

The Three Families of Man

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 9:18-28.

B. There is really only one race, but there are three families of mankind.

II. Things of interest.

A. The drunkenness of Noah.

1. There is no condemnation here even though everywhere afterward this act is condemned.

2. Noah lay naked in his tent after this happened.

B. The strange act of Ham.

1. It is unclear what happened here exactly.

2. Some say that “seeing Noah’s nakedness” is euphemistic for some homosexual act. (Deuteronomy 18)

3. Shem, Ham and Japheth all lived in a culture of sexual perversion before the flood.

C. The filial respect of Japheth and Shem. They showed love and honored their father.

D. The curse of Ham’s grandson Canaan.

1. Noah cursed Canaan instead of Ham because sexual perversion is linked with parental influence.

2. There may even be a direct hereditary link to homosexuality. (Genesis 6)

3. These tribes became such a perversion upon the land that they needed to be wiped out in order to preserve society from the deterioration and degradation that society represented. (Joshua 9:23)

4. The curse was fulfilled in Joshua’s day.

5. The colored people of the earth are descendents of Ham, but not all his descendents were through Canaan.

E. The descendents of Shem were given a role of spiritual leadership—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam descend from this line.

F. Japheth was promised enlargement, from which Europeans and Indians descend. This refers to geographical and intellectual enlargement.

E. Ham was given service.

1. Canaan was given to slavery.
2. The rest of Ham's descendents were given to technical service.
3. They were the great inventors.

F. The shepherds, the wise men, and the magi who visited Jesus at birth were all representative of the descendents of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The gospel is also preached to these peoples as well.

G. Man has the capacity to think, create and worship—all these need to be held into balance. (Psalm 8)

Application questions:

1. How did Shem and Japheth honor their father? How can one honor his or her father similarly today?

2. How would you respond to someone who says that Christians do not need to be intelligent or creative—only obedient?

3. Racism has often been propagated by false readings of genealogies. How would you respond to a person reading the biblical text this way?
