

Slavery, Racism, the Bible, and Us
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The Curse of Canaan – Genesis 9
What You May Have Heard:

1. **Noah’s Children Were Different color and Their Names Reflected Such**
2. **Cursed Canaan’s Descendants Eventually Migrated to Africa**
3. **While in Africa, Canaan’s Descendants Gradually Become Dark-skinned as a Result of this Curse**
4. **Slavery of These Dark-skinned People is . . .**
 - a. Prophesied by Genesis 9
 - b. Acceptable because of Genesis 9
 - c. Is part of God’s plan as revealed in Genesis 9
5. **This Was Used Extensively in the American Justification for Slavery and Racism**
 - a. Those with dark skin were under a **curse**
 - b. Hence, would be slaves for those with lighter skin
 - c. Therefore, “**mixed**” marriages were forbidden (– more about this next week)
6. **This Was an Extremely Wide-spread View Both Within and Without Churches**
 - a. It is also **insane**
 - b. We have no idea what color any of these people are (and it makes absolutely no difference)
 - c. Moses is dealing with geographical issues, not skin issues(!)
 - d. This is a lesson to us about the lengths we humans will go to justify our **sin**

The Account as Moses Records it for Us¹

1. **Noah purposefully got himself drunk**
2. **While drunk, he took off his clothes**
3. **Ham saw Noah passed out, and told his brothers in an attempt to mock their father**
4. **Noah, when he is sober, curses Canaan**
 - a. These are the only recorded words of Noah in the Bible
 - b. Why was Canaan cursed? – Moses does not directly tell us
 - i. Perhaps Canaan was **involved** with his father
 - ii. Perhaps Noah knew that Ham and Canaan were both perverted and was cursing the father by cursing the **son**
 - iii. Perhaps Noah couldn’t curse Ham because of God’s previous blessing on Ham – v. 1
 - iv. Perhaps God superintended this curse so the right person was cursed (like the blessing of Joseph’s sons)
 - c. This would have made sense to Moses’ audience (Israel on her way to Canaan-land)
 - i. The Canaanites were completely debased
 - ii. Their religion contained shameless depravity in their worship services
 - iii. They were a continual threat to Israel’s purity

There Is Absolutely No Evidence That Canaan(!) Eventually Moved to Africa – Matthew 15:22!

Important Notes

1. _____ of the genetic possibilities for the human race now extant were in Noah and his family
2. Never in Scripture (or anywhere else) are we told that Canaanites migrated to Africa(!)
3. Never in Scripture is anyone said to be in _____ because of this curse
4. This is a lesson in human depravity

¹Notes modified from Ronald Youngblood, *Genesis*