



Faith of a Canaanite Mother

Faith of a Canaanite Mother

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

✝ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

Matthew 15:21 RSV

Jesus goes North out of Israel (Galilee) into Pagan Gentile territory during the approximate time of the second Passover of His public Ministry. (Away from Antipas/Authorities)

This area extending North of the Sea of Galilee from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River with Tyre itself being 34 miles from Capernaum making this a very long days walk even for the young.

Additionally, Biblically speaking that within these passages Christ Jesus now begins to instruct His Apostles privately with greater Spiritual & Doctrinal Truth while trusting them even more publicly. The point being our Lord now bestows more advanced Theology with additional responsibility unto His appointed leaders.

Continuing

✝ He (Jesus) entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.

Mark 7:24B NIV

Jesus has traveled far out of Galilee in a single day then proceeding straight into a private residence. However, He was unable to escape nor stay away from the fame of His name.

Matthew 15:22-23 & Mark 7:25 NASB Each do contain details of a Canaanite mother's arrival:

✝ And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." ²³ But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.

✝ But after hearing about Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet.

Both Gospels do identify her as a local Gentile Syrophoenician woman of Canaanite heritage.

Gentile means non-Jewish. Even though she was not a Jew her words unto Jesus were "Son of David" this implying Messiah/Christ "please help me!"

Meaning she was showing Faith that the Jews should have been unto Jesus as Christ & Jewish tradition holds that GOD hears and honors the Prayers of mothers for her children above all other Prayers.

Of those who carried and bore life that GOD Created within them because our Heavenly Father likewise understands a mother's devotion with unconditional forever Love for her/HIS children.

Syrophoenician: From the area of Tyre/Sidon (Lebanon) of the Phoenicia region under Roman rule.

Canaanite: Pagan population of Canaan (Israel) Lebanon, Syria, & Jordan prior to Joshua's Conquest.

With the vanquished Canaanite's having always been the natural enemies of Israel dating all the way back to Ham the youngest son of Noah. Yes! That same Noah of the Ark fame of flood and animals.

Meaning Canaan IS the grandson of Noah who cursed Canaan at his birth. (Genesis 9:25)

Say What?

One would think Noah would have been delighted not only at the birth of a Grandchild but also seeing new humans were being born after the great flood that had deluged and destroyed humankind.

In order to understand Why? In Jesus Time the Jewish people were so disdainful & prejudiced against the ancient Canaanites we have to go back and explain their sordid origin from Noah's time.

Again, the Canaanites by name can be traced all the way back to Noah's Ark.

Noah's youngest son Ham was the father of Cannon who was the founder of the Canaanites.

Noah after spending 100 years building the Ark then starting one 7-day week prior to the rain of 40 days and 40 nights. Then including the time after the flood that it took for the waters to recede, Noah & his family including all of the animals spent a little over a year inside the Ark. (370 days)

Scripture records Noah after getting off the Ark had a moment of weakness call it human frailty that after going through so much and seeing the entire world destroyed after warning everyone for 100 years with no one other than his family believing him and being saved.

That Noah then planted a vineyard and in time he drank of his own wine and became intoxicated. Genesis 9:22 states Ham saw his father's nakedness after Noah had passed out from excessive drink.

Now there are 3 accepted possibilities as for the reason Why? Noah then cursed his grandson Canaan. First Noah could not punish Ham for disrespecting him because he had already Prayed for GOD'S Blessing upon Ham & all his brother's so Ham's punishment fell to his son Canaan.

Second The scriptures do state that Noah petitioned GOD to punish Canaan for what Ham had done to him physically with this meaning Ham did more than just being disrespectful unto His anointed father. Scholars speculate for a vile offense or even possibly castration.

Third is the most disturbing but is the contending probable reason with it even adding up scientifically as in genetically speaking that Ham violated as in sexually assaulting not his father but his stepmother.

Without knowing additional Biblical passages & understanding their meaning especially concerning this very sensitive topic it is easy to miss a distinction here of when Moses the human Holy Spirit guided author of Genesis in another Bible book DOES explain the term "uncover your father's nakedness."

(Leviticus 20:11 Likewise outlaw's a son touching a father's wife)

✠ **Cursed be anyone who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's nakedness.**

Deuteronomy 27:20A ESV

Moses did clearly state Ham's sin against his father was uncovering/seeing his nakedness. (Genesis 9:22-27) Ok, we are starting to get that awful picture.

It does seem GOD'S Word was/is very delicate and tactfully makes a reference to indicate Ham's Sin.

Remember never once in all of the Flood narrative does the Bible say that Noah's wife was the mother of his sons. In fact, by Biblical style this is actually a startling omission that never once DOES scripture say that Noah's wife (current) was the mother of his sons. Scripture is always big on lineage.

Let's just pause right here because two very ancient the apocryphal (Jubilees) plus the pseudepigraphal (Jasher) these books that are NOT to be considered canonical Holy Writ with one being a poetic commentary & the other a historical book. However, they together do each contain a separate name of the wives (plural) of Noah. At separate times of course. (both wives had to be pre flood with humanities destruction)

Noah was considered to be a righteous man by GOD this meaning no polygamy one wife at a time. Presumably remarrying after his first wife had died or had left him. This literally all adds up because:

Naamah (Pleasant) is given as the name of Noah's first wife the daughter of Enoch. Yes, the Old Testament Raptured Enoch. Who WAS Noah's great grandfather!

This meaning even with the pre flood much longer human lifespans there is still a very good chance Naamah was Noah's first wife and the mother of Noah's sons with this also meaning time wise she could/should/would have been much older than Noah. (Enoch a GODLY man would have sought her GODLY husband)

Emzara (Nurture) is given as the name of Noah's second wife meaning she was most likely NOT the mother of Noah's sons because Emzara was the daughter of Noah's father brother Rake-El. Meaning it is quite likely she was younger than Noah. (Apocryphal sources do call Emzara as Noah's son's mother. Stepmother?)

Question? So, what does all of this actually mean.

That it is probable Hams Sin against his father Noah was a despicable violation of his then stepmother.

Ok Scripture states that Noah cursed his grandson Canaan for Hams transgression against him. (wife)

Why? would Noah do this except for an offense that the child's very life hurt & offended Noah.

It does seem at the birth of his grandson Canaan scripture does make plain in several instances that Ham was his father and not Noah. As in being raised by Noah, while it also appears that it is probable it was Noah his grand father (raising him?) who gave Canaan his name.

Ok, so what does the name of Canaan mean?

Canaan in Hebrew means: My Sorrow/shame or to be totally defeated humbled brought down in pain.

Finally, what else did Noah do at the birth of Canaan besides calling him his ultimate pain and shame?

Noah cursed his grandson and his lineage to always be forever beneath his other son's children as their servants. Noah WAS considered by Holy GOD to be a righteous, just, and very patient man.

So, does this not sound like a good man emotionally broken by an unimaginable event upon him? (wife)

Remember Noah seen the destruction of the entire world & yet he obviously felt a betrayal great enough to curse his very own blood grandchild but not upon Ham the perpetrator of this Sin but innocent Canaan.

Now check this out:

From the story of Joseph but does directly state GOD can use evil or turn Sin intended against Him into good.

✠ **As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive.** Genesis 50:20 NASB

Answer: There is now 21st century scientific evidence as for the human race as in what Ham did was certainly evil and most vile however GOD literally fulfilled His Word of turning evil into good as the above Biblical passage does say word for word. Ok this is what we know about DNA genetic code:

Previously one of the biggest concerns scientifically speaking of the Noah's Ark narrative WAS (past tense) the argument that the survivors did not have enough minimum genetic diversity to properly propagate either the animals nor human beings as described from the Biblical passages.

Again, a previous concern.

Science has now in fact now PROVEN how each the animals and human beings could would and did not just survive the Great Flood in the Ark but thrived afterwards. It goes like this.

Geneticists have determined that it takes 3 distinct sets of DNA to properly propagate an animal species. Now according to the Bible Noah was instructed to take 7 pairs of each a male and female of what are "Kosher" or clean animals. Meaning right away any "clean" species of animal are covered.

But What? about the unclean animals.

Noah only had a pair of them meaning together they only had 2 complete sets of DNA.

Unless; think about this- that the female of the unclean species WAS already pregnant!

Then let us say that the male of each pair was slightly younger than his pregnant counter part.

When she gave birth the adult male of a species then had access to the mother and her daughter.(s)

That is 3 sets of DNA with the male totally unrelated to any of the females. Problem solved.

Which leads us to the far more complex human DNA. (mapped human genome shows bottleneck of DNA in Noah's time)

Geneticists insist that it would take a total of 5 sets of genetic code for proper human propagation.

Hence our problem and our conjecture of the Lord taking Ham's evil and turning it into good.

Noah is out of this equation save for his 3 sons but they together = only 1 DNA set. (same parents)

The three Wives of Noah's sons = 3 more but that still only gives us 4 of the total 5 sets needed for humanity to survive. This is where the Sin of Ham comes in. Noah's second wife is # 5! Get it?

GOD already knew the evil Ham would do and the Lord accounted for it in humanities survival.

Noah himself was evidently past the age however his now younger wife she was still able to conceive.

GOD knew of Hams disrespect or attraction to his stepmother either way this explains Noah's shame.

So, from a Jewish perspective this was the origin of the Canaanites according to the Jews in Jesus Time. Couple this with even more continuous trouble from Canaan's line unto the Jews from Noah's days forward because Canaan was raised an outcast and in time he and his line began to resent it. Canaan was the land of the Philistines- you know the boisterous Giant Goliath. (Slain by young King David) Also, Scripture records that Ham's line went down to Cush who became the father of Nimrod. Nimrod was the Biblical founder of all false religion. (Tower of Babel) Why? Nimrod of rejected lineage. Babylon to Assyria (Akkadian) with their capitol city of Ninevah which each the Bible & history do record and describe as the most violent and vile people of all time.

This very same Ninevah of Jonah and the whale fame who refused to go to Ninevah to issue GOD'S warning to them because they were so evil that Jonah wanted them to be smited (punished) by GOD. Oh, let's not forget that the Canaanites were also the builders of Sodom and Gomorrah and then Cush- another son of Ham, became the founder of the Egyptians who enslaved Israel for 400 years. So, all of this from a Jewish perspective of Ham & Canaan also adding in the descendants of Ishmael with the treachery of Lot's daughters these do define the totality of Israel's Semitic blood related non-GOD chosen blood enemies. (Why? Israel considers all semitic peoples other than Jews to be vile perverse & violent) This is the history in a nutshell of the Canaanite woman now before Jesus' begging for His mercy and healing Grace upon her daughter in order to free her from demonic possession.

So now you have a clue as to How? the Apostles felt about this woman begging for Jesus's help. Why? as racially cold hearted as it may appear to us- it was because of Israel's past history with the Canaanites. It was for these reasons the Apostles wanted to send her away.

For reference How? quick would an average American be in assisting a Nazi soldier, perhaps a Viet Cong, or even an Islamic Terrorist. Same thing. However different peoples in a different time & place.

Continuing

✠ He (Jesus) answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." ²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. Matthew 15:24-25 NIV

Isaiah 35 then 53 and Psalm 22 do explain that Messiah must first be offered to Israel & that He will be rejected and then be given to the Gentiles.

Notice How? Jesus replied to the Canaanite woman with Spiritual Truth & NOT prejudice against her race. It does appear that the woman herself had noticed this fact- that she was not rejected because of who she was, but only by our Lord's statement that He was first sent to the lost sheep (unsaved) of Israel.

✠ And he said to her, "Let the children first be fed, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Mark 7:27-28 RSV

Jesus again now with more detail explains that He as Messiah must be offered to Israel (children of GOD) first and not to give what is theirs to Pagan Gentiles. Not yet anyway. (Prophecy must be fulfilled)

This Canaanite mother now demonstrates that she is comprehending exactly what Jesus was saying with "even the dogs" (unclean pagan) but domesticated pets not wild beasts await crumbs from the table!

Get that? (Jesus does)

That she believes! Even of her confessing yes, I'm a Gentile but am under Israel's table. (Faith/convert)

✠ And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. (3rd time because of someone else's Faith Jesus heals another from afar) Mark 7:29-30 ESV

A few final thoughts:

Each Matthew and Mark do retain that the Apostles were each annoyed & uncomfortable with the Canaanite mother's presence and her petition unto Christ Jesus. Even her submission before Him.

Get that?

The Gospels do in fact record the Apostles generational prejudices & again the Bible is not endorsing this but stating it fully like it was. Human fault & frailty. However, the Mercy of Jesus prevailed.

To deny or not recognize the attitudes & feelings Jesus overcame by helping her is denying His truth.

As we spoke previously this Canaanite woman by the Apostles was automatically prejudiced against as "accursed" from a doomed race prophetically destined for Spiritual damnation & destruction from their Jewish perspective for having caused by her lineage much pain shame and blame upon Israel for being each Biblically and Historically an enemy. Not only by what they had done to the Jews, but to other peoples as well. Yet- Jesus did go to their land in person & he presented Himself to them as THE Christ and He healed the Canaanite woman's daughter! Imagine the shock and awe.

Question? Tis this not presented unto all peoples. That Jesus is THE Divine Saving Messiah Christ.

That any person- each and all do live in a state of disgrace while unsaved before GOD?

That everyone is lost & vile who do not joyously accept Jesus & live in the Grace of our Christ's cross.

Because this hated woman was not too ashamed to humble herself nor worrying about what others were thinking about her, this all the while she clearly understood that Jesus was presenting Himself by scripture first unto the Jewish people, that she then only asked Him- Jesus, for a crumb of His Great Divine authority not for herself but her child. (remember it is thought & taught GOD respects a mothers Prayer)

It has also been presumed that our Lord referring to this woman as a domesticated dog (Gentile)

Meant she was indeed formerly a Pagan. Now a proselyte a Jewish convert hence her Faith in Jesus.

Of course, after our Lord's Heavenly Ascension in Acts chapter 10:9-16, Peter the Apostle was shown a video. YES, a video you read that right look it up for yourself.

The video instructed Peter to present the good Gospel news of Jesus to all the Gentiles. (us)

In fact, our Lord then converted a top Jew amongst the Jews- a Pharisaical rising star Saul into Paul.

Paul was/is the Apostle unto us the Gentile world. (Saul named for Isreal's first King while Paul means small)

Jesus did as was Prophesized first He presented Himself unto Israel because the Jewish people are designed to be the worlds clergy then after this His Gospel Truth was given to the world.

Also, it is easy to overlook the fact that the common tongue of this woman's area was not Latin but Greek. Meaning she WAS speaking to Jesus in Aramaic making her at a minimum bilingual.

As for the fore mentioned Latin the language of the Romans, typically they spoke Latin as their heritage language while learning the local dialects. Meaning this Greek speaking woman was not required to know Aramaic as a Roman would have been encouraged to learn.

Demon possession for us seems each barbaric and or the reasoning of the uneducated as for mental and or a physical illness to us today. Especially within western society in the modern world.

However, demon possession was and does remains quite common in the Pagan regions due to the use of dark rites and through rituals that invite demonic interaction. (opening demonic doors)

This fact is actually quite well known by the Occultic, Mystic, Voodoo, & or Wiccan practitioners.

Finally, it has been supposed that Jesus did not go to her home but healed her daughter from afar because of the Faith and boldness of this woman. Imagine her reaction then her actions publicly after she had returned home and found her daughter well just as Jesus had said she would be.

Remember in the future in Jerusalem at the conclusion of our Lord's Ministry when the Pharisee's entice the Jews to reject Jesus- it WAS us the Gentiles who were already embracing & being acceptive of Him. This was When? Jesus states "my Time His Messiah/Christ Jesus Time has come" (John 12:23)