



Title: The Human Hangover

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Series: In the Beginning

Text: Gen 9

Synopsis: Most of us can sheepishly admit that we know what a hangover feels like. It's not fun. Your head hurts, your stomach is queasy, your hands shake, you smell bad, etc. If you have never had the experience, then the best way to avoid a hangover (as Dr. David Katz brilliantly observed) is not to get one.

And yet, the worst part about getting drunk is often not dealing with the hangover the next morning, it's dealing with what happened the night before (if you can remember). Who did I insult? Who did I fight? Who did I sleep with? Who wrecked my car? (Oh, I wrecked my car). Who bailed me out?

Genesis 9:18-28 tells the story of perhaps the most famous (or infamous) hangovers of all time, Noah's. The details are all too familiar and human. Noah has too much to drink. He passes out naked in his tent. His son Ham sees him naked and disrespects him. The other brothers, Shem and Japheth, cover their drunken father up. Sounds pretty human right?

The next day isn't much better. There's that awkward, shameful moment where Noah finds out what happened. Tempers flare. Ham is cursed while Shem and Japheth are blessed. The fall out of Noah's drunkenness has begun.

And humanity has been hung over ever since. Because of his indiscretion as well as the sin of his son Ham, humanity is once again divided into God followers or God opposers. Yet in the midst of this very human and sad story there is hope. Noah prophesies that God's people would be victorious over the enemies of God and that through Shem God's redemptive purposes would be accomplished. It's yet another reminder of how God takes our human mess and makes it something beautiful.