Main Thought  The story of human history finds its origins in Noah’s FAMILY TREE (18-19), FAMILY SIN (18-23), and FAMILY PROPHECIES (24-29).

FAMILY TREE (18-19).
- A new family tree begins from three branches: (1) SHEM (Semitic peoples – Abraham’s descendants), (2) HAM (CAANANITES; also Northern Africa – EGYPT [Lev. 18:3], PUT [Lybia], CUSH [Ethiopia – Nah. 3:9]), and (3) JAPETH (northern peoples – 10:2-4).
- They obeyed God by SCATTERING (11:8) and filling the earth (1; 1:28).

FAMILY SIN (18-23).
DISGRACE (20-21).
- Noah was a man of the soil like Adam (ground – 2:7) who proceeded (a new [not renewed] activity advancing viniculture) to plant a vineyard. It cheers, comforts, and gladdens the heart (Judg. 9:13; Psa. 104:15).
- He (like Adam) sinned by becoming DRUNK (Pro. 20:1; 23:19-21, 29-35; Isa. 5:11; Rom. 13:13; Eph. 5:18). The words DRUNK and NAKED often go together (19:32; Hab. 2:15-16; Lam. 4:21).
- The Bible doesn’t hide the sins of its heroes but records them as examples for us not to follow (1 Cor. 10:11-13).

DISRESPECT (22).  While Noah’s sin was private (“inside his tent”), it now became public as Ham invaded that privacy. Some see his voyeurism (SAW, STARE [Song of Solomon 1:6] – “to look at searchingly”) as homosexual and certainly dishonoring by revealing it to others (Eph. 5:12).

DECENCY (23).
- Ham’s disrespect for his father is highlighted by the decency of Shem and Japheth who cover his nakedness while not looking (Ex. 20:12; Gal. 6:1-2).
- While love never CONDONES or CLEANSES sin (1 John 1:7), love does “COVER over a multitude of sins” (1 Pet. 4:8; Prov. 17:9).

FAMILY PROPHECY (24-29).
- Noah’s three named sons were divided into godly (SHEM/JAPETH) and ungodly (CAANAN) like Adam’s sons – godly (ABLE/SETH) and ungodly (CAIN).
- CAANAN was cursed (3:14; 4:11) not because of Ham’s (already blessed by God – 1) actions but his own. The Canaanites and their descendants (10:6-13 – Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Philistines) became the mortal enemies (Lev. 18:3) of Shem and Japheth. But even then God would save the Canaanite Rahab and cut off sinful Achan (Rom. 2:9-10). Their predicted enslavement (GIBEONITES – Josh. 9:27) is no justification of enslaving people today.
- SHEM (the father of Abraham and the Jewish people), was destined to rule (Gen. 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:16) over the Canaanites and crush the serpent (3:14). Again (ABEL, ISAAC) the second born is elevated over the firstborn (9:24; 10:21).
- JEPHETH (enlarge) would have extended lands (western civilization – 10:1-2) and share in the blessings of Shem at the expense of Canaan (Luke 2:30-32).