

Genesis 10-11 – Thursday, December 6th, 2007

- The first eleven chapters of Genesis are so important because they are so foundational.
- By way of introduction, we are about to study what is called “The Table of Nations.”
- This “Table of Nations” perfectly documents the genealogy of mankind’s “family tree.”
- This document in the pages of Holy Writ is without equal or even parallel though some have tried.

- Whenever you get into genealogies, the tendency is to think that they’re not important, and actually even unnecessary.
- I suggest to you that these next two chapters in Genesis must be of supreme importance or else God wouldn’t have had them included.
- It’s interesting that in America, you’re known by what you do for a living. In the Middle East to this day you’re known by your genealogy.

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.

- Every person born after the flood is related to Shem, Ham, or Japheth.
- Shem is the father of the Semites or the Jewish people and the Arab people as well.
- Japheth is believed to be the father of the Caucasians, specifically the European’s and Oriental’s.
- Ham is believed to be the father of the people of color, specifically the blacks.

2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

- Gomer is believed to be the father of the German people.
- Magog, Tubal and Meshech are believed to be Russia.
- Madai is the ancient Medes, or Medo-Persians, known today as none other than Iran.
- Javan is where the sea-faring people known as the Greeks, come from.

3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

- Ashkenaz is considered to be the people who settled north of Judea in what is called the “Fertile Crescent.”
- Togarmah is believed to be the Armenians.

4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

- Tarshish is more likely than not modern day England.
- Kittim is Cyprus, and Dodanim is Rhodes.

5 From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations. 6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

- Ham’s descendents primarily the Africans Cush is Ethiopia Mizraim is Egypt Phut is Libya Canaan of course are the Canaanites.
- We’ll look at this closer in chapter eleven.

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

- Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, Sabtechah, and Sheba & Dedan is the area known as Arabia, modern day Saudi Arabia.

8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. (mighty hunter “against” the Lord)

- We are now introduced to Nimrod. Make no mistake about it, Nimrod was not our friend.
- Nimrod’s name means “let us rebel,” and when it says that he was a mighty hunter, it means a warrior that hunted and killed men.
- Some see him as a type of the Anti-Christ he, in a sense, ruled a one-world government and religion with the tower of Babel.

“10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

- What’s interesting is that the name Babel means “gateway to God” or Heavens Gate.

11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

- So Nimrod built the wicked place in Assyria called Ninevah which was the capital city.

13 Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim). 15 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; 16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; 17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; 18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. 19 And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. 20 These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations. 21 And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder. 22 The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

- The Amorite’s are from the modern day country of Jordan, and Grigashite’s are from modern day Lebanon, my birth place.
- Notice verse 21 where we’re introduced to Eber. Eber is believed to be the Eberews or Hebrews. Shem the Father of the Hebrews.
- One has noted that name “Eber” means “crossing over,” which describes the nature of the Hebrews crossing over from Ur to Canaan.

23 The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. 24 Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber.

- Uz became a region in Arabia which is where we’re told that Job came from, (Job 1:1).

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.

- Notice it says that in Peleg's days, the earth was divided. This isn't talking about the people on the earth, but the earth itself.
- This is where it's believed that the earth was literally divided explaining how all the people and animals got to all the different continents.

Some believe it's very possible that the Ice Ages were caused by the collapse of the water canopy at the time of the Flood. The thought is that this cataclysmic climate change was drastic and sudden. This theory explains why the fossils of the woolly mammoths have been found with fresh vegetation in their mouths. Because of this sudden coming of an Ice Age, the oceans would have to recede in order for some fourteen million cubic miles of water that would be needed to form the glaciers in the North and South Poles. This would then create what are called land bridges which would connect every continent to another at some point. This is how the animals, in particular, were able to get from Mt. Ararat, where the Ark rested, to all the different continents around the world.

26 Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. 30 And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east.

- The names under the son of Joktan are all believed to be associated with various Arabic peoples.
- Jobab in verse 29 may very well be the Job of the Old Testament.

31 These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations. 32 These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

- This is sort of a recap in verse 31.
- So we have a record of all the different genealogies of the various nationalities and races of people.
- Now we go from the nationalities in chapter 10, to the languages in chapter 11.

11:1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

- We're told in verse one that the whole earth had only one language and one speech.
- Interestingly, the land of Shinar is in modern day Iraq.

3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

- According to verse three, they decide to come together and make a certain type of baked brick.

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

4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

- Now they are going to take these bricks and build a city with a tower to God so as to make a name for themselves.
- Notice that this is all man centered, man reaching God. This is a one world government, economy and religion.
- This is what the Anti-Christ will do. He will unite the whole world against God.
- We're told in verse four that they are doing this so that they are not scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.
- One thought is that they did this against God for two reasons:
 1. They were rebelling against God's command to "fill the earth" that we have recorded in Genesis 9:1.
 2. They were disbelieving God and protecting themselves from another flood as evidenced by the waterproof bricks.
- These tower's are Ziggurat's and weren't actually built to literally reach heaven, but in defiance to the God in heaven.
- These Ziggurat's seem to have been where the occult originated in the worship of the sun, moon and stars.

It's believed that Nimrod's Tower of Babel, (Ziggurat) was a pyramid. They continued to build them as structures of worship for the sun, moon, and stars (Astrology). Today, we can still find remnants of these pyramids throughout the world e.g., Iraq, South America, Central America, Egypt, Burma.

It's also believed that Ziggurat's were used for the ancient pagan practice of communicating with crystals. Crystal's aren't called pagan today, they're called New Age.

5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And 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. 7 Come, **let Us** go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

- Some believe verse five indicates that God came down in the form of a man in the person of Jesus Christ. (Christophony)
- Notice in verse seven where it says "let Us" and Us is capitalized. This again is the trinity, God in three persons.
- We're told that God confused their languages, and scattered them abroad over all the earth, and the stopped building.

- The question is asked, why did God do this?

- Some have attempted to answer this question this way: "it was an act of God's mercy more than it was God's judgment." It was God's way of keeping man from continuing on in his fallen and corrupt state of rebellion against his creator.
- I suppose you could see God's mercy in the same way He kept Adam and Eve from continuing on in the Garden of Eden in their fallen state. God's judgments are merciful.
- One final thought on this: Just as Jesus came down to thwart Nimrod's global Babel tower, so too will He come down to thwart the Anti-Christ's global rule of terror.

10 This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. 11 After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. 12 Arphaxad lived thirty-five years, and begot Salah. 13 After he begot Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters. 14 Salah lived thirty years, and begot Eber. 15 After he begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters. 16 Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot Peleg. 17 After he begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters. 18 Peleg lived thirty years, and begot Reu. 19 After he begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years, and begot sons and daughters. 20 Reu lived thirty-two years, and begot Serug. 21 After he begot Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters. 22 Serug lived thirty years, and begot Nahor. 23 After he begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. 24 Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and begot Terah. 25 After he begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters.

- I don't care who you are, that's a lot of begot's.

- Where is God going with this? Oh we'll see right now, right here with one man, and he will be right on.

26 Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot **Abram**, Nahor, and Haran. 27 This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot **Lot**. 28 And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. 29 Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. 30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child. 31 And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. 32 So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

- So we're introduced to Abram, and his barren wife Sarai.

- So this is where God's going. We'll see this more clearly as we continue through Genesis and the Old Testament.

- Abram, (Abraham), is mentioned 312 times in 272 verses in the Bible.

- He's arguably one of the most influential men of all time.

- This is evidenced by about 1/3 of the book of Genesis, which covers 2,000 years and more than 20 generations, being about him.

- Why does God want us to know so much about him? Because Abraham was a truly man of faith.

- What if I don't have Abraham's faith? I may not have Abraham's faith, but I do have Abraham's God.