

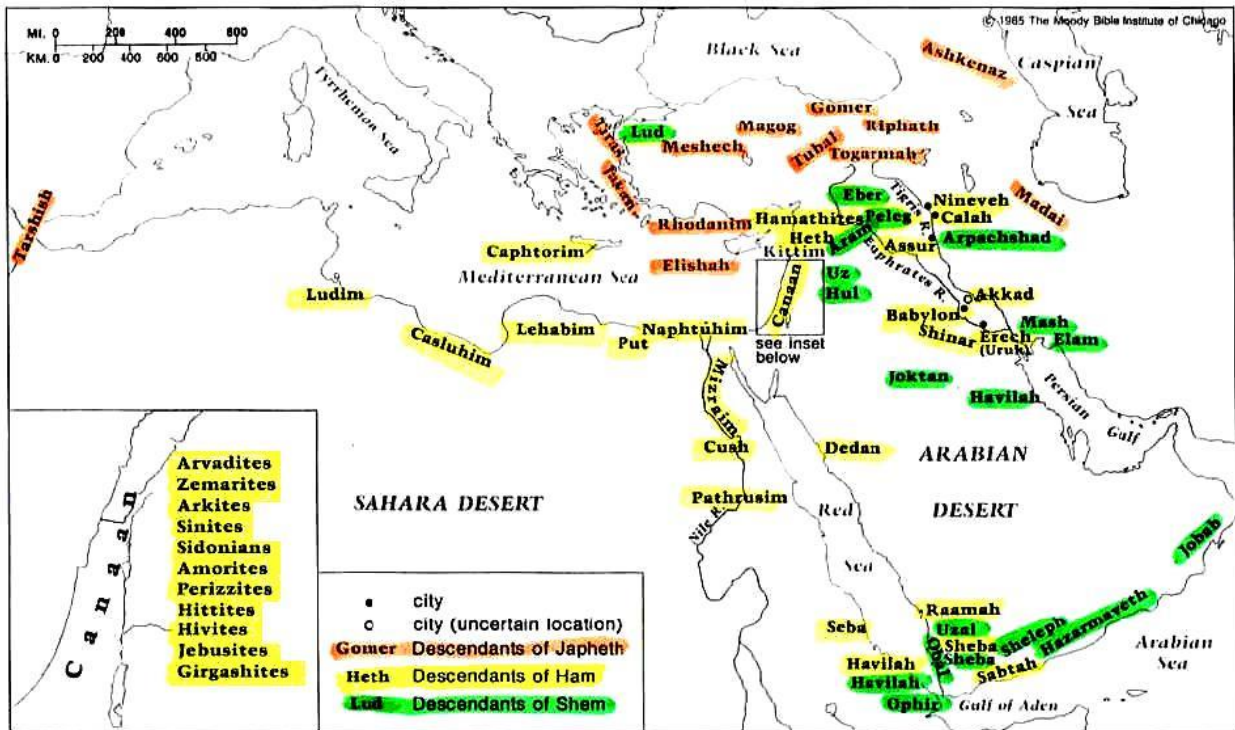
Cultivate Genesis Study
 Week #9

Chapters 10 and 11

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapters 10 and 11 this week and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday’s class.

Genesis Chapters ten and eleven give us a historical record of the descendants of Noah, who repopulated the earth after the flood, becoming 70 nations. Sometimes, we may want to skip over lists of names in the Bible, but when we do that, we can miss some interesting and important information. Remember that all Scripture is God breathed (2Timothy 3:16), and it all has a purpose.

Genesis 10:1 *“Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.”*



Map is from *The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago*

Genesis 10:2-5

The sons names are listed as Shem, Ham and Japheth throughout Scripture. The chapter begins with Japheth’s lineage.

Benson's Commentary says, "Moses begins with Japheth's family, either because he was the eldest, or because it lay most remote from Israel, and had least concern with them at the time when he wrote; and therefore he mentions that race very briefly; hastening to give account of the posterity of Ham, who were Israel's enemies, and of Shem, who were Israel's ancestors: for it is the church of which the Scripture is designed to be the history: and of the nations of the world, only as they were some way or other interested in the affairs of Israel."

Verse 5 tells us that Japheth's descendants were seafaring (maritime) people. They would come to inhabit the areas away from Judea, the area where the Israel's history takes place.

Read Genesis 10:6-20

These verses detail Ham's family. Remember Ham was the disrespectful son of Noah, who revealed his father's sin, to his brothers, in Genesis 4:22. Noah cursed Ham's descendant, Canaan's family, in Genesis 9:25.

In verse 8-12 we meet Nimrod. Verse 9 says, "*He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; so it is said, 'Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD.'*"

1. Why do you think the genealogy was interrupted to give more information about Nimrod?

The word "mighty" is the Hebrew word, *gibbor*, meaning powerful, warrior, tyrant.

As the beasts multiplied on the earth and men became hunters, Nimrod made a name for himself as being a mighty hunter. Perhaps he got prideful with the recognition of his might; or he decided he could dominate over the people as he did with the animals. In any case, Nimrod became the first "king", perhaps using his strength to intimidate men into accepting his leadership.

Read Genesis 10:10

Benson's Commentary says, "*The beginning of his kingdom was Babel — Some way or other, he got into power; and so laid the foundation of a monarchy which was afterward a head of gold. It does not appear that he had any right to rule by birth; but either his fitness for government recommended him, or by power and policy he gradually advanced himself to a throne. See the antiquity of civil government, and particularly of that form of it which lodges the sovereignty in a single person.*"

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9

2. How does God feel about people's desire for an earthly king?

Read Proverbs 28:15, and 28:16

3. What does these verses warn us about evil rulers?

Read Romans 13:1 and Titus 3:1

4. Pray for the leaders in our country, as you continue to walk according to God's Word.

Read Genesis 10:25

Peleg was prophetically given that name by his father, Eber.

What event in Genesis 11:1-9 may be the reason for his naming?

5. Peleg and Eber were mentioned in Luke 3:35. Why?

Our Creator God know the hearts of all men. He knew Shem's heart when he respectfully covered Noah's nakedness and knowing the hearts of Shem's sons, chose Eber to carry the seed of the Messiah, who would come many years later.

Understanding that God knows our hearts better than we do, can bring comfort or fear to a person.

6. Write out Psalm 51:10 and make it a prayer this week.

Genesis 10:32 says, *"These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood."*

7. We all came from one of these three sons. How about you? Have you done any family ancestry searches? Based on the map above, can you determine from which of Noah's sons you were most likely descended?

Read Genesis 11:1-4

As Nimrod increased his kingdom, moving Eastward, they settle and establish a city.

8. Why would God not be pleased with this? See Genesis 9:1

9. What was their motivation for settling where they did?

Matthew Henry observed:

“How soon men forget the most tremendous judgments, and go back to their former crimes! Though the desolations of the deluge were before their eyes, though they sprang from the stock of righteous Noah, yet even during his life-time, wickedness increases exceedingly. Nothing but the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit can remove the sinful lusts of the human will, and the depravity of the human heart. God's purpose was, that mankind should form many nations, and people all lands. In contempt of the Divine will, and against the counsel of Noah, the bulk of mankind united to build a city and a tower to prevent their separating. Idolatry was begun, and Babel became one of its chief seats. They made one another more daring and resolute. Let us learn to provoke one another to love and to good works, as sinners stir up and encourage one another to wicked works.”

They looked for their strength and comfort in their large population.

10. What does Proverbs 18:24 teach us?

11. Although it is beneficial to spend more time with those that are like minded to us, (Proverbs 27:17), what is the danger of sticking only with your “clan” and not interacting with others?

12. How might that attitude hurt the spread of the gospel?

Read Colossians 1:24-27

13. According to Paul, who was he called to share the gospel? Who might God be calling you to speak to about the Gospel, even if it is out of your comfort zone?

Go out! We are not all called to go physically, but we can pray for and support missionaries, and organizations like Operation Christmas Child, who reach those who may be different, culturally, than we are.

Read Genesis 11:5-9

The pride and disobedience of Nimrod's kingdom caused them to attempt to build a city and a tower in defiance of God. Wanting to make a "name for themselves", caused God to "come down" and intervene to stop them.

Read Isaiah 32:8

Now read Proverbs Chapter 16.

14. What do you find about man's plans? And how God is in control?

Read 1Corinthians 14:33a

It must have grieved God to have to confuse the languages of men. The Lord wants unity among his people. 2 Chronicles 30:12 says, *"Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the LORD."*

When we are working together for the Lord, He will unify us in Spirit.

Read 1 Samuel 7:10 and Jeremiah 18:11 or other accounts of God causing confusion for those going against His will.

Doctor Thomas Constable noted, "The builders undoubtedly expected to ascend to heaven to meet God. Instead God descended to earth to meet them. If God had allowed this project to continue the results would have been even worse and more serious than they were at this time. The sin of the builders was their refusal to obey God-given directives..."

The construction of cities by itself was not sinful. God chose Jerusalem for His people, and He will create the New Jerusalem for believers to inhabit. It is the pride and security that people place in their cities that God disapproves."

Read Hebrews 11:8-10, and 8:16

15. What do the faithful have to look forward to?

Although Babel's disobedience caused God to miraculously confuse the languages of the earth, another miracle happened in Acts Chapter 2.

Read Acts 2: 1-11

16. What happened?

God speaks to His children through the Holy Spirit. It is His language. Believers throughout the scattered world, are united in Him, with one Spirit.

17. Have you ever encountered a stranger when you felt the same Spirit in them, that God placed in you? Praise God for His goodness.

The remainder of Chapter 11 lists the descendants of Shem.

Verses 27-32 introduces us to Abram. Sarai and Lot.

Ur of the Chaldees was an idolatrous country. It took very little time for the descendants of Shem to fall into paganism, worshipping false gods over the one true God.

But, even so, God's plans for the family of Shem will not be stopped. As we continue in the study, we will see how God prevails over the enemy's attempt to stop the coming of the Messiah, the One who will crush his head in Genesis 3:15.

Warren Wiersbe gives us a review of Basics from Chapters 1-11 in his Old Testament Bible Commentary.

1. God is real and we can trust Him.
2. We live in God's Creation.
3. We are made in the image of God.
4. Obedience is the key to usefulness, joy, and blessing.
5. Satan is real, but a defeated enemy.
6. There is such a thing as sin.
7. Sex is God's idea, and He knows best how it should be used.
8. All humans are made of one blood.
9. Israel is God's chosen people.
10. God doesn't change and is always in control.
11. Our relationship to God is based on faith.
12. Living for God is the most rewarding life possible.

We encourage you to mediate on these Basics and keep in the study of God's Word until we, Lord willing, meet again and pick up in Chapter 12.

We love you, precious ones.