New Beginnings and Old Problems

Genesis 9:18-28
June 1, 2025

- **THE BIG IDEA:** The righteous judgment of God destroyed all but 8 people and most of the animal world. In perfect mercy and grace of God chose Noah and his family for salvation and a new beginning for the world, but sin was still present. The fallen nature and sinful hearts of people mean we will always stand in need of a Savior. Only in Christ can we be saved.

Genesis 9:18-29 (ESV)

9 18 The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham,
and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) 19 These three were the
sons of Noah, and *from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed*.
20 Noah began to be *a man of the soil*, and he planted a vineyard. 21 He
drank of the wine and became ***drunk*** and *lay uncovered* in his tent.
22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and
told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment,
laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the
nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they
did not see their father's nakedness. 24 When Noah awoke from his wine
and knew what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said,
"Cursed be Canaan;
a servant of servants shall he 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*."
28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years.

FOREVER LESSONS FROM NOAH'S FINAL YEARS:

1. You're never too old to be foolish and make sinful choices. To state it positively, the older I get the more vigilant I need to be in guarding my mind and heart.
   - There is a prideful overconfidence that comes with age which, if we are not careful, sets us up for great falls. We can think we're beyond certain sins.
2. We're most vulnerable to sin when we've survived the tests and conflicts and now the pressure is off and we don't think people are watching us.
3. There are many ways to sin.
   - The father sins in drunkenness and failure in self-control.
   - The son sins in a perverse delight in the sins of his father, in failing to respectfully help his father with his sin, and in gossiping to others ABOUT his father's sin.
4. Our sin needs to be covered. Not covered up, but covered. They need to be dealt with, paid for, and forgiven. Only Jesus can do this. He is the ultimate covering for our sin. He is "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).
5. The Gospel has always been God's plan to save people.
   - † The plan was first announced in the Garden when God said a descendant of the woman (Eve) will one day crush the head of the Serpent.
   - † Noah hints at the Gospel plan when he says there is room for God's blessing on the descendants of Japheth when they come into the tents of Shem.
   - † God promised salvation to Abraham as He made his family and descendants His people, a nation who would be a light to all other nations.
   - † Galatians 3:6-9; 29
   - † Colossians 3:11
   - † Are you "in Christ"? Have you come into the tents of God's blessing, been adopted by the Father, and reconciled to God through the work of His Son Jesus?

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1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered. Psalm 32:1

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)