

Genesis 9:18-28—Noah Gets Drunk: The Importance Of Finishing Well (we are most susceptible to temptation after a victory)

Memory Verse

Genesis 3:15 NKJV (God speaking to satan)

And I will put enmity between you [satan] and the woman, and between your seed [the antichrist] and her Seed [the Messiah]; He [the Messiah] shall bruise your [satan's] head, and you [satan] shall bruise His [the Messiah's] heel."

Outline: (Genesis 9:18-28)

1. Everyone living today is a descendant of Noah's three sons and their wives (vs18-19)
2. Noah gets drunk—the importance of finishing well (we are most susceptible to temptation after a victory) (9:20-28)
3. Application: What do we do when we are caught up in sin?
4. What does the Bible say about drinking alcohol?
5. The terrible consequences of Noah's sin (vs 20-28)

Genesis 9:18-28 NKJV

Everyone living today is descended from Noah's three sons and their wives

18 Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. **19** These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

Noah gets drunk

20 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. **21** Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. **22** And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. **23** But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

24 So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. **25** Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren."

26 And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant. **27** May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem; and may Canaan be his servant."

28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. **29** So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

1. Everyone living today is a descendant of Noah's three sons and their wives

Genesis 9:18-19 NKJV

Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. ¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

Here the Bible clearly states that all humans today are direct descendants of Noah's sons and their wives: *"These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated"* (Genesis 10:32).

Amazingly (or not so amazingly if you are used to discovering that what the Bible says is always true), there is strong genetic evidence showing that the whole human race is indeed descended from Noah's three sons and their wives. Firstly, we can assume that Mr Noah and Mrs Noah were now too old to have any more children. Even in the pre-flood world, 600 years old is past middle age, probably equivalent to being over 50 years old in today's world. That leaves only three couples (Noah's three sons and their wives), that could still have children.

We will make a prediction (an hypothesis) concerning what we expect to find in the information (DNA) in the human genome as a result of the flood, and then see if the evidence confirms our prediction. However, we first need to understand some basics concerning the study of genetics.

Mutations or copying errors in our DNA build up over time

Firstly, the information on our DNA is not perfectly copied from one generation to another. When God cursed the world because of sin, everything began to wear out and break down, just like a car wears out as it gets older, and eventually stops working. A mistake in the copying of our DNA is called a mutation. These mutations are passed on from one generation to the next. Over time we inherit more and more mutations, and the human race is becoming weaker and sicker as time goes on. *The Answers Book* explains this well.

"To understand this, we need some basic facts of genetics. The hereditary information that is passed on from generation to generation is encoded on stretches of DNA that include the well-known 'genes'. As that information is copied repeatedly, it is copied chemical letter by letter. During this, copying mistakes can arise. These are called mutations. Mutations are responsible for thousands of inherited diseases, like cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, progeria, sickle cell anemia and phenylketonuria. These are passed on through the generations, because once such a mistake or 'copying error' has arisen, that error is copied, too. (When making a copy of a computer program or word processing file that has a defect, one ends up copying the defect, too.)

If there are successive generations of copying, as in biological heredity, then that mistake is not only passed on, but sooner or later another mistake will arise, which is then added to the original mistake. And so on. If we had a population whose genetic information contained only one mistake, then sooner or later there will be a population containing two mistakes. And then three, and so on. Future defects will tend to be added to the existing ones. This problem of the increasing genetic (or mutational) burden or load is a well-known phenomenon.

In other words, over time such mistakes accumulate. The number of these defects in the population tends to progressively and relentlessly increase. This is why each one of us carries many hundreds of genetic mistakes. They have been inherited from the accumulation of copying mistakes occurring as our ancestors had children."

How some genetic information is passed on only from the man, or only from the woman

Men have a chromosome that women do not have, the Y chromosome. This is what makes a man a man. A man has one X chromosome and one Y chromosome that make up one of their 23 pairs of chromosomes. In contrast, the woman has two X chromosomes. This is what makes a woman a woman. The man is XY, the woman is XX. This means that the genetic information on the Y (or male) chromosome is passed on directly from father to son with no changes (there is no recombination, rearranging, or mixing of genes as there is with the other pairs chromosomes when the egg is fertilised).

There is also genetic information (DNA) that is passed on directly from mother to their offspring. This information (DNA) is found in one of the cells organelles or compartments, the mitochondria. We will call this mitochondrial DNA, the genetic information that is passed on directly from the woman to her offspring (male or female).

The genetic (DNA) evidence we expect to find if the Bible is true (that there was actually a global flood and only 8 people survived it)

❖ If the story of the flood *is true*, then we expect:

1. All men to have basically the same Y chromosome, as Noah would have passed on his Y chromosome to each of his three sons—they would all have virtually identical Y chromosomes, all inherited directly from their father Noah.
2. If we assume that Noah's three son's wives were not close relatives (not closely related to Mrs Noah), and they weren't closely related to each other, then there would have had been about 1,600 years (from creation to the flood) for each of their families to accumulate *different* random copying errors (mutations) in their mitochondrial DNA. This means that we expect there to be **three** main variations of mitochondrial DNA, one each passed on by Noah's three son's wives (each variation has its own unique combination of mutations or copying errors). ****We predict or hypothesise that every person born since the flood will have inherited one of these *three* variations of mitochondrial DNA.****

❖ If the story of the flood *is not true* (if the earth's population was not reduced to only 8 people at the time of the flood), then we expect:

1. There would still be only be one variation of both the male Y chromosome, which would be the copy originally passed on by Adam to all men.
2. We predict that there would only be **one** variation of the mitochondrial DNA, which would be the copy originally passed on by Eve.

❖ So what do we find?

1. We find that all men have the same Y chromosome, as expected in both scenarios.
2. ****We find that there are *three* main versions or variations of the mitochondrial DNA inherited from the woman.**** "As it turns out, there are **three** main mitochondrial DNA lineages found across the world. The evolutionists have labeled these lines "M", "N", and "R"

Reference: *Adam, Eve and Noah vs Modern Genetics* BY ROBERT W. CARTER
Genetic evidence indicates we all come from just two people (Adam and Eve), and that there was subsequently a dramatic population crash (at the time of Noah)

<https://creation.com/en/articles/noah-and-genetics>

Once again, we see that what we see in God's word agrees precisely with what we see in God's world. Remember, the only way that there could be the three variants of the mitochondrial DNA, is if all women died (or could not have children), except three who were not closely related. Only Noah's flood can explain what modern genetics has revealed in recent times. Evolutionists do not have an answer for this. *This is powerful genetic evidence that the flood did indeed occur, exactly as described in Scripture.* That yes, the entire population of the earth was wiped out except for 8 people, Noah and his family, and that only three of the ladies were able to reproduce after the flood.

Another evidence for Creation—All men have the same Y chromosome

The fact that all men have the same Y chromosome disproves the theory of evolution. Evolutionists expect to see a wide range of Y chromosomes because of the assumed millions of years of evolution and descent from apes. They are therefore forced to try to invent a scenario where, in the recent past, all men except one either died or did not have children, and that the entire human race are all descended from that one man.

2. Noah gets drunk—the importance of finishing well (we are most susceptible to temptation after a victory)

Genesis 9:20-21a NKJV

And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ Then he drank of the wine and was drunk.

Noah's sin

Why does God include this sordid account of Noah's life in the record, in Scripture? I believe that it is a warning for us. So let us take heed and learn from Noah's mistake.

v 20 **And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard:** Sometime after the flood, most likely after Noah and his family had established at least temporary dwellings for themselves, Noah gets back into farming, in particular growing grapes.

v 21 **Then he drank of the wine and was drunk:** This is the first mention of drunkenness in the Bible. However, it doesn't mean that people didn't used to get drunk before the flood. It is highly likely that Noah is copying the sins of the world that he had left behind only a few years prior. Why are even genuine believers so tempted by sin? And why do some overcome sin and some do not? We'll answer these questions in a little while.

A warning to not become complacent

There is a warning here. Noah had just finished 121 years of faithful service to God. He had become a hero of the faith. But now life was easier. There was no one to preach to except his family and the grandkids. There was no massive ark to build. But there was lots of time to relax and enjoy recreational activities and hobbies. He was probably thinking, "Praise God, the trial is over, the danger is past".

But the real danger was always there—the allure or temptation of the world, our flesh (sinful nature), and the devil, to sin. Satan, like a roaring lion, was still waiting for an opportunity to devour Noah, to destroy his reputation, to destroy the godly authority that God had given him to rule his family well and raise Godly children, to mess up his life, and to make Noah ineffective as a servant of God. Satan often does this to us, just like he did to Noah. Satan successfully trapped Noah in addictions and/or tempted him to find his fulfilment in physical and temporary pleasures and activities. Remember grapes are not essential for survival, only for pleasure.

1 Peter 5:8-9 NLT

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

The period after the trial, or when we experience success, is always the most dangerous time, and not just for Noah, but for all of us [King David is a great example, with Bathsheba and Uriah]. Complacency sets in, we look at what we think that we have done or achieved (actually it was God, but we forget that), we imagine ourselves to be much smarter and stronger than we are, and we forget that we need to depend on God for absolutely everything. Depending on God comes much easier when we have to, when times are tough. It's when we understand the reality that we are *weak* (and so rely on God), that we are actually *strong*.

But when times are easy, it becomes much easier for us to start to depend upon ourselves. But what happens when we do? Paul gives us a very strong warning—it's when we *think* that we are strong (and so rely on ourselves) that we are *actually* weak and are very likely to fall into temptation.

1 Cor 10:12-13 NLT

If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. ¹³ The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 NLT

... I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in [human] weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak [I understand my human limitations], then I am strong [because I rely on God's power working in and through me].

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 AMP

And to keep me from being puffed up and too much elated by the exceeding greatness (preeminence) of these revelations, there was given me a thorn (a splinter) in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to rack and buffet and harass me, to keep me from being excessively exalted. [Job 2:6]

⁸ Three times I called upon the Lord and besought [Him] about this and begged that it might depart from me;

⁹ But He said to me, My grace (My favour and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!

¹⁰ So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased and take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distresses; for when I am weak [in human strength], then am I [truly] strong (able, powerful in divine strength).

3. Application: What do we do when we are caught up in sin?

The Bible doesn't say what happened to Noah before or after this event. Was this the first time he had been drunk? Did Noah continue to get drunk? God used Noah so effectively in the lead up to the flood, and during the flood. However, Noah lived another 350 years after the flood, but we never hear anything about him again. This makes me think that it is possible that Noah didn't finish well (the Bible doesn't say). It is heart breaking when godly leaders fall into sin and their ministry also falls into disrepute. But God always gives us a way out. It's called repentance. There may be long term practical, emotional, financial, relational, physical, and spiritual consequences to our sin, but God always offers forgiveness and personal freedom from any sin. We never have to remain a slave to sin. Let us learn more about repentance, this divine pathway to a restored relationship with God.

What is genuine repentance?—Crucifying the sin at the desire level

Let this be a lesson. We can't run from our sin, it will always follow us. Why? *Because the desire for that sin comes from inside of us*, from our sinful or old nature, what the Bible calls our "flesh". Instead of trying to avoid or circumvent (find a way around) the sin, we must defeat the sin by dealing with it at its very root. How? *By crucifying the desires for that sin which originate from our sinful nature*. This is genuine repentance. Jesus defined repentance when He said, *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

Jesus demonstrated this "dying to self", this submission of His will to the Father's will, in the Garden of Gethsemane. "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, **not as I will, but as You will**" (Matthew 26:39 NKJV).

So what is true or genuine repentance? Nothing less than a change of heart, *a change of desires*, that leads to a change in behaviour. We cannot desire God's will, until we are willing to crucify (die to) our own desires. We, practically speaking, choose to replace our evil desires with God's good desires. How does this happen? How do we, in practice, deny ourselves and daily take up our cross, so that we can then follow (love and obey) Jesus?

Galatians 5:16-25 NLT

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses [we don't obey God because we have to, but because we *want* to—"I don't *got* to, but I *get* to"].

¹⁹ **When you follow the desires of your sinful nature**, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarrelling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God [will not enter Heaven].

²² **But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives [we begin to genuinely want and desire]:** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

²⁴ **Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there.** ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, **let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**

I never have to sin—I only sin because I want to

The Scriptures tell us that God has already given us everything we need to live a godly life, a life that pleases God. We must realise that we never have to sin, because we have the Holy Spirit living within us, and therefore the power to say no to sin is always there. However, love is based on free will. God will never force us to love Him, that would be rape, or we would be robots. But instead God invites us to fellowship with Him and enjoy the overwhelming joy, love, contentment, satisfaction, and pleasure that we can only find when we choose to enter in and spend time in His presence.

2 Peter 1:3-5 NLT

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the One who called us to Himself by means of His marvellous glory and excellence. ⁴ And because of His glory and excellence, He has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

⁵ **In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises.**

Romans 8:12-13 NLT

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates [it's desires], you will die. **But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.**

So what is the secret to repentance? I know that, as a believer, I have the Holy Spirit living within me, and that through Him I have the power to crucify the evil desires of my sin nature. So why don't I do that?

Repentance happens when we choose to love God more than our sin

There must come a time when we decide to choose to love God more than our sin. This the free choice that every man has. Love is a verb, an action word. The Bible says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NKJV). There is nothing more that God can do, no greater demonstration of love is possible, than God giving up His own life for sinful mankind. In essence, God chose to love us more than Himself when He gave up His own life in place of ours.

In the same way, our love for God is measured by our obedience motivated by love. If we make the choice to love God, like God made the choice to love us, then we will have no problem in giving up our life (giving up the desires for what we want). Only then will we be able to desire and do what God wants instead. In contrast, if we don't obey God, then it is proof that God is not our first love—we love someone or something more—therefore we make that thing or person more important than God, and it or them end up controlling us. Again, our love for God is demonstrated when we willingly give up the old life and embrace God's will (God's way and God's plan) for our life. Am I willing to give up or sacrifice my own life (what I want), like God (Jesus) gave up His life for me? Am I willing to return His love, to love God the way He loved me—sacrificially. Someone wisely said, "Salvation is free, but it will cost you everything". Jesus gave up [sacrificed] His life for us. Are we willing to give up [sacrifice] our lives for Him? This is what God requires of us, but won't force us to do.

When we love someone we do everything we can to *not* hurt them. Therefore, if we love God, we will not want to bring grief, sorrow, and sadness to God's heart. We will be willing to:

- Make the painful choice to say no to the desires of our sinful nature
- To go without what we want
- To go against the desires and expectations of others
- To be able to say no to others
- To not be ruled by the fear of what others may do to us if we don't do what they want (we trust God to protect us and our families)

God never said that following Him would be easy. Am I a God pleaser or a man pleaser? Paul said, “Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant” (Galatians 1:10 NLT).

Leaving the darkness and walking in the Light

Here is a final illustration of what it means to repent—it means to leave the darkness and walk in the light.

John 1:4-5 NKJV

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend [or overcome] it.

John 8:12 NKJV

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

John 3:16-21 NLT

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸ “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ *And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, **but people loved the darkness more than the light**, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ **But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.**”*

4. What does the Bible say about drinking alcohol?

Genesis 9:20-21a NKJV

And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ Then he drank of the wine and was drunk.

v **21 Then he drank of the wine and was drunk:** The bible says that it is okay to consume alcohol in moderation, as long as it has no effect on our thinking, physical responses, and/or decision making abilities. As soon as there is any effect, we are drunk—we have exceeded what our body can handle, and the alcohol has literally gone to our head where it messes with the neurotransmitters in our brain. Keep in mind that wine in bible times was usually very dilute, and was used as a way of purifying water. Also, it was usually consumed with a meal, which dramatically reduces its intoxicating effect. For example, Paul instructed Timothy to drink some wine for health reasons, probably because Timothy was drinking contaminated or stagnant water.

1 Timothy 5:23 NKJV

No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.

Jesus Himself drank wine, and He was criticised for it. But remember that He never sinned, and the Bible nowhere prohibits the drinking of wine (alcohol). We can rightly assume that Jesus drank wine but never too much. He always exercised self-control.

Luke 7:33-34 NLT

For John the Baptist didn’t spend his time eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, ‘He’s possessed by a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’

There are many references in Scripture to drunkenness being a sin, and something that leads to much harm to self, others, and God. The same is true for any intoxicating substance.

Proverbs 20:1 NKJV

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Proverbs 23:29-33 NKJV

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things.

Ephesians 5:17-18 NKJV

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

Clearly, as the Scriptures plainly point out, if we are allowing ourselves to be controlled by any intoxicating substance, then we are not being controlled by the Holy Spirit, and we cannot please God. To please God we must have full control over all our faculties (mental, emotional, and physical), otherwise we can't exercise self-control.

A word of warning

"It also shows the foolishness of those who claim God's desire is to make people "drunk in the spirit" through the work of a "Holy Ghost Bartender." When Ephesians 5:18 says, And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, it contrasts the work of the Spirit with the effects of drunkenness.

Alcohol is a depressant. It "loosens" people because it depresses their self-control, their wisdom, their balance and judgment. The filling of the Holy Spirit has an exactly opposite effect. He is a stimulant, and He influences every aspect of our being to better and more perfect performance.

There are more costs to drunkenness. In the United States 100,000 people die each year in alcohol-related deaths, while alcohol abuse costs the nation hundreds of billions of dollars each year. Still, the average American television viewer sees 90,000 incidents of drinking on television by age 21 and 100,000 beer commercials by age 18." (David Guzik)

5. The terrible consequences of Noah's sin

Genesis 9:20-29 NKJV

And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

²⁴ So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.

²⁵ Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren."

²⁶ And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem; and may Canaan be his servant."

²⁸ And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. ²⁹ So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

v 21 **And became uncovered in his tent.** ²² **And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside:** Any kind of intoxication will lead to us doing and saying things that we regret. After all, what parent wants to be seen naked by their children? Noah was mocked by his own son. “Literally, the ancient Hebrew says that Ham “told with delight” what he saw in his father’s tent. He determined to mock his father and undermine his authority as a man of God.” (David Guzik)

v 21 **And became uncovered in his tent:** “It may be Noah was abused sexually by one of his sons or relatives. The phrase became uncovered and the idea of nakedness are sometimes associated with sexual relations (Leviticus 18:6–20).

This is repulsive, but not terribly surprising. Many people who get drunk become victims of abuse, sexual and otherwise. 75% of the men and 55% of the women involved in date-rape situations were drinking or taking drugs just before the attack. The FBI says 50% of all rapes involve alcohol.” (David Guzik)

v 23 **But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness:** The other two sons showed respect for their father. Love covers a multitude of sins (see James 5:20 and 1 Peter 4:8).

v 24 **So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him:** This is why some believe that Ham’s sin was more than just seeing his father naked.

v 25, 26 **Cursed be Canaan... may Canaan be his servant:** Canaan is Ham’s son. Why did Noah curse Canaan for something that Ham did? It is possible that Canaan was involved in this sin against Noah but it is not mentioned in the story. Or maybe the punishment is simply a revealing of the sad destiny of one of Ham’s sons. Canaan would become the father of those nations who lived in the land of Canaan, who were ultimately defeated by the Israelites who were descends of Shem (**And he said: “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant).** Whatever the case, we know that God does not punish the son for the sins of the Father (see Ezekiel 18:2-3)

Did Noah finish well?

v 28 **Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years:** Why is the account of Noah getting drunk the last thing we hear of Noah. What a man of God he was, a preacher of righteousness, faithful in his generations. How sad that his reputation is forever stained by his desire for physical pleasure. May we be like Paul, who didn’t want to finish like Noah, in disgrace. Instead, Paul wanted to finish his race well, to hear Jesus say to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:21 NKJV). Let us finish with the words of Paul. Will we be able to pray what Paul prayed at the end of our lives???

2 Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.