

Genesis 10:1-12:9 – 26 September 2019

“Understanding The Nations”

Introduction

In Genesis 6-9 we've been dealing with Noah's Flood

And now in Chapter 10-12, we see *the development of the nations*

There are 3 things we need to understand about the development of the nations.

Chapter 10 – This chapter presents us the second genealogy of the book of Genesis.

It's from Noah to Peleg. Chap 11 will give us from Noah even farther to Abram.

1st thing we need to understand about the development of nations is that their names can be traced helping us know history. (Chap 10)

1. Chap 10:1-5 – The Sons of Japheth
 - a. Read Vs 1-2
 - i. Gomer = part of modern Turkey
 - ii. Magog = Russia
 - iii. Madai = Medes of modern Iran
 - iv. Javan = Greece
 - v. Meshech & Tubal = part of modern Turkey
 - vi. Tiras = north of Greece into Europe
 - b. Read Vs 3-5
 - i. Tarshish = far merchant isles, probably Spain.
 - ii. Kittim or Chittim = modern Cyprus island
2. Chapter 10:6-20 – The Sons of Ham
 - a. Read Vs 6-8
 - i. Cush, Phut = Ethiopia, Sudan
 - ii. Mizraim = Egypt

- iii. Canaan = The land of Israel
- iv. Sheba & Dedan = Saudi Arabia
- b. Read Vs 9-12 – SKIP and come back
- c. Read Vs 13-20
 - i. Vs 13-14 – The Philistines came from Caphtor which were on the isle of Cyprus
 - ii. Vs 15-18 – All the Canaanite nations
 - iii. Vs 19-20 – The area of the Canaanite land
- 3. Chapter 10:21-32 – The Sons of Shem
 - a. Read Vs 21-24
 - i. Elam = parts of modern Iraq and Iran
 - ii. Asshur = Assyrian Empire, Ninevah, Kurds
 - iii. Arphaxad = Modern Iraq, brings the Israel
 - iv. Eber = Where we get Hebrews from.
 - b. Read Vs 25-31
 - i. Peleg – Israel comes from him
 - ii. Joktan’s descendants are here listed.
 - iii. In Peleg’s time-Tower of Babel happens
 - c. Read Vs 32

4. Why is it good that we can trace the nations?
 - a. Helps us understand history
 - i. Assyrian peoples are the Kurds today
 - b. Helps us understand Israel's place
 - i. Israel's ancestors were just Iraqis called out
 - c. Helps us understand Biblical prophecy
 - i. Eze 38-39 comes clear to us
 - d. Helps us link Bible stories together
 - i. Philistines were even Canaanites; they were imported into the land from Cyprus
 - ii. Just 50 years after Jonah's preaching is when Assyria takes 10 tribes captive.

2nd thing we need to understand about the development of nations is that their centralization of power is against God's plan. (Chap 10:8-12, 11:1-9)

1. God's Commands

- a. Gen 1:28 – Adam/Eve – Be fruitful and multiple and fill the earth.
- b. Gen 9:1, 7 – Noah – Be fruitful and multiple and fill the earth

2. Read Chapter 10:8-12

- a. Nimrod led the first national rebellion against the Lord.
- b. A mighty hunter “before the Lord” literally means against the Lord.
- c. “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel” – exact same word as Babylon.
- d. Josephus, Antiquities of Jews Book 1, chap 4.2 – Persuaded mankind not to ascribe their

happiness to God, but to make them rely upon his own power.

- e. Nimrod's rebellion also spoken of in the Targum of Jonathan and the Jerusalem Targum
- f. Seems the 1st Nimrod & the last Nimrod (A-C) are Assyrian. (Isa 10, Mic 5:5-6)
 - i. Notice vs 11 – Asshur is Assyria
- g. Nimrod's centralization of power was just governmental, it was spiritual.
 - i. Nimrod & Semiramis had a son Tammuz.

3. Chapter 11:1-9

- a. Read Vs 1-2
 - i. Literally they travelled eastward.
 - ii. From Assyria to Shinar (Babylon)
 - iii. They found an earthly plain they liked
- b. Read Vs 3-4
 - i. They wanted a name for themselves.
 - ii. They didn't want to scatter as God's Law

- iii. As large groups of men centralize their money and unity, it's just united against God. (We feel powerful, act selfish)
 - 1. What form of Govt did God give Israel?
 - a. Theocracy – with 12 states.
- c. Read Vs 5-6
 - i. What does it take for mankind to be unlimited with the damage our wicked hearts can do?
 - 1. To be able to communication in the same place.
 - 2. Mankind only regained this ability in the last 100 years.
 - 3. Since 2000, every single person can!
 - ii. Our world has become centralized again!
 - 1. Read Dan 12:4
- d. Read Vs 7-9
 - i. Scattered or gathered?

1. Fleshly people need to be scattered to limit the damage.
2. Spiritual people need to be assembled to multiple the influence!
 - ii. It's always been the practice of nations to scatter their conquered enemies.
 - iii. Don't let Satan keep you away from the Church.

Chapter 11:10-32 is the continuation of the genealogy. This lists from Noah's son Shem to Abram.

1. Look at (Don't read) Vs 10-25 - In this new environment, since the flood, life spans begin to dramatically drop off.
 - a. Shem was 600
 - b. In just 12 generations it's down to 100.
 - c. It's about halfway thru this list the Tower of Babel happens and men are scattered.
 - d. This list is not necessarily God-fearing men

2. Vs 26-32
 - a. Read Vs 26-30
 - i. So Terah's family was born and raised in Ur of the Chaldees (Babylon, Kuwait)
 - ii. Read Jos 24:2 – Terah served other gods
 - b. Read Vs 31-32
 - i. They would follow the river & not cross the dessert.
 - ii. Haran is in Assyria, near modern Turkey.

3rd thing we need to understand about the development of nations is that there is one nation that was chosen to be special. (Chap 12:1-9)

1. Read Vs 1-3
 - a. Vs 1 – The call
 - i. Called to believe God
 - ii. Called to separate from his family's idolatry
 - iii. These 2 are always apart of the call to relationship with God. (Eph 5:14, Isa 60, John 5:25)

b. Vs 2-3 – The Promise

i. Abram will be

1. A great nation
2. Blessed
3. Have a great name
4. A blessing to others

ii. Others will be

1. Judged according to their treatment of Abram
2. Blessed b/c of something special to come which is **Jesus Christ**

iii. All 3 mono-theistic religions (>55% of the world pop) revere Abraham.

2. Read Vs 4-5

- a. He exercises his faith in God and goes.
- b. God has chosen to bring a special nation thru Abram and have them be in the historic land of Canaan.

3. Read Vs 6-7

- a. Abram is in central Israel, in Shechem.

- b. Then toward Bethel where altar built.
- 4. Read Vs 8-9
 - a. Why keep moving? To see the land that he was promised.
 - b. Abram “called upon the name of the Lord”.
 - i. Relationship blossoms.
- 5. Why did God choose to use a nation and why thru Abram?
 - a. Why thru Abram?
 - i. Why did He choose to give grace to Noah?
 - ii. Why did He choose to give grace to me?
 - iii. We need to be careful when we begin questions with “Why did God...”
 - b. Why use a nation?
 - i. Chosen to be an example to the church (I Cor 10:6-11)
 - ii. Chosen to bring forth His eternal Word (John 17:20)
 - iii. Chosen to bring forth the Messiah to sit on David’s throne (Isa 61:1)

Conclusion –

Today we've seen 3 things that help us understand the development of nations.

1. Their names can be traced
 - a. Helps us know history & prophecy
 - b. Helps us to link Biblical stories together
2. Their centralization of power is against God's plan
 - a. When unregenerate men join together, they only seek their own power and glory.
 - b. Christians need to join together!
3. There is one nation that was chosen to be special
 - a. Israel has an eternal, special place in God's economy.
 - b. We, as Israel was, have been chosen to be a special people.
 - i. Not to replace Israel, but to show forth God.