

A CALL TO VIGILANCE!
GENESIS CH9:18-29

ILLUSTRATION

What do we know about Noah?

1. Noah is from the line of Seth, Adam's 3rd son!
2. Noah's father is Lamech, and Noah's name means "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands".
3. Noah found favour in God's eyes, and Noah was deemed a righteous and blameless man in his generation.
4. Noah is asked by God to build an ark, which took over 100 years to build.
5. Noah coming out of the ark offered burnt offerings, the most costly of all offerings, to God.
6. God made a covenant with Noah and the sign of that covenant is the rainbow.

What a guy! Kent Hughes puts it like this "The Biblical picture of Noah and his family standing resplendent in the sunlight of the new world as the ark's animal life emerged by families was given in the slow-motion style of Hebrew epic repetition so that it would impress our imaginations. It represented a new beginning, with magnificent Noah as the human centrepiece. And Noah was magnificent indeed. The first thing he did was build an altar to the Lord and sacrifice burnt offerings, signifying the complete giving of his life to God. The aroma of Noah's total commitment pleased God. God then blessed Noah, calling for him to multiply so that his offering would again fill the earth. The sacredness of human life was affirmed. Lastly, God established a covenant with Noah, promising that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood. The sign of the covenant was a shimmering rainbow, 'my bow' as God literally termed it" (Kent Hughes, Commentary on Genesis, pg149).

NOAH'S SIN! V18-23

Noah is now over 600 years old (living until he is 950 years old), a man "advanced" in years, an experienced man! But whilst at home (v21), he gets drunk on wine and gets himself naked! His youngest son (v22 + v24) sees him, and cannot wait to make fun of him, by calling his older brothers (Ch10:21) both Shem and Japheth!

However, they both go to great lengths (v23) to ensure that they do not sin against their father, grabbing a garment, facing backwards, placing the garment on their shoulders, walk backwards (v23) to cover their father's nakedness! What are the similarities between Gen Ch3 and here?

<i>Adam blessed by God!</i>	-	<i>Noah blessed by God!</i>
<i>Adam sins with fruit!</i>	-	<i>Noah sins with fruit!</i>
<i>Adam is naked!</i>	-	<i>Noah is naked!</i>
<i>Adam is covered by a garment!</i>	-	<i>Noah is covered by a garment!</i>

These are the only recorded words of Noah (v25-v27) 3 verses out of 97 verses, despite him being the main character from Ch6 - Ch9!

NOAH'S CURSE! V24-25

Without God, Noah has no human power to curse, only if the Lord acts! Sin is still a huge issue for Man! Noah gets drunk and Ham breaks what will be the 5th Commandment! Noah when he wakes, from his drunken stupor, curses HAM! NOPE! He curses Canaan, Ham's 4th youngest son (Ch10:6).

WHY? 5 times in 12 verses (Can you find them?), the word "Canaan" is used by Moses in this passage. Remember God is talking to Moses at the top of Mount Sinai, and Moses writes the first 5 books of the Bible, narrated by God. Where are the Israelites at this moment, at base camp! And where have they just left, and where are they going to?
EGYPT + CANAAN!

Why curse Canaan and not Ham? We need to have an overview of Leviticus Ch18, where in 30 verses, 22 times the word "nakedness" is used for the understanding of a sexual relationship! Noah, I would suggest is prophesying! God allows Noah to have future insight into how the Canaanite people will be a constant thorn in Israel's side!

NOAH'S BLESSINGS! V26-29

Look at the phrase that Noah uses in v26, who does he bless? The Lord!!! He uses God's personal name! God blesses the animals (Ch1:22), mankind (Ch1:28), the Sabbath (Ch2:3), Adam (Ch5:2), and Noah (Ch9:1), but here Noah blesses God. When God blesses, the blessing carries a promise that what God has blessed carries a divine promise that cannot be broken. God's blessing brings "success and goodness" to the human.

Noah is blessing the Lord for being the God of Shem, and is asking God to answer his blessing, as Noah does not have the power to bless in that sense, he is asking God to bring about what he is saying, and God does! ***Divine blessing brings about God's benevolent work in the life of the human!*** This is the first intimation that the line of God's election is going through Shem!

We are then told that Noah, aged 950 died, importantly, unlike the others mentioned in Genesis Ch5, Noah did not father any more children!

APPLICATION

Let's be vigilant in our advanced years, especially at home, where, we are not always seen!

Let's think about how God's blessing, every day, in our lives is God bringing acts of goodness and kindness to us, whilst working through His redemptive and transformative work.