

# The Sin of Ham and the Curse of Canaan

*Genesis 9:18-29*

## Understanding the Story

- After the flood Noah planted a vineyard and made some wine.
- Noah became drunk and he lay naked in his tent.
- Ham saw his father's nakedness and told his brothers Shem and Japheth. *Habakkuk 2:15*
- Shem and Japheth covered their father by walking backward with a blanket and covered Noah in the tent.

## Beware of Guessing

- There is no biblical evidence that Ham did anything to Noah other than look upon his nakedness.
- We must be careful to only say what Scripture says. God is his own interpreter.

## Noah and Wine

- This account takes place in the pre-Mosaic Law era. Drunkenness may have been against the Oral Law of God but we have no biblical evidence to support this.
- Scripture makes not evaluation of Noah's drunkenness.
- The drinking of wine is a non-issue in the New Covenant era under the Law of Christ.
- Drunkenness is sin in the New Covenant era version of God's law. *Galatians 5:19-21*
- There is no clear statement on drunkenness in the Mosaic Law.
- During the Old Covenant era wine is viewed as something that makes the heart glad and is a gift from God. *Psalms 104:15*

## Understanding Ham's Sin

- We do know that as a result of the fall nakedness became a source of shame for Adam and Eve. Nakedness became visible evidence that Adam and Eve had sinned. *Genesis 3:10*
- In the case of Ham and his father Noah we must be careful not to read into this account more than we should.
- The issue seems to be that Ham showed disrespect to his father by viewing his nakedness and telling his brothers about it. *Deuteronomy 27:16, Deuteronomy 5:16, Ephesians 6:1-3*

## The Curse on Canaan

- It is quite clear that Ham did the sinning yet his son Canaan was the one cursed.
- Since we all deserve to be in hell because of Adam's sin our God is just in punishing Canaan for his Father's sin.
- In the New Covenant era everyone will be blamed for own sin. *Jeremiah 31:27-30*
- The descendants of Canaan will be slaves to the descendants of Shem. This was realized when Israel conquered the land of Canaan, the Promised Land.
- This can also be seen in the curse on the descendants of Esau versus the descendants of Jacob. *Malachi 1:1-5*
- Not only would Canaanites be the slaves of the Shemites, but they would also be the slaves of the Japhethites.
- The wickedness of the Canaanites was legendary, which was the evidence that God had rejected them. *Leviticus 18:24-30, Deuteronomy 12:29-32*

**Our God is Always Right**

- The God of Scripture cannot be blamed for the sin of anyone. *1 John 1:5*
- The God of Scripture plans out all things in conformity with his all wise will. *Ephesians 1:11*