

Introduction

Genesis 10 gives us detailed genealogies as the descendants of the three sons of Noah spread out around the world from the Tower of Babel, forming many different nations.

Ultimately, only the line of Shem is traced with precision into the New Testament era, because this is the line from which the Seed of the woman, the _____, would come.

Genesis 10 and 11 should be viewed in a similar way to Genesis 1 and 2.

Genesis 1 gave a chronological overview of the Creation week, whereas Genesis 2 focused on the specific details of the creation of man and woman on the sixth day.

In like manner, Genesis 10 is an overview of the descendants of _____ three sons, who then moved away from each other according to their family groups and languages.

Then in Genesis 11 we are given a detailed account of the event that caused this dispersion—the Tower of Babel and the resulting confusion of languages.

In closing, at the end of chapter 11, we are given a precise, chronological genealogy from _____ to Abraham, because the rest of the book of Genesis focuses on Abraham, his sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons.

The Table of Nations (Genesis 10)

Even higher critics have often admitted that the tenth chapter of Genesis is a remarkably _____ historical document.

Known among Bible scholars as “the Table of Nations,” there is no comparable catalog of ancient nations available from any other source.

It is unparalleled in its antiquity and comprehensiveness.

Dr. William F. Albright, universally acknowledged as the world’s leading authority on the archaeology of the Near East, though himself not a believer in the infallibility of Scripture, said the following concerning the 10th chapter of Genesis:

“It stands absolutely alone in ancient literature, without a remote parallel, even among the Greeks, where we find the closest approach to a distribution of peoples in genealogical framework. . . . The Table of Nations remains an astonishingly accurate document.”

In this chapter we find the one link between the _____ times of Noah and the antediluvians, and the historic nations of antiquity we find in the rest of the Old Testament.

The grandsons and great-grandsons of Noah are listed, each identified with the city or country established by his descendants.

The Table of Nations gives every appearance of being a sort of family record, kept by a venerable patriarch of the family as long as he remained alive and could keep in touch with his descendants, and then passed down to his descendants after him.

Since God's promise of the coming _____ would be fulfilled through Shem, he was perhaps the most interested party and therefore the most logical one to keep such a record.

He lived for 502 years after the Flood (Genesis 11:10-11), which would have encompassed the entire period included in the Table of Nations.

It has been possible in many cases to identify the names in Genesis 10 with nations and peoples known to antiquity, especially as revealed by archaeology.

It is significant that the sons of Ham and Japheth are given only to the third generation after the Flood, whereas Shem's descendants extend to the _____, indicating perhaps that he lost touch with the other branches of the family after the Dispersion.

Also in chapter 10 are two comments that indicate a major event happening on the world stage.



Genesis 10:5

5 From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.



Genesis 10:25

25 Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

The first reference (v. 5) follows a list of the descendants of Japheth.

The second (v. 25) occurs in the list of the descendants of Shem.

And in between these two verses are listed the descendants of Ham.

It's helpful to summarize these records in an attempt to understand why God listed these specific family lines.

Genealogy of Japheth

Japheth, the _____ son of Noah (Genesis 10:21), had at least seven sons: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

Gomer had at least three sons: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

Javan had at least four sons: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

It is obvious that _____ were also born to Noah's sons, or none of the second generation could have been born.

Of note in this first genealogy is that only the major sons of two of Japheth's sons are listed—those of Gomer and Javan.

Genealogy of Ham

Ham was the _____ son of Noah (Gen. 9:24; 10:21).

Ham had at least four sons: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

The major sons of three of Ham's children—Cush, Mizraim, and Canaan—are listed.

Cush had at least six sons: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, Sabtechah, and _____.

Ham's grandson Raamah had two sons: Sheba and Dedan.

Mizraim had at least seven sons: Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, Pathrusim, Casluhim, and Caphtorim.

Only the major sons to the fourth generation are listed, with the additional notation that the nations of the _____, who were destined to become a perpetual thorn in Israel's side, later came through Mizraim's son Casluhim.

Canaan had, apparently, eleven sons, two of whom are named—Sidon and Heth—and nine others from whom come the nations of the Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites.

Twice in Genesis 9 (vv. 18 and 22), Ham is noted specifically as “the father of _____,” with no mention of his other sons.

Although nothing is said directly, it appears that this unusual emphasis relates to the enmity that later grew between the young nation of Israel and the Canaanites who occupied the land that God had promised to give to the descendants of Abraham.

After all, as Moses penned the book of Genesis, he was in the process of leading the children of Israel through the wilderness to conquer the Canaanites; in fact, many of the nations named as descending from Canaan are names we read over and over again in the book of _____, as Israel conquers the land.

As with Japheth, these early Hamitic families were prolific and would have had many daughters who became wives of the multiplying family heads.

Genealogy of Shem

The lineage of Shem is given in two separate places: Genesis 10:21-31 and Genesis 11:10-26.

The first list in chapter 10 gives the sons and grandsons to the fifth generation.

The second list names the heads of nine generations through the birth of _____, who was later named Abraham.

The Number 70

Combined, the two genealogical records in Genesis 10 and 11 contain precisely ____ families, consisting of the original genetic groups that were assembled at Babel.

These 70 groups of people constituted the beginning of the disbursed nations of the earth as they migrated away from the city-center in Shinar (Mesopotamia).

Genesis 10 identifies 14 nations coming from Japheth, 30 from Ham, and 26 from Shem.

A prophetic declaration by Moses seems to indicate that this number is no coincidence, BUT is tied to the number of Israelites (Shem's descendants) who entered _____.

Deuteronomy 32:8



8 "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel."

The "number of the sons of Israel" is a specific reference to the census Moses recorded as Jacob and his family migrated to Egypt with the permission of the Pharaoh to live under the protection of Joseph.

Genesis 46:27



27 and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt were two; all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were seventy.

The number 70 has ever since been peculiarly associated with the nation of Israel.

Israel was led by 70 _____ (Num. 11:16, 25) and later there were 70 members of the Jewish Sanhedrin.

70 scholars translated the Old Testament into Greek to produce the Septuagint version of the Scriptures.

Moses also wrote that man's allotted life span was 70 years (Psa. 90:10).

The angel Gabriel told Daniel that "seventy weeks were determined upon thy people" (Dan. 9:24); and Israel's _____ can be understood within a remarkable framework of successive cycles of 70 "weeks" (groups of seven) of years (Dan. 9:24-27).

The Babylonian captivity lasted 70 years.

And Jerusalem and Herod's temple were destroyed by the Romans about 70 years after Herod's attempt to murder Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, in His infancy.

The Days of Peleg

Something significant happened during the _____ generation after the Flood.

All three sons of Noah have their descendants listed up until the third generation.

Although some of the names of Ham's and Japheth's lineage are recognized in nations and peoples beyond the third generation, only Shem's family line is carried out beyond the days of Peleg.



Genesis 10:25

25 Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

The short phrase "for in his days the earth was divided" has caused no end of division (pun intended :-)) among scholars.

Most Bible scholars attribute it to the dividing of the _____ groups by the supernatural intervention of God during the construction of the tower at Babel.

That division was both linguistic and geographical, since the people groups that could no longer communicate would be forced to relocate and start their own nations.

Some, however, suggest that this is a reference to the dividing of the _____ in a cataclysmic event that ripped apart the earth's crust, thus physically separating the populations of men and animals by force.

Others reason that such an enormous "earth-split" would not be noted by a mere three-word phrase in the Biblical record.

Surely an event that colossal (almost the equivalent of the worldwide Flood) would have a greater record than just a few words—or at least there would be comparable stories or legends among other nations, as there are for the Flood.

But there are none.

The Earth Divided

Before attempting to determine what the "division" was, the actual language of Scripture must be examined.

First, and most obvious, the division of the nations is mentioned four times in Genesis 10 (vv. 5, 20, 31, & 32).

In all four references, the division is broken along the lines of families, nations, lands, or _____—or a combination of those factors.



Genesis 10:5

5 From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.



Genesis 10:20

20 These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, by their nations.



Genesis 10:31

31 These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their nations.



Genesis 10:32

32 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.

SO, what exactly does it mean that “the earth was divided” in the days of Peleg?

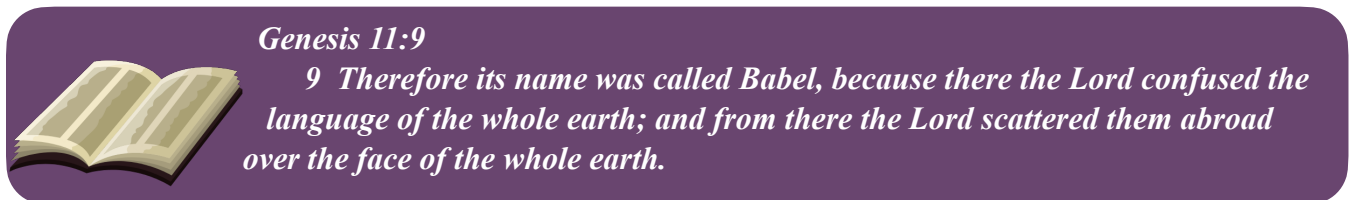
As already mentioned, the first reference to Peleg and the division of the earth is found in Genesis 10:25 (later repeated in 1 Chronicles 1:19).

Then, immediately following, in Genesis 11, is the event that describes this division of the earth—the Tower of Babel.

The Lord was displeased with the actions of people who sought to build a tower to the heavens and “make a name” for themselves (Gen. 11:4).

Thus, in _____, God confused their languages so they could no longer understand one another and no longer work together on the Tower.

That account ends with this summary:



It’s interesting to note that Peleg’s family history is noted once again following the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:16-19).

Thus, the fact that Peleg is mentioned immediately _____ and _____ the account of the Tower of Babel helps clarify that THIS is the key event that divided the earth.

It seems the earth was not divided geologically, but rather its people were divided into various language groups.

Today, more than 7,000 languages exist worldwide.

While many of these languages were developed much later than at the Tower of Babel, they can be traced to multiple ancient linguistic roots.

The languages that exist today still serve as a _____ point in culture.

These divisions have existed since the Tower of Babel in the time of Peleg.

Interestingly, one final mention of Peleg is found in the New Testament. In Luke 3:35, Peleg is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus. During the time of Peleg, God divided the earth with language.

But all the while God had a plan—one that included Peleg—to send Jesus Christ, the One Who can reconcile all divisions, and the “_____” (John 1:1) to all people groups and languages.

The Fifth Generation

Most Bible scholars recognize Genesis chapters 10 and 11 as a historical unit, with chapter 10 covering the genealogy of Noah's three sons up to at least the third generation, and chapter 11 continuing to trace Shem's line through the birth of Abraham.

It's important, therefore, to be aware of the _____ relationship of Nimrod and Peleg.

As Ham's grandson, Nimrod would most likely have been born within the first 50 years of the new world.

Peleg was born around 100 years after the Flood, so given the relative lifespans at that time, the two men would no doubt have been contemporaries.

Nimrod was the great-grandson of Noah, through the line of Ham and Cush (Gen. 10:8).

Genesis 10:8-12



8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord." 10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

There are other mentions of Nimrod in Micah 5:6, which refers to Assyria as "the land of Nimrod" (Nimrod built _____, the capital of Assyria), and in 1 Chronicles 1:10, which includes his name in a genealogy.

In Genesis 10, Nimrod is called "a mighty warrior on the earth" (verse 8) and "a mighty hunter before the Lord" (verse 9a).

So famous was Nimrod's prowess as a hunter of wild animals that his skill became proverbial, and the ancients used to compare other hunters to him (verse 9b).

The reference to Nimrod's hunting prowess suggests that wild beasts were thought to be a real source of _____ at the time, and that Nimrod acquired a hero's reputation by protecting the population against them.

In addition to that, Nimrod was a man of great ability and energy and was evidently the leader of the group that built Babel, the capital city of a great empire comprising a complex of cities centered at Babel, later the city of _____ (Gen. 10:10).

And there, at the Tower of Babel, there took place an event of almost equal importance to the great Flood.

The Flood was worldwide in its effects, and so was the confusion of tongues—at least as far as mankind was concerned.

Although the curtain had now been drawn, as it were, on his activities, there can be little doubt that Satan was still tirelessly working behind the scenes.

He had capitalized effectively on the fatal weakness in _____ character (Gen. 9:20-25), and soon gained the allegiance of the Hamites in general and of Nimrod in particular.

Major Dates According to Ussher (17th century Bible scholar)



Genesis 11:1-2

1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

Major Event	Date
Creation	4004 BC
Global Flood	2348 BC
Tower of Babel	2242 BC
Call of Abraham	1922 BC
Time of the Judges (Moses was the first)	1491 BC
Time of the Kings (Saul was the first)	1095 BC
Split Kingdom	975 BC
Christ was Born	~4 BC

Like Ussher in the chart above, many Bible scholars have dated this event at around _____ years after the Flood, based on the birth date of Peleg clearly documented in Genesis 11:10-16.

Conservative Bible scholars date the Flood at 2348 BC, and the event of Babel at 2242 BC, roughly 100 years after the Flood.

By then (based on the lists in Genesis chapter 10 and assuming relatively large families), there could easily have been more than one thousand people alive on the earth.

One City

As the people migrated away from the Ararat region where the Ark had landed, they came “from the east” (NKJV) to the plain of Shinar.

Since Shinar is southeast of Ararat, this may suggest they had first traveled to the far southeast, perhaps into the region of modern Persia or Afghanistan, and then later headed westward into Mesopotamia.

However, the phrase in the Hebrew is of uncertain meaning, and most expositors think it should be translated “eastward” (NIV) or “as they journeyed east” (NASB).

In any case, as the people migrated from the forbidding region of Ararat, they finally came to Shinar and the fertile _____ plain.

Perhaps the region reminded them of their antediluvian home, and they thought they might even be able to restore the conditions of Eden itself, for they named the rivers Tigris and Euphrates after two of the rivers that had once flowed from the Garden.

The population soon grew to the point where not all their attention had to be given merely to _____ production, and it became possible to develop an urban community.

Although the summary of Nimrod’s life in Genesis 10 lists several cities that he later had influence in founding, this section of Genesis 11 seems to indicate that the entire population was located in a single area, with an initial intention to build a single city for them to live in and around.

By this time, Nimrod undoubtedly recognized that their new socioeconomic status, with time for specialization and for activities other than mere _____, would provide the opportunity for either of two future courses of action:

Systematic _____ and development of all parts of the earth, each with its own local government, in accordance with God’s command (Gen. 1:28; 9:1); or

The establishment of a strongly _____ society which, with controls over resources and occupations, would soon be able to produce a self-sufficient civilization capable of controlling the entire world.

The latter alternative would clearly better serve the purpose of Nimrod and his fellow rebels (and, of course, the invisible Satanic conspiracy as well).

A self-sufficient society, integrated under a powerful and brilliant leader, would be a society no longer dependent on Noah’s _____.

And this was Nimrod’s aim.

One Tower



Genesis 11:3-4

3 They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered

God had told Noah’s family to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

But the people had apparently decided that they didn’t want to _____ across the earth.

In rebellion against God’s clear instructions, the people gathered together instead to build a city with a great tower.

And the plain of Shinar seemed like a good place to do it.

In Shinar Noah’s descendants found ample natural resources—clay to fire into brick, and bitumen to use as a cementing agent.

There is no question that Noah and his sons would have brought the sophisticated _____ of the pre-Flood world with them on the Ark—and quite probably construction equipment as well.

And archaeological digs in the region of ancient Babylon verify the use of natural resources as the source of building products.

Good building stones were not conveniently accessible on the river plains, and timber was not durable enough for the permanent structures they had in mind.

The clay soil, however, was highly suitable for strong bricks, after proper heat treatment in a _____.

The more common manner of construction in antiquity was to use stone, with a clay mortar.

And on the occasion that bricks were used, as in Egypt and Assyria, they were only sun-dried.

However, the Babylonian construction was stronger and more enduring, so Moses called special attention to it.

Furnace-treated bricks were used instead of stone, and “tar” or bitumen instead of mortar.

This “tar” probably came from the abundant _____ pits in the Tigris-Euphrates valley.

Archaeology has revealed that this type of kiln-fired brick and asphalt construction was common in ancient Babylon.

Not only were the natural resources readily available, but the skills needed were already represented among the population, leadership had begun to coalesce around Nimrod, and the people were motivated to build.

The implication is that soon after establishing the settlement at Babel, Nimrod called a council of the family leaders of the community, at which a formal decision was made.



Genesis 11:3a

3 ...“Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.”

Having made this decision, which in itself indicated they intended to erect a _____ community of strong buildings at Babel, and perhaps even after the brick industry had been established and was soundly developing (as suggested by the introduction of a new sentence), they again took counsel together and made an official declaration:



Genesis 11:4

4 ...“Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

This would be no naturally growing, haphazard accumulation of houses and local businesses.

This was to be a carefully _____ urban center designed for permanence and efficiency.

The great tower would dominate the city, both architecturally and culturally.

It would serve as the focal point of the political and religious life of the population, and would be a symbol of their unity and strength.

The Hebrew word migdal is used 50 times in the Old Testament to describe everything from a _____ for royalty to a guardhouse in the middle of a vineyard.

The migdal or “tower” at Babel was probably some form of stacked pyramid, each layer built on top of the previous layer, with the size of the base determining the overall size of the monument.

Early archaeological sites in the area of ancient Babylon have uncovered remains of such efforts.

Those early towers are usually referred to as _____.

More sophisticated versions of that form are well known, from the pyramids of Egypt (including some stacked pyramids) to the Aztec worship centers in Mexico.

It's clear that the builders were not concerned with God's plans, since they intended to "make for ourselves a name."

In fact, they deliberately acknowledged their purpose to be _____ to God's command—
"otherwise
we will be scattered abroad over the face
of the
whole earth"

Not only the awareness of God's will, but the basic human drives of curiosity and independence might impel many among them to want to _____ and develop the unknown regions of the world, if there were not a strong unifying and binding influence tying them to one location.

Even their fear and admiration of their great leader Nimrod might not suffice to keep them together.

Nimrod must have realized that they needed a strong _____ motivation as well, a motivation powerful enough to overcome their knowledge that God had indeed commanded them to fill the whole earth.

Thus, the tower Nimrod envisioned was designed to satisfy that need as well.

The tower was not designed to literally reach into God's Heaven. The words "to reach" are not even in the original Hebrew manuscript.

They would build a "tower unto heaven"—in other words, a tower _____ to Heaven and its angelic host.

This would lead us to believe that this project was originally presented to the people in the guise of true spirituality.

Perhaps they were told that the tower in its lofty grandeur would symbolize the might and majesty of the true God of Heaven.

A great temple at its apex would provide a center where men could offer their sacrifices and worship God.

The impressive beauty and sacred purpose of the tower would, in the reasonings of the people, surely please God and more than _____ for the fact that the entire project was actually intended to glorify human achievement, and was furthermore completely contrary to God's command.

But God makes it clear in His Word that "to obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Sam. 15:22).

Cain's offering of the luscious fruit produced by his own hands was not acceptable to the Lord.

And Nimrod's magnificent tower would NOT be accepted either.

Instead of the pure worship of the one true God, there is a lot of evidence indicating that not just one, but many _____ religions actually had their origin at the Tower of Babel.

Whatever happened at Babel must have been very wicked, because God stepped into history once again to judge man for his rebellion.

Whatever God saw was far more than a mere tower.

Nothing in the subsequent annals of history indicates that God is angered by building projects; but at Babel, something triggered His righteous judgment.

God has intervened in the affairs of men often after the Flood, but never on such a scale, affecting in one moment the entire _____ of the earth.

Normally the Lord allows men and nations to pursue their own ways without overt supernatural interference on His part.

Man is free and responsible; and though he will eventually suffer the consequences of his evil deeds, God is long-suffering.

Therefore ungodliness often seems to thrive without hindrance in the affairs of men.

But there have been a few occasions in which the accomplishment of God's purposes for the world became so endangered that divine intervention was required.

The antediluvian corruption was one such instance, and the _____ here at Babel was another.

One Language



Genesis 11:5-6

5 The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them."

How long it was after the construction of the Tower of Babel began, before God "came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built" (v. 5), we are not told.

It would have been in accord with His nature to have waited as long as possible, in hopes that the godly minority (if there were such) would prevail, and the people would _____.

But alas, they didn't repent, and so, God "came down."

This anthropomorphic expression does not suggest that God was not always fully aware of what was going on, but only that He now was officially and _____ taking the situation under direct consideration, it having become so flagrant that there was danger (as in the days of Noah) that the truth of God's revelation might be completely obliterated if things were allowed to continue.

The problem, in the Lord's own judgment, lay in the unity of the people in pursuing evil, a unity which was made possible by a common _____.

The decision by practically the entire population to construct an autonomous, man-centered civilization, in direct defiance of God's clear command, could no longer be ignored.

The conditions of the antediluvian world might be repeated, and this God would simply not allow, even though He had promised Noah He would never again send a worldwide flood.

Incidentally, some commentators have suggested that the building of the tower was to be some sort of safeguard against a future _____.

However, Nimrod was no simpleton, imagining that he could escape a global flood by building a tower that reached to Heaven.

His purpose was not to thwart another diluvial judgment, but to _____ the very Judge Himself!

But as Nimrod and his cohorts had held a council of conspiracy and rebellion on earth, God now called a "council," as it were, in Heaven, to institute formal action to prevent the accomplishment of Nimrod's plans.

This divine council is indicated by the plural pronoun "Us" in verse 7.

The three Persons of the Godhead were involved, just as in the previous primeval councils mentioned in Genesis 1:26 and 3:22.



Genesis 11:7

7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

Men had proved unwilling to obey God's simple instructions to fill the earth, dividing into many separate, but parallel, governmental units.

They preferred instead to remain together under one great centralized government, and this union had quickly led to a vast unified anti-God religious philosophy.

The key was their ability to _____ and organize together, formulating and implementing complex plans.

Basic to everything was their ability to communicate with each other.

They were all “of one lip and one vocabulary,” speaking with the same sounds and formulating thoughts in the same way.

Hence, the decision of the heavenly council was to “confuse their language [or ability to make the same sounds with their lips], that they may not understand one another’s speech [vocabulary].”

The immediate descendants of Noah, of course, all spoke the same language, the same as had been spoken by men in the antediluvian period.

It is probable that this was a Semitic language (most likely Hebrew), since the proper names of men and places in the pre-Babel period all have meanings only in _____ and its cognate languages.

Also, it seems unlikely that Shem participated in the Babel rebellion; so it is probable that his own language was not affected by the resulting confusion of tongues.

Consequently, his family would have continued speaking the same language they had always spoken.

This faculty of human speech and language is truly one of the most amazing attributes of _____.

There is an unbridgeable gulf between animal noises and human language.

The unique and fundamental essence of speech is underscored in the revelation of God to man through His Word. And Jesus Christ Himself is the living Word! God “has spoken to us in His Son” (Heb. 1:2).

Thus, it is not too much to say that this was the very reason man was created with the ability to speak and to hear—in order that there might be communication between God and man, and secondarily, between _____ and man.

But when men began to prostitute this divine gift in order to cooperate in rebellion against their Maker, in a most appropriate judgment God confused their languages and thereby forced them to separate from each other.

The whole population originally spoke:

“one language and one speech” (KJV),

“one language and the same words” (ESV),

“the same language and vocabulary” (HCSB),

“the same language and the same words” (LSB),

or, literally, “one lip and one set of words,” apparently a reference to one phonology (the sounds of a language) and one vocabulary.

There was no other dialect or regional difference in the spoken tongue; the entire world communicated with each other using the same language.

Without a doubt, this language also included a _____ form, although the various tribes had to develop new systems of writing later, after the confusion of tongues.

The common language kept that population together as nothing else could have done—hence the observation by God that “...now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them” (Gen. 11:6).

Functionally, language is the stabilizing force behind national identity.

Neither political nor geographical boundaries keep people from migrating from one area to another.

But differing language is still the primary inhibitor for any kind of _____.

Divine Intervention



Genesis 11:8-9

8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

There can be no question that God must prohibit a second worldwide rebellion, one that was focused this time against His repeated command to “fill the earth” (Gen. 9:1).

The entire population was again coming under evil leadership.

Nimrod had become so powerful that the people were _____ turning against God.

Something must be done that would permanently divide the people and cause them to disperse over the earth.

And it was by this expedient of confusing their languages that God forced the “children of men [or, literally, ‘of Adam’]” to cease in their further building of the city and to scatter abroad “upon the face of all the earth.”

It’s not hard to imagine the confusion, _____, and frustration that quickly spread through Babel.

Clearly, something supernatural had happened.

Presumably individual members of each family group could still understand each other, but everyone else seemed to be talking nonsense.

Some perhaps thought others were mocking them.

Foremen perhaps became irritated when their crews no longer obeyed orders, and workmen perhaps imagined that their bosses were making fun of them.

Mighty Nimrod found it impossible to get servants to carry out his commands, and he likely became furious when those he instructed to punish them didn't do it.

Loud, incoherent arguments must have erupted throughout the city until full-fledged chaos eventually reigned.

Since no one had any previous concept of _____ languages, the suddenness of the confusion of languages would have been very frightening, with people probably wondering what might happen next.

Some no doubt accurately interpreted the situation as _____ by the true God, the God of Noah.

Others perhaps attributed it to the pagan deities they were beginning to worship.

Either way, it would have been a very frightening development, and furthermore, it was clear that a society could not function under such confusing conditions.

There was nothing to do but to _____, with only individual family units remaining intact.

No further urban cooperation between families was possible; so each family group had to learn how to meet its own needs directly.

Eventually, each family moved away from Babel to work out its own manner of life, soon becoming its own tribe as God had intended them to do in the first place.

As the population grew (and this was a rapid process as longevity was still high, and it was advantageous for each tribe to have many children), geographic expansion likewise was rapid.

The stronger and more industrious or intelligent tribes took and held the more favorable regions.

The weaker and less _____ families were pushed further and further away from the great centers of civilization, being forced to colonize new regions altogether, before they could set about to establish their own particular culture.

This process of migration and cultural development did not require long ages, as evolutionists imagine.

Rather, the entire world was inhabited within a few generations at most.

In recent years, archaeology has been confirming that civilization appeared more or less contemporaneously in _____ parts of the world, only a few millennia ago.

As each tribal unit migrated away from Babel, not only did they each develop a distinctive culture, but also they each developed distinctive physical and biological characteristics.

Since they could communicate only with members of their own family unit, there was much less benefit to marrying outside the family.

Hence family groups were composed of very close relatives at least for a few generations.

It is well established genetically that variations take place very _____ in a small inbreeding population, and only very slowly in a large interbreeding population.

In the latter, even though the genetic factors for distinctive characteristics are latent in the gene pool, only the dominant genes will find common expression in the outward physical characteristics of the population.

In a small population, however, the particular set of genes that may be present in its members, though recessive in the larger population, will have ample opportunity to become openly expressed and even dominant.

Thus, in a very few generations of such inbreeding, _____ characteristics of skin color, height, hair texture, facial features, and temperament could come to be associated with particular tribes and nations.

And as the family units packed their goods and departed from Babel, their last memory of the place was one of a loud “babble” of angry, frightened, incoherent noises pouring out of the lips of those who had once been their friends and fellow citizens.



Genesis 11:9

9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

The word “confused” is the Hebrew *balal*, which means “mingle” or “mix” (usually translated “mingled”), and thus, by extension, “confusion.”

The meaning in this particular context is clarified by its purpose as stated in verse 7—“that they will not understand one another’s speech.”

The name “_____” was connected with this word “*balal*,” meaning “confusion.”

It is not unlikely that the very sounds emanating from the confused throngs at Babel (like the unintelligible babbling of babies) became the name of the city in the minds of those who left it.

The English word “babble” is not so much a word as it is an example of onomatopoeia—that is, a word formed to imitate an actual sound, and thus basically understandable in all languages.

Thus, in the ages following, the very name Babylon would come to mean to all peoples “the city of babbling, or confusion.”

Historians tell us that later those who remained in Babel tried to upgrade its name by claiming it meant “Bab-el,” the “gate of God.”

Its true nature, however, is revealed by both the original record in Genesis 11 and the very sound of its name.

Babylon has ever since been a source and center of _____ in matters religious as well as linguistic.

The false religious system established there was apparently carried into all the nations by those who were scattered from there.

Thus it is that _____ and polytheistic pantheism became the dominant religion of all the nations of the ancient world.

The Babylonian pantheon, with its array of gods and goddesses, was equivalent to the corresponding pantheon in Assyria, Egypt, Greece, India, and elsewhere.

All followed in one way or another the astrological emblems of the zodiac, and all were _____.

Furthermore, every one of those religious systems communed with evil spirits associated with their idols.

To some degree, however, all nations also retained an awareness of the true God of Heaven as they scattered around the world—even though He receded more and more from their consciousness as time went on.

They retained their corrupted traditions of the Flood and, to a lesser extent, of the Dispersion.

Their vague recollections of God’s promised _____ were distorted into various systems of animal and even human sacrifices to gain favor with the spiritual beings who appeared to govern their daily lives.

One Blood

Obviously, the development of these 70 family nations listed in Genesis 10 became more difficult to trace as they broadened their territories, strengthened their political alliances, and eventually became absorbed into the more powerful nations as time progressed.

There are nearly 200 politically identifiable nations today. From the original 70 languages (assuming that every family mentioned in the Table of Nations had their own language), came the approximately 7,000 languages and dialects that can now be identified.

Much study has gone into tracing the ethnic (_____) connections of the descendants of the three sons of Noah.

The bigger picture is easily understood.

Japhetic peoples are mainly the _____ groups of Indo-Europe.

Shemitic (Semitic) peoples are the Jewish and Arab groups.

Hamitic peoples are mostly related to the African and Eastern nations.

There is certainly a mingling of these groups today, but the individual lineages are still recognizable.

The event of the Tower of Babel resulted in the formation of different people groups, each with their distinct characteristics, such as skin shade, hair color, eye color, etc., because of the genetic _____ God created when He made Adam and Eve.

We know from Scripture that Adam and Eve were the first two people.

Their descendants now fill the earth.

The world's population was reduced to _____ during the global Flood of Noah.

From those eight individuals have come all the tribes and nations.

Because there was a common language, and everyone lived in the same general vicinity, barriers to freely intermarrying weren't as great as they are today.

After the Tower of Babel, because of the new language and geographic barriers, the groups no longer freely mixed with each other.

The result was a splitting of the _____ pool.

Different cultures formed, with certain features becoming predominant within each group.

The unique characteristics of each became more and more prominent as new generations of children were born—however, underneath those surface differences, every family and tribe share the same lineage through Noah and Adam.

We are all one _____.

Thus, a correct understanding of the history of the human race enables us to deal Biblically with racism.

We live in a time when we hear accusations of prejudice and racism on nearly a daily basis.

Prejudice is sadly alive and well in every culture. Why?

Because racism is a consequence of a fallen, sin-filled world that has been infused with evolutionary thinking.

So what do we do about it? To begin with, we would do well to do away with the term “_____” when discussing the different people groups around the world.

The Bible is clear (and science confirms it) that there is only one race—the human race, Adam’s race.

Therefore, we all need to treat every human being as our _____. Why?

Because truly we are all of one blood, just as the Apostle Paul declared to the Athenians in Acts 17.



Acts 17:26

26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

Not only are we all relatives, but all of us are equal in _____ before our Creator.

Every descendent of Adam is made in the image of God.

Every descendant of Adam can be _____, because of our mutual Relative by blood, Jesus Christ, and what He accomplished on the Cross.

And that is why we are commanded to preach the Gospel—that He lived, died, was buried, and rose again to save us from our sins—to all nations everywhere.



Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Friend, if you want to solve the issue of racism, it’s simple; you’ve got to believe the Bible in its true account of the history of the human race.

And in that history there is no room for prejudice, for we all come from the same family, and we all have at least _____ ancestors in common...Noah and his wife, and Adam and Eve.

That’s the bottom line.

All of us need to test our beliefs, our attitudes, and our actions against the absolute authority of God’s Word, which tells us where we all came from.

Furthermore, we're to look past _____ differences to the unifying aspect of the human heart, for God judges a person based on his heart, not based on his family-specific DNA.



1 Samuel 16:6-7

6 When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Shem to Abraham

Genesis chapter 10 presents us with a geographical overview of 70 nations tracing Noah's three sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth), and Genesis chapter 11 narrows the focus to a precise, chronological genealogy from Shem to Abraham (Gen. 11:10-32).

While Genesis 10 provides a snapshot of global diversity and regional dispersion, Genesis 11 establishes a direct _____ line following the events at Babel.

The focal point of all history is the coming of the Savior; and now Moses narrows the focus of the Genesis narrative to largely ignore the other families on the earth, while zeroing in on the family from which the Redeemer would come.

With just a careful genealogy joining the two, we leave the discussion of the "nations," and we begin, in chapter 12, to focus on one middle-aged man.

It doesn't seem at first to be a very fruitful pursuit...
he doesn't even have a child.

How can the promised Redeemer come through him?

BUT GOD...the God Who created the universe would create a child in the womb of a 90-year-old woman.

The God Who swept away the antediluvian population of God-haters now sweeps away, as it were, all the other developing nations and focuses on this one family.

The God Who confused the peoples' language now uses human language to speak to this man and his descendants, promising His blessing upon them.

And because of this man, we are all sitting here today, for our Savior came through his line.

His name was _____. And LORD willing, we will look at him more closely next week.