

Our Nakedness
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It is good to have children memorize the stories of the Bible. When they are older, and able to think conceptually, they can be taught the principle of viewing the stories allegorically. This is God's way of teaching in order that we may glean a deeper spiritual understanding and become free from our bondage to sin. An excellent example of this idea is where Paul used the sons of Hagar and Sarah as an allegory to represent the old and new covenants (Gal 4:22-26). Herein is considered a small part of Noah's life as a spiritual lesson for today.

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.* A tent indicates a temporary covering. (Cf 2 Cor 5:1-4 - 'house' is used) Israel literally dwelled in tents while in the wilderness. The word 'husbandman' is used in the Bible to represent people who till the land, whether to plant vineyards, orchards or other crops. In the verses above, the Hebrew is literally "Noah began to be a man of the land/earth." This idea is accentuated in the book of Zechariah: **Zech 13:4-5:** *4 And it shall be in that day, the prophets shall be ashamed (because of nakedness), each one of his vision when he prophesies, and they shall not wear a hairy garment (lamb's hair, Mt 7:15) to deceive. 5 But he shall say, I am not a prophet; I am a man, a tiller of the ground, for from my youth a man caused me to buy.* (Literal Hebrew)

From past studies, it is understood that the land/earth is self (Mk 4:5, 14-17) and wine is teaching (Mic 2:11). The last phrase quoted from Zechariah says it all, *a man caused me to buy*. Noah became intoxicated on the wine from HIS vineyard that HE planted, and was naked within his tent. The thoughts on which we act show who we are, and we have either gleaned those thoughts ourselves, or we have been taught by others. The truth is that in all our earthly way of understanding, before God we are spiritually naked.

Allegorically, Noah represents a person manifesting self by their own actions. He is a picture of us being drunk on our own understanding of man and God from things which we have concocted, or by teachings obtained from others, all because we are uncovered by God's thoughts. **Jn 15:1:** *1. I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2. Every branch in me that bears not fruit (naked) he takes away: and every branch that bears fruit (clothed), he purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit (brought to completeness).*

Gen 9:22: *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.* Sometimes we see our own spiritual nakedness, other times a brother or sister sees it, but God sees all of it, even what we or others do not see. Ham is a type for a person who sees a problem in a brother or sister's life and talks to others about it, but does not tell the person who has the problem. James used a similar example to illustrate faith without works: **Jam 2:15-17:** *15. If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16. And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding you give them not those things which are needful to the body; what does it profit? 17. Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone.*

Gen 9:23: *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.* We are told, *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed.* (Jam 5:16). Admitting that we have a worldly addiction is the first step toward healing. By sharing the truth of God's love, along with our experience of overcoming our own faults, we are covering a person's nakedness and encouraging them to persevere. The term "look on another's nakedness" is to think I am better than that person because I think that I am not doing the same thing. Physically, I may not be, but we all are guilty spiritually.

Summary: **Rev 3:17-18:** 17. *Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:* 18. *I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that thou may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness do not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that thou may see.* I cannot say it more plainly than these verses, except to remind everyone that we are to help each other be clothed with Christ's understanding of our heavenly Father. Isaiah speaks of it in the manner of fasting:

Isa 58:6-7: 6 *"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Abstain from the corrupted food that the world offers, share with others the bread with which Christ has fed us and do not deny your flesh - tend to it. 1 Pet 4:7-8: 7. *Moreover the end of all things has drawn near; therefore, be sober-minded also toward the prayers, 8. but before everything, having fervent love among yourselves, because love covers a multitude of sins;**

The cross cannot be over emphasized as the key to overcoming. We must look at it daily as a reminder of what we are and what the Father is doing by means of His only begotten Son. Jesus being naked on the cross is a picture of our being uncovered. **Jam 5:7-9:** 7. *Be patient therefore, brethren, until the presence (KJV - coming) of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman (the Father) waits for the precious fruit of the earth (me), and being patient for it, until it receive rain - early and latter. 8. You be patient also; establish your hearts: for the presence (KJV - coming) of the Lord has drawn near. 9. Groan not against one another (like Ham), brethren, so that you be condemned: behold, the judge stands before the door.* (Literal rendering) The word "coming" makes obtaining the fruit future. The word 'presence' however, (Used only by Young) is a better translation because in context it speaks of the Lord drawing near as a Comforter right now. **Rev 3:20-21:** 20. *Behold, I have stood at the door, and knocked: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21. To those overcoming will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.* Jesus is, and has been standing at the door of your heart waiting to be invited in - for what are you waiting? The early rain germinates the seed, but the latter rain, which is falling today, ripens the harvest, and the latter rain waits for no one (Mic 5:7). The time is now, because the latter rain is now. Overcoming IS NOT future - it is now! Amen!