

The only descendants of Ham who are mentioned in the chapter are the Ethiopians, the Egyptians, the Libyans, and the Canaanites. Some of these have rather dusky skins but all are recognized as belonging to the white or Caucasian race. The descendants of Cush are stated to include the founders of the great Assyrian Empire. The Assyrians are far more different from the Negroes than they are from the English.

During the years immediately after the flood it stands to reason that the children of the three sons of Noah intermarried extensively. Probably the blood of all three sons runs in all the people of the earth. The table of nations simply gives a descent along the male line to the leaders of various nations, thus showing the general political arrangement in Old Testament times. In fact there is strong reason to suspect that in some cases the genealogical table here indicates political relationship rather than heredity at all.

It is strange how widespread is the idea that Genesis 9:24-27 expresses a curse upon the Negroes, condemning them to slavery. There is no mention of the Negroes in either of these two chapters, any more than there is of the Chinese, the Russians, the English, or the Americans. The curse that came from the lips of Noah was a curse upon Canaan. Canaan was one of the four sons of Ham. There is no curse stated against Ham whatever. The Canaanites were the white people of the land of Palestine, who were conquered by the Israelites. By that time they had degenerated morally to such an extent that it was God's command that they be completely wiped off from the face of the earth. This command was only partially obeyed, and those who were left were reduced to "hewers of wood and drawers of water". Thus the curse from the lips of Noah is fulfilled in the Canaanites and has nothing whatever to do