

The Curse of Ham

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PASTOR NATHANIEL: Amen. Amen, amen and amen. I just want to bow for just a word of prayer before I begin tonight.

Dear Father, anoint my mind and my spirit and my words to bring forth truth tonight, dear Father, for the truth shall set you free; and, dear Father, let us see the things that You have spoken in Thy Word and to see the truth of Thy Word and to understand the truth often stirs, it uncovers, it agitates as it makes way to set us free. Set some free tonight, dear Father, as Thy Word goes forth; in Thy Son Jesus' name, amen.

I told you last week what I would be speaking on tonight; and tonight, as was last week, is really an answer to a question that a member of the congregation had. It had been months ago that a man came to me and asked me a question about a story in the Bible, and he wanted to know about this particular story. He asked me, "Reverend Nathaniel, what about the curse of Ham and black people?"

You see, the curse of Ham has for long generations circulated among black people, and it has been used as a covering and as a chain to keep us bound. And unless you know the truth, you cannot be set free. For those of you that are watching this on television on the sermon that I am about to preach tonight on "The Curse of Ham", you are not going to be able to hear all of it on television; and I beseech you that of all of the messages that I have preached, if you are black, this is one message that you need, the Curse of Ham and black people, because for so long we have believed that black skin has been cursed; that there was a decree sent down from God that when your skin is black, you were lower than everyone else; and we've often heard the story of Ham and have used this and have understood this to keep us oppressed and to keep us down.

Well, tonight, I want to reveal some truth to you about the curse of Ham, and I want to use only the Bible, nothing else. There's a lot of other historical stuff that sometimes historians and people can use and dig up; but for this night, we shall use only one reference, and we shall use a rule that if it's not in the book, we are not going to look. It is as simple as that: if it is not in the book, we are not going to look. So we are only going to use Biblical references to deal with exactly what was the curse of Ham, who was the curse of Ham applied to, how was it applied, and what does it mean to you?

Let me tell you what the traditional belief on the curse of Ham has been. The traditional belief on the curse of Ham has been that Ham went in unto his father and either had a homosexual relationship with him or saw him and made fun of his nakedness and, because of this, Ham and all his descendants were cursed; that we as black people are descended from Ham and, therefore, we are cursed. And the curse was that you shall be in slavery and shall be servant unto your brother, and his two brothers represented supposedly the other races of the world. This has been

traditionally what we have really believed and what has been secretly taught concerning the curse of Ham.

The curse of Ham for generations has been used to ban interracial marriages; it has been used to deny blacks even position within the priesthood of some denominations. It was the Biblical passages that were used to justify slavery in America, the curse of Ham.

We still operate today under those same beliefs about the curse of Ham. So prepare yourself tonight for some truth dealing with the curse of Ham, and I am only going to be able to cover a portion of it; there is a whole lot more that for simply the sake of time, I will not be able to get to.

I want you to open your Bibles, and we will be primarily in the book of Genesis. So open your bibles, and we are just going to read in Genesis, Chapter 9, beginning with Verse 20 through Verse 27. This is where it all is rooted. This is where the story stems from, the Curse of Ham and how it somehow seems to have been transferred down to the modern, everyday black person.

In Genesis, Chapter 9, Verse 20, King James Version: “And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: and he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon 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. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.”

From this passage and from this story stemmed all of the belief that black people all over the world were permanently cursed with the curse of Ham to be slaves and to be servants and to be beneath. Well, I am going to change your belief about some of that stuff tonight, because I am going to show you some things in the Word that are plain for everybody to see; but because blindness has been on your eyes for so long, you have not seen that.

First of all, I want you to go the 7th chapter of Genesis and follow along with me as I read something. And I want you to understand something. You see, Noah and his wife, they had three sons: they had Shem, who was the youngest; Ham, who was next; and Japheth, who was the elder of the three. In Genesis, Chapter 7, Verse 5, it reads: “And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him. And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the Earth. And Noah

went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.”

I am going to skip down to the next chapter, Chapter 8, beginning at Verse 16: “Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the Earth; that they may breed abundantly in the Earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the Earth. And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him.”

And Genesis, Chapter 9, Verse 19 -- you don't have to turn there right quick: “These were the three sons of Noah: and from them came the people who scattered over the Earth.”

Now, what is significant about that which I have just read? You see, the traditional belief has been that Ham was representative of the black race, Japheth representative of the white race and Shem representative of the Jews and others, and this has been the traditional belief of what those three sons represented. You see, the Bible says that all of the Earth was populated from the descendants of the three sons of Noah! Well, I want to show you something.

You see, the names “Shem”, “Ham” and “Japheth”, in the names of that age, you see, they did not name their children without a meaning. You see, we get the meaning that Ham is the father of the black race, because the name “Ham” means “hot” or “warm”; some interpretations say it means “that who was from a warm climate”. That is what “Ham” means. “Shem” means the word “shame”, S-H-A-M-E; and “Japheth” means “to enlarge or expand. Those were the three names that Noah gave his sons; and “Ham”, meaning “hot” or “warm”, was often taken to mean that because Ham was of a darker complexion, Noah gave him the name that meant “hot” or “warm”.

But I want you to think about something and understand something. You see, Noah had one wife. That is why I read the verses for you in Genesis in the 7th chapter. If you look at that 7th chapter of Genesis again, Genesis, Chapter 7, Verse 7: “And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife ...”

Again, over in the 8th chapter of Genesis, Verse 16: “Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife ...”

Genesis, Chapter 8, Verse 18: “And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife.”

You see, in the Old Testament, men oftentimes had many wives, and that's why I want to make it very clear to you that from the Word of God, Noah only had one wife. There was one wife. There was one mother of the three sons. Now, if you have

one father and you have one mother -- and of the three sons, we said that Ham was the black one, that Ham was the negro -- if you have one mother and one father, by any law of genetics in the world at any time during history, if one of the three sons was black, what does that tell you?

You see, you cannot call Ham black without calling the rest of them black. That is nowhere anywhere ever in history! There is one mother, one father and three sons. Now, Ham may have been the darker of the three.

I see my brother, Darrell, out there. Darrell, I want you to come up with me for just a second on the podium; I want to show you something. Now, see, this is my younger brother, Darrell. I've got five brothers. You have seen my other brother, C. Elijah, on television; you have seen my other brother, Dale, on television. This is my brother, Darrell. My brother, Darrell, and I are different complexions; but we have the same mother, and we have the same father. Of my mother's six sons, we are all slightly different complexions. Some of them are a little lighter, and some of them are a little darker.

You see, Ham was just a little bit darker than the rest of his brothers, and that is why he was given the name "hot" or "warm". Darrell is just a little bit darker than I am, but both of us are what race? You see, if we have the same mother and if we have the same father, there is no way that I can claim that I am of a different race than he is.

Some of us have different texture hair. Two of my brothers have hair that is a little bit wavy. Some of us have real strong hair like myself. So different ones -- some have weak hair, some have strong hair -- some of us have different features. And even though we have different features, we are from the same mother, we came out of the same womb, and we have the seed of the same father. We are of the same race. It was the same as with Noah and his sons.

Darrell, you can be seated. I just wanted the people to see a graphic illustration of that. All of the people were of the same race!

Now, if Noah had had five or six wives, and maybe if he had a white wife, if he had an oriental wife, if he had a black wife and if he had a wife maybe slightly an Indian wife, if he had had five different wives or five different types of categories of races among humans, then maybe you can say, "Well, then the white wife would have maybe produced children that may have been white, the black wife may have produced one, the oriental may have produced one, and the Indian may have produced one," then maybe you could say that. But, huh-huh! You see, the sons of Noah all came from the same womb. And for years, you have let people tell you that one of the children was one race and the other one from another race; that is why

you have to read and you have to understand the Word, and you cannot be deceived by stuff that is not in there.

For years we have believed, and all you had to do is just read what it said and you'd see there was one mother and one father. Is there anywhere you can go where you have one mother and one father and you get children of different races? Anywhere? If any of you know of it, let me know, because I have never seen it, I do not know anyplace where it exists, and it is virtually genetically impossible. It does not happen.

If you have the same mother and the same father, you have the same race. And if Ham was black, it meant that Japheth was black. He may have been a little lighter complexioned, but he was black. And it meant Shem was black. He may have been a little lighter complexioned, but he was black.

Moreover, now, if I have three sons and my sons are negro or black, if my oldest son is negro and black, if my middle son is negro and black, if my youngest son is negro and black, now, what does that make me?

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You see, if Ham was black and came from the same mother and the same father, it meant Japheth was black, it meant Shem was black, and it meant Noah was black. You see, all of that stuff is there. That is why you cannot be deceived.

Now, first of all, I am not saying that they were black. I want you to understand that real clear: I am not saying that they were black, because the Bible does not tell you what race they were. And you have groups on one hand, you have the black nationalists on one hand that claim that everybody good in the Bible was black. You have white supremacists on the other hand that claim that everybody evil in the Bible was black and everybody good was white. You've got two groups of people of both races, all claiming that the good folks were their color and the bad folks were the other color.

So the Bible does not tell you, number one, what color the people were. It does not tell you what color Jesus was. Some would say, "Well, you see, if they had hair like lamb's wool" -- it does not tell you what race He was. That is the point. The Bible does not tell you what race they were. But if you claim that Ham was one race, then there is no way that you can say Ham was black and all of the rest of the brothers were of a different race, or Noah and his wife. They were all the same. They were all one stock. That is why the Bible says from Noah and his sons came all the people of the Earth.

That is why even the scientists now trace back genetics when they trace the DNA code, and they've found that there is a common origin among all men that goes all the way back to Eve. All of us began as the same race. Now, we may have diverged; but that is primarily because of environmental conditions.

There was a big article that one of the major magazines, either *Newsweek* or *Time*, had out about three years ago that dealt with race and the science behind it. They had all these big, heavy-duty scientists doing all these genetics, and what they found was that all of us are basically the same and that some people of different races were closer to other people of other races than they were to people of their own race. They said when you strip the skin off, you cannot tell any difference!

That's what it really boils down to: most of this stuff is external mess that man has focused on, and it has no basis even in physical, biological and genetic science. But we have taken stuff, twisted it all out of proportion and caused the curse of Ham.

So that's the first point I want to make to you is that the Bible does not say what color Ham was, and if Ham was black, so was everybody else. That is the first point.

So, what was the curse of Ham? What caused the curse of Ham? Well, I am going to tell you, first of all, what went on in that tent, and what went on in that tent is not what you think went on in that tent. What went on in that tent is something you have never heard before about what actually happened in that tent. But I am going to show you Biblically what happened. Just seek! Just look at what the Word of God says. It is just like the illustration I just gave you: when you look at it, you can see how plain and clear that is. You can see how all of you had to be the same race, no matter what race that was; it's plain, obvious and simple. Do the same amount on thinking with what I am about to tell you now, because this is going to explode some of your thinking about what happened in that tent with Ham.

Now, I want you to turn back to Genesis, Chapter 9, Verse 20, and I want you to see something again. It reads: "And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: and he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it upon their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backwards, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan."

Now, let me ask you something. Why would Noah wake up, know what his younger son had done to him and curse Canaan? Read it! The curse is not on Ham; the curse is on Canaan. Noah never cursed Ham. See, we call it the curse of Ham; that is why when the congregation member came to me and asked me, "What about the curse of

Ham?" see, even the title of the curse itself is a lie. Noah never cursed Ham -- never! Nowhere in the Bible will you find it. Noah never cursed Ham. Of the 17 times that Ham's name is mentioned in the Bible, not one of them is ever associated with anything bad or associated with a curse. Noah cursed Ham's son, not Ham!

Well, the next question that you have to ask yourself is: why did Noah curse Canaan, not Ham, if Ham was the one who went into the tent and uncovered his father's nakedness? Now, some have said that uncovering your nakedness refers to a sexual act. Yes, it does. Over in the book of the Leviticus, when God gives us a command and He tells us that you should not uncover thy sister's nakedness, you should not uncover, you know, such-and-such's nakedness and all this. That is what He is talking about. When He says do not uncover the nakedness, He is not just talking about do not pull their dress down. No, when He said do not uncover the nakedness, He is speaking of do not have sexual relations with them.

So, yes, uncovering your nakedness does refer to sexual relations. Well, does that mean that when it says that Ham went in and saw -- now, I want you to read what the Bible actually says. Verse 22, Genesis, Chapter 9: "And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father." Now, it did not say that he uncovered it; he saw it! There is a difference. The Bible uses very exacting words in this story for a reason, because it is trying to get you to understand something if you have the vision to see it. It said he "saw the nakedness of his father"; he did not "uncover" it.

Well, if he didn't, what is it talking about? You know, the Bible tells you exactly what it means to uncover the nakedness of your father. Yes, it does; it tells you exactly what it means. We just have never seen it. We just have never found it.

Go over to the Book of Leviticus. Go to the Book of Leviticus and turn to Leviticus, the 18th chapter, and the Bible defines it very clearly. All of the places where it deals with uncovering the nakedness, there is only one command that deals with "uncovering the nakedness of thy father", and it tells you what it is. Over in Leviticus, Chapter 18, Verse No. 8, reads: "The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness." The Bible tells you exactly what it is: "Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's wife: it is thy father's nakedness."

You see, when Ham saw the nakedness of his father, it was not Noah that he saw; it was his mother. That was the uncovering of the nakedness of thy father. And what did Ham see? Ham saw his son, Canaan, having sex with his mother, Noah's wife. That is why Noah cursed Canaan, not Ham!

Now, let me show you some other things that are just going to bag that. Again, in Genesis, Chapter 9: "And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger

son had done unto him.” “Wait a minute. No, no, no, Preacher. The Bible says right there he knew what his younger son had done to him.”

Look up the Hebrew of the word “son”. The Hebrew word for the word “son” is the word “being”. That is the actual word that is used in the Bible. That word “being” means “a son, including a grandson”. Don’t you know sometimes when a man has a grandson and you have a grandmother, you call the grandmother mama, big mama? That is what Noah was saying. When he awoke, he knew. See, the word “younger”, Shem was his youngest son. He knew what his younger grandson had done unto him; he had come in and slept with his wife.

Now, some of you will say, “That’s awful. People back then would not have done that.” Ha! You haven’t read the Bible. Why do you think God had to give the people all those heavy-duty commands about who they were not supposed to sleep with? You do not think folks back then did that? Ha! If you do not think so, you just have not read the Bible. I am talking about what God spoke. I’m not talking about the heathens; I am talking about what God spoke.

So, what happened? “Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son” -- or, “knew what his grandson” -- had done unto him. And he said, “Cursed be Canaan.”

That’s why I told you to think when you read this. Now, if it was Ham who had committed the offense, why would Noah wake up, see what had been done and then curse Ham’s son? Now, understand this: Ham has four sons. He did not just have Canaan; he had four sons! Maybe you could justify that statement if Ham had just had one son. Huh-huh! Ham had four sons! So if Ham had four sons, why in the world would Noah wake up from his drunken sleep, see what had been done unto him and then curse a particular son of Ham? He cursed Canaan, because he caught Canaan sleeping with his grandmother.

Like I said, I told you I was going to tell you some things you hadn’t heard. And some of you would even think that such a thing would be beyond the capability of most human beings. Ha-ha, no, it wasn’t.

Now, I want you to understand. See, that is why I said you have to understand what was written in the Bible. You see, the grandmother was still a young woman. It was not like when we think of grandmother today: you think of a grandson being maybe a 15-, 18-, 20-year-old young man and the grandmother being 70, 80, 90 years old. It was not like that! The reason it was not like that is because the folks back then lived a long time.

You see, a woman back then at 100 years old was just about 15% or 20% of her lifespan. So when she was 100, she would be equivalent to being about 15 or 20

today. So when grandmother was 100, grandmother still looked like a 20-year-old woman.

So when Canaan walked in, Canaan was not dealing with some old, decrepit, bent-over woman on a stick! Canaan was dealing with a young woman. There is very possibly a fine and a pretty woman, and Canaan was still a young, strong man. That's what Canaan was looking at, not some old woman, because the people back then 500 or 600 years. Noah was 600-and-something years old. They lived a long time! Therefore, their bodies did not age as ours do. They were still in their days of youth. That is what happened within Noah's tent.

For so long, we have believed that it was Ham that was cursed; but it was not, it was Canaan for a reason, because it was Canaan that went in unto grandmother.

"Well, what does that have to do with us today? What does that have to do with black people? What about the curse of Ham and black folks?"

Number one, the curse was placed on the Canaanites. Number two, all the Canaanites are extinct and dead. That curse is null and void; it has been fulfilled; it has nothing to do with black folks. Even if it did, all of the people at that particular time were one race.

Did you know God in the Bible never, ever pronounced a blessing or a curse on anybody based upon their skin color or their race? It is not there. That is nowhere in that. He put blessings and curses on people based on their religious practices, based on which God they worshipped; but never on race. As a matter of fact, you cannot even find in the Bible where skin color is even mentioned -- not a racial skin color. You cannot even find it. You see, that is what man has interjected in there. That is something man in his distortion of what the Word of God has said has put in there.

Do you know that if we have this much diversity now, the people probably had it back then? Now, see, man writing today would have written that in their Bible, who was what color; but God didn't. The closest thing that you can come to any color is the country that they were from, and you'd have to assume that maybe folks were of a particular color because they were of a particular country; but that is an assumption. God could have just as easily written in His Word, these people and this color with this kind of features; but He did not.

The curse of Ham is a lie as far as black people are concerned. It never was upon them. It was a distortion of the Bible used to justify a whole lot of other stuff.

I'm now even going to show you some things about Abraham. You know, if you trace and you study genealogy and what happened, you know, Abraham was the patriarch of the Old Testament. Do you know God changed his name? What did He

do to change Abraham's name? Think about it, because there was always significance in the name, always. When God did change a name, there was always significant in the name.

Abraham's original name was Abram. What did God do with the name? What did He add to the end of it? Yes. God took "Abram" and added "-ham" on the end of it. When you take "Abram" and "-ham", you get "Abraham". He was the most blessed man in the Old Testament. He was the one that God said, "From you shall all nations be blessed" ... Abraham. The name was not insignificant, and when you look at it even in the original Hebrew, the name means exactly the same; it is even spelled exactly the same: "Abram" and "Abraham". God took "-ham" and placed it right on the end of "Abram".

Black people, for those of you that have been under such a burden dealing with your skin color -- and we are under that burden. Don't let anybody fool you about that; we are. I did not realize how impacting it was upon us and on this society until I had an experience; this has been four years ago or so. My mother had been picking up children from disadvantaged neighborhoods, and she would go into the projects every Sunday, and she had 30 to 40 kids that she just gathered and had started a program, picking up and bringing them to church. She drove a van, and she had two or three other people that worked with her that drove vans, and they all went and picked up these children.

One morning, my mother called me and said, "Son, one of my van drivers cannot make it this morning." She said, "Can you come with me and drive the van to pick up the children?"

This was a rough neighborhood. It was a poor neighborhood. It was disadvantaged. It was drug-infested. As a matter of fact, one Christmas (laughing), my brother and I got together, and we bought my mother for Christmas a bulletproof vest, because it was just that dangerous in the area where she was going and working with these children.

So she asked me if I could go with her that morning to pick up the children, and I told her I would go. When I got there, there was a sight that I will never forget. On the corner were 30 or 40 kids gathered, waiting on the van; waiting to be taken to church. But that was not the sight that chilled me to my bones. Of all of the 30 to 40 kids on that corner, everyone was dark-skinned. Every single one was dark. There was not even one brown among them. I said "Whoa!" And the minute I saw it, I knew there was something happening.

You see, society had discriminated against, had pressured, had kept down every one of those children's parents, even among blacks. And folks say I talk real straight. Well, I do. I'm going to tell it to you just like it is that when you hear the truth, you

know it, whether you like it or not. Even among blacks, for the longest, we have admired and elevated folks that will lighter. You know that. You know it just as sure as I'm standing here. You know it is so!

So it has permeated our psychological makeup, all of the mythology of the curse of Ham. There was never a curse. Black folks, there is no curse on you, not due to your skin. There never was. But even today, in this society, we still believe that there was a curse, and if you believe there was a curse, there was a curse. It is even symbolic that the congregation member who came to ask me about the curse of Ham, the man, this particular congregation member, is the darkest-complexioned member in the church -- Brother Ivan, you know that is true. And I did not think about it until later. I said, "Wow!" See, all of it was symbolic, that those with darker skin have felt persecuted, because oftentimes we were, because even our own people believed we were under the curse of Ham.

If you ever travel to Europe and you go through some of their magnificent cathedrals, you will find some pictures that will shock you, because there in many of their churches, the picture of Mary and Jesus, black as coal; things that will shock you, and they are all white churches.

So there are some things in the world that if you know the truth, it would set you free! But we have been under the curse of Ham that never really was. When we understand the truth of what God's Word is and what is and what isn't, it will set you free. It will make a difference. It will make you proud when you look in the mirror, and you will understand that the darker you are ... you know, you ought to be glad to be dark-skinned right now, to tell you the truth. And you say, "Why?" Well, my area of scientific expertise is cosmetic chemistry. And right now, for those of you who know it, the ozone layer is being strongly depleted all over the Earth. There are even now some massive holes over certain portions of the Earth, and that is why Freon, the chlorofluorocarbons, are being eliminated. That is why now you have to have a new kind of air-conditioning in your car; you cannot use Freon, because all of the Freon was destroying the ozone layer. It started a chain reaction that cannot be stopped. It is already up there by the millions of tons, and it is eating up the ozone layer and it cannot be stopped.

What this means is, as the ozone layer is depleted, more and more UV light is penetrating down to the Earth, and as the UV light does not have the protection of the ozone layer, it is causing a rapid increase of skin cancer. That is one side of it. The other side is, the darker you are, the more protected you are from the UV light; and the lighter you are, the more prone you are to the skin cancer. Skin cancer now is the largest rising cancer in the world, but it is not rising among dark-skinned folks.

So, see, when you understand certain things, that which you thought was a curse will turn around and be a blessing.

Now, this is not going to air on TV, some of the things I am about to say now. But as I told you, my expertise is in the area of cosmetic chemistry. I had gone to a seminar about seven or eight years ago. It was a seminar, and there was a dermatologist. He was a white dermatologist from Harvard University, and he was giving a breakdown. He had done some massive studies on skin and the skin of varying racial types. When he started, here I was, I was sitting there in a room of about 50 scientists and I am the only black person in the room, and here this white scientist from Harvard stands up and he says, "I have been researching black and white skin for the last 15 years, and I have one statement to say before I begin on my lecture." He took a deep breath, and he said, "From all of my research, black skin is vastly superior to white skin." Then he went to lecture. And he went on to say that black skin had major advantages in three major areas. He said, first of all, black skin is more elastic. It is more resistant to bruising. If you take a real dark-skinned person and you feel and rub their skin, it is different; it has more of the rubbery feel to it. That is called technically "elasticity". And you will not bruise as easily the darker you are. So he said, number one, black skin is more elastic.

Number two, he said black skin ages slower. He said if you take a black person and you take a white person as they get up in age, he said white skin ages ten years faster than black skin. He said it wrinkles faster, it creases faster, it dries faster. He went on, and I am sitting there going, "Whoo, Lord, listen to him, he's a white man." I have never seen this man on the lecture circuit since. After that man made that lecture, they have not let him lecture any more since then. But he let it all out then, and he said black skin was vastly superior in its resistance to hot weather. We can stand sun and the UV radiation with virtually no ill effects whatsoever; when you are dark-skinned, you do not get sunburned. I mean, so it has a resistance, and especially now with the ozone layer being depleted, that becomes a real important factor. He said there is only one area in all of his studies that he found -- and he said another thing -- no, this is not going to air on TV. He said another thing, he said at the medical center, a lot of the white nurses liked to go with a black man, because their skin felt different, and that is what had begun his research. You know when they just say, "The blacker the berry, the sweeter the juice?" He said, "The darker the skin, the better the feel." He said the only area that black skin is not superior is in the area of cold resistance. He said black skin cannot handle cold. He said it will get frostbite faster. It cannot handle cold. But in every other category and in every other area, black skin was far superior to white.

You see, when you understand truth, it will free you. And for the longest, we have felt that the darker we were, the worse we were, the more inferior we were, when in truth and reality -- now, I do not want to, first of all, preach any superiority of one over the other. You see, there is a reason and each one in its season and its proper

climate has an advantage. All people of the Earth, again, were one seed and one race, and as we migrated over the Earth, something happened called phenotypical adaptation, meaning one group went to a cold climate, and one went to a hot climate. Well, if you put folks in a cold climate, I do not care if you are as black as you can be; if you stay in a cold climate long enough, your skin will start to lighten.

You see, white skin will absorb the vitamin D much faster than black skin. Your skin will start to lighten; the melanin will start to leave. Do you know one of the biggest things right now on the health-food market is a product called melatonin? People are taking it by the tons, and melatonin is nothing but a derivative of the melanin that is in black skin, and people are taking it by the ton?

That is all that happened. That is why we have the different races: it was nothing but adaptation to the environment. Take a black person, put him in cold weather, and over generations his skin will start to lighten. Take anybody light, put him in a hot climate, and over generations -- that's why all of the people of the Mediterranean are dark. Even the folks with straight hair are darker. It is because of the sun! The sun will bake stuff over generations! If you have a little sun in a cold climate, it will lighten. That is all that happens.

That is why all of this racial stuff is nothing but junk and of an evil heart. None of that is true. People who have taken things and made you believe that you were cursed. There are some black people doing the same thing. Like I said, the tape will be out now; so I can say this.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: But do you know the only skin that the Bible related to and mentioned was white? Do you know what it mentioned it in relationship to? Let me tell you. Well, no, I'm not going to tell you. Look at it. I want you to see it.

Turn to the Book of Numbers. Don't say, "Pastor Bronner said this"; read it. But, understand, this also is a distortion. This is not truth in the way that people are promoting it; it is a distortion.

Turn to the Book of Numbers, Chapter 12, and just read along with me ... Book of Numbers, Chapter 12, beginning with the 1st verse. I want to show you something of the instance where God did mention skin complexion in color: "And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married." Now, you read it. This basically is saying Moses had married. See, we have taken it and said that Moses married a black woman, because Ethiopia is associated with black people. Well, the Bible did not say that. It did not say he married a black woman; it said he married an Ethiopian woman.

See, we take a country, and we will take a race and put it in place; that is not what the Bible said. But we all have said that they murmured against Moses for marrying this black woman; that is not what the Bible said, because for all we know, Moses himself could have been black. It said that he married an Ethiopian woman!

You know, sometimes even today, you can talk about somebody when they marry somebody even if they are in the same race, but they marry on the wrong side of the tracks -- you know what I'm talking about. You know, somebody married somebody, and they figured they didn't have any business marrying them. Somebody married somebody over in Buttermilk Bottom: "Child, you know he married somebody from Buttermilk Bottom?" That's the same thing, he married somebody from Ethiopia! The Bible did not say it was a black woman, only that she was from Ethiopia. Now, more than likely she was black; but the Word never said that. We just stuck that in there, but the Word never said it: "And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath He not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it."

I am going to skip over some of this for the sake of time; but if you'll just go down to Verse 9: "And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and He departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous."

There are many other instances in the Bible, and every instance where they describe what leprosy was, it was the skin turning white. So there was never anything negative about black skin in the Bible at all. The only thing negative against any skin color in the Bible was when leprosy turned the skin white. Now, many black people have taken that, and they tried to do the same thing with this verse, saying that all white people are cursed, because God said what leprosy was was white. That is just as big a distortion. It's just as big a lie as white folk taken the so-called curse of Ham and saying that all black people were cursed. Neither one of them is founded in truth.

So that is why you must understand what is written in the Bible. The Bible has never done anything dealing with actual skin complexion and with race in a positive or negative sense.

You see, we are all children of God, and the skin is nothing but that: skin. We are all from the same stock, we are all from the same root, and we all have the same hearts. Some black folks will try to say, "Well, we are the chosen people." Maybe. But I say, "Even if we are the chosen people, the chosen people did all kinds of evil. God had to destroy the chosen people! So whether you are part of the chosen people

or not part of the chosen people really does not make that much difference. God is interested in what is in your heart; there is never anywhere where Jesus ever talked about somebody's skin complexion. He had wisdom enough nothing not to put it in there, because He knew if He did, people would have held one high and one low; people would have used it to enslave and almost still did by twisting things. The curse of Ham is a lie.

So from this, I hope that you can understand and see some of it. I did not even have time to get into some of the other things, but these are just the major things. So if anybody ever comes to you and asks you about the curse of Ham, you will be able to tell them, "First of all, Ham was not cursed. Point to me in the Bible where Ham was cursed." They cannot find it. Then you will understand why Noah cursed Ham. And if you study history, you will understand that the Canaanites are extinct, and that curse is no longer valid. And all those people, whatever color they were, they were the same race; so it was not racial.

I hope that sets some of you free. I hope even the knowledge in dealing with skin complexion will set some of you free; and that you will understand black or white, neither is superior nor inferior. God looketh upon the heart and not on the outside. Man looks on outside, and I am not going to sit here and deny that. That is why when I went to pick up all those children, man had placed and had discriminated unfairly against those of darker complexion. Yeah, man does discriminate; there is no question about that.

You will even notice sometimes even in Corporate America when black people rise high, they are light. That is just the way it is. That is not the way it should be, but that is the way it is, because people are very prejudice in this society, because they have not the love of God.

I am going to preach at this sermon that is even going to have some more revealing stuff than this on the racial situation in Heaven. Some of you ask, "What do you mean, 'racial situation'?" Oh, all right. You've just got to hear the sermon (laughing). I am going to tell you about the racial situation in Heaven! You say, "There isn't any" -- you've got to hear the sermon. So that will be coming up sometime in the future when I am led to preach that particular sermon; but this kind of information will set us free. You see, it sets you free, first of all, from the oppression that you may feel about what somebody else has told you you are supposed to do, and it should also set you free -- see, two things are binding up people today in the world: looking down on other folks, first of all, the air of superiority -- and we have often translated that into all kinds of things -- that is binding up a whole lot of people, people feeling better than other people; and then the other extreme, our feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness, because we feel that this is what we are supposed to be, what we are supposed to have, it automatically ... Carter G. Woodson once said in "The MIS Education of the Negro"

that if you can make a man feel that he is second-class, you do not have to make him go sit in the back ... If you make him think and feel that he is second-class, you will not have to make him sit in the back. He will go to the back himself. He will automatically go to the back door, and if there is no back door, his very nature will demand one.

All people have to do is make you feel unworthy, and if they make you feel unworthy, every act and every thing that you do will be towards fulfilling that unworthiness. You know some of the sports folks talk about they are the greatest? Do you know why they end up being the greatest? Why? Because they said they are the greatest, and whatever man thinketh, so is he. All people have to do is make you think that you have a curse on you, and you will fulfill that thought, because you think it.

Martin Luther King said, "It matters not what people call you; it matters what you answer to." If people call you "stupid", it matters not what people call you; it matters what you answer to! If people call you "ugly", it matters not what people call you; it matters what you answer to. And by "answer", it simply means what in your spirit you recognize. And, see, recognize who and what you are.

See, I've got one of the greatest -- the greatest -- Father in the world, and I am not talking about my earthly father. Those who do God's will are the sons of God. When you recognize who and what you are, nobody can tell you what you are not. It matters not what people call you -- and people will call us all kinds of things. They are going to call black folks all kinds of things -- it matters not what people call you; it matters what you answer to.

The curse of Ham is a lie. And I just hope and pray that this information has freed some of us tonight and that when we go and look in the mirror -- and everybody in here is black. I started to say "if you're black", but everybody in here is black -- go in and just put your hands across your face, just rub your skin and say, "Thank You, Father, for giving me this good skin." In an area where the protective layer above the Earth -- you see, there were two times when destruction came upon the Earth, and I just realized this, just a fresh revelation. There were two times when destruction came upon the Earth. The first time, you see, if you read the Bible, you'll find that God separated the waters of the Earth into the waters below and the waters above. There was a vapor cloud that existed above the Earth, and that is what blocked out a lot of the harmful rays. When the flood came, the vapor cloud fell. When the vapor cloud fell, the lifespan of the people dropped. That's what caused the flood: the vapor cloud. He took away the protection, and when He took away the protection in the heavens, then the people were killed.

We have an ozone layer up there now that has been a protection, and through man's evil, through his destruction of the Earth, the ozone layer is now being eaten away;

and the UV radiation that comes down is like fire, and it burns the skin. Those who will be protected from the fire that rains down are the dark-skinned folks.

So when you go to the mirror, you can go out in the sun all day long and it will not bother you; and it is getting hotter and deadlier every day, but it is not going to bother the dark-skinned people.

So when you understand knowledge and truth and things, give thanks that you're dark. Give thanks for the blessing.

Bow your head.

Dear Father, we thank You tonight for that which You have revealed; that the nation shall go forth, and it shall break yokes upon people. It shall break lies that have so long bound us into believing that an outer covering can affect our very nature and who we are in Your sight. Let this truth be revealed unto our spirits, and we shall have a new appreciation of who we are and that we have been made in Thy likeness, and we shall go forward. And whether we are light, bright, dark, it shall not matter, for we understand that we are from one seed with one Father, with one Lord, one Gospel and one Savior, in Thy Son Jesus' name, amen.