



Women's Bible Study

In the later half of chapter 9 we will look at three divisions of mankind and a dangerous trait that infects society which will help us understand what is going on in our society today. There are three families of mankind, headed by Shem, Ham and Japheth. The divisions are hinted at in the order of the names of the sons of Noah. The way things are listed in the Bible is very often important. In the normal Hebrew listing of the name of a man's sons would be given in chronological order, beginning with the eldest. It seems likely that Japheth was the oldest son. So the order ought to be Japheth, Shem, Ham. But when referred to in scripture together, it is always, "Shem, Ham, and Japheth". The explanation is given in the prophecy a bit later in the chapter.

Notice we are told that Ham was the father of Canaan. Scripture places a spotlight on a significant episode in the life of Ham. Also notice that the events of the later half of Chapter 9 take place some time after the flood, where enough time has passed to plant, grow and harvest a vineyard. Remember that Noah's sons, pre-flood, lived in a society wrought with corruption and violence as they were old enough to have wives when they entered the ark.

Re-read Genesis chapter 9:18-29, then chapter 10, answer the following questions:

Observation:

1. What do you notice about Noah in chapter 9, what are some new concepts introduced here?
2. What were the actions of Ham?
3. What were the actions of Shem and Japheth in contrast to the actions of Ham, what does that tell you about the character of the three boys?

4. Study the Table of Nations below.



Interpretation:

5. What was Ham's sin in 9:22 that brought on him a serious curse from Noah? (use your bible's cross-references, Bible dictionaries and commentaries to understand this)

6. What does the Table of Nations tell you about the "line of promise".

7. What is the purpose of the genealogies?

Application:

1. What do the actions of Ham and the penalty for his actions tell you about today's culture? Is there anything new in today's culture?

2. Considering the Table of Nations, do you see reasons for the state of the world today?

3. Considering what you know about God so far from Genesis chapter 1 through chapter 10 what hope do we have for the future?

[Gen 9:18-29 NET]

18 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Now Ham was the father of Canaan.)

19 These were the sons of Noah, and from them the whole earth was populated. 20 Noah, a man of the soil, began to plant a vineyard.

21 When he drank some of the wine, he got drunk and uncovered himself inside his tent.

22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers who were outside.

23 Shem and Japheth took the garment and placed it on their shoulders. Then they walked in backwards and covered up their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so they did not see their father's nakedness.

24 When Noah awoke from his drunken stupor he learned what his youngest son had done to him.

25 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves he will be to his brothers."

26 He also said, "Worthy of praise is the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem!

27 May God enlarge Japheth's territory and numbers! May he live in the tents of Shem and may Canaan be his slave!"

28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years.

29 The entire lifetime of Noah was 950 years, and then he died.

Gen 10:1-32 NET

1 This is the account of Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood.

2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

3 The sons of Gomer were Askenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittim, and the Dodanim.

5 From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to its language, according to their families, by their nations.

6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

8 Cush was the father of Nimrod; he began to be a valiant warrior on the earth.

9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. (That is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD.")

10 The primary regions of his kingdom were Babel, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh in the land of Shinar.

11 From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah,

12 and Resen, which is between Nineveh and the great city Calah.

13 Mizraim was the father of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites,

14 Pathrusites, Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came), and Caphtorites.

15 Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, Heth,

16 the Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites,

17 Hivites, Arkites, Sinites,

18 Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites. Eventually the families of the Canaanites were scattered

19 and the borders of Canaan extended from Sidon all the way to Gerar as far as Gaza, and all the way to Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

20 These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, and by their nations.

21 And sons were also born to Shem (the older brother of Japheth), the father of all the sons of Eber.

22 The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

23 The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

24 Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah was the father of Eber.

25 Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg because in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan.

26 Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.

30 Their dwelling place was from Mesha all the way to Sephar in the eastern hills.

31 These are the sons of Shem according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, and according to their nations.

32 These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations, and from these the nations spread over the earth after the flood.