

# The Test for the Sons of Noah

Genesis 9: 18-29

A heat test to see what it is made of.

**Wax or Clay ?**



The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)

They had equal blessings and opportunities to see God at work but....

Godly parents may have bad children  
Ungodly parents may have good children.

Eg. See the kings of Judah.

It's the choices we make.



These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth.



Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard.



Work to do ... food to eat

**Was there wine production before the flood?**

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

**Is this about the dangers of drink ?**

**Is Noah to be blamed ?**

Too much → tipsy (tiring, thirsty day?)

He “undressed himself” **in his tent** and  
fell sound asleep.

He had lived 600 yrs. in a hostile  
environment but ...

Danger when the pressure is off !

*“Let him that thinks he stands ..”*



Ham, the father of Canaan,  
saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside.



**Why did he go in?**

**The TEST**

**What was his reaction ?**

**What was wrong in  
telling his brothers?**

**If only he had .....**

**If you found out someone's faults  
What would you do?**

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

## The TEST



It was a joint plan to restore dad's dignity and treat him with respect

Noah awoke from his wine



**How did he feel?**

Ashamed? Confused?  
Violated? Angry?



He found out what his youngest son had done to him,

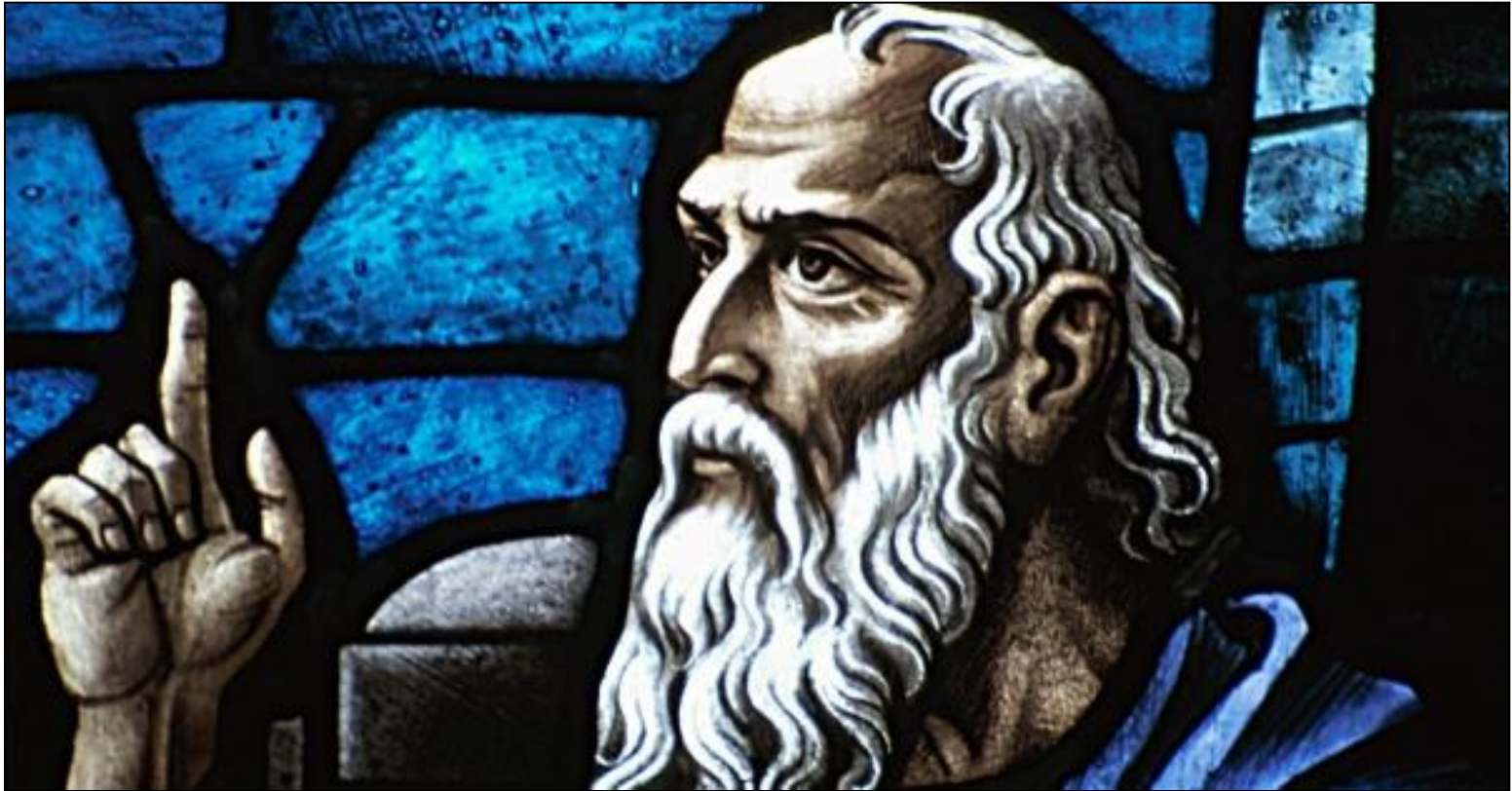
**How did he find out who did what ?  
Who told him?**



When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said, .....

This is not simply an angry reaction, after all it's his own sons he is speaking about....

**It's a prophecy !**



# The TEST – showed



Ham's character :-

His attitude to his father and his attitude as a father to his son(s), esp. Canaan (= "humiliated")

What's in the name?

***He demanded from his son what he wouldn't give his father***

Canaan - like father like son?

"Cursed be Canaan!  
The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

## Why is Canaan picked out?



What was done by a son affects his son.

This account was given by Moses to the Israelites as they were about to enter the promised land – full of Canaanites. So the prophecy would be an encouragement to Israel to enter the land.

"Cursed be Canaan!  
The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."



In fact none of Ham's family are blessed.  
Ham's family spread to Africa which has a long history of  
enslavement. (Other peoples had slaves too)  
But note -- Nations and individuals can be different  
Eg. The Queen of Sheba  
The Ethiopian eunuch (the gospel first spread to)

He also said, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem!  
May Canaan be the slave of Shem."



The LORD is praised as Shem's God  
His is the Covenant line of the promised Saviour

**Shem -> Semitic races -> Abraham-> Jews**



"May Japheth live in the tents of Shem."

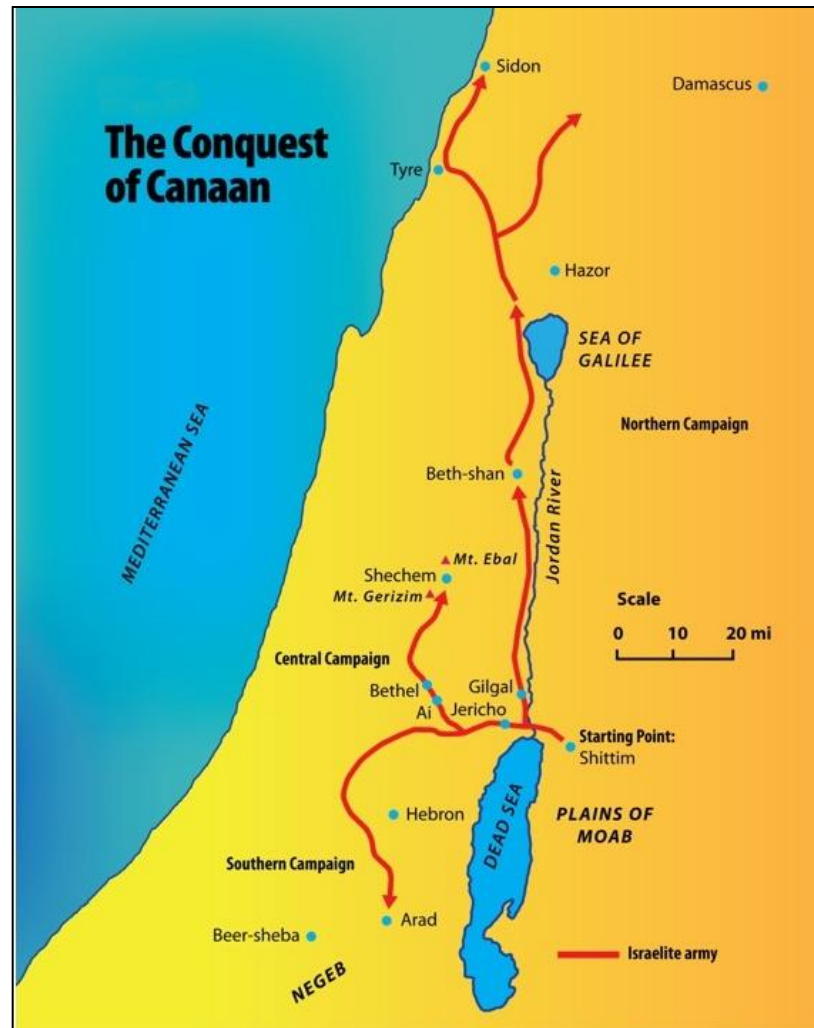


A Promise of fellowship (not occupation)  
The gentiles are blessed to recognize Shem's God.



# "May Canaan be the slave of Japheth."

Egyptian, Philistine, Israelite conquerors



# The future of the human race in 3 verses !



**The Proof of the prophecy  
And of the Inspired Scriptures**

After the flood Noah lived 350 years.  
Noah lived a total of 950 years.

The last of the really long lives.



# History repeated.

## Parallels of Adam with Noah



Their world formed from out of water  
They were Head of the human race  
They made a mistake in a garden  
Their nakedness was covered over  
One of their sons split the family  
One of their sons bore the promise  
After their fall a prophecy was given



After the flood Noah lived 350 years.  
Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then he died.

## He died



This is a continuation of the Genesis 5 genealogy.  
Death reigns because sin remains.  
BUT Grace reigns in the promise of a Saviour,  
the LORD, the God of Shem.



**for you and me ?**

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;  
I will remove from you your heart of stone  
and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26