

## Genesis 8:1-9:29 — Do-Over

**October 26, 2015**

How many of you played kickball growing up? The best part of kickball is when your kick doesn't go well, they give you a do-over. Wouldn't it be great if we could bring the concept of a kickball do-over into the game of life? How many of us have words we said that we wish we could put back in our mouths? How many of us made foolish or sinful choices and would do anything to rewind the tape of life just five minutes and do it all over again? Wouldn't we all want a do-over? Today, we find a time when the entire planet had the chance for one giant do-over.

If you are new, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. As a church, we are studying the book of Genesis. In previous weeks we learned that Adam and Eve's little sin had disastrous consequences. About 1,600 years after creation the entire planet had descended into a chaotic, murderous, perverted demonic mess.

After waiting 1,600 years for people to repent, God finally brought a measure of justice and sent the flood that wiped the entire planet clean. Even in God's justice, there was undeserved mercy. God kept Noah, his family and a small group of the animals alive on the ark to give them a chance for a do-over on Planet Earth.

This morning, we pick up our study in Genesis 8. Noah was on the ark. Noah and the crew drifted around a water-covered planet for five months without a shower. The thousands of animals that were messing in their cages in an ark

with almost no ventilation was producing a smell putrid enough to make anyone lose his or her lunch when going on deck. That was life when we pick up the story in Genesis 8:1.

### **God gave the world a do-over.**

But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. Then God said to Noah, “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark. Genesis 8:1–19 (ESV)

### **Was this a local flood?**

When you study Noah’s Ark, you find some people claiming the biblical flood was a local flood, a regional tsunami. Just so you know, don’t go with the

local flood option. It was a worldwide flood. The Bible tells us this was a worldwide flood. Look at what Peter said about the flood.

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 2 Peter 3:5–7 (ESV)

Peter said the entire earth was created out of water and later the entire earth was destroyed by water. He also said that just like the entire world was flooded by water, it will one day be destroyed by fire. We are not talking about a local fire just as we were not talking about a local flood. Both of them are world-encompassing.

In addition, the ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat. Modern day Mt. Ararat is located in Armenia. It is 17,000 feet high. The Bible also tells us the flood covered the mountains. When the water table is 17,000 feet above sea level and it lasts for more than a year, I have a news flash. You are not dealing with a local flood. Don't believe the crazy granola Bible commentators. Those are the guys that are fruits, nuts and flakes. Just read your Bible.

### **Did God forget Noah?**

Genesis 8:1 tells us God remembered Noah. Does that mean God forgot Noah? Put yourself in Noah's shoes. After Noah got on the ark, it was 150 days, that is five months of drifting on the sea. The Bible leads us to believe God didn't speak to Noah during that time. Noah was drifting on a massive barge in a confined space with the world's animals and his in-laws; I am not sure which one stunk more, life with the in-laws in a confined space or the animals.

Most of us in Iowa are flat-landers. We don't understand sea sickness. Many of you have not drifted in a boat on a large body of water. I lived on Lake Michigan for 14 years. A boat rising and settling on the waves of a large body of water can produce the most nauseating seasickness. The motion of seasickness leaves you hanging your head over the side of the boat puking out your guts. It is like feeling you have a combination of the flu and a stomach virus. There is nothing you can do to stop that feeling beside get off the boat. Noah and his family didn't have that option for a year.

When God was silent and Noah was enduring a year on the stinking ark with lots of work for the filthy animals, nauseating seasickness, plus the in-laws, do you think Noah felt forgotten? Do you think Noah was calling out to God in his quiet time asking for God to get this whole ark experience over with? I am sure he did.

Chapter 8 begins by telling us God remembered Noah. Prior to this, had God forgotten Noah? No. God was silent but he hadn't forgotten Noah and the animals. God is the one that kept the drifting barge from running into the side of a mountain and tearing a gaping hole in the side and sinking like the Titanic. When it says "God remembered Noah," that is a Hebrew colloquialism meaning God moved into action to change a situation. God began to transform the sea-covered earth into a new world.

I want you to notice this wasn't an instant process. God stopped the rain and the fountains of the deep. He began to blow on the water to make it recede. Noah and crew were still on the ark for another 150 days.

Has anybody ever felt like Noah? Are you in one of those times when, like Noah, life feels overwhelming? You feel like you are stuck adrift in the ark of life and there is nothing you can do to change it? Have you prayed for a better job but God stays silent and you are still unemployed? You have prayed for a spouse but God is silent and you are still single? Have you prayed for better grades but God is silent and you are still barely passing? Many of us are adrift in those tough times in life and we feel like Noah, stuck in a tough place in life and God appears to be silent and not answering our prayers for relief.

God has not forgotten you. He has a good reason for those tough times, even though we might not understand them. There is coming a time when, just like Noah, God will take action. God will change our circumstances. It may be a long time until things change, just like Noah was on the ark a long time, but know God hasn't forgotten you.

**When God gives us a do-over, we give him worship.**

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Genesis 8:20–22 (ESV)

Noah's feet finally hit dry earth. I am sure it felt good to get off the boat. How would you spend your first day on dry land in a year? Noah has a lot of options. He could take a needed shower. He could lay out in the sun and get some much needed sun on that ghostly-white body. He could ride the horse around the countryside. He could play fetch with the dog. The world was in front

of him and his options were endless. What would you do if you were on land for the first time in a year?

Notice what Noah did. His feet hit the ground and his knees hit the dirt. This is the first time in the Bible we find somebody making an altar. He slapped together earth and stones. He took some of the clean animals, which I might add were all near extinction, and he sacrificed them. He burned them completely.

When we go to Leviticus we learn about offerings. Leviticus 1:1-17 describes whole burnt offerings, which is the kind of offering Noah gave. According to Leviticus, a whole burnt offering is the way someone expressed their complete dedication and submission to God.

When Noah got off the ark, he didn't look at himself in triumph and say, "I did it. I was so righteous I survived the flood. I was such a good sailor I got the family and the animals through the storm." As soon as Noah hit the dirt, he got on his knees and worshipped God. He gave God all the credit for carrying him through the storm. He gave God all the credit for his kindness and for saving his life. He offered himself completely to God with a heart of thankfulness.

I have to ask you, when God carries you through a hard time in life, how do you respond? Maybe you, or a family member, is battling a serious disease. When God carries you through that storm and you get off the ark of sickness, what do you do? Do you run to the next thing in life or do you take the time to get on your knees and worship. As a response of thankfulness, do you offer yourself fully to God? Since God saved your life, do you rededicate all of your life as an offering to him? When we get a job after months of looking, what do we

do? As a high schooler, when you do well in your sport, how do you respond? Do you intentionally take the time to stop, thank God for carrying you through, and worship? Do you take the time to rededicate yourself to God and put yourself at his disposal or do you just jump to the first thing that needs to be done?

In response to Noah's act of worship, God made a promise to never again curse the ground. He made a promise that seedtime and harvest would remain as long as the earth remains. The seasons will remain as long as the earth. All the farmers need to make a note to make sure you give Noah a high five when you get to heaven. The regularity of seasons and the predictability of planting time and harvest time was a response of God to Noah's worship. Global warming and climate change is not something we need to fear. God guarantees the earth will stay stable.

### **What new rules did God give for the new world?**

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it." Genesis 9:1-7 (ESV)

Noah and his family were on the earth. It was time for the great do-over of the planet. This time God was giving some new rules for the new world. Let's look at them.

**Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth** — This is the same commission God gave Adam. I can imagine Mrs. Noah looking at the size of the planet and feeling a little overwhelmed by her job. It is a big planet. That meant a lot of kids and some major stretch marks. Incidentally, this whole command to be fruitful and have children is something many of us don't take seriously. We think having one child qualifies us as fruitful. One child is a small harvest. Society tells you to have small families. That is Satan's plan, to cut down on the human race. God's plan is for us to have big families. Children are not a liability. They are a blessing.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. Psalm 127:3–5 (ESV)

Some of you immediately freak out when you think of big families. You think you won't be able to pay for them or clothe them. You think you won't have enough free time or money. Your plan was to retire early so you could have all kinds of time for yourself rather than sacrifice yourself in God-glorifying service to others and your children. Some of you are afraid that if you have too many kids you won't be able to golf.

Having a big family will teach you to live by faith. You most likely won't have all the money you want for the comforts of life. That is ok. It will teach you to pray. It fills your life with stories of how God provided. Remember that your job is to work hard. It is ultimately God's job to provide for your family. He loves your kids more than you do. It will be hard but when you obey God and have a big family, you will make it through.

The theory of planet overpopulation is a scam. Ask Pure Fishing. Ask the contractors. Ask Wal-Mart. The problem is not overpopulation. The problem is we don't have enough of a population. We aborted our kids. Now everybody realizes we needed our kids. Kids aren't a liability. They are the future. Young families, obey God. Be fruitful. Multiple. Let God bless you.

**The dread of you will be upon every beast of the earth.** — Before this, animals were not afraid of mankind. You could pet the deer. The pheasants were not hard to catch. The fish didn't spit out the hooks. The house cat did not hide in the basement. Before this there was great harmony between the animals and man. Now everything runs from us. There is a good reason. Everything is now on the menu.

**Every moving thing that lives shall be for food** — Before this people were vegetarians. All Noah had for dinner after a hard day's work on the ark was a big salad. There was lots of fiber in the diet. This is my favorite part of God's new rules for the new planet. Now we eat animals for food. We can have steak. We can eat chicken. We can have alligator. God didn't just give us meat for food but he set up the whole sport of hunting. All the hunters in the church love this passage. These are the verses you put on the wall next to your gun case. God made the animals run from us so now we have to be crafty and hunt them.

I grew up outside of New York City. Hunting was not part of my youth. When I moved to Michigan, everybody hunted. In an economically depressed town I quickly learned to hunt for food. People asked if I was freaking out when I shot my first deer. I wasn't freaking out. It was a simple process. I read these

verses in my quiet time. I went to Wal-Mart to buy camouflage and a gun. I didn't want the deer to suffer so I bought a large calibre weapon. From my friend's tree stand I sighted in three deer and three shots later dinner was ready to butcher. I wasn't afraid of killing the deer. God told me to feed my growing boys. I just obeyed God's Word.

Some of you don't believe your Bible. You want to be vegans. If you want to be a vegan, that is fine with me because it leaves more meat for me to eat. More vegans on the planet keeps the price of meat down for the rest of us. **You shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood** — Why did God throw in this caveat? It means we are hunters but we are not animals. Animals eat meat raw. We don't eat things raw, except sushi. We eat chicken, but we are not savages, we make sure they are dead and cooked. We hunt. We kill. We grill. That is the order. Sometimes we fish. We don't take a shortcut and eat the live animal. We respect animal life. If your steak is still mooing, God says it is too raw. We want fresh meat but not meat that is too fresh. We butcher. We prepare. We marinate. It is a form of respect for animal life.

This would eventually set ancient Israel apart from its neighbors. Pagan neighbors drank animal blood. It is the old hunting myth that after you kill an animal if you drink its blood you get some of its life essence. That is not biblical. That is pagan. After you kill an animal, you get rid of the blood and eat the protein so your body grows strong. That is Christian.

**For your lifeblood I will require a reckoning** — While we can eat chicken, fish, beef, alligator, snails and fish, we don't eat other people. It doesn't matter if the

lifeblood is in them or not. We don't kill and grill people. In the days before the flood, life was cheap. A few weeks ago we saw Lamech capped people for minor insults. He was the absolute worst bully. Now God is very clear. In the great do-over on our Planet Earth, life must be respected.

If an animal draws blood or kills somebody, it is very clear what happens. You get a shovel and dig a hole, then get your shotgun, shoot the animal and fill the hole. You are being biblical. There is no question. There is no discussion. You don't need to flip a coin. Exodus 21:28-32 tells us that if an ox gores a man to death, the ox gets killed. No questions asked.

The problem is the pagan world doesn't have the Bible or if they do they don't read the Bible so they are very confused on this issue. A former leader of PETA, Ingrid Newkirk once said, "A rat, is a pig, is a dog, is a boy." She believes there is no difference between human life and animal life. Now, I am a dog lover, but let me tell you that if I am driving down the highway and a boy and a dog run in front of my car and I have to hit one of them, I am not at a point of indecision. I do not need to pray about this. I do not need to flip a coin or have a church vote on the issue. The dog loses every time. Humans are created in the image of God. God said if I was hungry I can even eat the dog after I hit him with the car (Not that I would do that, but it is possible).

When my children were younger and our family walked around our neighborhood some people left their dogs off the leash. Sometimes they ran at us and tried to bite us or our children. Newsflash! Any dog that tries to bite my children just purchased a one-way ticket to its grave. I don't care if it is not my

dog. If little FiFi tries to bite my children there is going to be blood shed, and it is not coming from my children. Their life is sacred, the dog is expendable. Sorry we need to terminate your pet. Keep it on a leash.

God also instituted capital punishment. Some of you are against capital punishment. You think it is terrible. You say the state becomes just as evil as the murderer by taking human life. The Bible says human life is so sacred that if someone takes another's life, his or her life should be taken. This is not a personal responsibility for revenge. This is the authority of the government to use the death penalty. This is not for unintentional homicide. This is for intentional murder. We often think the goal of the judicial system is rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is the hope but the goal of the judicial system is justice. Murder is a most heinous crime. It is an assault against God because man is created in the image of God. Because the crime of murder is so great, God says it demands the ultimate punishment.

Incidentally, the taking of life is not just a capital offense when life is out of the womb. The Bible says the taking of life in the womb is also a capital offense. The Bible says the abortion doctors are not sitting pretty in God's eyes.

["When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. Exodus 21:22-25 \(ESV\)](#)

When men are fighting and strike a pregnant woman and the child is killed, it is a capital crime. How much more a capital crime is the taking of a child's life when it is premeditated abortion. Life is sacred.

Before I leave this. I know some of you women have had abortions. At this moment, in the brokenness of your heart cling to the forgiveness that Christ offers. It is good to grieve over our sin but good grief drives us into the arms of our savior which is the only place we can find forgiveness.

### **What new promise did God make for the new world?**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.” Genesis 9:8–17 (ESV)

### **What is a covenant?**

God established his covenant with Noah. A covenant establishes a relationship. It is similar to a contract, but it is different. It can be between God and people or you can have it between people and people. A covenant can be conditional or unconditional. An example of a conditional covenant between God and Israel was when they went into the Promised Land. If ancient Israel obeyed God, it would go well. If they didn’t obey him, it would go poorly.

See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known. Deuteronomy 11:26–28 (ESV)

Not all covenants are conditional. Many covenants are unconditional. That means regardless of how someone else acts, you promise to commit yourself to that person. A modern example of an unconditional covenant between people is the marriage covenant. In marriage a couple covenants to love one another unconditionally no matter what life brings — for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health until death do us part. Covenants often have signs with them to remind people you that you are in a covenant. In the marriage covenant, the sign is a wedding ring. You wear that ring to let everybody else know you are off the market. Guys, if you are in the office and the lonely wife in a bad marriage wants to have lunch with you, don't entertain the option. You are in an exclusive covenant with your wife. You don't take your wedding ring off. You hold the sign of the covenant in front of the lady's face. You talk about your wife and how much you love her because you are in covenant. The man that takes off his wedding ring is in great trouble because he is not proclaiming he is in covenant.

In the Bible, there are other covenants. There is a covenant God makes with Abraham where God made an unconditional promise that he will give Abraham a vast people called the Jews. The sign of the covenant is circumcision. Jesus gives us a new covenant relationship between us and God through his death on the cross. The sign of the covenant is communion. This is why we repeat Jesus' words and say with the juice, "This is the New Covenant in my blood."

With Noah, God makes an unconditional covenant with him and all of humanity. It is a promise to never again destroy the earth until Christ returns to judge sinners and establish the new heavens and earth. The sign of the covenant is the rainbow. There will be storms, but after the storm we will see the sign of the covenant and be reminded that storms are now limited by God's promise and God's mercy. The rainbow reminds us that though we all deserve to die in a storm, like the world did at the time of Noah, God promised to be merciful.

God is so good at his covenant signs that some people try to rip them off. The LGBT movement ripped off the rainbow. They say it is a sign of gay pride and the colors symbolize sexual diversity. That isn't true. The rainbow symbolizes that right now God is giving us mercy, not justice. He is giving us more time to repent rather than what we deserve. This makes the whole gay pride rainbow quite humorous. They think it means gay pride but in reality it is a reminder to thank God for not striking us dead in a storm and giving us what we deserve. I think it is quite ironic the LGBT movement flies the rainbow and the rainbow means, "thank God for not killing us and giving us what we deserve."

### **What should we do when we fail our do-over?**

The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed. Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of

servants shall he be to his brothers.” He also said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.” After the flood Noah lived 350 years. All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died. Genesis 9:18–29 (ESV)

Last week we saw Noah was a man of great faith, courage and obedience in a godless generation. Noah was the poster child of godliness when he built a huge ark for 120 years, laboring alone in a godless society. Noah made the hall of fame for faith in Hebrews 11. He was truly a spiritual hero for us to emulate. As we come to this chapter, we find that even our best spiritual heroes are sinful people.

When we were kids, our Sunday school teachers had us draw the coloring sheet of Noah with his animals in a cute ark. Noah had a cotton ball for a beard. We sang about Noah and his arkie, arkie. Our teachers skipped the next chapter where we find Noah naked, drunk and passed out on the couch. It is no fun to have kids color that sheet. We sing about Noah and the arkie, arkie but in this chapter we would have to sing about Noah being drunkie, drunkie. This is what I love about the Bible. It doesn't just say that Noah and his family lived happily ever after. It is honest. Even great men, like Noah, can blow it big time. The Bible isn't afraid to tell us.

After things settled down from the flood, Noah went back to farming. He grew grapes. He had a great grape harvest and made some wine. I don't know why Noah did this. He was 600 years old. He knew what would happen if you left grape juice in the basement for a year. He had a really bad day. Maybe he was depressed. I don't know.

He drank and ended up stone drunk. In his drunken stupor he tore off his clothes and passed out naked on the couch to sleep it off. I am sure Noah was in an extremely undignified position. Most drunk people are.

What happened next was his younger son, Ham, stopped in to see Dad. He saw his old man buck naked on the couch sleeping off his hangover.

Noah made a bad choice. Noah acted foolishly. Noah acted sinfully. But Noah was still Ham's dad. When Dad makes a bad choice, what are you going to do about it?

[Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 \(ESV\)](#)

This means you honor your dad even when he isn't perfect because he is your dad. A son or daughter's job is to protect his or her father from sinful choices and even to honor and protect his reputation after he makes sinful choices. Noah was old. He was senile. He was no longer in his prime. He was low on oxygen to the brain.

Instead of protecting his father and honoring his father, Ham started laughing. He got out his selfie stick and took a picture of him next to his drunk, naked dad. Then he posted it on Facebook and subtitled it, "Dad, the drunken fool." Ham thought it was hilarious. He thought everybody would laugh at his father's expense. The great patriarch was buzzed in the buff.

The Hebrew leads us to believe that Ham didn't just tell everybody about Noah's nakedness but it implies Ham took advantage of his father in his naked, drunken state. What did he do? Did he shave off one of Noah's eyebrows? Did he dress Noah up as bozo the clown to humiliate him when he awoke? We don't

know. The Bible doesn't give us the details because we don't need the details. What we need to know is Ham was taking advantage of his elderly father that was a great man of God who fell into a sinful choice.

Ham was brought into the world by his father. He was saved from the flood by his father. He owed his father everything. After the grandkids saw the pictures of their naked drunk grandpa on Facebook, Noah would never be able to offer the family prayer at meals without them snickering.

Thankfully Ham's two brothers came to the rescue. They walked in backward and dropped a sheet over their father. They wanted to honor him by covering his nakedness rather than exposing their father's sin; they protected him.

This leaves us with a good thought. When somebody has a bad day, and he or she sins, how do we handle it? What do we do when a family member sins, especially a respected family member, like a father? Some of us, in the name of prayer requests, are gossips. We are like human manure spreaders. We text, call, Snapchat, Instagram, tweet and Facebook all the dirt we can find on other people. If somebody is well-respected and has served others tirelessly, you love them and don't platform their failures. Broadcasting failures ruins relationships. It doesn't love people.

[Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. Proverbs 17:9 \(ESV\)](#)

When people mess up in your family, are you a gossip or do you protect their reputation? Protect your father, your mother, your family and friends, don't hurt them by telling everybody what happened when they had a bad day.

As you might expect, when Noah slept off the wine, he was raging mad. He cursed his son. He didn't do it the way we would expect. Instead of cursing Ham directly, he cursed Ham's son, Canaan. Why did he do this? Here are some reasons.

1. **Nothing is more painful than watching our children pay for our sin.**

When we mess up, we would like to pay for our own sin. Watching our children pay for our sin is the worst pain.

2. **Canaan fathered the Canaanites.** Next week we will get to the table of the nation. That explains how all the different languages and cultures of the world were disseminated from Noah's three sons. What we will find is the descendants of Canaan were a wicked people that God judges. In the rest of the Bible, they are the enemies of the Jews. The Jews come from the line of Shem, the blessed son. The Babylonians, Egyptians, Philistines and others all come from the line of Canaan. They are all cursed by God. Interestingly, when Israel goes into the Promised Land they are forbidden to adopt the sexual practices of the Canaanites, especially their practices of exposing nakedness. Does this sound familiar from Ham? Look at Leviticus 18 tonight in Life Group to learn more.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the Lord your God. You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. Leviticus 18:1–3 (ESV)

"None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the Lord. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her

nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness. Leviticus 18:6–8 (ESV)

Who is the original Canaanite that uncovered his father's nakedness?  
Ham! This is the blood line of the strippers, porn addicts and sexual perverts.  
No wonder God's people were to wipe the land clean of their flesh!

## Conclusion

This week, the world was given a do-over. It was a second chance to get things right because our God is not just a God of justice but he is filled with patience and mercy. Every time we see a rainbow after a storm we are reminded of the flood, and in that storm, we didn't get the kind of weather we deserved. We didn't die. We also see that even the great heroes of faith, like Noah, are still sinners. If even great men like Noah mess up their do-overs from God, is there any hope for us? We mess up the do-overs God gives us again and again.

Just like Shem and Japheth covered the sin of Noah, Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave to cover our sins, our shame and our disgrace. When we place our faith in Jesus we are adopted into the family of God. Now, even when we ruin our do-overs, our sin and shame is covered by Jesus and our sin cannot separate us from God.

Next week join us as we learn how all the languages, nations and cultures of the world developed from Noah and his three sons. I look forward to seeing you next week.



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