

From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 9:18-29

"Fallen Again"— May 15, 2022



Introduction

To modern ears, finding Noah drunk and naked in his tent can sound strange. To interpret this text rightly, we need to zoom out and look at what came before and after this text. We need to look at the context which must govern the reading of scripture. Looking back to the first three chapters of Genesis, we can see some connections that Moses intends for us to make.

Genesis 9 marks a new beginning of creation after the flood. We see creation in Genesis 1 and 2. After the flood, we see a re-creation. Noah is presented to us in Genesis 9 as a second Adam. But we can see in this passage that he fails as well. We see the correlation, but "so what?" Why does Moses want us to hear an echo of Genesis 1-3 here in Genesis 9.

In Genesis 9, Noah's family is in a nose dive. They are headed for disaster. When we move from Noah's world in Genesis 9 and we move to our world today, we are meant to ask this question: "How should we respond when our sin leaves us in over our head?"

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

When sin leaves us in over our head, there are two opposite responses. One path leads to life. One path leads to death.

Read & Discuss

1) Read vs. 18-19

Every person, every family group, every tribe comes from Noah's three sons. We will see the influence that they have on the generations that follow. Parents, the influence that you have on your kids will not only affect your children, but their children and their children's children and so on to many generations. There is a ripple effect. Your role as parent is hugely important.

Why does Moses single out Canaan here? The first readers of this text were the children of Israel who were well acquainted with the Canaanites who had a reputation for their wickedness, idol worship, etc. Moses is showing how that nation came to be. He gave it them as a warning. He wanted the Israelites to move from fear to faith.

Have you ever considered the influence you have in the lives of your children or in the lives of others watching your life?

2) Read vs. 20-21

In Genesis 6 - 8 we see Noah as a man of faith. How does Noah get to the position he's in in Chapter 9. In chapters 6 - 8 when the work was hard, he trusted God - he leaned into the Lord. Now in 9:21, he's drunk. We are warned in scripture about the sin of drunkenness, yet wine is a symbol of God's blessing and prosperity. Here Noah is enjoying a season of prosperity. This is a warning to us - when life is going well, we are prone in that moment to ignore God. We become self-reliant. We don't have to be afraid of good times, but we do need to be vigilant. We must seek after God with all our heart. As shocking as Noah's sin is, it is not the focus of the text. It sets the stage for the focus which is the two different responses of his sons.

Have you experienced time when life was going well? Were you tempted to ignore God during those times? How have seasons of suffering and trial drawn you close to the Lord?

Additional Reading: Ephesians 5:18; Philippians 4:12-13

3) Read Vs. 22

Ham sees the nakedness, and he told his two brothers. We wonder what his sin is. In Genesis 3:7, nakedness is clearly a metaphor for shame. When you look at Ham, he has no sense of shame. He delighted in Noah's sinful failure. He sees his father's condition as an opportunity. Noah goes down a notch, and Ham who doesn't understand grace goes up a notch.

What is your response when a well-known Christian leader or any Christian you know falls into sin? Do you respond with self-righteousness or do you mourn over the sin and pray for the one in sin?

4) Read Vs. 23

Here, we see that Shem and Japheth's response shows their heart. Moses gives details about how they covered the shame of their father. The spiritual person restores the one in sin. Those who experience God's grace, show God's grace. They don't exploit the sin.

Have you ever experienced that kind of restoration? Have you ever been able to help restore another believer who has fallen into sin?

Additional Reading: Galatians 6:1-10; 1 Corinthians 13

4) Read Vs. 24-27

With the two responses in mind, we can make sense of Noah's response in vs. 25-26. Noah's son, Ham, sinned against him. Noah curses Canaan. He's predicting that if Canaan, as a son of Ham, follows the sinful example of dad, he will experience God's curse not His blessing. If you follow the history - they do follow Ham's example and become a wicked nation. Yet not every Canaanite followed the path of Ham. Rahab was a Canaanite who didn't follow the example. God's promise of redemption is for all the nations, even Canaan if they repent.

Then Noah blesses the Lord - the covenant keeping, relational God (Yahweh). Then, he refers to God as the God (the Elohim) of Shem - the same God who created the heavens and the earth.

Ham tried to be his own God. Shem trusted God. The LORD was the God of Shem. Those who trust in themselves will not experience God's blessing. Those who trust in God will experience God's blessing. We cannot keep all of God's laws. Jesus has done for us what we failed to do and cannot do. We can receive the promise through faith. The blessing that you and I need comes through faith. This blessing is for anyone who confesses their sin, repents and trusts Christ.

What times in your life have you been tempted to be God? What was the result? Can you recall times when you experienced the blessing of Shem, having trusted God? With whom can you share that testimony of faith this week?

Additional Reading: Numbers 13; Isaiah 6; Galatians 3:10-14

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Genesis 10:1-11:26 "The Tower of Babel"
