

Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 2: "The Price of Unholy Choices"

*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What are some of the mistakes that really good people make that affects their lives forever?

Transition: We can be really good people and just a lapse of judgment can change the course of our life.

Bottom Line: Although a very holy man, Noah did sin and that sin was not without its consequences.

LESSON PLAN

Read Genesis 9:1-7

1. God blessed Noah and his sons. What were the instructions and information contained in this blessing from God?

The word for shed meant to kill as an offering and pour out the blood. It would refer to murder, not self-defense to protect life. We know that God uses military and authorities to protect the innocent. Solomon would say that there is a time for peace and a time for war. So, this is an evil act of taking another's life, murdering others.

2. Life was going to be a great blessing because the earth would be rebuilt from the ground up by a holy family. However, what did the flood do to the earth's perfection?

The earth's entire surface and even the core were changed. Because of the judgment man brought upon the world, the earth itself was no longer perfect. The Institute for Creation Research says, "Consider that as the Flood ended, the continents were rising and spreading, and the ocean basins sinking, giving rise to immense fractures in the earth's crust. Volcanic aerosols in the atmosphere would have contributed to the Ice Age, shielding the earth from much of the solar radiation that we now receive, thereby cooling the continents and allowing snow to build up into great ice sheets. As the continents rose and split, mountain chains buckled up, further influencing our weather patterns. No doubt the weather was quite violent and unpredictable for several hundred years until things stabilized, and earthquakes were a common occurrence. There may have been a reason that the early peoples lived in tents and not buildings.

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Question: God wanted the earth to be filled with people who understood their relationship to Him as the Created and the Creator. How does this spiritual principle relate to parents today?

Read Genesis 9:8-17

3. What covenant does God make with Noah?
4. Who else was this promise extended to?
5. What would God provide as sign or His promise?

Question: What does the world see when they see a rainbow appear?

So, God has been incredibly gracious to Noah and His family. They have been blessed for their faith while all the earth received what they chose by their evil hearts. Noah and his family have experienced the wrath of God and were spared. Do you think that wasn't an eye opening experience? Could you even begin to imagine questioning or doubting God after the flood?

Read Genesis 9:18-28

6. What occupation did Noah begin in the new world they were building for God?
7. What was the first sin committed in the new world?
8. What was the second sin committed in the new world?
9. What is odd about God mentioning that it was Ham, the father of Canaan who did this?

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Canaan was not born yet. The emphasis of the curse is not on Ham but it is on Canaan, Ham's yet to be born son. The curse of Ham was used by Christians to defend the abuse and enslavement of Africans because they were the descendants of Ham. There is a great problem in that belief. The curse was on Canaan. Ham's sons were Cush, Egypt, Put and Canaan. Cush, Put and Egypt settled in Africa. However, Canaan settled up by the Dead Sea. It was the land God gave to the Israelites to conquer. The Canaanites were NOT African. It was an early name for Palestine.)

10. Why do you think God made the comment that He would bless Shem and Japheth and Canaan would be cursed and end up their servant?

It is a prophecy of the day when the Israelites, God's people would conquer the land of the Canaanites, Cane's family line.

Question: Why would the sin of Ham affect his son Canaan and all his descendants? That doesn't really seem fair, but this is God who's acting through and sanctioning Noah's pronouncement?

It appears the Ham was not repentant and we do not see his family following the Lord. Ham's descendants were some of Israel's worst enemies. Among them were the Egyptians, Babylonians, Philistines, and various Canaanite groups. Ham raised unholy children who all walked away from Yahweh.

11. Why is this story so critical to our faith?

Question: What lesson should the American Church and Christians take from this historical account from God?

Breakout: Before the flood most men lived to be 900+ years old. Man's sin would change the world forever. Work in groups and beginning with Genesis 11:10 follow the age of those born after the flood. *Shem=____; Shem's son, Arphaxad=____; Arphaxad's son, Shelah=____; Shelah's son, Eber=____; Eber's son, Peleg=____; Peleg's son, Reu=____; Reu's son, Serug=____; Serug's son, Nahor=____; Nahor's son, Terah=____.*



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12. What would have caused man's life expectancy to drop so radically after the flood?

The people had no immunity to the diseases that were born from the death and decay of the flood. The viruses would have mutated as they do today and attacked the people. The pandemic was born thanks to man's unwillingness to repent after God waited 120 years for Noah to preach righteousness to the people as he built the ark.

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?