

THE NATIONS RISE | GENESIS 10:1-11:32 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 7/2/2023

I. The Record of Descendants (10) | II. The Rise of Defiant Nations (11:1-9) | III. The Roots of a Righteous Nations (11:10-32)

INTRO: After the Flood, God gave mankind a new beginning. – In this section we will learn about how the world repopulated from **“One blood” (Acts 17:26)**, i.e., from **Noah, his sons, and their wives**... ALL the physical characteristics of the entire race were present in *Their Genetics*. – Their genes propagated throughout the post-flooded world into various regions; according to God’s **RE-INSTATED COMMAND** to **“be fruitful and multiply.”**

I. **THE RECORD OF NOAH’S DESCENDANTS (Ch. 10):** aka The TABLE OF NATIONS.

This chapter provides **the origins** of race, languages, and nations. – It is essential to know and understand these beginnings, **so as to avoid erroneous myths of mankind**, as passed down from generation to generation. – Regarding this topic, Benjamin Disraeli says, **“No one must lightly dismiss the question of race. It is the key to world history, and it is precisely for this reason that “written history” so often lacks clarity—it is written by those who DO NOT understand the race question and what belongs to it. Language and religion do not make a race, only blood does that.”**

A. **TRIO OF GENELOGIES (Gen. 10:1-32)**, stems from the blood of Noah, and through his sons.

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1. **The Genealogy of JAPHETH (2-5)** – Japheth’s name means **RULER**. He eventually settled on the coastal lands of the Mediterranean, spreading north into Europe and parts of Asia. With time, the sons of Japheth would become the **geo-political rulers of the world**.

– **The seven JAPHETIC sons include:**

- Gomer** (*The Cimmerians*) settled north of the Black Sea, but afterwards his descendants occupied Present-day Germany, France, Spain and the British Isles. **Gomer had three sons (v.3)**.
- Magog** (The Scythians) lived north of the Caspian Sea. Present-day Russia (*Esch. Sig. Ezk. 38-39*)
- Madai** (The Medes) settled south of the Caspian Sea, in present-day Iran.
- Javan** (The Ionians or Greeks) present-day Greece. **Javan had four sons (v.4-5)**. (*Tarshish: Spain/England*)
- Tubal** (The Turks) lived south of the Black Sea, present-day Turkey.
- Meshech** (The Slavs) lived between the Black and Caspian Seas, present-day Moscow.
- Tiras** (The Etruscans) located west of the Black Sea, present-day Italy.

○ **This list of 10 descendants began slow, but eventually rose to become a powerful political people.**

READ

2. **The Genealogy of HAM (6-20)** – Depending on the lexicon your use, **Ham** can be translated as **BLACK** or **HOT**. The descendants of Ham eventually settled in the regions of Africa. – **Some commentators conclude that the people of Africa were enslaved as a result of Ham’s Curse. But if you examine the text closely (9:25), you see that it was Canaan, HIS SON who was cursed.** The Canaanites became such a perverted people that God would later use Israel to annihilate them. – **The Four HAMITIC sons include:**

- Cush** (The Ethiopians) settled south of Egypt, early in their history some of them migrated to an area north of the Persian Gulf. – But his son was the infamous **NIMROD (v.8a)**, *more on Nimrod later*.
- Mizraim** (The **EGYPTIANS**) the Bible name for Egypt, settled in northeastern Africa.
- Phut** (The **LYBIANS**) settled in northern Africa. Present-day Libya.
- Canaan** (The Canaanites) settled above Africa east of the Mediterranean. Present-day Israel.

○ **The list of 29 descendants include:** Ham’s son’s (4), and his firstborn **Cush’s son’s (5)**, and Cush’s sons: **Raamah’s son’s (2)**: Sheba (Saudi Arabia) and Sedan (Yemen); Egypt had (7) sons and **Canaan** had (11) sons.

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3. **The Genealogy of SHEM (21-31)** – *Shem's name* means **GLORY**. He was Noah's oldest son. *Shem and his wife were childless before the flood, but after the flood Shem bore a son at 110 years of age. Shem was father to 5 sons, who became the fathers of the five Semitic nations of the ancient Near East, including the Israelites and the Jewish religion. Therefore Judaism, Islam, and Christianity all sprang from the line of Shem.* (The Semites were particularly known for their religious zeal). – **The Five SEMITIC Nations Include:**

- a. Elam (The Persians) settled northeast of the Persian Gulf. Present-day [Iran](#).
 - b. Asshur (The Assyrians) settled between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. Present-day [Syria](#).
 - c. Arphaxad (The Babylonians) settled in **Chaldea**. Present-day [Southern Iraq](#).
 - d. Lud (The Lydians) settled in **Asia Minor**, some sailed & settled in northern Africa. Present-day [Turkey](#).
 - e. Aram (**SYRIANS**) the Biblical name for Syria, located north and east of Israel. Also, Present-day [Syria](#).
- **The list of Shem's descendants include 27 progenies. Two notable son' were Eber and his son Peleg (v.25)**

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4. **The Genealogy Summary (32)** – The lines of descent have been established for the **multiplicity of "nations" (gôyim)** that "**spread out**" (*pārad*, cf. v. 5) over the earth.

a. **What does this confirm?** **That God has a plan!** And that plan is to **REDEEM SINFUL MANKIND** from the Damning Curse of Sin, which **involves eternal separation** from His presence! The moment that Adam bit into that forbidden fruit... **God's redemption plan went into effect!** His Origination... His Orchestration... and His Overall Obligation from that point forth was to do everything possible to Overwhelm mankind with His Love, as He Offered His Only begotten Son!

b. **What does this teach us?** *Despite all exterior distinctions, **ALL NATIONS ARE PART OF THE SAME HUMAN FAMILY!** (Acts 17:26) affirms that we are **ALL COMPOSED OF THE SAME BLOOD!***

No race or group of people may assert that they are superior to any other race or group!
(That is the **Demonic and Dividing** work of Satan!)

- **With that said...let us turn to Turn to (Psalm 67).** Let's muse on this praise for a moment!

B. Two Notable Sections (within chapter 10)

1. **SECTION: The DIVIDING of the Earth (10:25)** – This looks ahead to the **DISPERSION** of the nations (**11:1-9**), but also is the first mention of the children of **Eber**; or the "**Hebrews.**" Eber simply means "**Crossing-Over.**" *A name fitting for a people who, in Abraham would leave Ur, and in Moses cross over into Canaan.*

2. **SECTION: The DOMINATION of Nimrod (10:8-10)** – **Who was this guy?** The record presents **Nimrod as a Mighty Hunter**, before God, or as some translate, "*In the face of God.*" – He was the youngest son of Cush, but **he quickly rose up to make a name for himself...** a name which communicates the action of being a "**REBEL**" (*mārad*). – Tradition identifies Nimrod as one who ruled with **tyrannical power**.

- a. **Only seven verses in the Bible mention anything about Nimrod**, by which we know that he was the **FOUNDER** of the earliest imperial world powers in **Babylon** and **Assyria**. and several powerful cities, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, Ninevah and Calah. (*major enemies of Israel*).

- b. Although little is explicitly said about him, *legends and tales have sprung up about this elusive figure*. – According to the historian Eusebius, **NIMROD DIED and was resurrected as the god of the sun**. An ancient fable which ties him to another questionable character: **SEMIRAMIS**, who was **assumed** to be the Mother and Wife of Nimrod! (*Much can be said about these ancient fables, but we want to stay focused on God Plan*).
- c. Nimrod also became the **SYMBOL OF THE ANTI-GOD FORCES** of the world. His assoc. with **Babel**, and the later experiences of Israel with Babylon, place him at the heart of the **anti-Messiah ideology**. (*Important b/c: Roots of Paganism & Rebellion began spreading again*)

P/A – Nimrod was worldly man who Fought against God (Hardly remembered!) But Noah, Moses, and Abraham were Godly men who are remembered for having Faith in God!

II. THE RISE OF DEFIANT NATIONS (Gen. 11:1-9) – This chapter is divided into two parts: In the first half we see *the spread of pride and rebellion against God*, the second half focused on the *descendants of Shem*, which leads to the patriarch **ABRAM**. – Worth noting is the fact that **Ch.10 & 11** are Literary, not Chronological.

READ

A. The PROBLEM At Babel (Gen. 11:1-4) – These actions reveal blatant rebellion against God's command to scatter the people. Some decided to follow Nimrod's rebellious ways, attempting make something of themselves...and **that's a PROBLEM!**

1. **Having a UNIFIED LANGUAGE Added to the Problem (1)** – Think about it... *Unhindered Communications*, stemming from *Wicked Imaginations*, manifested among the *Mass Human Populations*, would only result in *Greater Depravation! ...the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. (11:6)*
2. **HUMAN PRIDE was the Root of the Problem!** – When you have a large number of people in society, who **shake their fists at God** and **rebel against His blueprint** for mankind... *"Houston, we have a problem!" (Ha...I'm glad that doesn't happen anymore!)*
3. **Having the Perfect Plain in Shinar** (Iraq) – They conjured us a Perfect Plan to build a tower with *man-made bricks!* – **The tower they built was a ZIGGAURAT**, a multi-leveled, high-rise pyramid with a shrine at the top, **built primarily for religious purposes**. – These temples were used for the pagan practice of astrological observation. Ancient tradition tells us **ziggurats** were also **COMMUNICATION TOWERS** by which people were able to communicate with each other using **CRYSTALS**. (*Unified technology leads to devastation, destruction and eternal damnation!*)

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B. The PUNISHMENT For Babel (Gen. 11:5-9) – FYI, God didn't have to investigate to know what was taking place on the earth, rather language is used to dramatize God's intervention!

1. **God saw the work of their hands** and summed up the actions of their wicked unity (6) *'This is what they do,'* and... *"this is what they will propose to do!"* – *The potential of fallen man is terrible and powerful. When we think of the horrific accomplishments for evil of men in the 20th century.*

2. God **came down** (7a) – Another subtle reference to the Trinity. – The people of Babel “**built a tower so that they could go up,**” but the God of heaven decided, “**Let's go down**”
- God’s reason was to **CONFUSE** the language of all the earth (7b) – Language is so complex because languages exist as whole systems, not as small parts put together. Most modern linguists believe all languages come from one original language.
3. **God SCATTERED them abroad (8-9)** – The forced separation of men from Babel was more God's mercy than His judgment. Dividing man both **LINGUISTICALLY** and **GEOGRAPHICALLY**, put a check on the power of his fallen nature. – “**The whole account of what happened at Babel with its anti-God dictator, its organized rebellion against God, and its direct distrust of God's promise shows man hasn't gotten any better since the flood. Time, progress, government, and organization have made man better off, but not better!**” - Morris
- God gave them what they desire most (9) – i.e., To **make a name for themselves (v.4)** — Ironically came to pass...for they became known as “**Babel.**” Then they stopped building the city and were scattered abroad. (God knows how to put a halt on things!)

CLOSING THOUGHT: Wiersbe commented on this matter, “*In the original Babel, the people wanted to Build a TOWER that reached up to heaven; but in the Babylon of (Rev 17-18). We are told that it is Babylon's SIN'S that reached up to heaven” (Rev 18:5).*

- In (Acts 2:5-10) we see a reversal of Babel! When many languages were present, the Holy Spirit manifested... and **ALL UNDERSTOOD in their own language**. It was PRAISE for the Wonderful Works of God! It brought CLARITY to God’s mission... **Build His Kingdom!**