

Saved but Still a Sinner

Genesis 9:18-29

Galatians 5:16-26; Romans 7:7-25



31 July 2022

Pressing Forward into 2022

- Are we growing as Disciples? (2 Peter 3:17-18)
- Disciples read, study, memorize and meditate (1 Timothy 4:13-15)

What We Learnt Last Week

- The long-suffering of God should move us to salvation (2 Peter 3:15).
- The Ark: A Picture of Christ (Matthew 26:39, 42)
- God initiates a covenant with Noah and every living creature (Genesis 9:1-17).

Comparison of the first creation story and Noah's

- Genesis 9 brings before us a new beginning and as we study, we revert to the first "beginning" of the human race through Adam. The story of Noah and the flood follows the same shape as the original creation story (Genesis 1-2; Genesis 6).
- Noah is basically "a new Adam" - a new creation story, after the fall of mankind. God resets the world with the flood and starts over with a new earth and a new "Adam".
- God is using Noah as a picture to unfold His eternal purpose.
- It is an account of God's grace and salvation.
- A careful comparison of the two reveals that there is a most extraordinary resemblance in the history of Noah with that of Adam.
- In **Genesis 1:2**, the waters cover the earth. In **Genesis 7:19-24**, the floodwaters "prevail" on the earth for 150 days before they recede.
- In **Genesis 1:3-31**, God breathes/speaks, and creation obeys. In **Genesis 8:1**, God blows (his breath) over the waters and they recede.
- In **Genesis 1:9**, God makes waters recede and dry land appears. In **Genesis 8:3**, God makes waters recede and dry land appears.
- In **Genesis 1:28**, God tells Adam and Eve to be fruitful, to multiply and fill the earth. In **Genesis 9:1,7**, God tells Noah and his family to be fruitful, to multiply and fill the earth.
- In **Genesis 2:4-25**, Adam is tending the earth, in a state of obedience and harmony with God. In **Genesis 8-9**, Noah is offering sacrifices to God. He is planting his vineyard, in a state of obedience and harmony with God.
- In **Genesis 3:6**, Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit. They sin. In **Genesis 9:21**, Noah abuses the fruit of his harvest, becoming drunk. He sins.

- In **Genesis 3:7**, Adam and Eve become "naked." They feel shameful because their sin is exposed to God. In **Genesis 9:21**, Noah is uncovered and naked in his tent. He is ashamed when his nakedness is exposed to his son.
- In **Genesis 3:1-5**, the serpent exposed Adam and Eve to shame. In **Genesis 9:22**, Noah's son Ham exposes Noah to shame.
- In **Genesis 3:21**, God covers the shame of Adam and Eve by shedding blood of an innocent animal to make them garments to hide their nakedness. In **Genesis 9:23**, Noah's other two sons, Shem and Japheth, cover the shame of Noah by placing a garment over his nakedness.
- Adam had **three named sons** -Cain, Abel and Seth, the last of which was the one through whom the promised Seed came; Noah also had **three sons** - Japheth, Ham and Shem, the last mentioned being the one from whom descended the Messiah and Saviour (Genesis 5:4; 6:10; Luke 3:23-38).
- What happened to the **serpent** in Genesis 3 after he uncovered the nakedness of Adam and Eve? God curses the serpent (Genesis 3:14-15).
- What happens to **Ham** in Genesis 9 after he uncovers the nakedness of Noah? Noah curses Ham's son, Canaan (Genesis 9:25-27).
- Genesis 9 deals with the beginning of a new dispensation, and like those, which preceded it and those which followed it, this also starts with failure. Whatever the test may be, man is unable to stand. Thus, history repeats itself.
- For whatever things were written before were written for our learning (Romans 15:4a).

Noah's fall (vv20-21)

- After such a merciful deliverance from the flood, after witnessing such a solemn demonstration of God's holy wrath against sin, and after being started out with full provision and divine assurance, one would have supposed that the human race, ever after, would adhere to the path of righteousness - but that was not it.
- The very next thing we read is that: *And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent* (Genesis 9:20-21).
- Drunkenness and nakedness are always presented in the Bible in a shameful light (Genesis 9:21; Jeremiah 51:39; Lamentations 4:21; Habakkuk 2:15; Ephesians 5:18; 2 Samuel 11:13)
- This is the first mention of wine in the Bible, and it's not a pretty picture. A godly man like Noah fell due to its consumption resulting in shame, a curse and slavery (Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:21; Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:20; Proverbs 23:29-35; Isaiah 5:22; 1 Corinthians 6:10).
- The Bible repeatedly warns us of the dangers of drinking and condemns drunkenness as a deed of the flesh, warning that the one who practices it will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:21; Isaiah 5:11).

- In many passages, those who are set apart for service to God were instructed to totally abstain from alcohol (Judges 13:4; Leviticus 10:9; Luke 1:15; Proverbs 31:4-5).
- However, we are not to sit in judgment upon Noah, rather let us "consider ourselves, lest we also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 12:1-2).
- Notice, there is one thing which did not drown in the flood! And that was **SIN**.
MEDITATE!
- Sin was riding in the ark, in the nature of Noah and his family. Sin survived the flood in them. It was a new earth, but it was the same old humanity.
- **And when they walked off the ark, sin walked off the ark; and when they stepped into the new world, sin stepped into the new world within them (Gen 8:21). The flood cleanses the world; it did not cleanse human hearts.**
- Our hope should only be in CHRIST. Unless God cleans the inside, washing the outside is useless (Matthew 23:25-26).
- Noah was a righteous man by the grace of God and received the mercy of God.
- Regardless of Noah's righteousness, wisdom or age, sin still found him. Age was no guarantee against sin (Romans 7:18-20).

Noah's Prophecy (vv. 25-27)

- When Noah awakes from his sleep, he speaks prophetically: Canaan, the son of Ham, is cursed severely, while Shem and Japheth are blessed.
- The real issue here is that Ham went out and told his brothers, revealing something about his heart (Proverbs 17:1). Whoever covers an offense seeks love.
- He dishonoured his father, breaking the fifth commandment. If Ham had loved his father he would have covered his nakedness (Proverbs 17:9); but Ham humiliates his father by making his shame public.
- Warning: The devil is an accuser, slanderer, gossip. Also seen in the Garden of Eden. Ham imitates the devil!
- Shem and Japheth cover their father's shame. (Proverbs 19:11; Psalms 103:5). Similarly, God had covered the shame of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. They imitate God. God does not treat us according to our sins (Psalms 103:10). This is the Glorious Gospel!
- Canaan's hate-filled, rebellious and sexually depraved behaviour was passed on to his descendants, the Canaanites (Leviticus 18; Genesis 15:16).
- Japheth's descendants were to be blessed: they would spread out through the world and eventually to be brought into the tents of Shem.
- Many of us are descendants of Ham and Japheth who have joined the blessed line of Shem through Christ (Isaiah 54:2-3; Romans 11:17).
- It is so glorious to understand that God used Noah made this prophecy. God had us in mind. This is the Glorious gospel. Hallelujah!

Learning from Noah's fall and prophecy

1. Even the most prominent characters of the Bible sinned. For example, David, Moses, Job - for our learning (Romans 15:4; Proverbs 4:23; Romans 3:23).
2. Man, at his best estate is altogether vanity-totally depraved. Whatever the test may be, man is unable to stand. Man is essentially "evil" (Matthew 7:11) and it is only in CHRIST that we can find refuge - by becoming "a new creation" (Galatians 6:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
3. No experience of God's mercies in the past can deliver us from exposure to new temptations in the future (1 Corinthians 10:11; Galatians 6:1, 2 Peter 3:17-18).
4. We should never underestimate the power of the flesh no matter how long we have been walking with God (Proverbs 14:15; Jude 1:24; Colossians 2:8; Matthew 16:6). Our past godliness is not a guarantee of our future godliness.
5. We need to cover the offenses of others in love. Cover the weaknesses and sins of others. Love covers a multitude of sin. God's love for us is shown in the cross of Christ; only God can cover our sin and shame (1 Peter 4:7-8; Ezekiel 16:8-13).
6. We are to honour our parents - first commandment with a promise (Exodus 20:12).
7. In the closing verses of Genesis 9, nothing whatever save his death is recorded about Noah after his terrible fall. The last three hundred years of his life are a blank! We are to run the race so as to win! (1 Corinthians 9:27; Psalms 92:11).

How are we to escape falling like Noah?

- WATCH and PRAY that we may not enter not into temptation. We must always be on guard. We must always be alert - Romans 7:18-20; 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 26:41.
- Repent continuously and turn to CHRIST. He is our only hope and refuge - Acts 17:30-31; 20:21; Luke 13:1-5; 24:47.
- Believe and heed God's warnings in HIS word - 1 Corinthians 10:12.
- LOVE God - obey HIS commandments. Obey everything that God teaches us - Matthew 28:20; Revelations 4:9-11.
- Guard our hearts with all diligence. We are not immune from sin or temptations. Sin is always crouching at the door, but we should overcome it - Proverbs 4:23; 2 Peter 1:10-11; Genesis 4:7.
- TRUST in the LORD with all of our hearts. Only God can cover our sin and shame - Ezekiel 16:8-13; Proverbs 3:5-7.

Where we are going in 2022

- Next week Nicholas - God Opposes the Proud