

TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN

"A High Price" Genesis 9:18-29

August 3, 2025

INTRO.: How much is too much to pay for something?

As we continue our series, **TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN**, we are looking at the theme, *A High Price*, from Genesis 9. This is our concluding message on the universal flood during the time of Noah. Last week we looked at God's promise given to Noah and his family. It is called the Noahic Covenant which was an unconditional covenant (binding promise) given to them and still in effect today.

Genesis 9:8–11 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: **9** "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you **10** and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. **11** I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Then, God provided a sign of the covenant, which is the rainbow. So, every time we see a rainbow it should be an opportunity to worship and praise God for His grace and mercy. Anyone see a rainbow this week? Thank God for His promises!

We see Noah and the times of Noah referenced in the New Testament, (Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:19-21; 2 Peter 2:5) which you can look up later. There is much we can learn from the life of Noah.

In the remaining part of Genesis 9, we see a high price paid for something.

Genesis 9:18–29 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) **19** These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth. **20** Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. **21** When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. **22** Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. **23** But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness. **24** When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, **25** he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." **26** He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. **27** May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave." **28** After the flood Noah lived 350 years. **29** Altogether, Noah lived 950 years, and then he died.

THE NEW BEGINNING

v. 18-20

Genesis 9:18 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. God was going to repopulate the earth through Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives. The fact that they are described as coming out of the ark shows their connection to the Flood account. This was the opportunity for a new beginning. The wickedness of mankind prior to the Flood is described in this way:

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

God's response:

Genesis 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them."

God has provided a new beginning for those he spared, who heard God's warning, and entered the ark. As Noah built the ark, he warned the people of the coming judgment of God. Yet, how many entered the ark when it came time?

Genesis 7:13 On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark.

After being on the ark for over a year, they finally got off the ark. God blessed Noah and his sons and commanded them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth (Genesis 9:1, 7)." After mentioning that Noah's three sons came out of the ark, we read:

Genesis 9:19 These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.

In this new beginning they were going to fulfill God's command from Genesis 9. Not only did Noah's three sons experience a new beginning but Noah did as well.

Genesis 9:20 Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard.

The New King James Version translates it this way: "And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard."

From Arnold Fruchtenbaum:

"began:" indicates he wasn't doing this before the flood

"farmer:" literally a man of the soil and a worker of the earth

So, everything is going great. Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives are all experiencing this new beginning. Everything seems to be fine until we see:

THE OLD NATURE

v. 21-23

We begin with Noah:

Genesis 9:21 When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.

There are two things going on here that were sin.

* *"he became drunk:"* the sin wasn't him drinking the wine, although I would say if you don't drink alcohol, you can't get drunk.

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

There are two present tense commands in this verse from Ephesians:

"do not get drunk on wine:" don't be controlled by wine

"be filled with the Spirit:" instead of being controlled by the wine, be controlled by the Holy Spirit of God

Noah's second sin was:

"he lay uncovered in his tent:" being drunk had caused Noah to lose modesty, probably taking his clothes off and passing out.

This is the same man described in the following way in Genesis 6.

Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

Since Adam and Eve sinned the sin nature passed down to all of mankind and this is evidence of that. There's a whole new start for Noah and his family and this is what we read! This should remind us that nobody is sinless, and we are all capable of unimaginable sin.

1 Kings 8:46 "When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you become angry with them and give them over to the enemy, who takes them captive to his own land, far away or near;

Ecclesiastes 7:20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

How does Scripture describe David, one who God would choose to be king.

Acts 13:22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

Yet, this is the man who committed adultery and then murder, attempting to cover up the adultery.

Not only do we see Noah's sin, but also:

Ham:

Genesis 9:22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside.

"Ham, the father of Canaan:" this is the second time Ham is connected with Canaan, which is important to know when we look at the third point.

Allen P. Ross: "This 'event' may seem trivial to us today, but it was not trivial to the family of Noah. The sanctity of the family was destroyed, and the dignity of the father had been made a mockery. Ham apparently stumbled on this accidentally, but rather than respect his father and cover him up, he went out and told his two brothers."

He should have done what his two brothers did as recorded in the next verse. This would have shown respect for his father and the family.

Genesis 9:23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness.

The actions of both Noah and Ham remind us that just because you may have a new beginning or a change in your location doesn't mean your struggle with sin is over. When a person comes to faith in Christ they are called a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

What does the phrase, "*the old has gone*" mean? Our old mindset, values, desires are different. We now have the power to overcome sin which we didn't have before coming to faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit resides in the believer. This doesn't mean our sin nature has left us. Read what the Apostle Paul has to say in Romans 7.

How about the phrase, "*the new has come?*" This is a perfect tense, which means an action in the past (the moment of salvation) with continuing results. Our struggle with sin is a real battle and when we give in there is a price, and it doesn't just affect us.

THE CONSEQUENCES

v. 24-27

Because of what Ham did to his father:

Genesis 9:24–25 When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, **25** he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

When he discovers what Ham has done to him, he declares a curse on Canaan who is one of Ham's sons. He will be a servant or slave to his brothers. Ham's sin affected his descendants. We all have seen how the sin of the father has many times passed down to the children. It doesn't mean that the sin can't be overcome through the power of God.

What did the Canaanites become to the Jews? The Canaanites were known for their great immorality and they were a thorn in the side of the Jewish people. God told Moses to warn the people about the Canaanites.

Leviticus 18:1–4 The LORD said to Moses, **2** "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'I am the LORD your God. **3** You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. **4** You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God.

The price of sin is a high price to pay! As we took communion this morning we were reminded of the price that was paid for our sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Noah's drunkenness and nakedness opened the door for Ham's sin which led to the curse of Canaan and the Canaanites caused all kinds of trouble for the Israelites. The immorality of the Canaanites affected the Israelites.

How about Shem and Japheth?

Genesis 9:26–27 He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. **27** May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave."

Noah pronounces the curse on Canaan, and then the blessing on Shem and Japheth. All of this was Noah's appeal to God (Kenneth A. Mathews).

It is the God of Shem (the Lord, the God of Shem) and not Shem himself that was blessed. The Seed of the Woman would come through Shem and not through Ham or Japheth (Fruchtenbaum).

It is interesting to note that this is the only time we read anything of what Noah said in the book of Genesis.

SO WHAT???

We began this message speaking of things that are out of our spending range because the price is too high to pay. Do you and I truly understand the high price of sin? How about how it affects us and others? How about what we lose when we give in to sin?

We observed communion this morning and in 1 Corinthians 11 there is a warning given to those who take it unworthily. This could refer to a number of things: something between us and another brother, unrepentant sin, not taking it seriously. The consequences:

1 Corinthians 11:30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

Do we truly understand we're in a battle? Every week I receive a text from a friend of mine who is a retired pastor. At the end of May he texted me an article titled: "Let Me Get Home Before Dark: Wisdom to Help Pastors Finish Well," by Steve Bateman.

He challenges pastors to make sure they finish well. Over the course of my 40 plus years as a pastor I have seen some fall into sin and the damage it causes to their family, the church and the name of Christ. The one challenge he shared that stuck out to me the most was: "Be honest about the sin you're capable of."

1 Corinthians 10:12–13 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! **13** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

He says, "Better men than I have made stupid choices, so I need much grace, and I must never drop my guard. One of the most useful traits we can develop is a healthy distrust when it comes to sin and temptation."

If overcoming sin is a battle, what is my battle plan? Here are some thoughts.

1) I don't stand a chance without the Lord. Have I come to know Christ as Savior and Lord?

Psalms 14:1–3; 53:1–3

2) Recognize the enemy but don't be consumed with him: those who serve in our armed forces need to be able to recognize the enemy.

1 Peter 5:8–9; Ephesians 6:10–12

3) Don't provide the enemy with an opportunity

Romans 13:14; Ephesians 4:27

It's the "small" compromises that lead to a big downfall.

4) Remind myself that God will discipline His children

Hebrews 12:4–11

5) Enlist fellow believers and commit to being a part of a Bible believing local church

Isolation is a breeding ground for sin!

Hebrews 10:23–25; Galatians 6:1–2

6) I need a change of heart and mind

Put God's Word in my heart and mind

Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 12:1–2