

Issues in the story of Genesis 9.20-27

1. What is the relationship between this story and the Garden (Genesis 2-3) and Cain/Abel stories (Genesis 4)?
2. What is the relationship between this story and the “Table of Nations” (Genesis 10) and “Tower of Babel” story (Genesis 11)?
3. What is the relationship between this story and the story of Lot and his daughters (i.e., the sexually suspicious origin of some of Israel’s ancient “enemies”, Gen 19.30-38)?
4. What exactly did Noah do and did Ham “see”?
5. Why is the curse on Canaan if it was Ham who saw his father’s “nakedness”?
6. What does this story reveal about the outcome of the Flood in terms of human evil/violence and relationship with God, nonhumans, and the earth itself?
7. What is the power of a human “curse” in relation to YHWH’s curse (in the Garden and of Cain)?
8. How has the “curse of Ham” become a primary source of justification for racism and slavery of “black” people?