

Torah Portion T2-Noah/Noach Gen 6:9-11:32

NOTE – for ZOOM meeting – Genesis 9 discussion is for adults only.

Gen 6:9-22 - Noah and the Flood

Last week's portion ended with the statement that Noah found grace in the eyes of YHVH.

V22 - This chapter concludes with the statement that Noah followed God's instructions exactly.

Grace is not just favor; it is the calling AND empowerment to follow God's will and purpose for our lives.

Titus 2:11-12 NAS95 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

Gen 7:1-24 - Noah and the Flood (continued)

V2- 7 pairs of clean, 1 pair of unclean animals – HOW did Noah know which ones were unclean? God MUST have instructed him!

V16 – YeHoVaH shut the door!

Gen 8:1-19 - The Flood Subsides

V4 – NOT Mount Ararat, but the mountainS of Ararat (a mountain range). V24 – total of 150 days the flood lasted. From 2nd month, 17th day (Gen 7:11) 'til the 7th month, 17th day

Gen 8:20-22 - God's Covenant with Noah

These 3 verses introduce the fact that God first decided “in His heart” to never destroy all life on the Earth again, before announcing to Noah and family.

Gen 9:1-17 - God's Covenant with Noah (continued)

V3 – Meat is now on the menu.

In Genesis 1:29-30, God describes man's diet as vegetarian. Even so, people raised and even slaughtered flocks of animals. This does not necessarily mean that they were eating the animals. Animal parts could serve many purposes such as using their skins to make clothes, their bladders to transport water, their fat to use as fuel for fire, and their bones to serve as sewing needles or tools.

In addition, we see that man offered animals as sacrifices to God.

V6 – Capital punishment is commanded by YHVH for cases of murder.

V11 – the unilateral Noahic Covenant

God's Covenant with Noah is one of two unilateral covenants in Scripture. There were no conditions (If...then) included in the terms. These covenants emphasize God's faithfulness and commitment to humanity regardless of human action or inaction.

NOTE: I always had some difficulty with calling the Abrahamic Covenant a unilateral Covenant, since I see circumcision as a significant requirement. However, scholars contend, and I get it, that when the Covenant was made, or “cut”, only God walked through the pieces of the sacrificed animals. Abram did not. See Gen 15:9-21.

Covenant Name	Description	Sign/Promise
Noahic Covenant	God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again.	The rainbow as a sign of this promise.
Abrahamic Covenant	God promised to make Abraham a great nation and bless all families through him.	Circumcision as a sign of the covenant.

Gen 9:18-29 - Noah's Descendants

Incredibly Noah does NOT curse Ham but DOES curse his son, Canaan!!

Proposed Possible Theories of what exactly happened

1. Literal – sin of accidental voyeurism (What?) – no evidence to be found. And Canaan cursed?
2. Paternal incest – sodomy – view held by many scholars – but WHY would Noah curse Canaan?
3. Ham castrated Noah or in some way prevented him from having more children – extrabiblical sources cite examples of this; however, nothing in the text provides evidence.

The Bible sometimes uses idioms. I used to watch NCIS and I loved the Israeli character Ziva because though she could speak 5 languages, she constantly messes up English idioms.

Ziva: "You're going on like a broken tape." Tony: "You mean "like a broken record.""
 Tony: "All the people are here for the yard sales." Ziva: "Do Marines sell their yards often?"
 Ziva: Don't count your crocodiles until they hatched. Gibbs: Huh? You're right.

After doing a deep dive (another idiom-sorry!), I concluded that this phrase, "saw Noah's nakedness" uses a Hebrew idiom. Unpacking the meaning of this idiom resulted in a FOURTH possibility as to what happened in that tent.

The challenge of idioms is that they are dependent on time and culture for accurate understanding. I hope you find that in the next few minutes, I will "hit the nail on the head" (Ugh! Sorry!)- - - - -

In the spirit of letting the Bible interpret the Bible, I offer these references to SHOW that the phrase in question is an idiom for sexual intercourse.

Leviticus 20:17 TS2009 'And a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, and sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness: is it loving-commitment? And they shall be cut off before the eyes of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness, he bears his crookedness.

"Uncovering nakedness" and "Seeing nakedness" are equated in this verse. BOTH refer to removal of clothing for sexual intercourse. Another idiom for sexual activity is e.g. "lie down with a woman."

H1540

גָּלַהּ

gālāh

gaw-law'

A primitive root; to denude (especially in a disgraceful sense). **Uncover.**

Leviticus 18 is a chapter devoted to sexual sin, and uses this idiom in such a way as to reveal what really happened in Noah's tent:

Leviticus 18:6-8 TS2009 'No one is to approach anyone of his own flesh to uncover his nakedness. I am YeHoVAH. 7 'The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you do not uncover. She is your mother, you do not uncover her nakedness. 8 'The nakedness of your father's wife you do not uncover, it is your father's nakedness.

Leviticus 18:16 TS2009 'The nakedness of your brother's wife you do not uncover, it is your brother's nakedness.

Leviticus 20:11a TS2009 'And a man who lies with the wife of his father has uncovered the nakedness of his father,

**See also:
Ez 16:35**

Ezekiel 22:10 TS2009 "In you they have uncovered the nakedness of a father. In you they have humbled women who are defiled during their uncleanness.

Ez 23:10, 18, 29

Note that seeing/uncovering nakedness is never used to denote homosexual activity.

My conclusion:

**"Uncovering/seeing nakedness" is unequivocally meant as a way of saying "have sex with."
But the idiom is more than just about having sex. Let's review:**

Leviticus 18:16 TS2009 'The nakedness of your brother's wife you do not uncover, it is your brother's nakedness.

Leviticus 18:8 TS2009 'The nakedness of your father's wife you do not uncover, it is your father's nakedness.

Leviticus 20:11 TS2009 'And a man who lies with the wife of his father has uncovered the nakedness of his father, . . .

Do you see it ?

What happened in Noah's tent? Not paternal incest, homosexual violation.

Ham took advantage of his mother; he had sex with his "father's wife". Canaan was the offspring of Ham's MATERNAL incest, most probably rape.

The other sons were not complicit. It specifically states they did not touch their mother, but they went in backwards with a covering for her, in order to not further humiliate her.

This is the only possibility that makes sense of the curse on Canaan.

Ham is raising up competitive seed through his father's wife (mother) with the intent of taking control of the family and then passing it on to his illegitimate son Canaan.

Other biblical examples:

Reuben did this with Bilhah in Genesis 35:22, Genesis 49:3-4. In 2 Samuel 12:8, we have an account where David took Saul's wives and concubines to legitimize his position.

Gen 10:1-32 - Nations Descended from Noah

Many websites offer their take on where the descendants of Noah settled.

This MIGHT be a legit use of Ai - to research and compile a listing of the best scholarly guesses as to where the descendants of Noah settled relative to modern geography.

V10 – “the beginning of his (Nimrod’s) kingdom. . .

The story of Nimrod – while Genesis opens with “In the beginning” of time, space, and matter created by God, now we read of the beginning of secular authority and power, or monarchies. My guess is Nimrod wanted to build a tower so tall that of God flooded the Earth again, those at the tower top could survive.

Gen 11:1-9 - The Tower of Babel

This story can almost be seen as an “interruption “ to the genealogy of Shem begun in chapter 10.

Take note that the name Shem means “name.” So in verse 4, the people said, let us build a city and make a name (SHEM) for OURSELVES.

Man has built many towers over the centuries. Theologian John Lennox said, “ the ideology of the modern skyscraper is the ideology of ancient Babylon. Identity, technological achievement, prowess, pushing out the boundaries, flaunting wealth and power, reaching for the sky, grasping at immortality.

We all have a choice. We can make a name for ourself or we can follow God’s lead and He will make a name for us.

We can build a city (or a life) on our own efforts and man-made foundations. Or we can build a life on the foundation of God’s instructions.

God speaks to a man called Abram and he says, "Leave your country and your kindred and I'll make a great nation off you." But then he says this, "I will make your name great. Shem, your shem, great."

Is it wrong to use our minds and God-given intelligence for creativity, invention, construction, manufacturing, medicine, etc.? Absolutely not.

There's nothing with wrong with using the mind and trusting God. There's everything wrong with trusting the mind and using God.

The metaphorical “city” - there is more to the city of Babel. We could spend days looking at it and write a book on it.

Abraham was looking of that eternal city –

Hebrews 11:10 NAS95 for he (Abraham) was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

And Revelation has 2 cities: Mystery Babylon, which is built on the man-made foundations, and full of corruption; and the New Jerusalem, built by GOD, and coming down from heaven to Earth for God to dwell with His people.

Which city do you seek?

Prophet Portion

Isa. 54:1-17 - The Eternal Covenant of Peace

Isaiah 54:5 TS2009 “For your Maker is your husband, YeHoVAH of hosts is His Name, and the Set-apart One of Yisra’el is your Redeemer. He is called the Elohim of all the earth.

Discussion – HOW exactly can YeHoVaH be the husband of Israel in this prophecy of the future when He divorced Israel (see Jer 3:6-10; Ezek 16; Isaiah 27:8 (sent away) ? V7 refers to His regathering her (Israel). Deut 24:1-4 defines this as a forbidden, prohibited remarriage.

References (there are more)

Isaiah 62:5

Hosea 2:19-20

John 3:29

Matthew 9:15

Ephesians 5:25-27

Revelation 19:7-9

These phrases appear as such:

the bridegroom Matthew 9:15, Matthew 25:1-11, Mark 2:19-20, Luke 5:34-35

Messiah (Christ) and about the church Ephesians 5:31-32

bride adorned for her husband Revelation 21:2

to one husband 2 Corinthians 11:2

present the church to Himself glorious Ephesians 5:25-27

bridegroom rejoices over the bride Isaiah 62:5

I will betroth you to me Hosea 2:19-20

Isa 55:1-5 - The Compassion of the Lord

Isaiah 55:1a TS2009 “Oh everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

V1 – fulfilled by Yeshua/Jesus on Shemini Atzeret (Last Great Day of Tabernacles AKA the 8th day) when he cried out in

John 7:37-38 TS2009 And on the last day, the great day of the festival, Yeshua (Jesus) stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me, and let him who believes in Me drink. 38 “As the Scripture said, out of His innermost shall flow rivers of living water.” See Isa_55:1, Isa_44:3, Jer_2:13, Jer_17:13, Zec_14:8, Psa_36:8-9, Pro_14:27, Joh_4:10, Joh_6:63, 1Co_10:4, Rev_7:17, Rev_21:6, Rev_22:1 and Rev_22:17.

Yeshua Portion

Week 36-Luke 10:1-16 (The same passage is covered next week also)

During this time the disciples are sent out to preach

Luke 10:11 - . . . “that the kingdom of God has come near.”

When the Torah portion was read regarding Nimrod, his reign as an earthly king, and his tower of babel, Yeshua sent his disciples out proclaiming the kingdom of God!