

Genesis: God and Man

Genesis 9:18-29 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem

- We've been through a lot!
- The beginning til now
- Flood just over. Just got out
- God's covenant: the rainbow for him to look at
- Now the real trial begins. Life on the other side.

Interesting that we're here, looking at what we're going to look at today - some family issues - with the "holiday season" upon us.

Happy holidays - c'mon, it's thanksgiving...i would say nobody's offended by that, but you wait.

Thanksgiving, my wife's birthday
I AM THANKFUL for her

- What are you thankful for?
- How about your family?

Are we really thankful for them? I think the holidays put it into perspective

One in three U.S. adults to avoid talking politics over holiday season: Reuters/Ipsos poll
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/1-3-adults-avoid-talking-politics-over-holiday-120905990.html>

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Americans will sit down next week for what has become a holiday tradition in the United States: tiptoeing through a turkey dinner without mentioning the president.

Nearly one-third of all adults will actively avoid political conversations when they see friends and family over the Thanksgiving and December holidays, according to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Friday. About half said they do not expect to discuss politics at all.

The Nov. 8-13 poll found that a majority of Americans consider politics to be among their "least favorite" topics to discuss in mixed company over the holidays.

Poll respondents said they learned to bite their tongues after years of dinnertime squabbles ... Beal said her family learned this new holiday etiquette after a particularly stressful Thanksgiving in 2008. Obama had just been elected to his first term, and Beal's niece called her a bigot for not supporting him.

“Well that was the end of that,” Beal said. “I decided I’m not going to talk politics anymore. I’m not those things they call me.”

...“We can keep it civil when it’s just us,” Wilhite said. “I’m not sure if the rest of the family can.”

Family squabbles are nothing new. But as believers, we’re not supposed to be “above them” We’re supposed to be “below them” - **servicing our family. Minister**

2Co 5:16-20 NKJV - Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know [Him thus] no longer. Therefore, if anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things [are] of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore [you] on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Without further delay...Genesis 9:18

9:18-19

The sons of Noah that went forth from the ark (not that he had other sons)

But these would be those who would carry on the family line, and ultimately humanity, from the landing of the ark

Again, think about this scenario. The whole world destroyed. Seeing and helping your dad build a giant boat for 120 years, animals coming from all over, being in the boat, God closes the door, the flood begins. You get out six months later...nothing...no one. Just the boat, some springtime growth, a zoo’s worth of animals and your family.

That’s it.

Pretty bleak and yet pretty hopeful.

Pretty quiet. I think some of us would love that quiet, maybe we need that quiet. The world has gotten so loud in bad news, perversion and its protest to get its own way, don’t you think?

Shem - name - eldest son, semitic - a name used since the 1770s to refer to the language family currently present in West Asia, North and East Africa, and Malta. The middle eastern people.

Ham (Cham) - hot - was he a hothead? - later term for Egyptians, the southern lands, Africa? Canaanites (Canaan - low land) - we see how these people troubled the Israelites...family traits...remember Lamech from Cain's offspring? How he thought he was so special. Phoenicians, palestine

Japeth - opened - did he open the door, was he right there waiting to get out? Mediterranean, Europe, Asia

Remember, all the genetic variables was available in Adam and Eve - dark and light skin, redhead and blonde, tall and short - over time, these features became more prominent.

The Shanley schnoz

We are all one people. We may be of different families, tribes, nationalities, ethnicities, but we are all human. We can all marry and have babies - we are not different "races" or species.

These guys were it. They were the ones for whom all of humanity that exists today sprung from.

We're all family.

With all of these "statues" and "confederate" symbols being torn down, no one bats an eye at Darwin "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life" - his "theory" used as basis for a lot of modern racism. Look at Nazi Germany and the favored race.

Planned Parenthood - Margaret Sanger, race, eugenics...birth control. Do a little digging there and it's surprising what no one pays attention to, what is swept under the carpet in the name of women's rights...

Gal 3:28 NKJV - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

But this is it. They went back to living. We need to get back to living in reality.

They didn't populate the whole earth in a day, but God's command was to fill the earth. Not all clump together. He wanted diversity. (Not the politically correct, put one down to lift another up kind), but true unity in Jesus

Rev 7:9-10 NKJV - After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation [belongs] to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Want to fix racism? Spread the gospel.

Want real social justice? Find real justice at the foot of the cross.

There will always be hungry on the earth, but there is a feast in heaven. Yes, help the poor, but the real help is always the gospel. The gospel saves. The gospel changes. The gospel equips for life.

We'll see the "Table of Nations" in the next chapter, Genesis 10.

Some interesting stuff mixed in there.

20-21

Noah began to be a farmer.

Pretty good idea. Whole Foods wouldn't be open for quite some time.

Talking with a coworker and she mentioned how she'd love to quit her job and be a farmer. Her and her husband used to have quite the garden even in the city they live in

It is a wise profession (everyone needs to eat)

Working with foods companies, farm tours. I think it's more noble than city jobs even though the city looks down on those in the country with "no internet." It is a better way of life in my estimation.

The word is actually husbandmen - 'iysh - animal farmers have some funny words, (pig call, horse talk, etc) - actually just means man.

Noah manned up after the flood. Again, something I think us city folk need a little more of. Maybe we wouldn't be so offended and the common sense of country life and hard work would make the confusion of city life unravel a bit.

How important it is to be a little self reliant. Man or woman. Adult or child. It goes a long way. Finances, situations, responsibility, but also in caring for others

Phi 2:4 NKJV - Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (read ch 2 for homework, tempted to read it here)

If it weren't for these allergies, I think I'd be better at caring for animals than for growing plants. *Trying to grow a lima bean in elementary school.*

He planted a vineyard. Hmm. Did he know about grapes and alcohol?
All these rich people with their own vineyards and alcohol companies

How many grapes does one family need? Wine in biblical times not as intoxicating for the most part as today's alcoholic drinks. And hey, you've got unfiltered water (fine and clean in Noah's day) but juice won't last long without refrigeration, so fermented properly your juice will last longer. Good deal.

But, we don't know what Noah's state of mind here was. I don't get the impression that this was an accident. Was he even supposed to do this? God had given him all those animals, should he have cared for some of them? Was he tired of that? I don't know, but something to consider.

Some ponder if alcohol was even possible before the flood, I'd say it probably was, maybe not before the fall, good topics for thought here

But was Noah doing OK? Was the weight of all this on him? Was his wife still around? How long after the flood was this?

We don't hear a word from the Lord in this part of the chapter. It's Noah, his family and a vineyard.

Was it so bleak that it began to weigh on him? Was he just bored? Was he lonely? Was he bitter with God? We don't know, the Bible doesn't say. Was it one time? Well, perhaps this was the first time.

But, with us, is it usually the first time we get caught? Was your first time out drinking the night you got completely wasted and didn't remember the next day? Most likely not.

For some reason, maybe it's just me, but I think Noah was struggling with all that had happened. Survivor's guilt maybe? Again, i don't know.

But food for thought, just don't let it ferment in your mind.

We are kings and priests and drunkenness and you might even stop to consider, alcohol itself, is not for us. Noah didn't have that written down for him yet, but the fruit of his vineyard, as we'll see, is not grapes, it's not even wine or drunkenness...but what grows out of that.

Eph 5:18-21 NKJV - And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Interesting that being drunk people tend to sing, open up about their feelings (I love you man), but end up fighting and not submitting.

While the spirit sings to glorify God, loves each other and cares for each other.

The stark contrast between the wine of the spirit and the wine of the flesh.

Uncovered in his tent naked, uncovered, exposed. Noah just wasn't naked, maybe he got there. Drunk people get naked. Drugged people as well. Never good.

But he was exposed more than that, his emotional state was revealed by him even getting so drunk as to be naked, and we'll see, didn't remember at first what happened.

That's always a sign of something else underneath. People drink like that to escape. It's not just a tough work week. It's impossible to do life without God especially in the place God has brought you by his spirit.

The last thing we saw Noah doing before this was building an altar to God on the mountaintop. But in the valley, things began to get a difficult.

Utmost 11/16

We have a tendency to look for wonder in our experience, and we mistake heroic actions for real heroes. It's one thing to go through a crisis grandly, yet quite another to go through every day glorifying God when there is no witness, no limelight, and no one paying even the remotest attention to us. If we are not looking for halos, we at least want something that will make people say, "What a wonderful man of prayer he is!" or, "What a great woman of devotion she is!" If you are properly devoted to the Lord Jesus, you have reached the lofty height where no one would ever notice you personally. All that is noticed is the power of God coming through you all the time.

We want to be able to say, "Oh, I have had a wonderful call from God!" But to do even the most humbling tasks to the glory of God takes the Almighty God Incarnate working in us. To be utterly unnoticeable requires God's Spirit in us making us absolutely humanly His. The true test of a saint's life is not successfulness but faithfulness on the human level of life. We tend to set up success in Christian work as our purpose, but our purpose should be to display the glory of God in human life, to live a life "hidden with Christ in God" in our everyday human conditions

(Colossians 3:3). Our human relationships are the very conditions in which the ideal life of God should be exhibited.

22-23

And Ham...the father of Canaan - a little reminder there of who this guy's people would be. Especially interesting seeing that it's written by Moses, surrounded by the Canaanites - the Israelites had fled from the clutches of the Egyptians...

He saw his father's nakedness and goes outside and tells his brothers

nagad

to be conspicuous, tell, make known

(Hiphil) to tell, declare

to tell, announce, report

to declare, make known, expound

to inform of

to publish, declare, proclaim

to avow, acknowledge, confess

messenger (participle)

(Hophal) to be told, be announced, be **reported (like a tabloid)**

It wasn't in confidence, looking for help. It was meant to shame his father.

Middle child problems?

Was there a beef with his dad?

Unforgiveness and bitterness and the flesh.

American chopper father and son, coming back, reconciling. The show THRIVED off of the fighting between them. It became the basis for the last few seasons. Senior vs. Jr.

Let it not be what we thrive on.

1Pe 4:8-9 NKJV - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." [Be] hospitable to one another without grumbling.

(i read the second verse as the holidays are upon us)

Remember what God said to Adam and Eve, "Who told you you were naked?"

The enemy always wants to get us exposed and to shame us. God will never shame us with the intent of shame. Perhaps correction or allowed for the desire of getting right, but He's not the one who shames us. God will expose our sin that he might cover it. We are incapable of covering it. It will eventually get out.

But...Shem and Japheth. They would have none of this. They didn't sit there and revel in the gossip. I'll bet they even rebuked him. They heard what Ham meant for shame and took it as their responsibility to pick up their father's honor and cover what would shame him. Not make excuses. Not make a cover story for him, not enable his drunkenness, but simply to cover his being exposed. To keep him honored even if he couldn't keep himself honorable.

Do we even remotely do that? Wouldn't we want that for ourselves? Why do we go blabbing out about our spouses, our relatives and their shortcomings to others? Is that prayer request really a request? Or is it a way for you to seek yourself being honored, lifted up because you're sick and tired of the relationship.

Cover their honor, not their sin. If there is an abuse in a relationship, yes, there is a time. Or if you've been trying to reconcile, like it says in Matthew, and that hasn't worked, don't write a blog (read a post about a man's wife publishing a book of poetry how she hated him), seek the help needed, but be sure you've done all to cover their honor. Never talk down of them to others.

About marriage, but I think we can extrapolate:

Mar 10:9 NKJV - "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

The relationships in our lives are God given. Do your best to honor them and not shame them. We see it all the time in relationships of any kind that fall apart because their private business became public business. How can you build trust there? How can your heart feel safe sharing sensitive, shameful even, stuff if it's going to be blabbed at the first opportunity.

Divorce. Church splits. Losing friends. Relationships at work. I'll bet most of that is from unforgiveness and uncovering of things that should have been covered.

Family matters are family matters.

Shem and Japheth even honored their father in the way they covered him.

They walked backward. They kept their eyes forward. They knew he was naked. They didn't want to see it. They didn't want their dad to know they had seen it. They just wanted him to wake up covered and not let anyone else uncover him.

David and Saul, the robe...the wording suggests Saul could have been going to the bathroom when David cut his robe...and David regrets even taking a sword to his robe...because he honors God, Saul's position (even though David was anointed, Saul was in power), and his relationship with Saul.

Shem and Japheth loved their father.

24-27

Noah awoke and knew (perceived)

Noah figured out what had happened. Maybe it was the blanket from Shem's couch? Maybe the room was messed up and he vaguely remembered Ham walking in?

Getting woken up by Mia the other night, half asleep, realized she was there.

Curses were a big deal. Family blessing on first born (Jacob & Esau anyone?)

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem

Shem got it. He had a relationship with God.

The middle put down to serve them all.

The youngest raised up, but still under the blessing of his brother.

Perhaps Shem had become the spiritual head of the family.

His faith surpassed his father's. Parents, are we willing to listen when our children share things of the Lord with us? Are we able to submit to their spiritual authority as adults?

I want to go far in the Lord, all the way...and yet, one day, I hope my kids surpass me. But I know, even if they did, they would still honor their mom and I.

Exo 20:12 NKJV - "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

Ham's dishonoring of his father cut his life blessing. Shem and Japheth's honoring their father blessed them.

28-29

350 more years. Half of his life from before the flood would be again after the flood.

You might be old, but there's still plenty of time left to live it.

With that...Where are you today? With god? With your life and struggles? With alcohol even? Are you trying to escape? Are you burdened and depressed and downtrodden? Alcohol won't help. That thing you want to do to escape won't help. But God will. God still has his eye on you. His hand out to you. Will you take it?

Where are those around you? Are they struggling? Are they hurting? Are they just making foolish mistakes? Love them. Cover them. Honor them. Lift them up to the Lord of your life. *(When people are our Lord we'll expose others and ourselves to them in a dishonorable way)*