

The Oracle of Noah (Genesis 9:18–29)

Grace Chapel February 13, 2008 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF GENESIS

FLOW OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS

Toledot 1): 1:1–2:3: God formed (days 1–3) so He could fill the earth with light and life (days 4–6) and He rested, because creation was done (day 7)

Toledot 2: 2:4–4:26 (Day 6ff.) God’s evaluation of creation (after forming Adam) was, “Not Good that man should be alone,” but then He created the woman so the earth could be filled with people, but humanity fell into death while the woman was in her first pregnancy & that child murdered his brother before spawning a lineage

Toledot 3: 5:1–6:8 All of Adam’s descendants died, except Enoch who walked with God, then demons began procreating with humans (in an attempt to destroy humanity, but Noah found grace in God’s eyes

Toledot 4: 6:9–9:29 (Part 1: 6:9–9:17): God used the universal flood to judge humanity which had become corrupt and violent, but delivered Noah and his immediate family to start over in repopulating the earth (with which God covenanted not to flood, but to provide for creation to procreate and to exact penalty for encroaching on God’s domain of taking human life.

REVIEW:

- A 8:21 God promised never to destroy humanity (with a flood) despite man’s evil**
- B 8:22 God blesses humanity with provision for being fruitful and multiplying**
- B’ 9:1–7 God blessed Noah (as He had blessed Adam), commanding man to be fruitful & multiply; not to destroy man (created in God’s image).**
- A’ 9:8–17 God covenants with humanity not to bring a universal flood, but guarantees the covenant with the rainbow as a sign (to God and to man) that He will keep His word**

NEW EXPOSITION:**Excursus: Summary statements of progeny do not necessarily list them in birth order:**

Cf. Genesis 11:26–27: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

We might surmise that Abraham was older than Nahor and Nahor was older than Haran. However, that is not the case. Abram was actually the youngest of the three.

Abram was 75 when he left the city named Haran (Genesis 12:4)

Abram's father (Terah) died in the city named Haran at age 205 (Gen 11:32)

Abram did not leave the city named Haran until after his father died (Acts 7:4)

205 Terah's age at his death (before Abram left the city of Haran)
 – 75 Abram's age when he left the city of Haran
 130 The youngest that Terah could have been when Abram was born

Gen 11:26 Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.
 This means that he was 70 when his eldest (Haran) was born.

Thus, Genesis 11:28 means that Haran was 135 when he died ($205 - 70 = 135$)

Conclusion: Progeny are not necessarily listed in birth order.

9:18–19: Setting: The earth’s entire population descended from Shem, Ham, and Japheth (with Canaan being one of Ham’s sons)

9:20–23: Upon seeing Noah naked and in a drunken stupor, Ham was disrespectful, but Shem and Ham respectfully covered their father’s nakedness

9:20–21: Event: After planting grapes, Noah became drunk & lay naked in his tent
What does it mean (within Genesis) that Noah became *a man of the earth*?

How long after the flood is it that Noah became drunk?
Did Noah know about wine before the flood?

The time between entering and leaving the ark

CHRONOLOGY (adapted from Allen Ross):	days	
Waiting in the ark for 7 days:		
Month 2, day 10: Noah enters ark (7:7–9)	—	
Month 2, day 17*: rain starts (7:10–11)	7	7
Water continued for 150 days		
Month 3, day 27: rain stops (7:12)		40
Month 7, day 17*: ark rests in Ararat mountains (7:24; 8:4)	110	150
Water receded in 150 days		
Month 10, day 1*: mountaintops visible (8:5)	74	
Month 11, day 11*: raven/dove released & returned (8:6–9)		40
Month 11, day 18*: dove sent & returns w/ leaf (8:10)	7	
Month 11, day 25: Dove sent, does not return (8:12)		7
Month 12, day 17: Water receded (8:3)	22	150
Earth dried in 70 days		
Month 1, day 1*: Noah saw dry land (8:13)		13
Month 2, day 27*: Noah leaves ark (8:14–19)	57	<u>+70</u>
		377

*Asterisks on calendar dates specified in Genesis

Time between planting a vineyard and harvesting grapes

Gen 10:1 & 6: Gen 10:6 lists Ham’s post-flood sons (Canaan = *firstborn*?)

What do we say about Noah in verses 20–21?

9:20–23: Upon seeing Noah naked and in a drunken stupor, Ham was disrespectful, but Shem and Ham respectfully covered their father’s nakedness

9:20–21: Event: After planting grapes, Noah became drunk and lay naked in his tent

9:22–23: Response: Ham was disrespectful, but Shem and Japheth were respectful
Ham disrespectfully made his father’s condition public

Note Leviticus 18:2ff. (It certainly seems that the Canaanites existed under curse)

Shem & Ham treated Noah with grace & respect (even though he precipitated things

9:24–27: Oracle: Upon waking Noah learned of Ham’s actions, Noah pronounced an oracle, cursing Canaan with slavery, but blessing Shem and Ham

9:24: Upon waking, Noah learned of Ham’s actions

9:24–27: Oracle: Upon waking Noah learned of Ham’s actions, Noah pronounced an oracle, cursing Canaan with slavery, but blessing Shem and Ham

9:24: Upon waking, Noah learned of Ham’s actions

9:25 Noah’s oracle cursed Canaan (Ham’s young son)

Genesis 10:6 does not say that he was Ham’s youngest child; likely the eldest

We already discussed Genesis 10 in the message on genealogies in Genesis

Genesis 10 focuses on making Israel aware of who they should and who they should not enter into alliance:

Note how Abram treated Melchizadek (Genesis 14:18–20)

Note how Abram treated the Melech of Sodom (Genesis 14:21–24)

Note how Moses approached the king of Edom (Numbers 20:14ff.)

Note how Moses approached the king of Moab (Numbers 21:21ff.)

9:26 Shem’s God will be blessed, in part, through the subservience of Canaan
Shem = *name*

9:27 Japheth will be blessed (even at Shem’s expense), Canaan will be subservient
Japheth = *enlarge*

9:28–29 Noah lived 350 years after the flood for a total of 950 years

CONCLUSION