

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Thirteen**

#### **Curse Upon Canaan**

There were thirteen men specifically mentioned in the fifth chapter of Genesis, the chapter on death. The first nine of those men mentioned were concluded with, "and he died." The lives of Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, continued past the fifth chapter. The youngest of these thirteen mentioned in chapter five was Ham.

After the flood we read concerning Ham in Gen. chapter nine that he committed a sin against his father: Gen. 9:18 "And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan. 19 These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread. 20 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: 21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. 23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. 24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. 25 And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. 26 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. 27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant."

There are many lessons to be learned in the above passage of scripture. We will limit our present study to the curse placed upon Canaan. We know the following facts:

1. Ham had sinned against his father, Noah. This sin was not just what he saw, but included what he had done to his father.

2. Nearly every time that Ham is listed with his brethren in the scriptures he is listed in the middle even though he was the youngest son.

3. The curse was not placed upon Ham, but was placed upon the son of Ham, Canaan.

Thus, Canaan bore the curse for the sin that his father had committed. The son of Ham bore the curse for the sin of Ham.

We have no reason to doubt that Ham actually sinned against Noah and that Canaan actually bore the curse for the sin of Ham. Yet, there can be an analogy drawn from the above scripture. We, the elect of God, have all sinned against our heavenly Father: Gal. 3:10 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." That means that every one of us were under the curse of our heavenly Father due to the works of the law. Not one of us has continued in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. We are very much deserving of this curse and that this curse would be carried out upon us.

However, because of God's covenant love for us, he has made provision for us: Gal. 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Christ, the son of man, was made a curse for elect man. He hang on the tree of the cross in order to redeem us from the curse of the law. He bore our curse for us. According to 2 Cor. 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Thus, Christ bore our curse and then imputed his righteousness unto us.

Parallel to Canaan, the son of Ham, becoming a curse for Ham because of the sin of Ham, Christ, the son of man, became a curse for man because of the sin of man. Praise be to God for his unspeakable gift.