus H_2O
 - This is known as Oxidation, or Dehydration, since water is a byproduct
 - The aldehyde doesn't last long in the body, because it is further broken down
 - A different enzyme adds more oxygen atoms and breaks the acetaldehyde into Acetic Acid and Carbon dioxide, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2$ (acetic acid) and CO_2
 - Acetic acid is a nutrient that can provide energy or be converted to fat
 - The middle chemical (aldehyde) is considered responsible for hangover symptoms, and abuse over time can also be damaging to the liver where these metabolic reactions take place
 - Notice that both steps in metabolizing alcohol require OXYGEN
 - The more available oxygen in the body the faster this occurs
 - People get drunk faster and stay drunk longer at high altitudes
 - QUESTION? How could Noah's experience with alcohol before the flood be different from his experience with alcohol after the flood?
 - QUESTION? Is alcohol bad?
 - *Judges 9:13, my new wine, which cheers God and men*
 - *Psalm 104:15, And wine which makes man's heart glad*
 - *Isa 25:6, The LORD of hosts will prepare a ^[a]lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of ^[b]aged wine, ^[c]choice pieces with marrow, And ^[d]refined, aged wine.*
 - *Deu 14:26, You may spend the money for whatever your ^[a]heart desires: for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your ^[b]heart ^[c]desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.*
 - *1 Tim 5:23, No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments*
 - *Ecc 9:7, Go then, eat your bread in happiness and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already approved your works.*
 - However...
 - *Pro 20:1, Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever ^[a]is intoxicated by it is not wise*

- Eph 5:18, *And do not get drunk with wine, [a]for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit*
- Isa 5:11-12, *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! ¹² Their banquets are accompanied by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; But they do not pay attention to the deeds of the LORD, Nor do they consider the work of His hands.*
- Isa 5:22, *Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink*
- Pro 23:31-32, *Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it [a]sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; ³² At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper.*
- Hab 2:15, *“Woe to you who make [a]your neighbors drink, Who mix in your venom even to make them drunk So as to look on their nakedness!*
- Lam 4:21, *the cup will come around to you as well, You will become drunk and make yourself naked.*
- Drinking is very often associated with nakedness, even today
- This is what happened to Noah when, “he uncovered himself inside his tent”.
- Drunkenness causes us to lose our inhibitions, and our sense of shame
 - Story about Ty, and Uncle Walter
- QUESTION?, so, is wine bad, or is it good?
 - Use examples: money, automobiles, a hammer, a gun
 - It’s really about how something is properly or improperly used
- QUESTION? Was Noah a righteous man?
 - Gen 6:9, *Noah was a righteous man, [a]blameless in his [a]time; Noah walked with God.*
- QUESTION? How can God call him righteous?
- QUESTION? What (or Who) makes Noah righteous? He walked with God.
- So, drunken Noah makes himself naked inside his tent
 - He did it to himself. No one else uncovered him, the bible is clear about that
 - Seems like a safe place to get naked, but that’s not the point. Someone did see him!
 - Ham (the father of Canaan) sees his father...
 - The implication of the word “saw” (raah) indicates a pondering look
 - Also, this is the second reference to Ham as the father of Canaan
 - This is a big point of contention for many. Why the grandson? We’ll see this shortly
 - and “told” (nagad) his brothers
 - This is to “declare to them conspicuously”.
 - He described to them what he saw with an air of satisfaction
 - What he did was wrong!
 - Pro 10:12, *Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.*
 - Pro 17:9, *He who conceals a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.*
 - 1 Pet 4:8, *keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*

- Shem and Japheth do the right thing and cover their father, walking backward
 - QUESTION? Where does this shame of nakedness come from?
 - From the fall. Sin takes advantage of our fallen minds and puts inappropriate thoughts in our head. Adam and Eve recognized this
- BIRTH ORDER: In the bible, sons are invariably listed in birth order
 - Gen 5:32, Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
 - Gen 6:10, Noah ^[a]became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
 - Gen 7:13, Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark
 - Gen 9:18, Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan.
- So we know that Shem was firstborn, and Japheth was lastborn. Ham is the middle son. Clearly.
- So why does verse 24 say, *When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.*
 - There is ZERO support for Ham being the youngest, despite what 9:24 says
 - Also, we see that Canaan is identified here right away as one of Ham's sons. Noah's grandson
 - QUESTION? Why is it important to point out Canaan here.
 - Where have we heard that name?
 - The land of Canaan was the land Israel was eventually told to occupy
 - Another reason might be that Canaan was somehow involved in the incident
 - The pronoun HIS in verse 24, refers to Ham, and not to Noah, ie, "Ham's youngest son"
 - Also, the word for son (ben) in 24 is used interchangeably for grandson in the Hebrew
 - We learn in Gen 10:6 that Canaan was Ham's youngest son (by birth order)
- **It seems like Canaan was somehow involved in this event.** The bible doesn't say any more that what it says, so speculation is unproductive. We simply don't know, other than what is said.
 - The bible is always careful to be discrete in its language so as not to paint a horrendous picture, even when describing horrendous events.

Gen 9:24-29, ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. ²⁵ So he said,

***"Cursed be Canaan;
^[a] 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 ^[b]his servant.***

**²⁷ "May God enlarge Japheth,
 And let him dwell in the tents of Shem;
 And let Canaan be ^[c]his servant."**

²⁸ 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.

- This is the first time in Scripture that Noah ever says anything! And the last!
- Noah now pronounces curses and blessings in Hebrew poetic form
 - Curses on Canaan, who will be servant to his brothers
 - God will later use Israel to bring judgment on Canaan
 - Blessings on Shem (Father of the Jews), and Japheth who will “dwell” with Shem
 - These people groups will “get along”, and Japheth will be enlarged
 - QUESTION? Why is Noah pronouncing these things, and not God?
 - This is more of a prophecy, an oracle, given to him by God
 - Which he proclaims to his family
 - He curses Canaan, his grandson
 - We believe that Canaan was involved, because
 - He (Noah) knew what his (Ham’s) youngest son had done to him (v 24)
 - Noah did not curse Ham, but he specifically cursed Canaan
 - QUESTION? Was Ham guilty? Yes, of course
 - But it may be that Ham was justified by his faith, whereas Canaan was not
 - God does not curse his own
 - *Num 23:8, “How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how can I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?”*
 - *Psa 32:1-2, How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! ² How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!*
 - Because of the difficulty in interpretation, many call this “the curse of Ham”
 - Ham was not cursed. There’s no biblical basis for “the curse of Ham”
 - “The curse of Ham” was used to justify the slave trade
 - Since descendants of Ham occupied Egypt, Libya, and Southern Nile
 - And, Cush, which means “black” settled in and around Ethiopia
 - “A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers”
 - Descendants of Canaan occupied Palestine
 - Abraham, from Shem, came from Ur of the Chaldees, Southern Iraq
 - Descendants of Japheth, north to Turkey and West toward Europe
 - We’ll get into more of the dispersion of nations next time (Chapter 10)
 - QUESTION? So, what do we know about Canaan?
 - Ham’s youngest son (Gen 10:6)
 - He is cursed by his grandfather, perhaps because he was already a rejector of God
 - His descendants later occupied the Holy Land before the Jews conquered it
 - Genesis was probably written by Moses during the 40-year wilderness wandering
 - It was probably read to Israel before crossing the Jordan and taking the land.
 - God probably wanted them to know why they were entitled to it See Deu 9
 - QUESTION? What do we know about the Canaanites?
 - They are mentioned starting in Genesis 11, and appear throughout the OT
 - They were idolatrous, adulterous, lascivious, wicked people
 - Abraham forbids Isaac from taking a Canaanite wife
 - *Gen 24:3-4, I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, ⁴ but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.*

- Jacob's daughter Dinah was raped by a Canaanite in Genesis 34.
 - Her brothers Simeon and Levi then killed every male and looted the city
- A couple of famous Canaanite cities are Sodom and ...
 - We know what happened there!
 - Also, Jericho and Ai
- A famous Canaanite was a giant Philistine named... (Goliath)
- Another famous Canaanite was a harlot named... (Rahab)
 - Even cursed people can be redeemed!
- In the Exodus, God promises to completely destroy them
 - *Exo 23:23, My angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them.*
- In Numbers, he does, at least in part!
 - *Num 21:3, The LORD heard the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites; then they ^[a]utterly destroyed them and their cities. Thus the name of the place was called ^[b]Hormah (devoted to destruction).*
- In Deuteronomy, God again calls for their complete destruction
 - *Deu 7:1-2, "When the LORD your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, ² and when the LORD your God delivers them before you and you ^[a]defeat them, then you shall ^[b]utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.*
- But Israel did not completely drive them out, so they became slaves of Israel
 - *Josh 16:10, But they did not ^[a]drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites live in the midst of Ephraim to this day, and they became forced laborers.*
- The book of Judges is filled with references to skirmishes with the Canaanites, because they hadn't been fully purged from the land, as God commanded
- Ezra recounts problems with intermarriages, and calls for national repentance
 - Then, the CANAANITES DISAPPEAR from biblical history around 500 BC
 - About 1,800 years after Noah's curse on Canaan
 - God wiped out the entire culture!
- Modern genetic studies claim to have found a close correlation between supposed Canaanite skeletal remains, with people living in modern-day Lebanon
 - But as a people-group and culture the Canaanites are gone.
 - As are, "*the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you*"
 - All of them ethnic groups descended from Canaan
 - We'll look more at this next time!
- Then Noah lived 350 years after the flood and the days of Noah were? 950.

Noah knew Methuselah, who knew Adam
 Noah was still alive when Abraham was born