

TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

Talk Genesis 10: The Table of Seventy Nations and the Descendants of Noah's Sons

Lesson 23

Recorded here are the descendants of Noah's three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. We are not going to read the whole chapter because of time, as well as the matter of correctly pronouncing all the names given here, but we'll read a few verses in each section of the chapter.

"1 Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. 3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath,^[a] and Togarmah. 4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.^[b] 5 From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put,^[c] and Canaan. 7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. 8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

13 Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim).

15 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; 16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; 17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; 18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. 19 And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. 20 These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.

21 And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder. 22 The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. 23 The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.^[d] 24 Arphaxad begot Salah,^[e] and Salah begot Eber. 25 To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. 26 Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal,^[f] Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. 30 And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east. 31 These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations. 32 These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood."

Background Notes

Genesis 10 is an important chapter in the Bible, not because it contains a lot of biblical doctrine or devotional thoughts, but because this important chapter bridges the gap between Noah and Abraham. Here we learn how all people and nations descended from the three sons of Noah. Here we learn how and where the different nations spread out after the Flood and after the tower of Babel. There is no other ancient document like Genesis 10—anywhere! It is unique among all ancient records. There is more historical data in Genesis 10 than in the entire Koran. The more we uncover of the ancient world from the field of archeology, the more the facts given in Genesis 10 are supported.

Genesis 10 goes from the time right after the Flood all the way to the time of Abraham, showing the roots of the ancient nations and how they spread out after the Tower of Babel. In fact, in verse 25 of chapter 10 there is most likely a reference to the Tower of Babel event, when the earth was divided by language: *"To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided."*

Notice the mention of different languages in Genesis 10: verse 5, which concludes the section on Japheth, verse 20, which concludes the section on Ham, and then verse 31, which concludes the section on Shem. Eber (v21) is the great-great-great-great grandfather of Abraham, as we'll see in Genesis 11, and the name Eber may be the root of the name "Hebrew."

Doctrinal Points

1. All people and nations have descended from the three sons of Noah.

The Bible teaches that God created Adam and Eve, and we all descended from this first man and woman. (We didn't evolve!) The Bible further teaches that there was a worldwide Flood and only eight people survived this Flood by means of the ark of Noah: Noah and his wife, and Noah's three sons and their wives. Genesis 10 teaches that all people and nations descended from the three sons of Noah. But where did the different races originate? Don't think of each of Noah's three sons as the beginning of one of three different races. One possibility is that the genetic variation seen in the people around the world today is the result of family groups spreading out after the Tower of Babel. The gene pool of Noah's three sons and their wives consisted of all that was necessary for the so-called racial differences to emerge once the human family was separated after the Tower of Babel. Another possibility is that, soon after the Flood, there were a few mutations of the human genetic pool, which led to the different racial features.

In any case, in spite of some minor genetic differences around the world, we are **all** "one people." **Racism is foreign to the Bible!** Acts 17:26 says, *"He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,"* This universal outlook is certainly supported by Genesis 10.

Most of the names mentioned in Genesis 10 can be traced, showing that all people and nations have descended from the three sons of Noah. The descendants of Japheth became the Indo-European nations. The descendants of Ham spread south and west into Canaan and Egypt and other parts of Africa. The descendants of Shem continued to possess the Mesopotamian Valley and the surrounding areas. But all people and nations have descended from the three sons of Noah.

2. All people and nations are responsible to the one God of Noah.

The prevailing school of thought among social scientists today is that monotheism is a "late development" in human evolution. They say that early man was an animist, worshiping the spirits and the objects of nature. Then man moved up to polytheism, worshiping many gods, and finally man arrived at monotheism, the worship of one god. Nothing could be further from the truth! The Bible clearly teaches just the opposite. Man started with monotheism, the worship of the one true God. Noah worshiped the one true God and was responsible before Him. But as the population grew, and the nations spread around the world, there was a departure from the one true God, and people began to create and worship many gods. Romans 1:20-23 says, *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things."*

God didn't depart from man -- man departed from God! The record of Genesis 10 shows that mankind around the world is responsible to the one true God. All people and nations are responsible to the one God of Noah, and the one true God has declared that there is only one way of salvation. There are not many gods and many ways of salvation. No! There is one true God and one way of salvation, through Jesus Christ alone. All people and nations are responsible to the one true God of Noah.

Practical Application: You can be mighty for -- or against -- God.

"8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar." Nimrod became a mighty hunter before the Lord. At first glance this might seem like a commendation, but it's not. Nimrod's actions were "before the Lord" in the sense that everything is before the Lord, but Nimrod's actions were not **for** the Lord -- they were against the Lord.

Nimrod built Babylon, which became a center for idolatry. In fact, it seems that Nimrod was not primarily known for hunting animals, but for hunting the souls of people. Here is how an ancient Hebrew paraphrase of these verses puts it: "Nimrod was powerful in hunting and in wickedness before the Lord. For he was a hunter of the sons of men, and he said to them, 'Depart from the judgment of the Lord and adhere to the judgment of Nimrod.' Therefore it is said, 'Nimrod the strong one, strong in hunting and in wickedness before the Lord.'" Nimrod was mighty in the ancient world, but he was mighty **against** the Lord. He let power go to his head; and he used people for his own ends.

There are many Nimrod-type people today. They have great power and influence, but unfortunately, like Nimrod, they use their power and influence against the Lord. Think of what national leaders can do for the Lord if they are committed Christians, as models for the public and as policy makers. Biblical standards can be maintained and upheld. But think of what can happen when national leaders use their power against the Lord, not protecting the life of the unborn and blatantly using their power for selfish and political ends. Biblical standards are undermined and scorned.

Folks, this is happening in our country today! We need to make this a matter of urgent prayer. Some of you here this morning are, or will be, in places of power and

influence. You can do a lot for the Lord. Doing nothing helps the opposition. You can be mighty for, or against, the Lord!