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On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about the method we use in honoring the Lord, but more importantly, the motivation. If our motivation is wrong, our method will be ineffective even if it looks good on the outside. If you'd like to hear what I mean, here's the link to the podcast... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings and stay warm,
Jonna*

Genesis 10

Okay... I have before me a very big list of names... The descendants of the sons of Noah. As I look at this list, I just wanna make some observations.

First, Tim has talked about this being the great reset. God reset everything that He had done with Adam and Eve and creation when He flooded the Earth and then started over with Noah and his family. In Genesis 1, God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. When He did the great reset with Noah, He told him and his family to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. I see this in Genesis 8 and 9. The thing that is really amazing to me is that God told Adam and Eve to do this, knowing full well they were going to sin against Him. And He told Noah and his family to be fruitful and multiply knowing full well that the intentions of man's heart are still evil from his youth. Yet God still had a plan. God still had hope. God was still going to send a Redeemer and Savior to save us from our sins. That is beautiful.

I also see this list of names. Right before this passage, Noah cursed Canaan, the son of Ham. Then he blessed Japheth and Shem. He spoke to them about their descendants. This list of names is the fulfilling of Noah's words and the carrying out of God's plan to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

First we read about Japheth. His descendants went into the northern country and the coast lands. They filled that part of the earth.

Shem's family occupied the parts where we see Israel now. And his descendants were some really amazing people. Abraham came from him. David came from him. Jesus came from him. He was blessed in so many ways.

Then there's Ham with his son Canaan. I look at that list of names and I see a lot of mess, a lot of evil intentions of the heart. I see Sodom and Gomorrah mentioned. They were so evil that God brought down sulfur and fire, and burned them up. I read about them in Genesis 19. I also see that the Philistines came from Ham. The Philistines were terrible enemies of the Israelites. Goliath was a Philistine. David defeated him in the power of God. I see that Egypt was a descendent of him. Egypt put the Israelites into slavery for over 400 years. God defeated them.

This is a big observation for me as well. Noah blessed Shem and told him that came in would serve him. But for over 400 years, it did not look like Canaan was serving him. It looked like he was serving Canaan. Yet God delivered Israel and they defeated Egypt. This is a huge lesson for me that if God has made a promise, and it doesn't look like the promise is being fulfilled, the story isn't over. If God says it, He will do it. I need to wait on Him, trust Him, depend on Him.

One thing I also noticed is that God seemed to make a big deal out of the fact that Shem was the father of Eber. Why is that a big deal? I'm gonna find that out in the next passage, but Eber was the father of Peleg. And he came at the time of the tower of Babel. There is going to be a huge transition with the tower of Babel that will change everything. So I need to see that every person has a purpose. Every person matters to God. He knows each one of us by name, and He cares about each one of us by name.

Final observation... This one is a big deal to me... I look at this list of names, especially the curse brought on Ham and how it affected all his descendants after him. I see how huge sin is. I think it's easy to rationalize and think that my sin doesn't hurt anybody, but sin affects people beyond anything I can picture. Ham's sin against his dad extended to massive destruction and evil intentions of the heart that went on for generations and generations. I pray that I will not minimize or justify my sin, but I will instead repent of it. And as Matthew 3:8 says I pray that I will "bear fruit and keep with repentance."

I know that I am not responsible for someone else's sin. But I do contribute to their sin, even if I don't cause the sin of their heart. Though I'm not responsible for their sin, I am responsible for mine. I need to repent of it and not embrace it. This is where I praise God for His mercy and pray that He will help me to turn away from sin and turn to Him over and over again. I praise God that His grace is bigger than my sin. But as Romans 6 tells me, let me never use the grace of God as an excuse to sin. First, John three tells me that Jesus came to take away sin, and to destroy the works of the devil. Let me never use His grace in my life to embrace the very things He came to remove.

I know that I am not responsible for anyone else's integrity or righteousness, and I know that

I cannot be perfectly righteous. Romans 5:17 tells me that God gives me the free gift of righteousness. But I do pray that as I turn to the Lord and abide in Him, He will help me to bear fruit for Him and glorify Him... And I pray that others will be blessed because of my life and not dragged down because of my life. I pray that the greatest fruit God will allow me to bear for Him is to see lives turned to the Lord. Amen.

These are my observations. I praise God that even a list of names from His word can be used to change my life and draw me closer to Him. "This God—His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him" (Psalm 18:30).