

Genesis: Chapters 10 and 11

Opening Question: How does the storyteller show which teams the sons of Noah are populating?

Key Takeaways:

1. Chapters 6–10 of Genesis are the flood scenes and Chapter 11 explains what happens once Noah’s family leaves the Ark.
2. What Lamech from Cain’s line is doing in Genesis 5, everyone is doing prior to the flood and what Enoch from Cain’s line is doing in Genesis 5 everyone is doing as chapter 11 begins and the enmity now grows to a national level.
3. Man was supposed to fill the earth with image bearers and make the LORD’s name great but instead they were making a name for themselves and gathering in one place.
4. The judgment of scattering the nations for rebelling against the LORD will be the same judgment used by the LORD against Israel later in the story.
5. “Sons of men” will be contrasted with “sons of God” going forward to represent the Gentile nations and the nation of Israel.
6. “Journey” will be contrasted with “walk” where journey is to rebel against the LORD and walk will be to obey the LORD.
7. The genealogies in chapters 10–11 explain to Israel their origin as well as the origin of their enemies.
8. Every detail in these chapters will serve a specific purpose and is included intentionally by Moses.

Discussion Questions:

1. Continue to identify and define phrases introduced or repeated by the author in these scenes. List as many as you can and note the contrasts such as “sons of men” and “sons of God,” and “journeying” and “walking.”
2. “Tongue(s)” is introduced in this scene. What do these words mean and why is it important to continue defining and using words in the same way that the biblical author defines and uses them?

Practical Application:

1. Reread Genesis 10–11 aloud. Although many of these details are not significant to the modern reader, consider why Moses needed to reveal them to his original audience. How will you benefit from knowing these details as the story unfolds?
2. Identify the LORD's desire stated in Genesis 1:26–28 and how this stated desire is in direct conflict with what is taking place in Genesis 11. Do the LORD's actions in chapter 11 solve the problem or will the problem's solution come at the end of the story? If the problem is not solved in chapter 11, what is the point of this scene?
3. In Noah's genealogy, the two sides, the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent, are continuing to be developed. Which of Noah's sons carries the promise and which son is populating the serpent's team?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You that You have chosen to reveal Yourself and Your plan for Your creation through a unified narrative. May we honor You by reading Your Word as You intended. Thank You for every detail You have disclosed in Your Word. Amen.