

# Genesis & A Biblical Worldview

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, October 14, 2012

Introduction

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God

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Creation

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Man

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Sin

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Grace

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Culture

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Purpose

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## God's 'Table of The Nations'

This morning, we begin a new stage in the building of our worldview from Genesis--the formation of our understanding of human culture. We begin with chapter 10; and with how God allowed the nations of the earth to be formed.

This chapter is truly fascinating. There is else nothing like it in ancient literature. The details of this chapter are outlined on the chart that is found at the end of this lesson. From what we see in it, note the following basic points:

### 1. THE NATIONS DESCEND FROM A COMMON ROOT.

- A. The story begins with these words: "Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood" (Genesis 10:1).<sup>1</sup> And what follows is a table of the nations that formed from Noah and his three sons. The chapter ends with these words, "These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood" (v. 32).
- B. This, then, is presented to us as the beginning of the nations that now exist upon the earth. And because of how we're told that they began, this means that when we speak of people being of different "races", we understand this only to refer to the distinction of inheritable characteristics, geographic ancestry, culture, history, language, physical appearance and ethnicity--but never of origin or fundamental human identity. There are not different "races" in terms of origin; because all peoples of all people groups today come from one human source--Noah. In that respect, all men are truly brothers. The differences have to do only with the way the offspring of his three sons spread out on the earth, and with the impact of environment upon them over time. All modern nations, tribes and people groups can be ultimately traced to one of these three sources.

### 2. CERTAIN HISTORIC FIGURES STAND OUT.

- A. With the many names we find, three stand out for particular notice. One is Nimrod--the son of Cush, of the lineage of Ham (vv. 8-14). He was the one who founded Babylon (see Genesis 11:1-9). We will examine his story a bit further when we focus on the story of Genesis 11.
- B. A second is Canaan, another son of Ham (vv. 15-19). It was he who was particularly cursed of God in the strange event after the flood (see Genesis 9:24). His offspring would prove to be the inhabitants of the land that God would eventually give to the Jewish people. They no longer exist as a people group; but they would prove to be a constant trouble to the people of Israel in the early years of their history.
- C. The third is Peleg, the son of Eber (from whom the name Hebrew is taken), who was the son of Shem (from whom the name Semite is taken). Peleg was named "Division"; "for in his days the earth was divided" (v. 25). This most likely refers to the division of the languages that we read of in Genesis 11:1-9; but because a different word is used to refer to the separation of the Gentile peoples from one another (see v. 5 and 32 where the word *parad* is used rather than the word *peleg* of verse 25), some have argued that it refers to a different kind of division. Though the continental drift hypothesis has not been proven, many who hold to the shifting of the sea floor in such a way as to break a single pre-flood continent into the

post flood continents we see on the globe today see it referred to in this verse.

**3. THE OUTFLOWING OF THE NATIONS IS PURPOSEFUL IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN HAND.**

- A. The number of the nations remarkably parallels the promise in Deuteronomy 32:8; “When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel.” We’re told in Genesis 46:27 that “all the persons who of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.”
- B. In Acts 17:26-27, we’re told that the outflowing of the nations is purposeful in God’s plan for the spread of the gospel: “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him . . .”

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<sup>1</sup>All Scripture readings are taken from *the Holy Bible, New King James Version*; copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

## THE SONS OF JAPHETH (Indo-European Peoples):

14 Nations

Gomer = Indo-European peoples.  
The Sons of Gomer:  
 Ashkenaz = Scandinavian peoples.  
 Riphath = Paphlagonians and Carpathians.  
 Togarmah = Armenians

Magog = Russian peoples (see Ezekiel 38:2).  
 Madai = Medes.  
 Javan = Macedonia; (Javan is the original form of Ionia; that is, Greece).  
The Sons of Javan:  
 Elishah = Aeolis (in Asia Minor).  
 Tarshish = Tarsus; early settlers in Spain.  
 Kittim = Italy; Cyprus.  
 Dodanim = Dardanelles and Rhodes.

Tubal = Bithynia.  
 Meshech = Mysia.  
 Tiras = Thracia.

## THE SONS OF HAM (Afro-Asian-Arabic Peoples):

33 Nations (Nimrod counts as 4)

Cush = Arabia and Ethiopia.  
The Sons of Cush:  
 Seba = Sabaeans in Arabia and Africa.  
 Havilah = Arabia.  
 Sabtah = Ancient Sabtah in Arabia.  
 Raamah = Libya (between Egypt and Ethiopia).  
The Sons of Raamah:  
 Sheba  
 Dedan  
 Sabtechah = Arabia.  
 Nimrod

Mizraim = Egypt.  
The Sons of Mizraim:  
 Ludim  
 Anamim  
 Lehabim  
 Naphtuhim  
 Pathrusim.  
 Casluhim = "From whom came the Philistines".  
 Caphtorim = Crete

Put (or Phut) = Libya.  
 Canaan = the peoples of the land of Canaan.  
The Sons of Canaan (some of whom are identified only as nations):  
 Sidon = Sidonians  
 Heth = Hitites  
 The Jebusite  
 The Amorite  
 The Gergashite  
 The Havite  
 The Arkite  
 The Sinite  
 The Arvadite  
 The Termarite  
 The Hamathite

*"[Nimrod] began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, 'Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.' And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city)" (Genesis 10:8-12).*

*"Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, as far as Lasha" (Genesis 10:18b-19).*

## THE SONS OF SHEM (Semitic Peoples):

2 Nations

Elam = Elamites  
 Asshur = Assyrians  
 Arphaxad = (See Genesis 11:10ff)  
The Son of Arphaxad:  
 Salah  
The Son of Salah:  
 Eber

*(Peleg = "Division")  
 "for in his days the earth was divided" (Genesis 10:25; see also 11:1-9)*

The Sons of Eber:  
 Peleg

The Sons of Peleg (from Genesis 11:18-26):  
 Reu  
 Serug  
 Nahor  
 Terah

**Abram, Nahor, Haran**

Lot (the son of Haran; but separated from his people--Genesis 13:11; from whom later came the peoples of Ammon and Moab--19:30-38).

21 Nations (with Lot)

Lud = Lydians  
 Aram = Aramaeans  
The Sons of Aram:  
 Uz = Job's homeland  
 Hul  
 Gether  
 Mash

*"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you: when the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel" (Deuteronomy 32:7-8).*

*"All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy" (Genesis 46:27a).*