

OT History for Juniors: Lesson 5, "FROM NOAH TO ABRAHAM"

I. REVIEW

A. How did sin come into the world? Adam & Eve listened to the serpent, devil and disobeyed God.

1. Did sin end with Adam and Eve? No, we are all sinners.
2. How did sin show itself in the family of Adam and Eve? Cain killed Abel, his brother.
3. Did God promise salvation from sin? How? Quote Genesis 3:15!

B. As the children of Cain spread in the world how bad did the world become?

1. The children of Cain (the seed of the serpent) became mighty, much mightier than the children of Seth (the seed of the woman, who belonged to Christ, and believed in God).
2. The children of Cain persecuted [what is persecution?] the children of Seth, so that they became few in number. Can you tell me about any famous godly children of Seth in those days? (Enoch, Noah).
3. Some of the children of Seth married the daughters of Cain and so they fell away from God, and showed themselves to be *ungodly*.
4. The world became so wicked that God said of it, "The wickedness of man is great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5).

C. What did God do to the wicked world, the evil children of Cain, the seed of the serpent? Flood!

1. Why did God send the Flood? Two reasons: 1) Man's wickedness, 2) To save His people.
2. Did God destroy all men? Why not? Because He would keep His promise to send the Seed of the woman, who must come from the children of Seth.
3. Whom did God save from the wicked world? Noah, and his family. Did God save Noah because Noah was better than everyone else? No. *Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord*.
4. How were Noah and his family not killed by the Flood? Noah built an Ark? Who was in this Ark?

II. SIN IN NOAH'S FAMILY

A. The Flood did not wash away sin, because sin is in our hearts. Sin appeared after the Flood.

1. After the Flood, Noah became a farmer and he grew grapes.

- a. But he made the grapes into wine, and he liked the wine so much, that he drank too much wine, and he became drunk.
- b. What does it mean to be drunk? It means to drink too much wine or beer, and when a person does that he begins to feel funny; in fact, the more he drinks, the stranger he feels. A drunk man is not able to control his words and his actions. He does stupid things; he shouts; he falls over; if he tries to drive a car, he could crash and be killed, or kill someone else.
- c. Noah became drunk, and he acted in a very strange way; he took off his clothes and sat naked and drunk in his tent. Imagine that! That was sinful for Noah to be drunk.

2. It was very wrong for Noah to be drunk and we must not be drunk; wicked men love to be drunk.

- a. God hates drunkenness because God wants us to be in control of our minds and actions so that we can serve God. We call that being **sober**. When we are sober, we serve God; when we are drunk we cannot serve Him.
- b. It was wrong for Noah to be drunk, and when God's people are drunk they must be sorry for that sin, and stop it. When they are sorry, God forgives, because Jesus died for our sins on the cross.

B. It was very wrong for Noah to be drunk and naked in his tent, but one of Noah's sons made it worse. Remember Noah's three sons: Ham, Shem and Japheth. Ham was Noah's younger son.

1. Ham saw his father drunk and naked in his tent, and he made fun of him.

- a. Ham mocked his father; he made fun of him, and laughed at him, and he found his two brothers, and told them what their father had done. Ham thought Noah's sin was funny.
- b. Ham wanted the other brothers to laugh at Noah's sin. But Ham was wicked in doing that. He should not have laughed and enjoyed Noah's sin; he should have been sad
- c. But Shem and Japheth did not think that what their father had done was funny; what did they do? They told no one; they took a blanket and they walked backwards into the tent so they could not see their father's nakedness and they covered him with the blanket.
- d. Shem and Japheth did the right thing. Never laugh at sin. They honoured their father. So must we.

2. The result of the actions of the three brothers was cursing and blessing. Noah woke up and heard what had happened.

- a. Noah cursed the son of Ham ("Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren"[Gen. 9:25]).

- 1) What does it mean that Noah *cursed* Canaan? It does not mean that Noah said some bad words; it means that Noah spoke as a *prophet*. These words about Canaan were God's words. Something bad would happen to Canaan and his sons. Evil would come on him in the future.
 - 2) What evil thing would happen to Canaan? God would make Canaan and Canaan's children the servants of Shem. When did this happen? (Much later when Israel conquered the land of Canaan). And, God would not save people from Canaan's family. *They would be part of the Seed of the serpent; the enemies of God's people, not from the seed of the woman.*
- b. Noah blessed Shem and Japheth ("Blessed be the Lord God of Shem [...] God shall enlarge Japheth and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem and Canaan shall be his servant" [Gen. 9:26-27]).**
- 1) What does it mean that Noah *blessed* Shem and Japheth? It was not just nice words that Noah said. Noah spoke *God's Word*. God would cause good to happen to them in the future.
 - 2) What good things? Shem would have the victory over Canaan; and God would save people from Shem's children and the Seed of the woman, the promised Savior, would come from the line of Shem. How wonderful! And one day, Japheth's children would become part of God's people too, in the tent of Shem!

III. THE TOWER OF BABEL

A. After the Flood God commanded the people to spread out and *fill the earth*.

1. **This was necessary because there were only eight people left, and from the three sons of Noah the whole world must be filled with people again.**
 - a. The children of Noah obeyed; they and their wives had many, many children, and these children had children of their own, until soon there were many people.
 - b. But soon the children of the world did not want to spread out and become many peoples; they wanted to build for themselves a great city in a flat area called the plain of Shinar.
 - c. And they found a mighty man to be their leader, Nimrod, a mighty hunter; this man was able to kill the great beasts (dangerous wild animals) that threatened the people. Nimrod was mighty but he was the great grandson of Ham, and a wicked man.
2. **Nimrod and his followers started a great city in the plain of Shinar; it would be, they thought, the greatest city in the world, the centre of a mighty kingdom with wicked Nimrod at the top.**
 - a. They started to build a high tower; so high they wanted it to be that it would reach heaven. Why did they do this. "Go to, let us build a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Gen. 11:4).
 - b. Instead of doing what God had told them to do, they wanted to stay in one place and make a name for themselves. They wanted glory; they wanted power; they wanted men to praise *them*. They did not want to praise God and give *Him* glory.
 - c. Also, by having a mighty kingdom which praises man they would have a kingdom which would be against God's people; and, so Satan (who was behind it all) hoped, God's people would be destroyed, and there would be NO SEED of the WOMAN!

B. But God stopped it.

1. **God was not pleased, and He came down to spoil their wicked plan.** He confused their languages! Before this everyone spoke one language (explain).
2. **But God did a miracle and immediately the people started speaking in different languages,** so they could not understand one another; they could not work together, and they had to spread over the earth.
3. **The name of the Tower was Babel** which means confused.
4. After this, men speaking different languages lived together in separate groups in the earth.
5. God's promised Seed of the woman was safe; and Shem's children (remember the Seed comes from Shem) grew in the earth; but God would choose one man from Shem's family: Abraham.