

Bible Study # 10
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Old Testament Series—Genesis 10—11
(Chart at end)

In the earlier part of Genesis, we saw the focus on the very beginning and then the civilization of man that developed. In Genesis 4-7, we saw what happened.

God allowed a certain record be made, which deals with man's experiment in government. One of the reasons why Cain wasn't executed was because God wanted the record written of what happens if the lesson is not learned and people come up with their own ideas. God wanted us to see what happens.

What happened? It came to the point where violence filled the earth. In a matter of one thousand six hundred fifty-six years from the time of creation, things were in such a mess—such violence and decadence—God stepped in and destroyed man through the flood. After preserving Noah, we see where He gave certain instructions to Noah. We spent a lot of time on the pre-flood civilization.

This section **deals with the formation of this present age, this present civilization of man.**

Genesis 10-11 is an important area of Scripture because it focuses in on the beginning of post-flood civilization. It contains the origin of mankind's society. Babylon is the beginning of our civilization. In our society, everything has its origin in Babylon.

Genesis 10:1, "Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: **Shem, Ham, and Japheth**...."

Japheth: v. 2, "The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras." Japheth's wife was of oriental extraction. They divided into a Western and an Eastern branch. Some took more after Japheth; some, more with his wife. Japheth settled in Asia or Eastern Europe depending on whether they took after the oriental side or Japheth's side.

Ham: v. 6, "The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan." Jewish tradition says Ham's wife was none other than Naamah, who was the daughter of Cain (Genesis 4:22). His grandson was Nimrod.

Genesis 10:8, "Cush begot Nimrod...." Cush settled in the Western part of Ethiopia. "Ethiopia" is the Hebrew word for "Cush"; "Mizraim" is Hebrew for "Egypt."

The nations today are known by modern names. When nations are referred to in Bible prophecy,

they are not referred to in the names they have today; they are referred to in the name of their ancestors. The more some of these people had contact with Israel, the more they were able to be traced down.

God divided the languages. The division of the language was God's way of making the families go the way He wanted them to go to overspread the earth and to have the population increase. God desired that and desired these national groupings.

Shem: v. 22, "The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram."

Genesis 11:10-26, "This is the genealogy of Shem...." —All the way to Abraham. Abraham is a descendant of Shem. The European stock primarily comes from Shem

We are given an overview of the families and are able to identify them in a sense.

Questions

1. Explain the significance of Genesis 10:8.

Let us pick it up in vv. 6-8, "The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put and Canaan. The sons of Cush were Seva, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechahl and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth."

That word "mighty one" is "*gibbor*" in Hebrew. It means "a tyrant, champion, chief, giant man, mighty, strong." —A mighty man, but a despot, a tyrant.

After the flood, animals reproduced rapidly. Genesis 9:2, "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth and on all the fish of the sea. They are given unto your hand." All these animals began to reproduce, and there was a rapid increase in animals like wolves, etc.

Genesis 10:9, Nimrod began to be a mighty hunter, as a protector. He is known in mythology as the hunter of wolves. He made himself the despot. He established his government on mankind.

2. Who is the instigator of Babel?

Genesis 10:8, "Cush begot Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one on the earth."

Verse 10, "And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel...."

Genesis 11:1-4, "Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

Then they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.' They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.'"

Here was a great city. He began to bring everything into his rule. God wanted people to spread out. But Nimrod said, 'If you spread out you will be killed,' and that they should all get together and build this giant tower. They had heard about the flood. This tower would dwarf anything around them. Satan stirred Nimrod to do this. We begin to see the introduction of a false civilization. Religion was brought in. Nimrod made himself a god-king. Cain did that before the flood; Nimrod did after the flood. We just came through the season that celebrates Nimrod's birthday.

It is interesting, by the way, some of the customs and traditions that come down. A Nimrod tree—tradition is to put them up on a building when the building is finished being built. They put it on the top. That goes all the way back to the tower of Babel. We can trace many of the customs back to Egypt and to Babel.

He was "put out of business" in Babel when God confused the languages. They fled to Egypt.

Genesis 10:10, Nimrod was the instigator of Babel.

3. Where was the original center of human habitation in the post-flood world?

Genesis 11:1-2, "And the whole earth was of one language and of one speech. And it came to pass as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and they dwelt there."

—The land of Shinar. All the earth was of one language. They got the idea of building the city. Nimrod was the instigator.

4. In what way were the people rebelling against God in their plans at Babel? What had God told them?

Genesis 9:1, "And God blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.'" It was God's desire for the human race to spread out. The basic racial stocks had been preserved through the flood. God did not want them to stay there and intermarry. The separate identifiable strains would have been lost. We would have had a blend. If that was what God wanted, He would not have put in the varieties in Eve. This was a

part of His overall plan from the beginning. They had organized themselves under the government of man, under Nimrod. It doesn't take long to deteriorate.

5. How did God force the various tribal groupings to migrate to different areas of the world?

Genesis 11:6-7, "And the Lord said, 'Indeed the people are one and they all have one language and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.'"

God forced the various tribal groupings to migrate to different areas of the world by confusing their languages to such an extent that they had to divide. God proposed that different areas of the earth would be for different peoples. God knew that apart from His Spirit and under man's government and man trying to get together, the results were not going to be good. In the twentieth century, we have been able to bridge the things which have divided us; man's technology has taken off. Without God's Spirit and not guided by the government of God, man will create something to blow themselves up (Matthew 24:22). With that ability and without God's Spirit, we would blow ourselves off the planet.

God says there is no limit to what man can do if every branch of the family can put his input into it. God has built special talents in each branch of the family. Just look around the world. The cultures of the nations express the personality of the people. When everything is pooled together, there is no limit. Man should ask 'Should we?' not 'Could we?' It is like opening Pandora's Box. Man can create things that he is incapable of handling. They would have reached the twentieth century many centuries ago. "*Babel*" means "confusion" in Hebrew and "the gate of god" in Chaldean.

6. About how long after the flood did the division of language occur? Prove from Scripture.

Genesis 10:10-32 gives us a chronological framework.

Genesis 10:16, "Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot Peleg."

Go through and add up the years for the time span. The division of the language occurred about one hundred one years after the flood.

Genesis 10:25, “To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg [Division], for in his days the earth was divided.”

Peleg was born about the time of the division of the languages. “Peleg” means “division.” In his days, the earth was divided. He was named in honor of that occasion.

For further study, read two books: The Two Babylons and Babylon Mystery Religion.

7. How many years transpired between the flood and the time of the death of Abraham’s father, Terah?

According to Acts 7:4, that event marked the beginning of the call of Abraham.

Acts 7:4, “Then he [Abraham] came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.” The death of Terah marked the beginning of Abraham’s call according to Acts 7:4. When you go through from the time Arphaxad was born (Genesis 11:10), add up and come all the way down to the time that Terah died (compare Genesis 11:32 with Acts 7—it will show you why that ties in), it will show that it was four hundred twenty-seven years. Abraham left Haran when his father died. Genesis 12:4 tells us he was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

8. Could Abraham have heard a first-hand account of the flood? How?

Yes, he could have heard the account from Shem who lived five hundred two years after the flood.

Genesis 11:10-11, “...Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. After he begot Arphaxad. Shem lived five hundred years....” –A total of five hundred two years. Abraham was called four hundred twenty-seven years after the flood at age seventy-five. Their lives overlapped about one hundred fifty years. Abraham probably carried certain things (documents) that were on the ark. How could Moses have quoted, “the generations of Adam” (Genesis 5:1)?

9. What relationship were Lot and Abraham?

Genesis 11:26, “Terah...begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Verse 31, “...Lot, the son of Haran...” Lot was Abraham’s nephew, the son of Haran.

10. What does “Babel” mean?

“Babel” means “confusion” in Hebrew.

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE O.T. SERIES

TABLE OF NATIONS

JAPHETH:

Gomer: 1) Ashkenaz (E. Poland) 2) Riphath (Soviet Central Asia, parts of Bulgaria and Hungary) 3) Togarmah (Tibet, Siberia, Korea).

Magog: Mongols

Madai: Medes (primarily Ukrainians of today).

Javan: 1) Elishah (2 branches, western and oriental—Greeks, many Polynesian peoples) 2) Tarshish (2 branches, western and oriental—Spain, Japan) 3) Kittim (South Italy and Sicily) 4) Rodanim (Portuguese) Evidently there were other sons who just used the tribal name of their father Javan and were of the oriental branch. They are known as Tsin and settled south China.

Tubal: Tobolsk branch of the Great Russians

Meshech: Moscow branch of the Great Russians.

Tiras: South American Indians

HAM:

Cush: 1) Seba (South India) 2) Havilah (Melanesians and Micronesians) 3) Sabtah (Ethiopians) 4) Raamah (Sudanese—Sheba-Uganda, Dedan-N.W. Africa) 5) Sabtecha (N. Central Africa) 6) Nimrod

Mizraim: 1) Ludim (Gypsies) 2) Anamim (Chams and Annamese of Indo-China) 3) Lehabim (Lybia) 4) Naphtuhim (Gypsies) 5) Pathrusim (Egyptians) 6) Casluhim (Berbers of North Africa) 7) Caphtorim (Gypsies)

Put: North India and Central and Southern Africa

Canaan: 1) Sidon (Phoenicia, now in N.W. Africa) 2) Heth (Hittites, now North American Indians) 3) Jebusite (so. Coast of Spain) 4) Amorite (N. Africa) 4) Girgashite (Tunisia) 5) Hivite (Cent. American Indians) 6) Arkites (No. American Indians) 7) Sinite (Australian Aborigines) 8) Arvadite (ancient kingdom of Arvad in S. E. Asia) 9) Zemarite (part of population base of Malaysia and Philippines) 10) Hamathite and Canaanite (Western Africa—most American Negroes trace their ancestry here).

SHEM:

Elam: Slavic peoples

Asshur: German peoples

Arphaxad: Chaldeans Eber (Hebrews—the ancestor of Abraham) Joktan 1) Almodad (white population of India) 2) Sheleph (Bactria in Cent. Asia) 3) Hazarmaveth (Poland and E. Europe) 4) Jerah (Dalmatia) 5) Hadoram (part of Arab stock) 6) Uzal 7) Diklah (Persia) 8) Obal (Baltic area) 9) Abimael (in Albania) 10) Sheba (Sabaens of ancient Italy) 11) Ophir (Afghanistan, another branch migrated to ancient Peru) 12) Jobab (Hungary).

Aram: 1) Uz (Syria) 2) Hul (Armenia) 3) Gether (Goths) 4) Mash (area of modern Romania)

The family of **Abraham**, the Father of Many Nations

Lot (Abraham's nephew): 1) Moab (Iraq) 2) Ammon (Jordan)

Ishmael: Arab peoples

Isaac: 1) Esau (Turks) 2) Jacob (Israel – 1) Reuben—France 2) Simeon—scattered, many settled in Scot highlands 3) Levi—scattered among Jews and Israel, many in Wales 4) Judah—Jews 5) Dan—Ireland 6) Naphtali—Sweden 7) Gad—Switzerland 8) Asher—Belgium 9) Issachar—Finland 10) Zebulun—Netherlands 11) Joseph—Ephraim (Britain) and Manasseh (United States) 12) Benjamin—Norway and Denmark.