

# A New Start

---

Purpose: to show the development of the human race after the flood and mankind's tendency toward sin.

In this section we see that after the flood the human race has a new start – a godly man and a cleaned environment. Here are the names of Noah, his sons and their meanings:

**Noah** - rest

**Shem** - the name

**Ham** - hot

**Japheth** - opened, enlargement

**Canaan** - humiliated, low (lands)

Genesis 9:18-29 – Why is this story mentioned?

- We saw *sin's origin* with Adam
- We saw *sin's spread* with Cain
- We now have a *new beginning* with Noah
- We now have a *new increase of sin* with Ham

What actually happened?

Noah planted a vineyard, drank of the produce and became drunk.

Why is nothing said about this?

- Probably the first time that he had ever experienced the effects of alcohol

Ham saw his father in a state and exposed him. He did not honour him!

- Ephesians 6:2,3
- Shem and Japheth honoured their father

It says that when Noah awoke he knew what his younger son had done to him

- Verse 24 speaks of his younger son, which probably means his grandson or the youngest son of Ham:
  - In ancient times this term is often used to describe the grandson or younger son (see Daniel 5:1,2,11; Jeremiah 27:7)
  - Ham is always mentioned as the middle son; Shem, Ham and Japheth
  - Canaan is mentioned with his father in the matter, which implies that he had something to do with it

Noah's words to his sons are the first prophecies from a man in the bible. We know that Enoch prophesied, but his were not recorded in the New Testament.

These prophecies are relating two things:

- The nature of the individuals – what they are like in character
- The future of their descendants – what they will become because of who they are

Three sons: one that is clearly headed in an ungodly fashion, one that seems to be heading toward God in, and one who seems to be “in the middle”:

- Canaan (not Ham) – “...a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren”

- Shem – “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant”
- Japheth – “...may God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem; and may Canaan be his servant”

Why is this in the scriptures?

- We learn what happened to the sons of Noah after the flood
- We understand how the Canaanites developed, whom would later be destroyed due to their wicked practices
- We learn that even after the flood, men are still sinful and in need of salvation

What about the “Curse of Ham?”

This is the teaching that African slavery was the result of the curse that Noah pronounced on his son Ham. This is unfounded:

- The curse was pronounced on Canaan, not on Ham
- The Canaanites were eventually fulfilled – the Canaanites were eventually subdued by the children of Israel