

The African Presence in the Bible

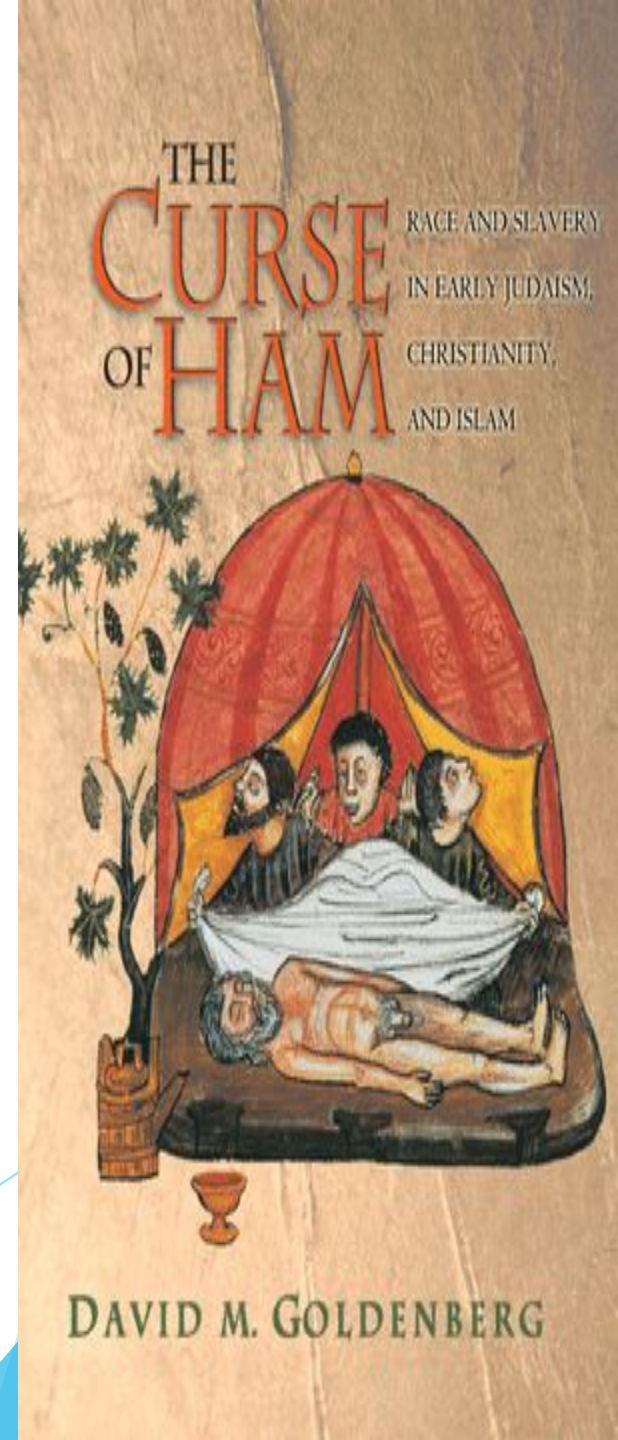




- ▶ Black History Month
 - ▶ Tonight's Topic
- ▶ **“The Curse of Canaan”**

Let's take a Quick Survey

- ▶ How many of you have heard of the “Curse of Ham”?
- ▶ How many of you have heard of the “Curse of Canaan?”

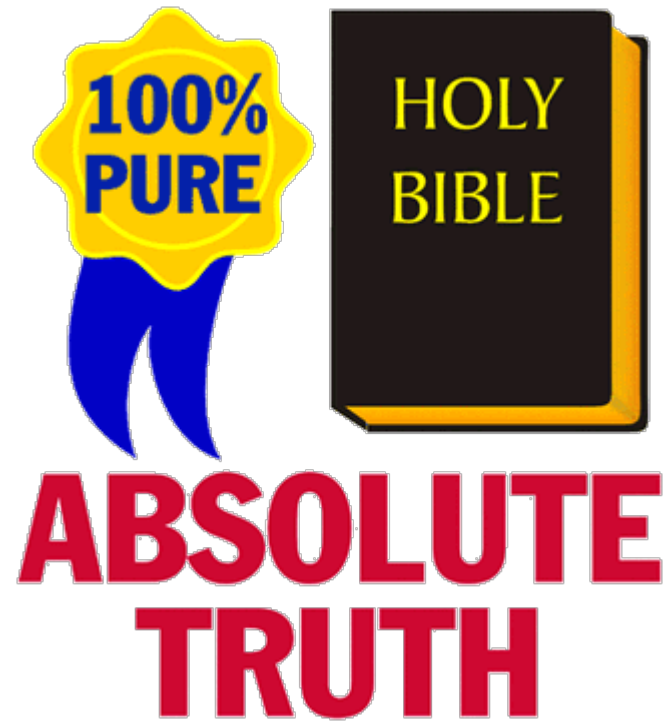


Why Do You Think More People Have Heard of the Curse of Ham than the Curse of Canaan?



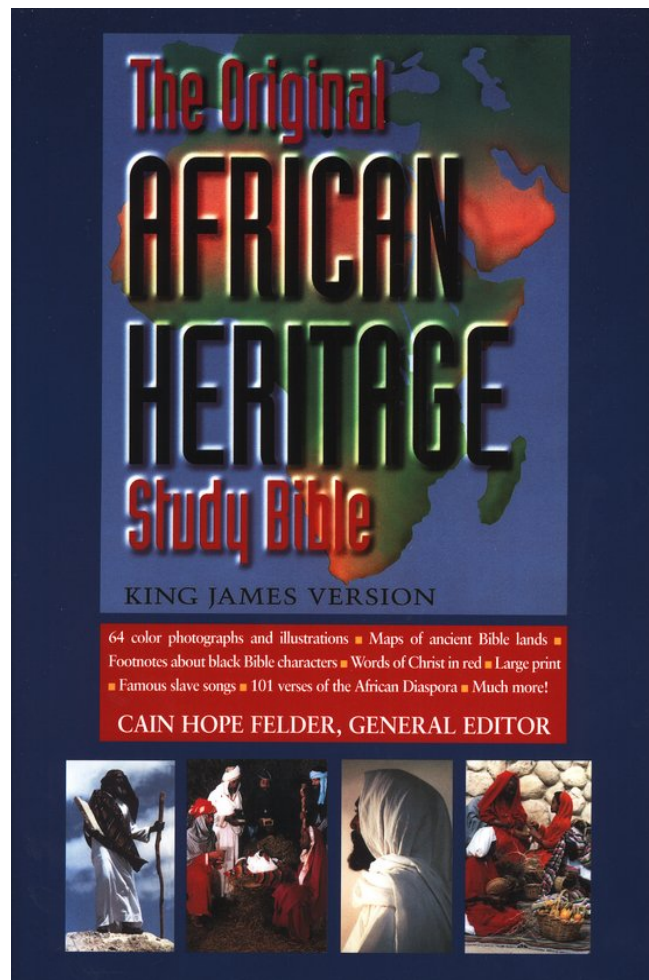
- ▶ Which Spreads Faster the Truth of a Lie?

As Believers, where do we find our
“Truth”?



- ▶ So Tonight We're Going See What the Bible Teaches about these two curses

The Sources for Tonight's Lesson are:



The New York Times



AMERICAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

Historical Background on the Curse of Ham.

Genesis 9:18-29 has been popularly misunderstood to mean Ham was cursed and this misunderstanding has often been used to justify oppression of African people (Ham descendants).

According to the untruth that has been told down through the years that Ham, offended his father Noah and because of this, him and all of his descendants are cursed.

White Christians professed (incorrectly) for many years that African and their descendants are destined to be servants and they accept their status as slaves as the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

It is important to note that all biblical scholars and bible historians agree that Ham is the father of African people. No dispute there.

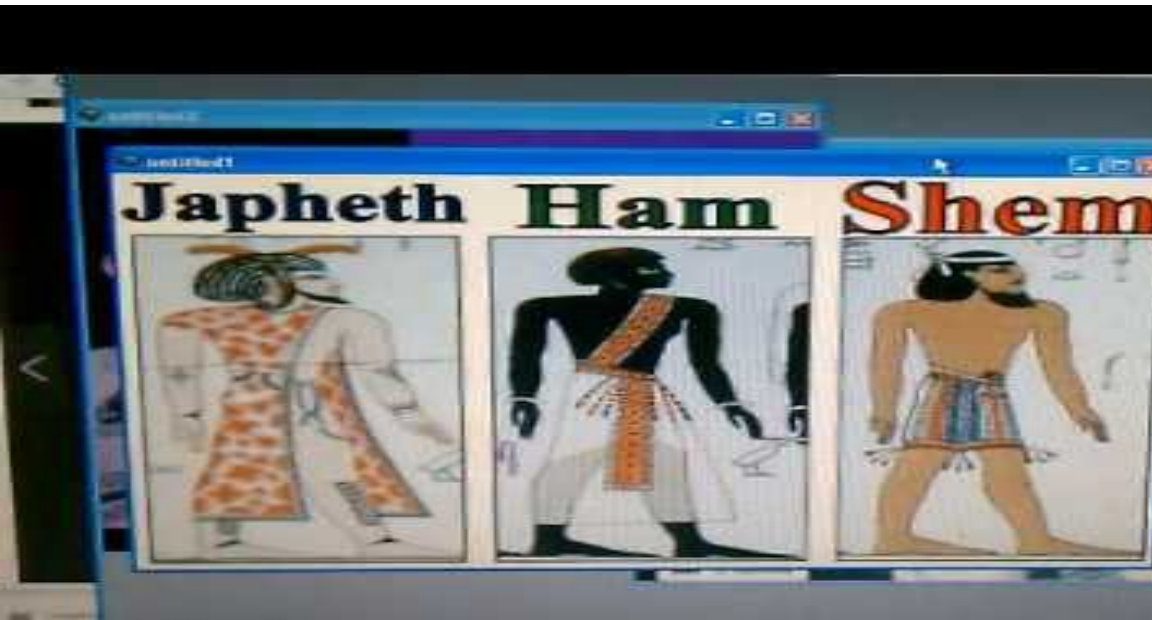
But a careful reading of the Scriptures reveals the truth, that Ham was never cursed, in fact Canaan was the one curse.



What does the Bible Say About the Curse?

Genesis 9:18-19

- ▶ 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.



Genesis 9: 20-21

- ▶ 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.



Genesis 9: 22-23

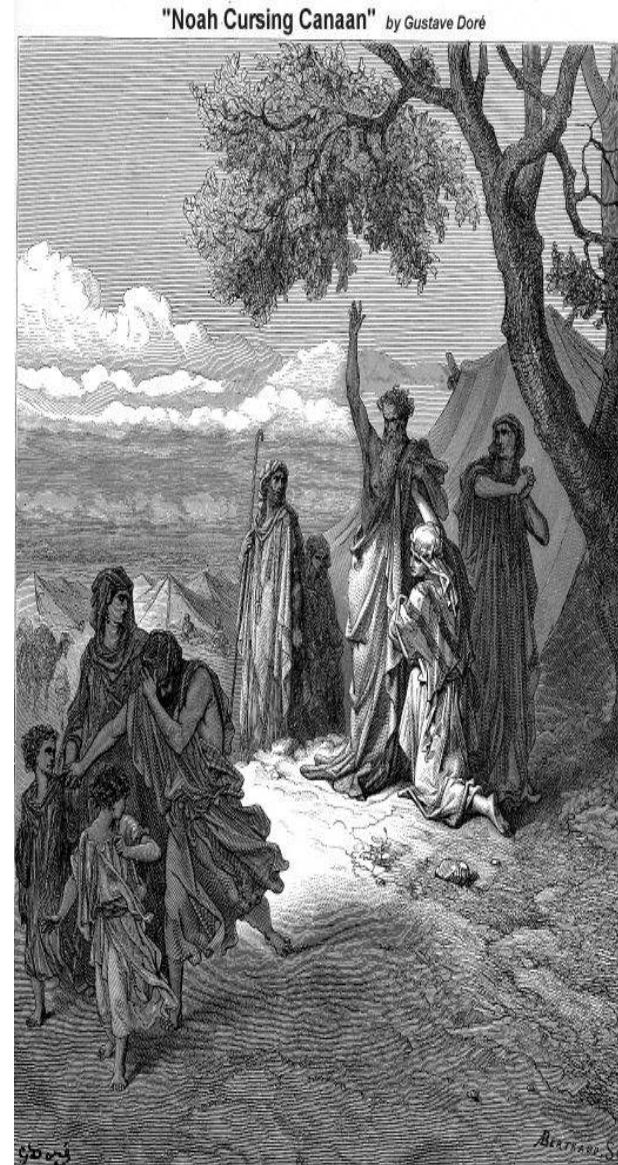
- ▶ ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.
- ▶
- ▶ ²³ And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.



Noah's Wine
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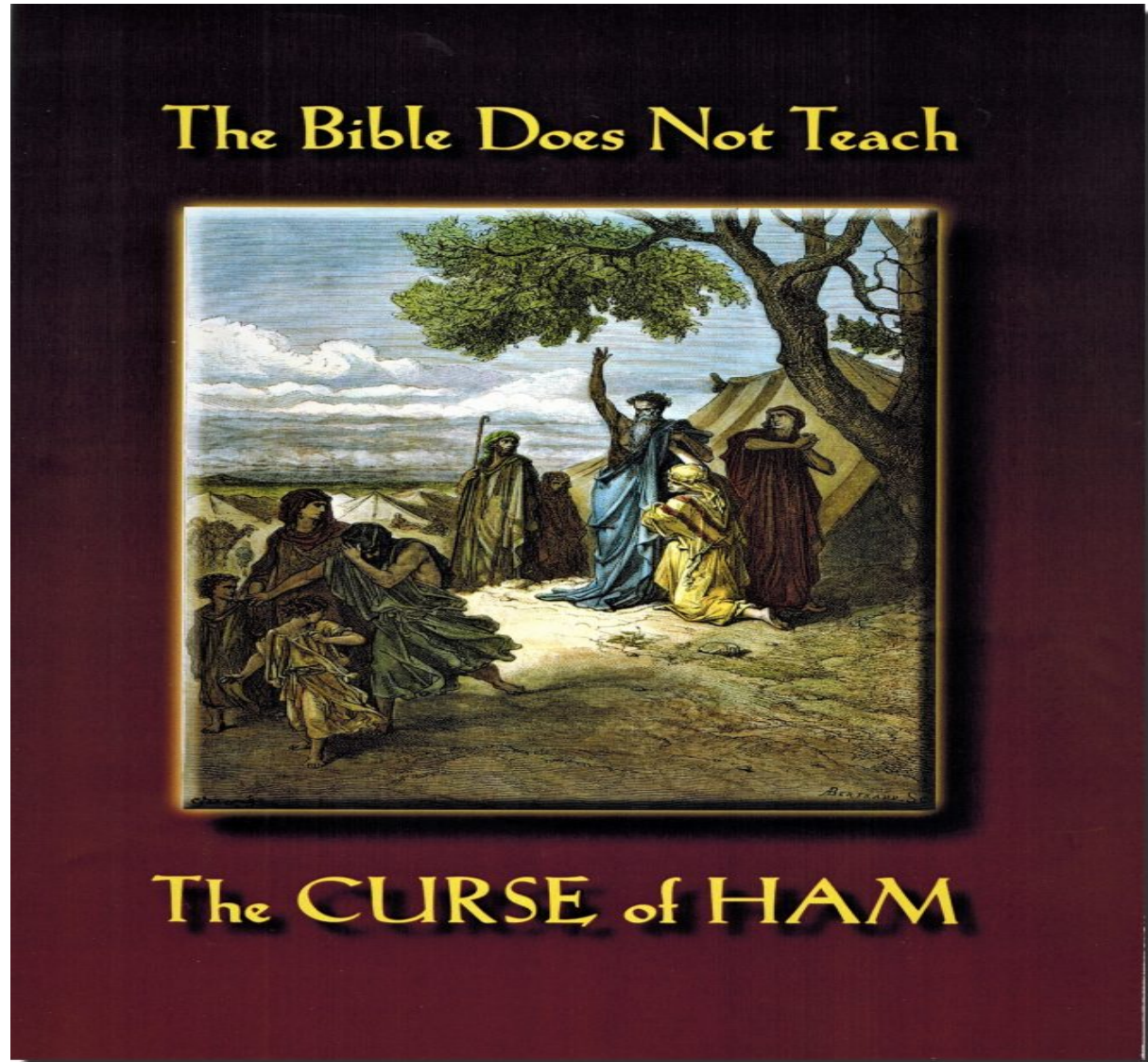
Genesis 9: 24-27

- ▶ 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.



24. When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, **25** he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

The Main Point of Tonight's Lesson



Final Thoughts

- ▶ It is clear that there is no basis for a curse on Ham in the bible. The curse is on Canaan, the passage is concerned with the political relationship between the Israel, the Canaanites and the Philistines in the land of Canaan, has nothing to do with Africans.
- ▶ The popular misunderstanding and abuse of this portion of scripture really makes it clear the responsibility to rightly interpret Scripture.
- ▶ The erroneous idea there is a curse on Ham and thus a curse on Africans is not the fault of the bible.
- ▶ It's poor exegesis, and it reflects a lack of knowledge of biblical scholarship.
- ▶ In terms of racism, this erroneous idea is a reminder of the ingenuity and perversity with which humans find ways to justify their sin to themselves and to others.
- ▶ The idea of a curse on Ham stands in direct conflict with the theological heartbeat of the Bible. We are all children of God, whatever our race, ethnicity and nationality we are special and precious in the sight of God. We were created for companionship with God and fellowship with one another

In Closing

We have to read God's Word for ourselves.

They didn't want our Ancestor to learn how to read.

Definitely didn't want to read God's Word.

Plus, we have to learn our history even in terms of the Bible (Our Presence In Scripture).

We have to be the writers of our history.

Ham was never cursed. The Bible says that Canaan, Ham's son was cursed.

Thus, only one of Ham's four sons, not all four. Then how could all black people be cursed?

God never cursed anybody (It was Noah who cursed Canaan)

Ham's other sons-Cush, Mizraim and Put have continue to this day in Ethiopia, Egypt and Libya

Lastly, I better not hear anybody present tonight, to feed and perpetuate the lie, that there is such a thing as the Curse of Ham on black people!!!!!!

