

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MARCH 30, 2022

GENESIS 9.24-29

INTRODUCTION:

1. A miracle is, by definition, something that cannot be explained by science. (Num. 16.28-30)
 - a) Yet we try to rationalize and explain away miracles by trying to fit them into the realm of science; e.g., creation, the flood, the resurrection of Christ.
 - b) How can we explain events which happen outside of scientific explanation? (Jer. 32.17,27)
 - c) Consider some examples. (Gen. 18.13,14; Luke 1.35-37)
2. Genesis 9 concludes with the curse of Canaan explaining the historical significance of the land of Canaan later possessed by the Israelites.

I. THE CURSE OF CANAAN

- A. **GENESIS 9.24:** *“So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.”* The character of Ham is contrasted with Shem and Japheth. (vs. 22,23)
 1. **GENESIS 9.25:** *“Then he said: ‘Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.’”*
 2. Curses are wishes of harm to come from God against another.
 - a) We are commanded not to curse others. (Matt. 5.43,44; Rom. 12.14; James 3.8-12)
 - b) God curses those who do not obey Him. (Gen. 3.14,17; 4.11; Deut. 11.26-28)
 - c) The example of Balaam. (Num. 22.5,6,12,18,19,37,38; 24.10-13; Deut. 23.5)
 3. Why was Canaan cursed?
 - a) **MATTHEW 9.24:** *“Noah... knew what his younger son had done to him.”*
 - b) The curse was a consequence to the sin of Ham in contrast to the respect shown by Japheth and Shem. (Gen. 9.22,23)
- B. The fulfillment of the curse.
 1. Noah had foreseen the consequences of Canaan’s learned behavior which would be passed down through the generations. (Lev. 18.24-28; 20.23)
 2. As a consequence of their behavior, they’re descendants became the servants of the Israelites. (Deut. 9.3; Judges 4.23; Josh. 9.25; 1 Kings 9.21,22)

II. THE BLESSING OF SHEM AND JAPHETH

- A. The blessing of Shem.
 1. **GENESIS 9.26:** *“And he said: ‘Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.’”* Noah blesses God who is the God of Shem. (cf. Deut. 33.20)
 2. Who are the descendants of Shem? (Gen. 11.10,26; Luke 3.36; Rom. 11.1)
 3. The fulfillment of the blessing of Shem was the inheritance of the land of Canaan given to the children of Israel. (Gen. 17.4-8; Josh. 1.27-33)
 4. The descendants of Canaan were either driven out of the land of Canaan or remained servants of the Israelites. (Gen. 10.15-18; 15.18-21; Num. 13.27-29)
- B. The blessing of Japheth.
 1. **GENESIS 9.27:** *“May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.”* (Japheth – “enlargement.”)
 2. Who are the descendants of Japheth? Nothing is known biblically about the descendants of Japheth. Historically, the Europeans; i.e., Romans, Greeks, French.
 3. **GENESIS 10.5:** *“From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language”*