

Lesson 11: The Origin of Nations

Lesson Summary: This lesson explores Genesis 10, often called the Table of Nations, revealing how all humanity descends from Noah's three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Pastor David emphasizes that this chapter is unique in ancient literature, teaching the universal brotherhood of mankind when no other civilization did. The number 70 (representing the nations listed) symbolizes completeness and totality, demonstrating that God's redemptive plan has always encompassed the entire world. Understanding this genealogical record opens spiritual eyes to see how God's plan of redemption unfolds throughout Scripture. The lesson challenges the lie of racial superiority and calls believers to recognize their priestly responsibility to declare God's love to all nations, fulfilling the divine assignment originally given to Israel and now entrusted to the Church.

Key Points:

- Genesis 10 is entirely unique in ancient literature—no other civilization taught universal human brotherhood
- All humanity comes from one common ancestry, proven accurate by modern DNA science
- The human condition progressed through four stages: Unity (one people), Diversity (many families), Division (separated by gods and languages), and Dispersion (scattered into territories)
- Japheth's descendants spread throughout Europe and the Indo-European regions
- Ham's descendants settled primarily in Southeast Asia and Africa, producing great early civilizations
- Shem's descendants remained in a smaller Middle Eastern region, leading to the Hebrew people and ultimately to Jesus
- The number 70 represents completeness and totality in biblical literature, signifying all nations
- Israel was called to be a nation of priests for the 70 nations of the world
- The Church now carries this priestly responsibility to declare God's love to all people
- History is not random—the dispersion was God's setup for global redemption

- Christians should be the most non-racist people because we understand our common ancestry

Scripture Reference:

- Genesis 10 (primary focus—the Table of Nations)
- Genesis 10:1, 5, 20, 31, 32
- Acts 17:26 (Paul preaching that God made every nation from one man)
- Psalm 105:23, 27 (referring to Egypt as "the land of Ham")
- 1 Peter 2 (believers as a royal priesthood and holy nation)
- Genesis 46:27 (70 members of Jacob's family going to Egypt)
- Numbers 11:16 (70 elders appointed by Moses)
- Jeremiah (70 years of Babylonian captivity)
- Luke 10 (Jesus sending out the 70)
- Genesis 15 (God's promise to Abraham about descendants)

Stories:

- Paul preaching to Greek philosophers in Athens who believed they were a unique, superior race distinct from other peoples
- Pastor David's experience teaching Genesis in Africa, where people had been falsely taught that Africans were cursed by Noah, and their joyful response when learning the truth that Canaan never went to Africa
- The Welsh historian Davis recording the traditional belief that descendants of Gomer landed in Britain about 300 years after the flood
- Jonah attempting to flee to Tarshish before being redirected by God
- The Latin professor's story about identifying a Russian friend who had perfectly learned English except for saying "Dick, Harry or Tom" instead of "Tom, Dick, and Harry"
- Abraham being called out of a land where he worshiped other gods (referenced from Joshua 24)