

FINAL STUDY NOTES - THIS WEEK'S STUDY – GENESIS CHAPS. 9 & 10 5/13-14/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes - previous studies
PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

Review: :

- In Chapter 8 we found that Noah emerged out of the ark. God had given to him the promise that as long as the earth remained, it would remain in its orbit; it would continue to spin upon its axis, that there would be summer and winter, seedtime, and harvest. There would be day and night, and there would be cold and heat.
- Post-Flood Changes: Thermal blanket gone; End of universal climate; Atmospheric pressure reduced 50%; Extended longevities decline.

The Post-Flood World: God's Covenant with Creation-Continues – New Order: Not vegetarians anymore; Capital punishment ordained; Human government established. Sinful man wiped out, but not sin.

Gen 9:1 *So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.*

- **Notice the command is to fill the earth.** Underscoring God's first institution, that of marriage! As we get into chapter 11, we will find a rebellion against that command as they decided to build a civilization and an urbanized community in the area of Babylon, Shinar, the Mesopotamian Plain, but God's command was to fill the earth.

Gen 9:2 *And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand.*

- **Man is still to be in dominion over all other creatures and over the earth itself,** even though Satan's usurpation of that dominion must continually be recognized and rectified, with God's enablement. Man's relation to the animals (except perhaps for the domestic animals not mentioned here) has been changed by God's imposition on them of literally the "terror" of man. Their newly-developed carnivorous appetites and other abilities harmful to close contact with man, combined with their more rapid multiplication, might otherwise have resulted in man's extermination.

Gen 9:3 *Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.*

- **Prior to the flood man was a vegetarian, but here, for the first time, God allows man to eat meat.** The reason for this change was due to the greater need for animal protein in man's diet in view of the nutrient-impooverished soils of the post-diluvian world and the much more rigorous climatic conditions. A second reason may have been to emphasize the great gulf between man and the animals.

Gen 9:4 *But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.*

- **The profoundly scientific truth that "the life of the flesh is in the blood" (Lev 17:11)** is here mentioned for the first time. This, as well as the other principles of the Edenic Mandate and the Noahic covenant, is still in effect and should be observed by Christians especially. The blood, both in symbol and in reality, is "the life of the flesh." Thus, it is appropriate to offer in sacrifice (that is until the offering of Christ) but never to consume, either as food or as a religious ritual. Man's digestion of blood is prohibited.

Gen 9:5 *Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.*

Gen 9:6 *"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.*

Gen 9:7 *And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."*

- **I will require the life of man.** If the blood of animals is to be regarded as too sacred to be eaten, since it represents the "life" (or "soul") of the animal and is acceptable as a substitutionary sacrifice for man's sins, how much more sacred is the blood of man himself! His blood represents his life and, since he alone is "in the image of God," the Creator of life, man's blood is not even to be shed, let alone eaten! If either man or beast slays a man, that man or that animal is, judicially, is to be slain himself, the reason being the divine sacredness of human life.
- **By man his blood shall be shed** God here is talking about the sacredness of life. Now he is establishing a new order or new law. Biblically, man is held responsible for taking another man's life; capital punishment is required for premeditated murder. Here we find God is now establishing human government with Noah. And in human government, God establishes capital punishment, which is here becoming a biblical injunction.
- **So the establishment of Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed.** We will find that this is codified, God setting out the law for manslaughter. If you have killed someone by accident, there would be this city of refuge where you could flee, avoiding the avenger of death by the family of that person who was killed. Also it established the killing of a person in a fit of rage, which we call second-degree murder today. The first-degree murder, which was the premeditated and deliberate planned murder of a person, is the one where capital punishment was always to be enacted upon the perpetrator of such a crime.
- **So capital punishment is something that was established by God early in the history of mankind.** Today those who object to capital punishment are totally inconsistent in their objections.

Gen 9:8 *Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying:*

Gen 9:9 *"And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you,*

- **God is now establishing this covenant.** Remember the earlier covenant, the summer, winter, and all.
- **My covenant.** The Noahic covenant (Hebrew *Berith*) is the first covenant mentioned in Scripture and is everlasting (Gen 9:16). It applied not only to Noah and his seed (Gen 9:9), but also to the animal kingdom (Gen 9:10) and even to the earth itself (Gen 9:13). It was unconditional, promising the age-long endurance

of the post-flood cosmos, and also reconfirming and amplifying God's primeval commission to mankind, involving human stewardship over the earth and its inhabitants.

Gen 9:10 *and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth.*

Gen 9:11 *Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.*"

- The promise of the covenant was there would not again be a world-wide flood (*the flood*) to destroy the earth. (2Pe 3:6-7) by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. [7] But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Gen 9:12 *And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:*

Gen 9:13 *I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.*

- **My rainbow.** The rainbow, requiring small water droplets in the air, could not form in the pre-diluvian world, where the high vapor canopy precluded rain (Gen 2:5). After the Flood, the very fact that rainfall is now possible makes a worldwide rainstorm impossible, and *My rainbow in the cloud* thereby becomes a perpetual reminder of God's grace, even in judgment.

Gen 9:14 *It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud;*

Gen 9:15 *and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

Gen 9:16 *The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.*"

- **The everlasting covenant.** This is the first of sixteen references to an "everlasting covenant" made by God, and therefore to an unconditional, unbreakable promise. This first such everlasting covenant was made with "all flesh," and the second was with "your descendants" (Abraham's seed, Gen 17:7). The last was with all who are redeemed "through the blood of the everlasting covenant" (with the blood of Christ, Heb 13:20).

Gen 9:17 *And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."*

- **So, God's covenant! He established it with the rainbow, which demonstrates most gloriously the grace of God!** After the flood the earth became watered by rain. It had not rained prior to the flood. We know that the rainbows are caused by the prisms formed in the droplets of water with the background of a cloud and the sun shining upon the water that is falling. It is just a glorious sight to behold, but the rainbow, again, should remind you of the faithfulness of God's promise, and not to destroy the earth with a flood!

Noah's Descendants

Gen 9:18 *Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan.*

- The original meanings of these names are uncertain, but the most probable meanings are: Shem means "Name" or "Renown;" Ham means "Warm" or "Hot;" Japheth means "Enlarged" or "Beautiful."

Gen 9:19 *These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.*

- This clear declaration (see also Gen 10:32) leaves no possibility that any other people survived the worldwide Flood. All the world's present peoples are descendants of Noah's three sons and their wives. The gene pool from these six individuals (all originally from Adam and Eve), provided far more than enough genetic variational potential to account for the wide range in national and tribal characteristics which have surfaced since the Flood.

Gen 9:20 *And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.*

Gen 9:21 *Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.*

- This is the first mention of wine in Scripture, but there is no reason to doubt that the antediluvians used wine and intoxicating beverages. Christ said they were characterized by much "eating and drinking" (Mat 24:38). Although the vapor canopy filtered much of the harmful radiation from space, fermentation as a decay process had probably been controlled and utilized by man since soon after the Fall.
- **He became uncovered in his tent.** Now, whether or not he was just too drunk to know what he was doing or

whatever, or however he became uncovered is not told us. But *he became uncovered in his tent.*

Gen 9:22 *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.*

- **Ham...saw (gazed intently) the nakedness of his father. Rather than quickly turning away, Ham apparently gazed intently!** There are those who would suggest that he gazed in a sensual way at his father's nakedness and would suggest there was a homosexual act by Ham committed against his father. But this is totally without scriptural substantiation. It does say in verse 24, when Noah woke from his wine, knowing what his younger son, Ham, had done to him, Noah cursed his grandson Canaan. But what was it that Ham had done? Was it a homosexual act, or was it a fact that he sort of made fun of his father's...went out and told the two brothers thinking that they also would get a kick out of "the old man's naked in the tent" kind of a thing? (**Exo 28:42**) *And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs.*
- **The idea is probably the lack of showing respect to his father.** The patriarchal society was extremely strong. The Scriptural command was to honor your father and your mother. His act against his father was a dishonorable and rebellious act. That is probably that which he had done, is the disrespect that he had for his father. (**Tit 3:2**) *to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.*
- **And told his two brothers in a scornful deriding manner. Perhaps he was glad to see his father's dignity and authority reduced to such weakness.** Maybe he thought his brothers might share his feelings so he eagerly told them. When they were told, the two brothers showed great respect in that they took a garment and laid it on their shoulders, walked in backwards and covered their father, lest they see the nakedness of their father. They turned their faces away from that!
- **That probably is the real reason why Noah, when he sobered up, was angry at Ham, as the disrespect that this son had and the going out to his brothers and trying to make something out of the condition of their father.** Interesting isn't it, that though God destroyed the world with the flood, sin was not destroyed. It is still a part of man's nature and remains a part of man's nature. So the sinful nature, unfortunately, survived the flood. Although, Noah, righteous in all his generations, yet when he comes forth out of the ark, gets drunk, lies around naked. The sinful nature is still there.

Gen 9:23 *But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.*

Gen 9:24 *So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.*

- **Though Noah was guilty of the sin of carelessness and drunkenness, the sin of Ham was much more serious, revealing a suppressed carnal and rebellious nature, a resentment against his father and, probably, against God.** Shem and Japheth, on the other hand, sought to cover and restore their father.

Gen 9:25 *Then he said: "Cursed (possibly meaning prophesying) be Canaan; A servant (steward) of servants He shall be to his brethren."*

- **Cursed be Canaan.** Noah's curse was spoken concerning Canaan instead of Ham for possibly one or more of the following reasons: (1) As Ham was his youngest son, so Canaan was Ham's youngest son, and Noah wished to emphasize that the prophecy extended through Ham to all his seed, even his youngest; (2) Noah could gladly bless his two faithful sons, but could not bear to pronounce the prophetic curse *directly* on his other son, whom he also loved dearly; (3) He knew his grandsons well enough to recognize in the sons of Ham the same rebellious attitudes that were in Ham, and he knew that they would actually experience the resultant effects of his sin even more than would Ham himself.
- **The phrase "servant of servants" is never used elsewhere in Scripture.** If it means "slave of slaves," then the prophecy has failed, for neither the Hamitic nations, in general, nor the Canaanitic nations, in particular, have ever been such. Hamites have included such great empires as Sumeria, Phoenicia, Egypt, Ethiopia, and possibly China and Japan. The word "servant," however, is more often used in the sense of "steward," so the prophecy more likely speaks of Ham's descendants as superlative stewards.
- **Shem – spiritual; Japheth – intellectual; Ham – physical.** Mankind had three fundamental types of duties to perform as God's steward over the world: (1) *Spiritual* – receiving, preserving, and teaching the knowledge of the word of God; (2) *intellectual* – expanding and teaching the knowledge of the world of God, and (3) *physical* – providing the material means for man's bodily needs and comforts. These three duties correspond to the three part nature of man: spirit, soul and body.
- **These three "streams of nations, Shem, Japheth and Ham are not three "races."** The Semites have been predominant in theology, the Japhethites in science and philosophy, the Hamites in technology!

- **To his brethren.** It is obvious that his prophecy applies not only to Canaan but also to all of Ham's descendants, for the following reasons: (1) its scope is obviously intended to be symmetrical, worldwide and age-long, with all the progeny of the three sons of Noah included; 2) if taken as applicable only to Canaan specifically, then it must also apply specifically only to Canaan's brethren, who were Cush, Mizraim and Phut. Their descendants included the nations of Ethiopia, Egypt and Libya. Not only would such a judgment be unfair (it was Ham who sinned, not Canaan), but it was never fulfilled, since the Canaanites were never servants of the Libyans or Ethiopians, and only briefly of the Egyptians; (3) the descendants of Canaan, who included the Phoenicians and Hittites, were prominent nations through most of their history, not slave nations.

Gen 9:26 And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant."

- **Shem.** Noah associated Shem especially with the worship of Jehovah, recognizing the dominantly spiritual motivations of Shem, implying that God's promised Deliverer would ultimately come from Shem. The Semitic nations have included the Hebrews, Arabs, Assyrians, Persians, Syrians and other strongly religious-minded peoples. Here we see that Shem would be the descendant of, among others, the Hebrew people, and through Shem down through Abraham and his line the Messiah would come into the world!

Gen 9:27 May God enlarge Japheth (enlarged - to be open minded), **And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant."**

- **This indeed did come to pass as the borders of Japheth were enlarged-- primarily intellectual, expanding and teaching the word of God.** In chapter 11 we find the various nations that descended from the three sons of Noah, which is more or less a prophecy of Noah.
- **But at the onset, let me say that one of the worst perversions of scripture is that** the curse upon Canaan was that he was to become black, and thus, the black people are a servant race. That is not scriptural. It is a fallacy. There is nothing to it. It is a perversion that was developed by those men engaged in the slave trade in order to sort of assuage their consciences over the vile thing that they were doing. It is not scriptural.
- **The descendants of Canaan actually were the ancient Phoenicians** who were one of the strongest and most powerful people on the earth at one time, the Phoenician navies. It is also true that the Egyptians and those who are in Africa were also the descendants of Ham, but that they should be the servant class is not scriptural. It is not right.
- **This would imply that these people would bring many advances in the fields of technology to man, which indeed did occur.** They would be of service to mankind is the idea. They have been of tremendous service to mankind, but it surely does not mean they are to be slaves of the two brothers or to the descendants of the two brothers. That is a terrible perversion of the scriptures.

Gen 9:28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

- **So here we find a blank in history of 350 years.** It doesn't tell us anything else about Noah. The last thing is he was drunk and comes out of it and curses his grandson because of what his dad did. That really ends for us the saga of this interesting man Noah.
- **Noah's living another 350 years means that he was still alive when Abraham was born,** living contemporaneously with Abraham for fifty-eight years. It is quite possible that being a direct descendant of Noah through Shem that Abraham talked to his great, great, great, great...grandfather, hearing the story of God's warning concerning the flood directly from Noah himself, crossing only over several generation.

Gen 9:29 So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

- **A quiet and longtime of 350 years, of which we hear nothing concerning Noah.**

Chapter Ten! The Table of Nations! Nations Descended from Noah! God and the Nations!

- **Even higher critics have often admitted that the tenth chapter of Genesis is such a remarkably accurate** historical document. There is no comparable catalog of ancient nations available from any other source. It is unparalleled in its antiquity and comprehensiveness. This table leads us the Patriarchs, beginning with Abraham in chapter 12. (3,397 distinct names in the Bible, 1,967 names of individuals!)

Gen 10:1 Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

- **the genealogy.** This is the fourth *toledoth* of the book of Genesis (previously noted at (Gen 2:4; 5:1; 6:9), presumably marking the signatures of Shem, Ham and Japheth after completing their narrative of the Flood and the immediate post-Flood years. Shem then took over the task (Gen 11:10) and his family records, now known as the Table of Nations, constitute (according to premier archaeologist William F. Albright) an "astonishingly accurate document."

- **after the flood.** This marks the end of the first—and only authentic—account of the great Flood, written down by the only eye-witnesses who could record it accurately, the men who experienced it and survived to tell about it. As their descendants scattered over the earth, especially after their dispersion from Babel (*Gen 11:9*), they carried the story with them.

SONS OF JAPHETH - Gen 10:2 *The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.*

- **Gomer.** The “sons of Japheth,” allowing for the gradual modifications in form of their names over the millennia, can be recognized as the progenitors of the Indo-European peoples. Japheth himself is called “Iapetos,” in the legends of the Greeks, and Iyapeti is the reputed ancestor of the Aryans. Gomer is identified by Herodotus with Cimmeria, a name now surviving as the Crimea. His descendants moved westward, with the name possibly further preserved in Germany and Cambria (Wales).
- **Magog (Scythians, defense by retreating; Ukraine to China, Russia).** Critical to understanding (*Eze 38-39*) Magog can mean “the place of Gog,” possibly now Georgia in the former USSR.
- **Madai.** Madai is the ancestor of the Medes (Kurds).
- **Javan.** Javan is identified with “Ionia,” and is often translated as “Greece” in the Old Testament.
- **Tubal.** Eastern Anatolia (Turkey). Tubal is a name probably preserved in the modern Tobolsk and the ancient Tibareni, associated with Magog and Meshech in (*Eze 38:2*) and other passages, all probably ancestral to modern Russia.
- **Meshech.** Eastern Anatolia (Turkey) Meshech is preserved in the names Muskovi and Moscow.
- **Tiras.** Tiras gave rise to the Thracians, and possibly to the Etruscans.

Gen 10:3 *The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.*

- **Ashkenaz.** Ashkenaz has been associated with the German Jews, known still as the Ashkenazi. The name is also possibly preserved in the names Scandia and Saxon, as well a part of Armenia once known as Sakasene.
- **Riphath.** Josephus associates Riphath with the Paphlagonians. There is a strong possibility that the name Carpathia, and even Europe, come from Riphath.
- **Togarmah.** Togarmah is probably the ancestor of the Armenians. The Jewish Targums say that Germany was derived from Togarmah. The name may also have a connection with Turkey and Turkestan.

Gen 10:4 *The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.*

- **In that sense, probably the majority of us, those with a European background, would be the descendants of Japheth.** Note the prophecy, “*They shall dwell in the tents of Shem...*” (*Gen 9:27*). When the descendants of Shem rejected the Messiah, then the European nations picked up in Christianity. We dwell in the covering that God gave to Shem, that of Jesus Christ, finding our place of rest in it. So it is an interesting fulfillment that it is basically the people of Japheth who have embraced the gospel and carried the gospel to the rest of the world, fulfilling the prophecy of Noah, thousands of years ago.
- **Elishah is preserved today as Hellas (Hellenists, Hellespont), another name for Greece.** The Iliad mentions them as the “Eilesiens.”
- **Tarshish, “distant island, thought to be Spain or possibly England. As far as the scripture, just the end of the world.** It was as far as you could go. We remember when Jonah went down to catch a ship to escape the call of God. He got a ship that was going to Tarshish. You can’t go any further than that. So that was just the end of the world. But we do know that Solomon had ships that brought him tin and all from Tarshish. Britannia was originally called Britain because of the tin and the industry that was there.
- **Kittim is another name for Cyprus.** The name “Ma-Kittim” (land of Kittim) is possibly preserved as Macedonia.
- **Dodanim is the same as Rodanim (*1Ch 1:7* in some manuscripts).** The name is probably found today in the names Dardanelles and Rhodes.

Gen 10:5 *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.*

- **This is the end of Japheth.** He didn’t carry him into too many generations, but they were then separated by their languages, which took place at the time of Babel in the next chapter. We are only interested in one line, and that is the line that will bring us to Abraham. We gradually narrow down until we get to Abraham; then narrow down again until David; then narrow down again until we get to Christ. The Bible is only interested in bringing us one line of genealogy, and that is the line that will ultimately bring us to Jesus Christ.
- **According to his language.** The islands and coastlands to which these first Europeans migrated were

“separated ... according to his language.” This notation indicates that the author of *Gen 10:1-32* probably (Shem) wrote it after the dispersion at Babel.

SONS OF HAM - Gen 10:6 *The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.*

- **Cush**, the same as “Kish,” is usually translated in the Old Testament as “Ethiopia,” a land identified in the Tell El Amarna tablets as “Kashi.” Some of the Cushites evidently stayed in Arabia while others sailed across the Red Sea into Ethiopia.
- **Mizraim** is the customary name for Egypt in the Bible, which is also called “the land of Ham” (*Psa 105:23*). It is remotely possible that Mizraim is the same as Menes, Egypt’s first king.
- **Phut**. According to Josephus, **Phut** is the same as Libya in the Bible.
- **Canaan**, Ham’s youngest son, is obviously the progenitor of the Canaanites.

Gen 10:7 *The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.*

- **Sabtechah**. The five first-named sons of Cush apparently all settled in Arabia, although Seba later migrated into the Sudan, giving his name to the Sabaeans (*Isa 45:14*).
- **Sheba and Dedan** were evidently well known Arabians in the days of Abraham, since two of his grandsons through Keturah were named after them (*Gen 25:3*).

Gen 10:8 *Cush begot ; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.*

- **Cush begat Nimrod**. As the “son of Cush” (that is, “bar-Cush”) Nimrod probably was later deified and worshipped as **Baccus** by the Romans. As the founder of Babylon, he also later became the chief god of the Babylonians “Merodach” or “Marduk.” His name is preserved in various ways, in many geographical sites or names of deities, having been the most influential leader of mankind when the nations were dispersed at Babel. One of the chief cities of the Assyrians was called Nimrud. He has also been identified as the tyrant Gilgamesh, in the famous Gilgamesh Epic found in the ruins of Nineveh.
- **Nimrod**, the youngest and most illustrious son of Cush, was given a name meaning “Let us rebel!” and apparently trained by his father for this purpose.

Gen 10:9 *He was a mighty hunter* (hunter of men; world’s first dictator; mighty in wickedness) *before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD* (in rebellion.)”

- **A mighty hunter**. This phrase connotes a man mighty in rebellion, in wickedness. It is possible that his hero’s reputation was gained in hunting and slaying the giant animals that proliferated after the flood and were considered dangerous to the small human population of the first century. He built a great kingdom, with the capital at Babel in the plain Shinar (no doubt equivalent to Sumer) in the Tigris-Euphrates valley.
- **Nimrod is really the founder of the Babylonian religious system**, of which there are many fascinating characteristics. Nimrod had a wife whose name was Semiramis, known as “*The Queen of Heaven*.” She had a son, Tammuz, who . Tammuz was being groomed to be the center of worship.
- **A legend existed that Tammuz was out hunting when a wild boar turned on him and gored him, leaving him dead for three days before he was found. But when he was found he revived. They began to celebrate the birth of Tammuz that took place the twenty-fifth of December. They would set on the evening before a Yule log on the fire, which would be burned. The next morning there would be a new evergreen tree brightly decorated in the home. It was a symbol of perpetuated life. It stays green. It doesn’t die out.**
- **To celebrate his resurrection from the three days of death having been gored by the wild boar**, they began to decorate eggs, and in the springtime of the year they would have a great celebration, which later became known as Ashtarte (we now call it Easter!) named after the Greek name for his mother. The egg is a symbol of continued life, the perpetuation again of life.
- **It was during the period of Constantine that the church became the state religion**. But, in making it the state religion, Constantine sought to bring together the pagan religions with Christianity, creating the marriage of paganism and Christianity. Taking the pagan celebration, which was the Saturnalia of the pagan, and incorporating it into the church calendar, calling it Christmas and the celebration the birth of Christ. So their marriage brought Babylon into the church.
- **It is realized that Satan developed his own counterfeit to God’s plan, which he knew**. It would seem that God had set His plan somehow in the stars, which were set for signs and for seasons, and that the gospel is really there in the signs of the Zodiac; but astrology has become a perversion of that. That all came about again at the time of Nimrod, who was one of the instigators in building this Tower of Babel to reach into heaven. And astrology goes back to the perversion of those signs that God established.

- When the birth of Christ took place there were still men in the East from the area of Babylon, who understood the true message of the stars, could read the message of the stars, and were brought to find the King that was born, that they might worship Him. But astrology has become a tremendous perversion of these signs that God had established in the heavens as signs and for seasons.

Gen 10:10 And the beginning of his (Nimrod's) kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

- These cities comprised a complex of cities centered at Babylon. Erech is also "Uruk," one hundred miles southeast of Babylon, the legendary home of Gilgamesh. Accad gave its name to the Akkadian empire, perhaps the same as the Sumerian empire. Calneh is unidentified.

Gen 10:11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah,

- Asshur, a son of Shem, had evidently founded a settlement, but Nimrod "went forth into Asshur" (better rendering of "out of that land went forth Assur"), what would become the Assyrian empire.
- Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrians, was named after "Ninus," evidently another name for Nimrod. Although both Babylonia and Assyria were later conquered by Semites, the Hamite Nimrod was their founder and first king. Nineveh was two hundred miles north of Babylon, on the Tigris River.
- Rehoboth and Resen have not yet been identified.

Gen 10:12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

- Calah, a great city about twenty miles south of Nineveh, has been excavated. It is still called "Nimrud." These three satellite cities, with Nineveh, made up a metropolitan complex, thus called a "the principal city."

Gen 10:13 Mizraim (upper and lower Egypt) begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

Gen 10:14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim).

- Caphtorim. The sons of Mizraim are mostly yet unidentified in secular records; perhaps most of them migrated south and west from their father's home in Egypt, deeper into Africa. However, the Pathrusim dwelt in Pathros, or upper Egypt. The Caphtorim are identified in the Bible with the Philistim, or Philistines, and by secular writers with Crete. These people evidently migrated from Egypt to Crete and then, later, in successive waves to Philistia on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean. Gaza is linked back to Egypt!
- Historical Note: Palestine is not associated with any Biblical names. There was no Palestine until 130AD, when the Roman Emperor Hadrian in his anger against the rebelling Jews, renamed Israel, Palestine, after the Philistines. Also burning Jerusalem completely and renaming it Capitolina.

Gen 10:15 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth;

- Sidon. The city of Sidon, chief city of the Phoenicians, still exists today.
- Heth is the ancestor of the Hittites, prominent in both the Bible and secular history, ruling a great empire in Asia Minor for over eight hundred years. When the Hittite empire finally crumbled, many of its people migrated east. The Hittites are identified in Egyptian inscriptions as the "Kheta. In the cuneiform inscriptions in Babylonia, this name is identified as "Khittae," which may have been modified eventually to "Cathay," a synonym for China. Archaeologists have noted similarities between the Mongols and Hittites.

Gen 10:16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; Gen 10:17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;

- The other nine sons of Canaan were the Canaanite tribes that inhabited the land when the Israelites entered it. The Amorites are identified in the tablets as the Amurru. The Sinites may be connected in ethnology with the wilderness of Sin and Mount Sinai in the south, and with the Assyrian god "Sin," and even with *Sinim* (Isa 49:12) and the people of secular history called "Sinae or Sino," or Chinese.

Gen 10:18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed.

- That is at the time of the Tower of Babel, the dispersion. Shem lost track of them. He was able to keep track of them as long as they were living more or less together, until the time of the Tower of Babel, when the confusion they were scattered into their separate national groups, migrating in the areas of the world.
- Dispersed. This statement becomes especially significant if, as intimated above, the descendants of Canaan include the Mongol peoples, who eventually spread not only throughout most of Asia but also across the Bering Strait into North and South America, becoming the American Indians.

Gen 10:19 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 Zeboim, as far as Lasha.

- **From Sidon, which is speaking of the Phoenicians--that is even on our news today!** It is interesting that this city has continued to exist to the present day. Sidon was the son of Canaan, who was the son of Ham who was cursed. Of course, the Phoenicians were not black, blowing the theory that Canaan was black.
- **As far as Gaza.** From the land of Canaan was that land along the coast inhabited by the Philistines from Sidon to Gaza.

Gen 10:20 *These were the sons of Ham (Philistia and south), according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.*

- **In their nations.** The division of the original population into “nations” was both “according to their families” and “according to their languages,” suggesting that each family living at Babel was given a distinctive tongue at the dispersion.

SONS OF SHEM - Gen 10:21 *And children were born also to SHEM, the father of all the children of EBER (Gen chapters 12-50!), the brother of Japheth the elder.*

- **Now the third son, SHEM, he is now going to give his own descendants.** He is able to follow them down as long as they live, which means that he is the one that brings this to Abraham. In chapter 11 we will get Shem’s descendants clear on down to Abraham.
- **Eber.** The term “Hebrew” comes from Eber, but the descendants of Eber also include the “Habiru.” Discoveries at Ebla, in northern Syria, seem to indicate the founder and king of Ebla to be “Ebrim.”
- **Japheth was evidently the oldest son of Noah, Ham the youngest** (Gen 9:24).

Gen 10:22 *The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, ARPHAXAD, Lud, and Aram.*

- **Elam is the ancestor of the Elamites, who later merged with the Medes (descendants of Madai) to form the Medo-Persian empire.**
- **Asshur gives his name to the Assyrians, although his settlement on the Tigris was later taken over by Nimrod** (Gen 10:11).
- **Lud.** According to Josephus, Lud was the ancestor of the Lydians.
- **Aram the father of the Aramaeans, or Syrians.** The Aramaic language was almost a world language in the ancient world, and even some parts of the Old Testament were first written in Aramaic. Jesus spoke Aramean!

Gen 10:23 *The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.*

- **Uz gave his name to Job’s homeland (Job 1:1) but little is known of the other three sons of Aram.** Evidently the children of Aram had more contact with Shem than his other grandsons (except through Arphaxad) since none of the others are listed.

Gen 10:24 *ARPHAXAD begot SALAH, and Salah begot EBER.*

- **Nothing is known of Salah.** Eber is the origin of the name of the Hebrews, which were originally much more than just the descendants of Abraham. There are a number lines of the *Hebre*, or the Hebrews.

Gen 10:25 *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.*

- **Peleg means “division,” and he was apparently given the name by Eber because of the great language dispersion event at Babel, which took place just before his birth.** He may also have given his name to the Pelasgians.
- **the earth divided.** The “division” that took place was, most likely, the traumatic upheaval at the Tower of Babel. A division in (Gen 10:5, 32), is mentioned, where the division is “*according to his language, according to their families.*” Nimrod was in the same generation as Eber, and this is the only place in the Table of Nations where the meaning of a son’s name is given, indicating the importance of the event. However, it is true that two different words are used (*Pelag* in Gen 10:25, *parad* in Gen 10:5,32). Although the two words are essentially synonymous, this might indicate a different type of division.
- **Some Bible teachers have suggested that this *division* here might refer to a splitting of the post-Flood continent into the present continents of the world.** They associated the modern scientific model of sea-floor spreading and continental drifting with this verse. It should be remembered that the verse seems to refer more directly to the division into families, countries and languages. Furthermore, even if the continents have separated from a single primeval continent, such a split more likely would have occurred in connection with the continental uplifts terminating the global deluge (Psa 104:6-7,9) *You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. [7] At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. [9] You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, That they may not return to cover the earth.*

Gen 10:26 Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, Gen 10:27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, Gen 10:28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba, Gen 10:29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.

Gen 10:30 And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east.

- **Sons of Joktan.** Thirteen sons of Joktan are listed, most are believed to have settled in Arabia. The fact that *none* of Peleg's sons are listed may indicate that Shem was living near Joktan's family.

Gen 10:31 These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.

- *According to their nations.* This concludes the "nations" listed in (*Gen 10:1-32*)—fourteen from Japheth; thirty from Ham; and twenty-six from Shem. Thus a total of seventy such primeval nations was included by Shem in his Table of Nations. All are descendants of Adam, through Noah. Note the Bible gives 70 nations here and 70 families going into Egypt (*Gen 46:27*). In effect, seventy Gentile nations (*Act 17:26*) *And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,* and seventy Hebrew families, all of whom have their boundaries, set by God, Biblically, in (Deu 32:8) When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel!

Gen 10:32 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.

- **generations.** The word "generations" (Hebrew *toledoth*) indicates that actual genealogical records were available to Shem as he compiled the information in the Table.
- **nations divided.** The seventy nations from Noah's three sons are the progenitors of all other nations. These three streams of nations should not be interpreted as three races, however. The concept of race is not found in the Bible and is purely an evolutionist concept with no basis in either Scripture or true science! Where mankind is concerned, there are nations, tribes, tongues, peoples, and families, but these are not races!

SUMMARY: God's covenant to Noah and to us!

- (*Gen 9:14-16*) *It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; [15] and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. [16] The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.*
- **So, God's covenant! The goodness of God!** He established it with the rainbow, which demonstrates most gloriously the grace of God!

CLOSING SONG:

GOODNESS OF GOD - Bethel Music (4:46/4:49)

I love You, Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus - And all my life You have been faithful And all my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire. In the darkest night, You are close like no other.

I've known You as a Father. I've known You as a Friend. And I have lived in the goodness of God (Chorus)

Cause Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.

Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.

With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything

Your goodness is running after, It's running after me. (2x)

(Chorus) (2x)

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

CLOSING PRAYER:

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 11&12!