

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Unstoppable God **Genesis 9:18 - 10:32**

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SermonAudio Blurb: The flood is done, fields are planted, the family of Noah is growing and becoming established again on the earth. And having just survived the full wrath of God upon humanity we see sin come back into their lives with great ease. And as they multiply the nations of the earth are formed and into those people groups all of us are found. But in one, Israel, is found the promised Seed and nothing will stop the will of God to bring His promises to fruition.

I. Introduction.

- A. Read 9:18-29; 10:1, 32.
- B. Two story lines, one flowing into the other exist here.
 - 1. The first is a quick glimpse into the life of this family and the reality of the abiding presence of sin.
 - 2. This leads to a blessing and cursing of the sons of Noah that sets up the famous, or infamous, chapter often called the Table of Nations where we see the spread of humanity after the flood.
- C. But in all of this data and names and places is an underlying lesson on the profound unstoppable power of God who is our Creator and Sustainer.
 - 1. We saw it in Genesis 1-2 with the creation of all things. Then in Genesis 6-8 in the wiping out of all living things through the flood. Then in Genesis 9 the edict that never again shall the earth flood like this.
 - 2. And now, even in the reality of spiritual forces who wage war against His plan and the constant state of rebellion of humanity, the purposes and plan of God inexorably move forward.
 - 3. Never forget that from the very beginning there is and continues to be a hidden war that is playing itself out before us daily.
 - a. It started in the Garden.
 - b. Then with Cain and Abel.

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- c. Then in the sons of God and daughters of men.
- d. And now in the life of Noah's son Ham.

II. The Cursing and Blessing of Noah's Sons (9:18-29).

A. Cursing.

1. The cause.

- a. It is worth noting that this passage leaves us with many questions that God is simply not willing to answer for us. So it is a good challenge for us to simply deal with what is actually revealed and leave the guessing to a minimum.
- b. Time has passed but we are not given any sense of how long. It takes time to plant grapes and get them to the point of harvest and then wine-making.
- c. We have some language here that is not clear at all. It is uncertain what happened with regard to Noah, but that is because what happened to Noah is NOT the point.
- d. In some way Noah was uncovered and that is sufficient to the story. The point of the story is how Ham handled it.
- e. He was unfaithful to his father. He disrespected him; failing to show him proper honor.
- f. The bible does not hide the ugliness of moral failure in the lives of men and women used by God. But it does show how even in and through their failings His purposes are unstoppable.
- g. This concern for the parents by their children is something that our Western culture really doesn't grasp well.
 - (1) Loyalty to your parents was a supreme virtue and is still that way in many parts of the world.
 - (2) It is something that is built into the fabric of humanity but we have managed to be in great rebellion against it in this country of ours. It is not merely a manmade idea, it belongs to God.

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- (3) This is even seen in the Mosaic Law which is carried into the New Testament where God says to honor our mother and father.
 - (4) In fact in Romans 1 one of the great sins to which people are delivered over to is being disobedient to their parents.
 - (5) Verse 22 tells us what Ham did and therefore also what he did not do.
 - (a) He looked and then he went and spoke about it. This was what was wrong.
 - (b) He saw his father in an immodest way. And he dishonored him by not covering him physically and not covering it by way of his speech.
 - (c) Instead he goes and speaks to his brothers about it. It appears that he was making fun of his father, speaking in an inappropriate way.
2. The result.
- a. Verse 24-25.
 - b. Notice that the curse is not upon Ham but upon his son Canaan. Now this has caused no end of discussion as to why this is so.
 - (1) The reason for this is simply not given so we must be careful assuming too much.
 - (2) Exodus 20:5 says that the sins of the father is visited upon the children and that may be the issue.
 - (3) Or it is like the people of Edom who at some point stood by and rejoiced over Jerusalem being attacked. The end result is many years later Obadiah pronounces doom upon the nation and even later it is fulfilled.
 - (4) But this goes all the way back to Genesis 25 and the twins, Esau and Jacob in the womb of Rebekah and the prophecy, “two nations are in your womb.”
 - (5) Regardless it is Canaan that receives the curse and as you read the bible you see that the Canaanites richly earned it.

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3. The curse is that he will be the lowest of slaves to his brothers. The bible does not say when this occurred so we cannot speak any more on this curse.

B. Blessing.

1. The cause.
 - a. Verse 23.
 - b. Note the difference in writing between that of Ham and now the other two.
 - (1) Ham's is given little space, very short and terse.
 - (2) But now with the two faithful sons the writing style slows down and becomes very distinct and even repetitious.
 - (3) What is happening is God is telling us to appreciate their behavior.
 - c. They hear of their father's shame and you don't find them mocking, dishonoring, or snickering about it.
 - d. They go into the tent backward, they cover and they did not see.
 - e. The way this is written gives us a chance to consider the modesty and honor these two sons had.
 - (1) Very awkward. But very concerned for the propriety of their father.
 - (2) To the young people here, I say you ought to consider this. Have nothing to do with speaking ill of your parents. Do not be a young man or woman who is disrespectful.
 - (3) Take care that you do not come under the curse of God because you dishonor them. The command and promise is still in effect today according the Ephesians 6.
2. The result—Noah blesses his sons.
 - a. In verse 26 there seems to be an implication that Shem was a man who followed God. It says “the God of Shem,” Shem's God in other words.
 - (1) He was not just a good son.

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- (2) He was a man who loved God himself.
- b. With regard to Japheth, Noah calls on his tent to be enlarged.
 - (1) God is saying through Noah's blessing, that the people of Japheth's lineage shall be great and broad.
 - (2) I will show you in just a moment but understand that America is part of the lineage of Japheth. In fact many of the great nations of the world throughout history have come through the line of Japheth.
 - (3) This is good to hear for we often forget that it is God who raises up and brings down nations. In Acts 17 it is written that God establishes the boundaries of every nation.
 - (4) **Our blessing as a nation does not come from our skills, military might, or wealth. It came thousands of years ago when the man Japheth was faithful to honor his father.**
- c. But there is an interesting point in verse 27, "May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant."
- d. Notice that Japheth shall be enlarged, but there is an additional blessing attached here. He shall dwell in the tents of Shem.
 - (1) Doesn't mean that his descendants shall be somehow subjugated to Shem's.
 - (2) Rather it is found in chapter 11:10ff where we find that through Shem's line would come Israel and Jesus Christ.
 - (3) And basically what is happening here is that God is saying to Japheth that his descendants will be allowed to partake in this rich blessing that Shem's people will have.

III. Table of Nations (10:1-32).

- A. Here is a passage that is often ignored but is actually very important and worthy of our time. If we believe the bible then this genealogy traces the entirety of the human race to their roots.

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1. My goal in this is to give you a bit of a glimpse into human history and how we, and our ancestors came about.
 2. Each of us have one of these three men as our ancestor and as you look at the rest of the bible you can begin to see how some of this plays itself.
- B. Japheth—Father of the Indo-European peoples.
1. Though it is not often known, the languages of both the East, starting in the area of India and moving Eastward, and the West, starting in Europe are actually connected linguistically.
 - a. They all belong to the same large block of language families.
 - b. To be a serious linguistic student you must go and learn Sanskrit in India, which is a very old language that helps them see the connections.
 - c. What is also interesting is how the name of Japheth, not to mention his sons' names, have been preserved in these various people groups and languages, though it is not always obvious to a non-linguist.
 - d. I read a rather large book that did nothing but trace the lineage of Japheth up to the modern day. It was both fascinating and boring at the same time.
 2. Gomer.
 - a. This is where the word 'Germany' got its name. History tells us that his family settled in the Black Sea (where is now Turkey and the Ukraine) and then expanded into Europe.
 - (1) They became known as the Gauls in France, Galacia in Spain and Celts in Briton. All three of these names have the three consonant name G-M-R.
 - (2) History shows the use of what was called Gomerland which later became Cumberland and also Ireland.
 - b. His sons.
 - (1) Ashkenaz settled north of Palestine. The Greek writer, Homer speaks of Lake Ascanius and the people of the area are the Askaeni.

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- (2) Riphath, little is known.
 - (3) Togarmah is where the Armenians came from. His name is where the countries Turkey and Turkestan got theirs.
3. Magog, Tubal, and Meshech gave us Russia.
 - a. Magog may mean the place of Gog.
 - b. Tubal and Meshech have their names preserved in the names Moscow and Tobolsk, which is on the Tobol River.
 4. Madai (4-5) is the father of the Medes who settled in what is now Persia. His family also moved into what is now India.
 5. Javan fathered the Greek people. The Greeks in ancient days were known as the Yavan or Ionian people.
 - a. Elishah's name is built into the name Helle, which is where we get the name Hellenist.
 - b. Tarshish is a city where Jonah tried to flee to. It appears to be in the area of Spain.
 - c. Kittim is found in the name Cyprus.
 - d. Rodanim is found in the name Rhodes.
 6. Tiras, became the ancestor of the Thracians. They lived in what is now Italy and became part of the Roman Empire.
 7. What we see with this is that the blessing on Japheth to be enlarged was truly fulfilled. His lineage covered all of Europe and much of Asia.
- C. Ham—he settled in what is known as Africa and the far east, the Orient.
1. Not a lot can be found with Ham.
 2. Cush became a name for Ethiopia and also there is a Cush in Arabia. It appears that Cush's family split into two distinct groups at some point. Many of his sons' names can be found in sites in Arabia.
 3. Put became Lybia.
 4. Canaan settled into the land that became the promised land of Israel.
 - a. Part of this people group where the Hittites who descended from Heth were a powerful empire that was in what is now Turkey.

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They were in Canaan when Abraham was around and even with King Solomon.

- b. It appears that when the Hittite kingdom fell the remnants fled into what is now China.
- c. There are many similarities between the Mongols of China and the ancient Hittites.
- d. The Sinites have claims on the Orient as well.
 - (1) Their father Sin was apparently very powerful and even deified. Sennacherib means “May the god Sin prosper the brothers.”
 - (2) In Ur, where Abraham comes from, Sin had been deified as well and was given the title “Lord of Laws.” It was believed that he was the one who gave laws to both heaven and earth.
 - (3) In fact, there is good evidence that this is a consistent theme with the Hamites, the desire and tendency to deify their ancestors.
 - (4) This is where we get the word Sinai as well.
 - (5) When you get to China you find derivatives of the word Sin to be commonplace.
5. The evidence points that those settled in the Americas came from the Far Eastern lands with a mixing in of those in the African lands—all of which were of Ham’s lineage.
6. The first mention of the word “Kingdom” also appears with regard to Ham (8-12).
 - a. It was Nimrod who was a great leader and the idea of him being a mighty man, a might hunter is believed to speak of his warrior lifestyle. He was a fighter, not just of animals but of men.
 - b. He was a man who sought to go against God as the story of the tower of Babel shows us.
 - c. But he also apparently founded many major cities, Babylon and Nineveh being two of them. A kingdom made by a man and for a

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man. Not a kingdom built upon a love and fear of God, but of a hatred of God.

7. We don't see in history an immediate effect of the curse on Canaan. This was held until the conquest of Canaan by Israel.
 - a. This will be talked about in my next sermon with the tower of Babel, but suffice it to say that the people of Canaan seemed bent on disproving this curse. Nimrod being a good example of it.
 - b. They weren't going to be anyone's servant; rather, they would be the great conquerors of the earth. But history shows that when it was time, their fall came and it was great.

D. Shem.

1. We find that Japheth was the oldest and Shem was number two (21).
 - a. He is the last to be dealt with because it is with his lineage that the rest of Genesis will be dealing with. However it is also only minimally dealt with here.
 - b. When you look at the lineage of Ham, the name Nimrod stands out and when you look at Shem, the name Peleg stands out.
2. Elam.
 - a. Father of the Elamites.
 - b. Abraham actually has to fight the king of Elam in Genesis 14 to rescue Lot.
 - c. They later merged with the Medes (founded by Japhethites) to form the Medo-Persian Empire
3. Asshur founded the Assyrians. They were raided by Nimrod, according to verse 11 and it was there that he built Nineveh.
4. Lud probably as the father of the Lydians who were in Asia Minor.
5. Aram is the father of the Aramaeans. We know them as the Syrians. Their language is what we know as Aramaic and it is found in the OT (Parts of Daniel and Ezra), spoken by Christ and was common in His days in the Palestine area.
6. Peleg (25).

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- a. His name means divided.
- b. It possibly is in reference to the scattering of the world's population in chapter 11.

IV. Conclusion.

- A. So what do we do with all of this? It is what I said at the beginning, it reminds us that though wave after wave of people come and go that the will of the Lord is unstoppable.
- B. Sin is in the hearts of all of us. It is easy to look at another's sin but it is our own for which we are held accountable.
 1. Noah and his children saw the raw power of God's judicial wrath. They knew first hand of how He hates sin.
 2. But Noah becomes drunk, Ham sins against his father and their children continue down the path of folly and sin.
 3. We see in this that without the work of the Holy Spirit in converting the soul that nothing changes in us. At the core we are sick and desperately wicked.
 4. Though the earth was wiped clean through the Flood the raw power of sin remained. It dwelt in the hearts of Noah and his family. And it only takes a short time to see it manifest itself again after the flood. Wrath and justice do not save; grace saves.
- C. But in all of this God's purposes are served and God continues to move toward the promise of the One who would destroy Satan.
- D. In the three sons of Noah all the powers and nations of history would arise. Kings and wars would be fought and boundaries of nations would ebb and flow. But in and through it all is YHWH.
- E. A few notable points to make here:
 1. All three sons of Noah are represented in Acts as early converts to Jesus Christ.
 - a. In chapters 8, 9 and 10 we have the Ethiopian eunuch, Saul and Cornelius.
 - b. The order is Ham, Shem and Japheth. Which is the focus of the offspring of Noah.

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- c. And in this we see the great truth of God bringing people of each major branch of human history into His Kingdom under the care and rule of His Son.
2. Genesis 10 and 11 teaches us that every false religion grew out from this humble beginning. We will see this in greater detail in chapter 11.
 - a. Ecclesiastes is correct, there is nothing new under the sun.
 - b. What we see in our nation is what was in the days of Noah and the days of Abraham and the days of Nebuchadnezzar
3. Also in Revelation 17 we have the great conflict of Israel and Babylon which is really the conflict between Ham and Shem.
 - a. Even in the very end there shall be this great battle that is occurring.
 - b. Keep this in mind as you watch the news and you see the nations rage. The roots are found here in Genesis 9-11 and they go very, very deep in our souls.
 - c. You may wish to fool yourself into thinking you are just an individual unaffected by others but the reality is that your roots go very deep and very far back. And in this are influences that are beyond your comprehension.