Genesis - Commentaries by Hugh Henry Snell

Crumbs for the Lord's Little Ones: Volume 2 (1854), Noah and His Sons.

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Genesis 9:8-29.

THIS passage presents some serious instruction. Noah received his name through the spirit of prophecy (Gen. 5:29). He found grace in the eyes of the Lord. He was a just man, and perfect in his generations. He walked with God (Gen. 6:8, 9). God's testimony concerning him was, "Thee have I seen righteous bore Me." "He was a preacher of righteousness;" and by faith, "warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Heb. 11:7). Coming out of the ark his sacrifice is accepted. God blesses him and establishes the covenant, of which the rainbow was a token, between Him and every living creature that came out of the ark. Notwithstanding all this present grace, Noah falls into open sin. Let hits that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. But by means of all this does God take occasion to open a great mystery. The sin of Noah is the means of discovering what sort of a heart was in his son Ham. The godliness of the father, training up his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, would check and restrain, though it could not change the evil nature of Ham, but at length it breaks out. In Ham and Japheth we see produced the peaceable fruits of righteousness; they anticipate in their doings the first commandment with promise, Honor thy father, &c. Ham's deed is not without its significance. It marks a heart filled with bitterest hatred and scorn, destitute altogether of that charity which rejoiceth not in iniquity. It is the manifestation of the spirit which in after times we are warned against, namely, "speaking evil of dignities." The patriareh Noah was a Priest and King in his family, and should have been, even in his fall, had in reverence by a son. But how wonderful, rich, and free is the grace of God in restoring. How merciful His dealings with His saints. Noah is raised up and made the mouth of God in judgment; a divine revelation is given to him, and by the spirit of prophecy he declares things to come. How wonderful the way of God in separating the precious from the vile. The whole history is a figure of what is before our eyes. "Every plant; that my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."

The mystery is, there was a Ham in the ark—an Ishmael under covenant circumcised, and yet put out of the household of faith. An Esau about whom Rebecca inquired of the Lord, and who, for one morsel of meat sold his birthright, and forfeited the blessing. A Judas amongst the twelve. "Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil." The mystery of iniquity in the Church, and even now, writes John, are there many antichrist& "Little children, keep your, selves from idols."

PRECEPT. —The precepts which God has given us are generally grounded upon some revelation of God's character; —thus, "Be ye holy, for I am holy;" "Let us love one another, for love is of God;" "Be ye merciful, as your Father also is merciful;" "Forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you," &c. &c.

Crumbs for the Lord's Little Ones: Volume 2 (1854), All Things Possible With God.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible!"—Luke 1:37.

"Is anything too hard for the Lord? Gen. 18:14.

WHILST the full soul loatheth an honey-comb, to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. These truths are, perhaps, more proved in regard to simple scriptural statements than in any other way. The humble, meek, and growing Christian picks up the crumbs, and delights to handle and turn over the simple passages and promises of God's word, pleading them in prayer, meditating on them in secret, and endeavoring to fortify himself by them in practice.

Not so the more lofty or self-satisfied Christian: (and alas! may we not all more or less plead guilty of this sin?) he passes by the simpler passages; he would fain dive deep, or soar high, and be restless if obliged to tarry at an elementary truth. But thanks be to God, as we grow in experience, so we grow in setting a high value upon the simplest and most elementary portions of God's holy word. And may we not consider it a subject of praise and thankfulness, that God's pure word is daily becoming more and more the household bread of our souls? Much as we value the love and gifts of others, truly do we find that they serve us really only as they are used by God, and as we use them to Him. Happy advance, when our souls find all our good in Him, though this be learned through the breaking of earthly cisterns.

When walking in the narrow path, and realizing the daily difficulties of the Christian life, the grand truth that God is a God of impossibilities, will afford a deep solace and consolation to the tempted and harassed soul. Whilst he contemplates this glorious character of God, he will be led, in calmness and composure, to lay all difficulties at the footstool of divine grace: he will be led to look less at difficulties and more at God: he will be less often disappointed, and oftener made glad: he will be led to consider matters, and as this or that will be for God's glory; easy though it be or difficult, he will plead with One whom he knows is fully able to maintain His own glory and honor, though, as to sight and reason, there may be many obstacles. The history of the children of Israel (Ps. 105, 107, 78. &c.) fully verifies this character of God. Have we any difficulties, personal, family, or others of a graver nature? Yea, have we not many? Let it be our business then to prove our God, and to know Him as the God of wonders. Jeremiah pleads thus, "Ah, Lord God! behold Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee" (Jer. 32:17). Our blessed Lord said, "With God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). And this He himself pleads in His 'hour of sorrow, "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee" (Mark 14:36).

The amount of our faith in this business is of great importance; but these remarks are rather for those of weak faith, pointing out to such what a God we have to do with. It is often said in such and such a trial, ‘Oh! it is past hope!’ the smile on the lips betrays the unbelief of the heart, and many a child of trial succumbs under it with the impression that there is no remedy.

Moses says, “Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among the Gods? who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders” (Ex. 15:11). Isaiah testifies that “His name shall be called Wonderful,” (Is. 9:8), and says, that “the Lord of Hosts is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working” (Isa. 28:29).

Even Job says that He does “great things, past finding out; yea, and wonders without number” (Job 9:10): and Daniel declares of Him that “He delivereth and rescueth, and He worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth” (Dan. 6:27).

The Scriptures, however, abound in similar testimony, and the more we read them, the more shall we learn, amid other things, of the character of God.

Let the timid, and tempted, and cast down, in this cloudy and dark day, be encouraged to trust in God, and to remember that “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God” (Luke 18:27).

Faith is a mighty principle; it grasps great things, because it is dealing with God. Oh, how near to God our souls are brought when we thus deal with Him, no matter how great the difficulties! It seems as though we bad got up into one of the high mountains, from whence the men and things below look very small, and comparatively insignificant. “O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for His mercy endureth forever. To Him who ALONE doeth GREAT WONDERS: for His mercy endureth forever” (Ps. 136: 3, 4).

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