

Genesis 10:1 Now these are *the records of* the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.

V.6 The sons of Ham *were* Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan.

V.8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.

V.21 Also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, *and* the older brother of Japheth, children were born.

V.23 The sons of Aram *were* Uz and Hul and Gether and Mash.

V.31 These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their nations.

11:1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

² It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

³ They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

⁴ They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

⁶ The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

⁷ "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

Review:

1. Noah was a righteous man; saved from the flood;
 - a. But Noah still had an old sin nature
 - b. The world is starting over but man is still the same!
2. Noah looked into his son's futures – he prophesied concerning them & saw the Savior would come thru Shem We took a cursory glance at different races that came from Noah's boys
3. One man & his work stood above the rest – Nimrod!

10:1 Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.

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

V.6 The sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan.

V.8 Now *Cush became the father of Nimrod*; he became a mighty one on the earth.

V.9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD."

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

1. "Cush became the father of Nimrod" (**V.8**)

- a. He is the epitome of a man who doesn't see beyond this life
- b. He was a conqueror, developer, builder, leader
- c. But b/c everything he did was for this life he is no longer a factor
 - i. His existence doesn't matter in the least bit to anyone

Ecclesiastes 2:16 (NIV) For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die!

V.21 Also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, and *the older brother of Japheth*, children were born.

1. "the older brother of Japheth"

- a. There are 3 sons of Noah from whom all people have their ancestry
- b. The question is – who is the oldest
 - i. We know they are never named in birth-order

Genesis 5:32 Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 6:10 Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

- c. We know that Ham is the youngest

Genesis 9:24 When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son^(Ham) had done to him.

- d. NASB translation says Shem is the oldest
- e. The NIV translates V.21 differently

Genesis 10:21 (NIV) Sons were also born to Shem, whose older brother was Japheth; Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber.

- f. Why the discrepancy? b/c the Hebrew isn't that precise
- g. Does it make any difference? Yes
- h. Throughout history the first born (son) in a family received an extra portion of inheritance
- i. It is known as the primogeniture (system of inheritance)
- j. When a king died – his eldest son became king
- k. An "absolute primogeniture" means – it doesn't matter whether it's a boy or a girl they receive the first born inheritance
 - i. Example: Queen Elisabeth II
- l. But in Shem's situation it is much more important
 - i. He is in the genealogy of Christ
- m. The Mosaic law calls this the "birthright"
 - i. It gives a double portion of material inheritance, he becomes the head of the family, he becomes the spiritual leader of family, he is in the line of Christ
- n. God is saying this: you cannot be spiritually blessed if you have only been born once

John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews

² this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as a* teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

V.9 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?"

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?"

- o. So, Shem is the 2nd born not the oldest
- p. Shem is in the line of Christ

Luke 3:23 When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli,

V.36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of **Shem**, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,

V.23 The sons of Aram were Uz and Hul and Gether and Mash.

- 1. "The sons of Aram were Uz"
 - a. Job lived in the times of Abraham

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.

V.31 These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their nations.

11:1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

V.2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

- 1. "they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there"
 - a. This is modern day Iraq
 - b. Babel appears to have been about 50 miles south of Bagdad

V.3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

V.4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

- 1. "They said to one another" (**V.3**)
 - a. This was a cooperative effort

2. "Come, let us build for ourselves a city & a tower...reach into heaven"
- a. God wants man to focus on Who God is
 - i. He made us for that purpose – that is when we are fulfilled
 - ii. This is clear when we look into eternity future

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

Revelation 21:22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

- b. Another view of heaven reveals the same truth

Revelation 5:6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

⁷ And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

⁸ When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

¹³ And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

¹⁴ And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

- c. The motive of the people of Babel was to build a city so they could focus on man – instead of God
 - d. And the tower was to be a rallying point for mankind
 - i. This is the beginning of secular humanism (post-flood)
 - ii. My simple definition: The belief that man can find value, purpose, reason & fulfillment w/out God or religion
3. "let us make for ourselves a name"
- a. This is the attitude that man can become great w/out God
 - b. It is the belief that man is worthy of a great "name"
4. "otherwise we will be scattered abroad"
- a. God told man to spread out over the earth

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."
 - b. The city/tower is the epitome of man's rebellion
 - i. God gave man a great capacity to accomplish
 - ii. That is what God wanted for man
 - iii. What He didn't want was for man to leave Him out of the picture

V.5 The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

V.6 The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

1. "they are one people, and they all have the same language "
 - a. "one people" – they were united in resources
 - b. "same language" – they were uniting their knowledge
 - c. God had a simple solution **V.7**

V.7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

1. "let Us go down and...confuse their language...they will not understand one another"
 - a. Accumulated knowledge ceases – pooled resources stops
 - b. Can you imagine leaving work; saying, "see you tomorrow" & the next day you can't understand a word that person is saying?

V.8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

V.9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

1. "Therefore its name was called Babel"
 - a. The word translated "babel" has another translation – "Babylon"
 - b. The city/tower stood Babel/Babylon stood for rebellion
 - i. It still does
 - ii. It was Nebuchadnezzar who said

Daniel 4:28 "All *this* happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king.

²⁹ "Twelve months later he was walking on the *roof* of the royal palace of Babylon.

³⁰ "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'

- c. By 200 AD the city had been abandoned
- d. But the spirit of Babylon lives on
 - i. It lives until God brings it to an end!

Revelation 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

V.3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

V.5 and on her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

- e. This is religious Babylon
 - i. Remember – Babylon represents rebellion against God
 - ii. The religion of this world is in rebellion against God
 - iii. This is the story of the demise of religion w/out God
- f. Babylon shows up one more time – the economic Babylon

Revelation 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.

² And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

- i. The economy of this world is in rebellion against God also
- ii. This is the story of the demise of the economy

V.11 "And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more—

¹² cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every *kind of* citron wood and every article of ivory and every article *made* from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,

¹³ and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour

and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargoes* of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.

- g. This is where materialism w/out God ends!
- h. That is why Jesus told us to be careful w/ our wealth
 - Matthew 6:19** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.
 - ²⁰ "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;
 - ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

V.6 x The LORD said, "*Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language.* And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

V.7 x "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

1. "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language"
 - a. Man is almost back to where he started
 - b. The language has almost one again
 - c. The people are once again able to communicate w/out hindrance
 - d. People are once again able to pool their knowledge
 - e. The more man is able to do – the less he thinks he needs God
 - f. By looking at what God has done in the past we can gauge the future
 - g. He isn't going to let rebellion continue
 - h. The world doesn't discern the times – but we can

Matthew 16:2 But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, '*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.*'

³ "And in the morning, '*There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.*' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot *discern* the signs of the times?"

- i. Know the times & live wisely!

2 Peter 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,