

CHAPTER TEN

Noah's Family in the Dispensation for Restoration

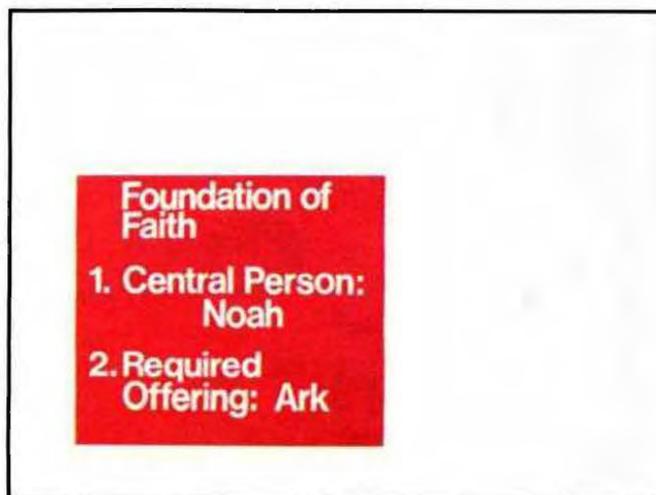
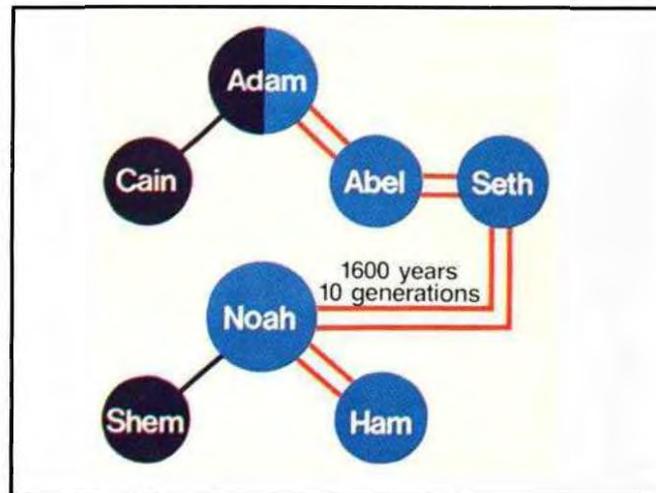
God's Dispensation for Restoration centered on Adam's family was not realized because Cain murdered Abel. However, God's Will to fulfill the Purpose of the Creation is predestined as absolute; so on the basis of Abel's heart and loyalty to heaven, God "gave" Seth to take his place (Gen 4:25). Then, from among Seth's descendants God chose Noah and his family to stand in place of Adam and his family, and God began the Dispensation for Restoration centered on Noah's family.

Genesis 6:13 says that "... God said to Noah, 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them; behold, I will destroy them with the earth.'" This clearly shows that God intended to bring about the Last Days at that time. Using Noah's family as the foundation, God intended to fulfill the Purpose of the Creation by sending the Messiah after the Flood Judgment. Therefore, the dispensation in Noah's family was the dispensation to establish the Foundation for the Messiah.

I. FOUNDATION OF FAITH

A. The Central Person for Restoring the Foundation of Faith

In the dispensation centered on Noah's family, Noah was the central person chosen to restore the Foundation of Faith. God found him ten generations and sixteen hundred years after Adam. God blessed Noah as he had blessed Adam earlier, directing Noah to "... be fruitful and multiply ..." (Gen 9:7). In the eyes of God, Noah was a righteous man (Gen 6:9), who was therefore qualified to be the central person for the Foundation of Faith.



God set up the forty-day period of the flood as the indemnity period to restore the period from Adam to Noah, which had been invaded. It is based on this that the number 'forty' became necessary in later efforts to separate from Satan and restore the Foundation of Faith through indemnity. In the Bible, we see many instances of these indemnity periods for separating from Satan: the four-hundred-year period from Noah to Abraham; the Israelites' four hundred years of suffering in Egypt; their forty years of wandering in the wilderness; Moses' two forty-day fasts; the forty-day period of spying in Canaan; the forty-year reigns of the kings Saul, David, and Solomon; Elijah's forty-day fast; Jonah's prophecy that Nineveh would be destroyed after forty days; Jesus' forty-day fast and prayer; and Jesus' forty-day period after resurrection.

By building the ark in accordance with God's instructions and faithfully obeying the Will of God throughout the forty-day flood, Noah met the indemnity condition and restored the Foundation of Faith.

II. FOUNDATION OF SUBSTANCE

Noah's family now had to take this vertical attitude of faith which Noah had established toward God and apply it horizontally in their relationships with each other, thus meeting the indemnity condition for establishing the Foundation of Substance. This Indemnity Condition for Removing the Fallen Nature had to be fulfilled by Noah's second son, Ham, and his eldest son, Shem.

In Adam's family, instead of Adam, the second son, Abel, made the offering which was acceptable to God, thus establishing the vertical relationship with God, which is the Foundation of Faith. Therefore, Abel naturally qualified as the central person for the Foundation of Substance.

In Noah's family, however, it was Noah who met the indemnity condition for establishing the Foundation of Faith. Therefore, the position of his second son, Ham, was not yet equivalent to that of Abel after his offering. In other words, Ham had not yet established an absolute and substantial vertical relationship of faith and devotion with God. In order for Ham to be in the central position for establishing the Foundation of Substance, he first had to inherit the foundation of Noah's faith and obedience. For this purpose, it was essential that Ham forge an unbreakable relationship of heart with Noah, who had successfully established the Foundation of Faith. In other words, Ham should have become one in heart with Noah, obeying him and considering his will to be as important as life itself.

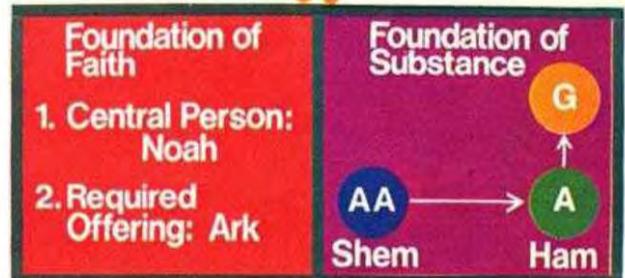
The Bible records the conditions which God set up to

No. 40 Periods of Separation from Satan

Noah	40 day flood
Abraham	400 years after Noah
Israelites	400 years in Egypt 40 years in wilderness
Moses	40 day fasts

No. 40 Periods of Separation from Satan

Saul, David, Solomon	40 years each as king
Elijah	40 day fast
Jonah	40 day prophecy concerning Ninevah
Jesus	40 day fast 40 day period following the resurrection



Foundation for the Messiah

carry out his dispensation to unite Noah and Ham in heart (Gen 9:20-25). However, when Ham saw Noah sleeping naked in the tent, he was so ashamed and displeased that he stirred up the same shame in his brothers, Shem and Japeth. Recoiling at the thought of their father naked, Shem and Japeth walked backward and covered him with a garment. This was such a crime that Noah cursed Ham, saying, " . . . Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers' " (Gen 9:25).

Judging from Noah's normal conduct, his deep piety, and the record of his absolute faith, it is not likely that he was given to intemperate drinking or to improper self-exposure, which might bring censure. It is natural to think that Noah's lying naked was at least an impropriety, yet the curse fell not on Noah but on Ham, who thought that Noah's act was shameful and instigated Shem and Japeth's covering of Noah. The reason is directly related to God's dispensation.

Why was Ham cursed? This question can be answered by understanding why Ham's actions were sinful. An act is sinful when it gives Satan a condition, or basis, to invade, creating an object for Satan to work through. Satan's power to act depends upon Give and Take Action with such an object. Satan does not have the power to act unless he finds an object with which he has a basis for Give and Take Action.

Then what did Ham do that gave Satan a condition to invade? Immediately after the Fall, Adam and Eve covered the sexual part of their bodies, indicating their having entered into a blood relationship with Satan. Upon seeing his father's nakedness, Ham was similarly ashamed and covered him up. From the dispensational viewpoint, the fact that Ham felt ashamed of his father's nakedness and directed his brothers to cover him was an admission that he had a blood relationship with Satan, just as Adam's family had had. Satan, who had been separated out by the Flood Judgment, was brought back by Ham's act, and Ham stood in a position to be one with him. Thus, he was cursed.

Is it a sin to regard the naked human body with a sense of shame? No. However, Noah's family was chosen by God to stand in place of Adam's family, and it therefore had the mission to remove all the conditions by which Adam's family had allowed Satan to invade mankind—conditions which only Noah's family was in the position to remove. It was in accordance with God's dispensation that the righteous Noah became drunk and lay naked in his tent. God had him do this so that Ham, by showing trust, could become one in heart with Noah, who had already established the Foundation of Faith. Everything that Noah did was exactly in accordance with God's dispensation.

Though externally Ham's mistake was only that he harbored shame and displeasure over his father's naked body, dispensationally he was cursed for the mistake of making a base for the influence of Satan, who had been separated out by the Flood Judgment. Therefore, Ham could not possibly stand as the victorious second son and be the center of the Foundation of Substance. Thus, we find nothing recorded in the Bible about Ham and Shem working to meet the conditions for removing the Fallen Nature or establishing a Foundation of Substance.

God could not intervene in the indemnity condition that Ham had to meet, because it was Ham's responsibility. Therefore God did not directly instruct Ham to believe in his father and become one with him no matter what the circumstances. Through Ham's experiences with the flood and Noah's building of the ark, it should have been quite clear that his father was a man representing God's Will. Therefore, after the flood, it was Ham's responsibility to maintain absolute faith in Noah and to obey him in all circumstances.

