

Beginnings

Sermon Title: "Curse and Blessing "

Speaker: Bauer Evans

Text: Genesis 9:18-10:29

Main Point

Shem and Japheth's covering of Noah's sin and the promise God in turn makes to them, points us to Christ, and his covering of our sins, and the highest blessing - that of knowing Him.

Quotes

"The flood did not purge the earth of wickedness and we cannot suppose that such was its purpose" - Graeme Goldsworthy

"This special relationship with God is indeed the highest and greatest blessing anyone can experience. The way has been prophetically paved for Abram through the line of Seth to establish a people in special covenant relationship with Yahweh." - R. Kent Hughes

Points

*In Noah's sons we share a common ancestry and common need

*Shem and Japheth cover Noah's nakedness and sin

*Shem and Japheth are blessed in that their sins will be covered and they will know the Lord

Application

1. Re-read the text, Genesis 9:18-10:29

2. As we look at this passage in context, it is important to keep in mind what immediately follows in chapter 10 - what commentators have called the 'table of nations' - and chapter 11 - the story of the Babel. The point being the dispersment of the human race and the interrelatedness of all humanity.

When we look at all the nations of the world, and all the peoples of the world this little verse reminds us that all people are descendants of the sons of Noah. We all have the same ancestry and common need. What is that common need?

3. Bauer suggested that the main point of this passage is not so much what Noah DID, but what his sons did in response to his condition.

What did Ham do? What did Shem and Japheth do? What is Moses drawing attention to through each of their responses?

Why do you think Moses highlighted this story for the Israelites before entering the promised land?

4. Noah's blessing on Shem and his descendants has BIG implications for the Hebrews. "Blessed be the LORD, the God for Shem!" In using the covenant name - LORD (Yahweh) - Noah is indicating what kind of blessing Shem already enjoys and will continue to receive.

What is the blessing Noah declares Shem already enjoys and will continue to receive from the LORD/Yahweh?

How does understanding what God's name means embolden and his descendants, the Hebrews, to understand that God loves them and will continue to 'cover' their sins?

5. Noah's blessing on Shem points modern readers ahead to the Jesus Christ. A genuine Christian is one whose sins have been "covered" and are not exposed to the wrath of God's judgment. Have you allowed God to cover your sins with the garment of His grace, revealed through His Son's blood and resurrection? Read John 1:29 and be reassured of Jesus covering for your sins.

5. Bauer suggested that the forgiveness of our sins is not an end in itself but a means to a greater end: knowing, enjoying and loving Jesus Christ! Do you understand that the forgiveness of your sins moves beyond the assurance of "going to heaven" to enjoying a close, personal and intimate relationship with God? How is the forgiveness of your sins leading you to want to know more and more of Him? Explain

6. Sometimes we get discouraged in our relationship with God. How do you find in Christ the power to overcome your doubts, despairs and fears in order to know Him more? What does He do, and what does He call me to do to receive more of Christ to move ahead?

6. Bauer suggested 3 practical ways we learn to enjoy Jesus more. Which of the 3 areas mentioned is the ONE where you want to change? What is the greatest obstacle you face to move ahead? How can others help you in this?

How do I enjoy Him more:

1. Spend time with Him
2. Spend time in His Word
3. Spend time giving thanks and acknowledging to Him that we have received the highest blessing and greatest joy through His Son