



(missed last week in the notes for Genesis chapter 9):

6. Everyone living today is a descendant of one of Noah's sons ("Shem, Ham, and Japheth") (18-19).
7. Ham had sex w/his mother while Noah was drunk and passed out (20-24; "saw the nakedness of his father...covered the nakedness of their father" = i.e. his wife; see Lev 18:7) that resulted in Noah condemning/cursing the child born of this incestuous relationship - Canaan (25-27 = The Canaanites and their land w/b conquered and enslaved by the descendants of Shem, the Israelites – Exo 23:20-33).
8. The curse placed on the Canaanites resulting in the later occupation of their land by the Israelites is the reason for the existing tension between the Palestinians (descendants of the Canaanites) and Jews/Israelis (in the land of Israel).

Genesis 10

1. Several of the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth were the founders of nations, cities and peoples that would have an important impact on redemptive history (1-32; e.g. "Magog" = Will come to represent those nations in league w/Satan's agenda to destroy the church [God's NC people] just before Christ's return - Rev 20:8; "Egypt" = The first nation to subjugate/enslave God's OC people and through whom would come the other enemy of God's OC people, the "Philistines"; ["Nimrod"] "Babel" = What would later become Babylon, the 3rd nation to subjugate/enslave God's OC people; ["Nimrod"] "Nineveh" = The main city of the Assyrians, the 2nd nation to subjugate/enslave God's OC people and where Jonah preached his message; "the children of Eber" = the Israelites/Hebrews - or "Heber" [Luk 3:35 - which later became the word "Hebrew" according to ancient scholars]).
2. A person's family history matters not only for medical reasons but moral reasons also (e.g. Ham's descendants - "Egypt", "Babel", "Nineveh", the "Philistines" = Israel's greatest enemies, 6-11).
3. "Nimrod" may have been a dino-hunter. Hence the reason he is considered a "mighty man" or "mighty hunter before the Lord" (8-9).

Genesis 11

1. Confusion (9- "Babel" = Lit. confusion) and even separation (8- "the Lord dispersed them") are the consequences associated w/relationships or communication that cares more about our exaltation or personal agenda (4- "let us make a name for ourselves") than the exaltation and agenda of God (1-9; Re: God's agenda - Gen 1:26-28, 9:1).
2. There is evidence to suggest the reason the "Tower of Babel" was attempted was b/c Nimrod didn't trust the rainbow (or God's promise) of never destroying the world w/a flood and therefore wanted to build a waterproof structure (i.e. burned bricks w/bitumen = waterproof) and tall enough to survive the possibility of another flood and avenge themselves on God by jumping into heaven. If this is true, then the principle est'd by God's words in verse 6: Unified distrust = Unbridled wickedness. Hence the reason for God confusing and dispersing them: 1) to see His decree fulfilled (Gen 1:126-28), and 2) as mercy (keeping them from further wickedness).¹
3. Shem's descendants are the bloodline that leads to "Abram" (Abraham) (10-26).
4. Abram/Abraham's dad's decision to move himself along w/his son, his wife ("Saria"/Sarah) and grandson ("Lot") from their home country (of Mesopotamia) to "Haran" was no doubt due to God's prior (and first) audible to Abe (27-32; Rom 7:2-3).
5. Abram/Abraham's wife (Sarai/Sarah) is his half-sister (Gen 20:12).

Genesis 12

1. Abraham must have been living righteous like Noah (Gen 6:8-9) - in contrast to his culture - otherwise God would never have extended His favor/mercy to him and his family (1-3, Neh 9:8; Jewish tradition teaches that Abe was a righteous man turning from the idols of his culture/people – Jos 24:2; see also Act 10:35; 1Ti 1:12-13)².

¹ Speaking of Nimrod, ruler of the city Babel, Josephus writes, "He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach. And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers. It [the Tower] was built of burnt brick cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen, that it might not be liable to admit water." ("Antiquities").

² "Abraham, endowed with great sagacity, with a higher knowledge of God and greater virtues than all the rest, was determined to change the erroneous opinions of men. He was the first who had the courage to proclaim God as the sole Creator of the universe, to whose will all the heavenly bodies are subject, for they by their motions show their dependence on Him. His opposition to astrology provoked the wrath of the Chaldeans, and he had to leave their country and go to Canaan. Berosus mentions our father Abram without naming him when he says thus – 'In

2. Stepping out of our comfort zones is part of how we trust and obey God's Word and receive His abundant blessings (1-9).
3. Stepping out of our comfort zone can also be how we secure a future for our children (7).
4. Being associated w/Abraham is key to being blessed (2-3 – see Fn; Gal 3:16, 29).
5. Fear can cause the best Christians to compromise (10-20).

Matthew 16

1. The Christian Faith/religion possesses the necessary evidence to support its claims if a person is willing be rational, reasonable and logical (1-4).
2. Like Dispensionals, the disciples were guilty of misinterpreting Jesus (and the Scriptures) as speaking literally when oftentimes they are speaking metaphorically/symbolically (5-12; e.g. Dispensionals = the book of Revelation).
3. Jesus as Savior/Messiah ("You are the Christ") and divine Lord/Master ("the Son of the living God) is the foundational doctrine/confession (the "rock") that not only establishes (or builds) the covenant community (or "church"), but also bolsters (or protects) it from the attempts/attacks of Satan and his kingdom (13-18; "gates of Hades shall not prevail" = Satan and his kingdom - see Rev 20:1-3).
4. The church is the new house and kingdom of God on earth - i.e. the place where the "keys" for opening the gates to "the kingdom of heaven" reside (19; Psa 87:1-2 = "gates of Zion" are in the "city of God" or house of God or church – Rev 21:2, 9-10, 22:14 w/Heb 12:22-23; Eph 5:23-32).
5. Forgiveness from sins (or salvation) therefore also resides in the church (19 – "bind on earth shall be loosed in heaven"; see Joh 20:21-23; Hence why the early church said, "There is no salvation outside the church.").
6. We are impersonating/imitating Satan every time our agenda disregards/destroys/usurps/ignores God's agenda (20-23).
7. Losing our life for Jesus therefore includes replacing (or losing) our agenda with (or for) His agenda (24).
8. Those not willing to give up their agendas for the agenda of Jesus will eternally lose their "life" or "soul" (25-26).
9. Our decisions and deeds in this life will determine whether we were living for Jesus' agenda or our own agenda and we will be repaid accordingly w/heaven or hell (27 – "repay each person according to their deeds").
10. Peter and James would still be alive when Jesus visited His wrath upon the Jews in destroying Jerusalem in 70 A.D. (28 w/Rev 11:3-13).

Matthew 17

1. The appearance of Moses and Elijah at Jesus' transfiguration proved that he was the new Moses (Deu 18:18-20) and that the "day of the Lord" had come (Mal 3:1-3 w/4:5) (1-3).
2. Jesus is the only One God wants us to listen to now (4-8).
3. John the Baptist was the new Elijah (10-13 w/Mal 4:5-6).
4. The reason there was so much sickness/disease among the Jews was due to their unfaithfulness (14-17a – "O faithless...generation" = Lit. unfaithful generation – see Mal 2:10-16; Psa 119:58).
5. Effectual faith (unto great/greater things) requires perseverance in our supplication (18-20 - "little faith" = little in the length of time they were willing to keep praying, fasting [see Fn] and believing God would respond) (e.g. Imprecatory prayers against our enemies. How long are we willing to do it in order for God to answer says something about how much of an enemy/threat we believe they really are).
6. Jesus predicted His death and resurrection multiple times before it took place (22-23, Mat 16:21).
7. We should go out of our way to not give offense to those authorities God has placed over us even if what they are doing is wicked/oppressive (24-27; see 1Pe 2:13-25).

the tenth generation after the Flood, there was among the Chaldeans a man righteous and great and skillful in celestial science." – Josephus ("Antiquities"). Abraham's revolt against Chaldean idolatry is also spoken of in Philo ("On Abraham").

8. God will reimburse us for what we give to oppressive authorities (27 = The money given did not decrease their personal bank accounts).