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The Table Of Nations (Gen. 10:1 ff.)

1 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 is not mythology. This is where the nations spread after the Flood.
- All in all, we see 70 names here. Seventy is a nice round number in the Scriptures that seems to speak of spiritual government and eldership.
- In this table, sometimes a name can be a person, and sometimes it is a place that is named for an ancestor.

The Line of Japheth (Gen. 10:2-5)

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

3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. 4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. 5 From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

- The Greeks call their father *Iapetos*. His sons go into modern Europe, Turkey and the Caucasus. Javan is the Greek peoples who lived in Greece and Asia Minor, and his children were people like Tarshish, who probably went all the way to Spain, and Kittim, who was Cyprus. Madai becomes the Medes.
- The Jews think of these people as the peoples of the coastlands, or the islands.
- They didn't have significant dealings with them until the time of Alexander.

The Line of Ham (Gen. 10:6-7)

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

- Now we get more detail because Ham was more important to Israel. Many of these peoples became fierce enemies of Israel.
- Ham's sons go west into Egypt, and down into Africa. They also went over into the East, into Mesopotamia, the modern day region of Iraq.
- Cush represents many of the African peoples south of Egypt.
- The word Mizraim has always referred to Egypt, still does today!
- Put is Northern Africa as you go past Egypt to the west, modern Libya.
- Then we have Canaan, and it was the land of the Canaanites that would form the central part of the Land that God would later promise to Abraham.

Sons of Cush; Nimrod (Gen. 10:7-12)

7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. 8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

- Sheba and Dedan are probably part of the Arabian peninsula. Sheba and Dedan appear in the future as being among those who protest against the end-times invasion of Israel.
- Then we have the mysterious figure of Nimrod. The Hebrew may indicate that he was the first one to become a king or dictator. He was a *civilizer*.

- He probably won people’s allegiance: (1) by killing dangerous animals; and (2) by creating cities. This was a move against God, who had wanted them to spread out.
- The first city after the flood is Babel, or Babylon (“confusion”).
- Shinar is in Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
- Once he was done building in Shinar, he started building cities in Assyria. This means he went up to the northwest, in the direction of northern Iraq, and Syria.
- Many see Nimrod as the creator of the first world empire, and he is often seen as a symbol of the Antichrist.

Mizraim and Canaan (Gen. 10:13-20)

13 Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim). 15 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; 16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; 17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; 18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. 19 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 Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. 20 These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.

- Some of the children of Canaan will pop up against quite a bit, as Israel is coming into their land. The Jebusites were the inhabitants of what became Jerusalem.

Sons of Shem (Gen. 10:21-32)

21 And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder. 22 The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. 23 The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. 24 Arphaxad begot

Salah, and Salah begot Eber. 25 To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. 26 Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. 30 And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east. 31 These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations. 32 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.

- The line of Arphaxad and Eber will culminate in Abraham.
- Other important people to come out of Shem were Elam, who settled in Persia; Asshur, who is Assyria; and, Aram, who becomes the Arameans. Aram is often translated as Syria. We need to remember that Assyria is not the same as Syria.
- These people went west, and they went south into Arabia.

**THE WORLD AS KNOWN TO THE HEBREWS
ACCORDING TO THE MOSAIC ACCOUNT.**



SONS OF JAPHETH
SONS OF HAM
SONS OF SHEM
 and EBER
 with his descendants the Hebrews, Ishmaelites, and Edomites.
 Extent of the ancient Assyrian Empire.

The Tower Of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9)

1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 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. 3 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.

4 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.” 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 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. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

- Moses tells us that at this time the whole world had one language. Some call this a myth, of course, but there are many commonalities between ancient languages.
- Is Hebrew the original language of the human race?
- God will turn us back to one language some day: *“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord.”* (Zeph. 3:9)

- In any case, notice their motivations: (1) they want to make a name for themselves; and (2) not be dispersed.

Motivations for the Tower

Josephus pins it on Nimrod:

Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God.... He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it were through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power. He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to reach. And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers.

- Man has been trying to reproduce Babel ever since.
 - Parallels with the end of the age: one leader, one people united against God.
- David wrote about this final rebellion in Psalm 2:

1 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed [Messiah or Christ], saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."

The Tower of Babel, and many other stories in the Bible, are actually patterns of human behavior that will repeat themselves in history

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