

The Fall Part 7

God's Plan For Canaan

Genesis 9:18-10:32

Memory Verses: Psalm 22:27-28

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

This morning we continue our series on the Fall. Let's recap a little and see how we got to where we are today. Adam and Eve broke God's one rule and by doing so rebelled against him. This ushered in the age of sinful humanity and the wages of that sin; a cursed world and spiritual death. Now even those of us who are in Christ, still wage war against our sin every day, ruling over it by yielding to the Spirit of God rather than our own fleshly desires. In general we recognize that mankind is wicked a depraved and in desperate need of salvation. That salvation was promised in Genesis 3:15. Though Satan would be able to bruise humanity with sin, one day, there would come a savior who would crush him and break the curse of sin and death forever. We see a glimpse of this in the story of Noah. Noah was granted righteousness and faith and found salvation within the ark of God's mercy. Of course we too can all find mercy and salvation by placing our faith in God's promised one; Jesus Christ. This is the story of the Fall.

And I know what you are thinking. We see Adam's sin and then we see God's promise of salvation in the prophecy of the messiah. We see Cain's sin but then we see the faithfulness of Abel. We see the Nephilim and the wickedness of mankind for a thousand years but then we see Noah's righteousness and the mercy of God to preserve his family in the Ark. Back and forth, back and forth. We sin, God forgives. We sin, God gives mercy. We sin, God makes a way of salvation. And unfortunately, we will see the cycle continue today with Noah and Ham's sin of shamefulfulness. We will see the cycle continue today with the arrogance of those who thought they could build a tower to heaven. We see that mankind never learns. But we also see that God always makes a way. Will the cycle ever end? There must be a plan.

And there is. Before the flood God's plan seemed to focus around the first family, Adam, Eve, their children, and their descendants. A very centralized story with a centralized location; the garden. But after the flood God's plan seems to shift focus to the whole world-- to the nations. Despite the continued sinfulness of the men God puts into action a plan to bless the world using a few specific nations we will look at today. Regardless of our pension to rebel and mess things up, God's plan for the nations will prevail. Look at [Psalm 22:27-28](#). God will establish the nations as he sees fit and in the end they will remember him and worship

before him. **When we put our trust in God we will see the disarray of nations, not as something to fear, but as part of his master plan to save the world.**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see here is that... **God's plan after the flood involves sinful people.** Let's look at [Genesis 9:18-29](#). Picking up right where we left off last week Immediately after the story of God's salvation of Noah and his family. Immediately after the covenant promise to restore and replenish the earth, we see a story that makes no sense. Noah and his family are supposed to be the righteousness of God displayed on the new earth. They are supposed to usher in the age of goodness and reject their forefathers wickedness, and yet we see two things that reveal to us that that is not the case. The first is that Noah gets drunk. Noah's bored, so Noah builds a vineyard and makes wine and gets high on his own supply. The context leads us to believe that this is not a one time mistake, rather that this is the one time it is mentioned simply because of the second thing that makes us question whether or not Noah's family is a good choice to bring righteousness back to the earth.

And that is Ham's sin. Ham looks upon his father's nakedness and tells his brothers. And if you are like me you are thinking... I don't get it. Don't worry. No one really gets it. What's the big deal about Noah's son accidentally walking in on his father naked? As anyone who lives in a house with other people knows all too well, at times you are going to have these kind of mishaps. You shrug it off and go on with life right? It is what it is. If there is a sin we should be focusing on, isn't it that Noah became a drunk and no one seemed to care. But not in this case. In this case, accidentally seeing dad with no clothes on is way worse. So bad in fact that it causes the entire future people group known as the Canaanites to be cursed.

So what's going on here? Again, humanity cannot escape the burden of sin, nor rule over it without the power of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, So how bad was that sin? I've read a lot of commentaries and theological opinions and the bottom line is that we just don't know. Some feel that there is some type of sexual sin not mentioned here. There a couple possibilities that are brought up but they are so depraved that I can't bring myself to mention them. I'm sure you can guess some of them. The reason some have surmised that it was a sexual sin of some sort is because that would certainly explain the curse upon an entire people group. Others think that what is not mentioned here is that Ham not only saw his father naked but he also ridiculed him. He made fun of his naked old drunk dad. Instead of praying for him and having sympathy for him, he mocked him. Okay, maybe. But does that justify such a punishment? A small minority actually believe that it is simply as it is written. When Ham saw his father naked, whether by accident or on purpose, it was such a shameful thing that he must be

cursed. The evidence to support this is that his brothers walked backwards to cover their father so they could avoid such shame. So the spectrum runs from innocent but shameful all the way to complete sexual depravity, the likes of which we can't even speak about. Who knows, its probably somewhere in the middle. So if we can't explain it, why put it in here. I think it's clear. God is showing us that, though Noah was righteous to a degree, and though he found favor with God, Noah was still sinful and his children were not much better. **Plain and simple, mankind can't escape the burden of sin. Because of the fall we just keep falling.** The cycle keeps on cycling.

The second thing we need to see today is that... **God's plan for the world after the flood involves chosen enemies.** There is something else here that we need to see that is often overlooked. The curse of Ham's descendants is so confusing there must be something else going on here. And do you know what it is? It's the sovereignty of God choosing a nation to be an antagonist to Israel. God is showing us, through the story of Noah and Ham, the nation he is choosing to be the future enemy of his chosen people. The Canaanites were not cursed just because of Ham's sin. The Canaanites were cursed because God chose to curse them. Do you see what is happening here? God is mapping out the nations of the world, some for good and some for evil.

You know the Canaanites. Through lineage, they were the inhabitants of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. A place so evil God had to destroy it with fire and brimstone. You know the Canaanites. Through lineage they were the people who were so evil that God told the Israelites to wipe them out. God in his sovereignty set the board and chose the nation who would war with his chosen people.

They were to be a physical obstacle for Israel. **Numbers 13:28** tells us they were a mighty people. So scary that the Israelite spies were too scared to fight for the land. They said it would be impossible. Any war with them would be very hard indeed. But more importantly they were to be a spiritual obstacle for Israel. Look at **Deut 18:9-11.** They were idolatrous. They sacrificed their children to their Gods. They were sorcerers, witches, and mediums. And so God warned the Israelites to stay away from their detestable practices. And they were strictly forbidden from intermarrying with them. **Joshua 23:13** warns them that if they intermarried with the Canaanites that they would be destroyed.

So why? Why did God do this? Why did God choose a nation to be cursed to war with his people and tempt them for thousands of years? Why does God do anything he does? For his glory! God had to give the Israelites a snare, a temptation, a choice, just as he did Adam and Eve in the garden. This was their forbidden fruit. Would they remain true to God or would they rebel. All of this was needed to eventually fulfill God's

promise to bless the world and save humanity from their sin. Every bit of the Canaanite's story is to serve the ultimate story of redemption. Look at the curse one more time in **verse 25.** He was cursed to be a servant of the other nations. Most people wouldn't look at the Canaanites of then and the Canaanites of today and think... they are such servants. They serve in such godly ways. But they are. They are serving at God's design. **The nations that war against God and his people are servants of God's plan.** They are servants in the plan of God to bring about the glory of the chosen one through the chosen people. And not only Canaan but he chose other nations to be evil and enemies of God and Israel. Look at **10:6** – the sons of Ham, Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. Egypt enslaved Israel for 400 years. Cush, mentioned 43 times, was a constant thorn in the side of Israel.

And this is why you don't fret when you see evil nations. God is the one who is in control of even them. Look at **Proverbs 21:1.** It is the lord who turns the heads of nations wherever he wants. **Or Job 12:23.** He makes and destroys the nations at his will. He leads them away or enlarges them for his glory! We can trust God with the nations. **When we put our trust in God we will see the wickedness of nations, not as something to fear, but as part of his master plan to save the world.**

And lastly, we need to see that... **God's plan for the world after the flood involves providential battlefields.** Of course we all know that Canaan is not known just as a people; the Canaanites. Canaan is also known as a place. Look again at **Genesis 10:19.** God didn't just choose the Canaanites as a people to war against Israel. **God chose the land of Canaan as the primary battleground where the world would war against Israel.** It is where the world warred with king David, king Solomon, and all of the kings of Judah and Israel. It is where God's son was born and they killed him in brutal fashion. Its where the crusades were fought and Christian and Muslim blood flowed together. Its where every middle eastern country has fought against Israel since its official statehood in 1942.

Think about it, You know the inhabitants of Canaan. They were the Philistines who the Israelites warred with all through the book of Judges and Kings. You know the inhabitants of Canaan. They were the Romans who put Jesus on the cross. You know the inhabitants of Canaan. They are the Palestinians who are currently at war with Israel. **Either through lineage or through statehood, the Canaanites were and are still the enemies of Israel and it seems the war never ends.**

Canaan land; the promised land, is the most fought over piece of land of all time. There has been more blood shed in Canaan than in any other place on earth. Why? Because this is all a part of God's plan. In **Genesis 17:8** we see God giving it to Abraham's descendants forever. It was the land God destined for his chosen people to abide in. It was also considered to be an exceptionally fertile place; **Numbers 13:27.** It was

where God made the Abrahamic Covenant, the Mosaic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant. It is where his son was born, lived, died, and rose again for the salvation of mankind. You see this isn't just a place for physical war. This is the battlefield for the souls of mankind!

But one day the war will finally be over. And guess where that battle will be? Look at **Revelation 16:15-21, 19:11-21, 14:14-20**. Get this... The once thriving Canaanite city of Megiddo, where they worshipped false gods and sacrificed their children in fire is the place of the final battle. Here God's angels will reap the souls of those who have rejected Christ as savior. Here Jesus, riding on a white horse will stretch out his sword and strike down the evil nations of the earth and their blood will flow so deep it will cover the entirety of the whole land of Canaan. This is God's plan. You can either trust that he knows what he's doing or you can naively assume that all of this war is simply coincidence. It's not! It's God's plan! **When we put our trust in God we will see the wickedness of nations, not as something to fear, but as part of his master plan to save the world.**

Application

I think the application today is very clear. We live in a world with wicked nations. Depending on how you view the political landscape of today, you may even see our own country as wicked. It is most certainly more wicked than it used to be. And I struggle with it everyday. I read the articles, watch the news casts, and my heart burns and my blood boils. I hate what has become of our world. And then I see things that make me think... there's really no hope. Rome fell, we will probably fall as well. In those times you've got two options. You can throw your hands up in despair and fret, or you can throw your hands up in worship trusting that God's got it all worked out in his plan. I find the only way to keep from worrying about the future is to put my trust in his plan. A good friend of mine gave me this saying and it really helps me. **God's sovereignty gives me sanity!** In other words, when we trust that God's got it all worked out, no matter how bad it looks now, we don't need to get all anxious, cause we trust his plan. I find my sanity when I trust in God's sovereignty with the nations. **When we put our trust in God we will see the wickedness of nations, not as something to fear, but as part of his master plan to save the world.**

Conclusion Nobody refers to the land of Israel as Canaan anymore. And no one refers to the people of Israel as Canaanites anymore. You know why? Because God is making all things new. Just as the Canaanites have been defeated and replaced by the Israelites, so God is defeating and replacing our sin by the blood of his son Jesus Christ.

Canaan is gone. Our sin is gone. Washed white as snow. God is sovereign and he is working all things for his glory. His glory is Jesus Christ. **When we put our trust in God we will see the wickedness of nations, not as something to fear, but as part of his master plan to save the world.**