



Genesis – Chapter 10:1-32
The Table of the Nations (Part #2)
(Lesson #20)

To access missed lessons, lesson guides, and additional materials please visit our class website:
<https://truth-seekers.net>

10:1 These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood. **2** The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. **3** The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. **4** The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. **5** From these the coastland peoples spread in their lands, each with his own language, by their clans, in their nations.

Vs 1 - Last week we talked about the word used here is the Hebrew word **תולדה (towl'dah)**.

Vs 2 - Here Moses tells us that **seven sons** were born to Japheth, and then he **names them**.

Gomer – Josephus in Antiquities: “For Gomer founded those whom the Greeks now call Galatians, (Galls) but were then called the Gomerites.” It is likely modern-day north central Turkey.

Magog – There is great disagreement on who Magog is and great interest because they are mentioned in **Ez 38 and 39**. It is also mentioned in **Revelations 20**.

Josephus in Antiquities: “Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians.”

Herodotus “The Father of History” who wrote in the 5th century BC, he is a writer who is nearly a cotemporary with Ezekial said, *the Scythians are the descendants of Magog*. The Scythians migrated from central Asia to southern Russia in 8-7th century BC.

The evidence supports either central Russia or a little east in the “stans” Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, etc.

Madai - Josephus in Antiquities: “Now as to Javan and Madai, the sons of Japhet; from Madai came the Madeans, who are called Medes, by the Greeks...”

Cambridge Bible: Almost certainly the people of Media are referred to in the Assyrian inscriptions as “Madai” in the 9th century BC. In the history of Israel they are first mentioned in 2 Kings 17:6.

Javan – Ionia, Greece and others. **Josephus in Antiquities:** “... but from Javan, Ionia, and all the Grecians, are derived.”

Tubal – **Herodotus** tells us that Tubal was southeast of the Black Sea. This too would be modern-day Turkey.

Meshech – **Josephus in Antiquities:** “... the Mosocheni were founded by Mosoch; now they are Cappadocians.” They too are in modern day Turkey.

Tiras – There is great disagreement on who Tira was. There are those who believe Tiras was changed to Rosh. This is linked by some to modern day Russia, while others have them in modern day Turkey.

Josephus in Antiquities: “Thiras also called those whom he ruled over Thirasiens; but the Greeks changed the name into Thracians.” This would equate to modern day Bulgaria or Romania.

Vs 3 - Ashkenaz - So we look at Gomer, the **first son** of the seven sons from Japheth.

Josephus in Antiquities: “Of the three sons of Gomer, Aschanax founded the Aschanaxians, who are now called by the Greeks Rheginians.”

Riphath - Josephus connects with Europeans. Paphlagonia is an area in the north of what is now called Turkey, along the southern shore of the Black Sea.

Togarmah – Josephus in Antiquities: “...Thrugamma the Thrugammeans, who as the Greeks resolved, were named the Phrygians.”

Vs 4 – We jump to Javan, which is the fourth son of Japheth, skipping completely over sons two and three.

Elishah – Josephus in Antiquities: “Of the three sons of Javan also, the son of Japhet, Elisa gave name to the Eliseans, who were his subjects; they are now the Aeolians.” Our best guess is modern day Italy.

Tarshish – We recognize Tarshish, for it is where Jonah attempted to flee from the Lord. He was directed to Nineveh, he fled to Tarshish. Tarshish is likely modern-day Spain:

Kittim – Our best guess.

Dodanim – Our best guess.

Vs 5 - Here we see something interesting, that will come back around in chapter 11, from the Gentiles peoples, they spread out, **each with is own language.**

10:6 The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. 7 The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. 8 Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and 12 Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. 13 Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came), and Caphtorim. 15 ¶ Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth, 16 and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, 17 the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, 18 the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites dispersed. 19 And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. 20 These are the sons of Ham, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

Here we come to the **descendants of Ham**. The man who **sinned against his father**, you remember, we talked about it and likely there were some varying opinions as to exactly what he did.

Vs 6 - Here we have the **four sons of Ham**:

Cush – Josephus in Antiquities: “For of the four sons of Ham, time has not at all hurt the name of Cush; for the Ethiopians, over who he reigned, are even at this day, both by themselves, and by all men in Asia, called Cushites.”

Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia: “The designation, Ethiopia, is misleading for it did not refer to the modern state of Ethiopia... Cush... bordered Egypt on the South,... or modern Sudan.” **Cush** was in modern day Sudan.

Egypt – In the Hebrew it is **מִצְרַיִם (Mitsrayim)** – The **translators** of the ESV are so sure it is Egypt, they translate it as Egypt, to that I agree. **The descendants of Ham, namely the Egyptians are the ones who held captive the nation of Israel for over 400 years!**

Put – Josephus in Antiquities: “Phut also was the founder of Libya, and called the inhabitants Phutites...”

Canaan – We remember the event with **Ham**, uncovering his father’s nakedness and Noah cursed Canaan.

These are many of the “ites” that we run into in the Old Testament. **Now for the rest of the story:**

18 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. ³ You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes (Lev 18:1-3, ESV).

²¹ You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD ²² You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. ²³ And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion. ²⁴ “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, ²⁵ and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants (Lev 18:21-25, ESV)

Read Leviticus 18 and 20 and you get the **list of sins that the Canaanites** had perfected and had been **practicing** for **hundreds of years**. Now what we will read in **Gen 15** in coming weeks makes sense:

“13 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”” (Ge 15:13-16 ESV)

Vs 7 - Here we have **five sons of Cush:**

Seba – Ethiopia or Saudi Arabia

Havilah – Ethiopia or Saudi Arabia

Sabtah – South Saudi Arabia

Raamah – Southwest Saudi Arabia

Sabteca – South Saudi Arabia

We then track the **sons of the fourth son** of Cush **Raamah**, namely:

Sheba – is in southern Saudi Arabia. We read about the Queen of Sheba (**II Chron 9**) who traveled over 1200 miles to set at the feet of Solomon, and I would add a wiser than Solomon has come.

Dedan – **Jer 49:8** is identified with **Edom or Esau**. Sheba and Dedan represent modern day **eastern Saudi Arabia**.

Vs 8-9 - This first thing that catches our attention is the we had already been told that Cush was the father of five, and then here in a separate statement we are told about a **sixth**, totally independent of the **first five**.

Very interesting! Nimrod’s name means **rebellion** or **revolt!** He is called in the ESV a “**mighty man.**”

The structure implies antagonism. It is not a mighty hunter for God, but possibly a mighty hunter against God.

So here, on the face, it seems as if we have a man who is opposed to God and attempts to stand as a mighty one before Yahweh.

Vs 10 - Here we are told about the beginning of his kingdom. He was a king with a kingdom. The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh.

He built a kingdom in the **land of Shinar**. It is here in Shinar, where the tower of Babel will be constructed. We see this in Genesis 11:1-4).

Vs 11-12 - From that land, the land of **Babel**, the land of **Shinar**, God divided the languages.

Then we read that **he** (Nimrod), went into **Assyria** and **built** the city of **Nineveh**, that massive **mighty city** that would become one of the major cities of the **Assyrians**, that mighty people who would one day take the **10 northern tribes into captivity**.

Pushed out of **Shinar**, he headed north and continued his work against God. The steps that God took, were instrumental in causing Nimrod to move his work and he went **northeast**.

Is it at all interesting to note that the nation of Israel would fall to the Assyrian kingdom in 722 BC and the southern tribes would fall to the Babylonian empire in 586 BC!

Nimrod was a mighty hunter, who clearly is against God and God's plans. He is involved in the tower of Babel and in the establishment of the early city of Babylon and Nineveh.

He also built the cities **Rehoboth-Ir** (suburb of Nineveh), **Calah** (18 miles south of Nineveh), and **Resen** (between Nineveh and Calah).

Vs 13 - Here we are told about **Ham's second son Egypt** and that children that he fathered the **seven sons of Egypt**. Egypt, that mighty and powerful nation came from Ham. Here, from **Egypt**, Ham's second son are **seven sons**:

Ludim – Modern day Tunisia.

Anamim – Modern day Libya

Lehabim – Modern day Libya.

Naphtuhim – Modern day Egypt.

Pathrusim – Modern day south Egypt or north Sudan.

Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came) – Where did horrible nation of the Philistines, another perennial enemy of Israel. They settled in **modern day Libya**, but when Joshua shows up, we will find them in the promised land, in the area we know as the **Gaza Strip**.

Caphtorim - Modern day island of Crete.

Vs 15-18 - Here we are introduced to the **fourth son of Ham**, namely **Canaan**.

We have been waiting for this fourth son. If you remember, when Ham sinned, it was Canaan who was cursed.

Canaan fathered (the ites) and then we are provided with a list of 11. We are now dealing with the "**Canaanites**" we see that they settled in what would later be called the "**promised land**."

This was a group of people who learned early on about traversing the boundaries of God:

Sidon his firstborn –

Jebusites –

Amorites –

Girgashites –

Hivites –

Arkites –

Arvadites –

Zemarites –

Hamathites –

Now as you follow along, I took Heth and the Sinites out of the order. **Henry Morris** in the *Genesis Record* builds the case that the **Hethites** and the **Sinites** are the genesis of the **Oriental peoples**.

Many of these Canaanite nations will be living in the promised land when **Israel** under **Joshua's leadership** shows up. We will see this develop.

God seeing this in advance is why they were cursed, God seeing this in advance is why after **400 years of opportunity to repent**, ultimately God sent an army into the land to **destroy them**. Not a global flood, a local army would be the method of judgement.

God is crystal clear with Israel what they are to do and why, according to Moses:

7:1 When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, ² and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. ³ You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons ⁴ for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. ⁵ But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire (Deut 7:4-5, ESV).

The **descendants of Canaan** are in **full rebellion** against Yahweh and they will cause Israel to follow their ways. God has determined judgment, and Israel is to be the instrument.

They had heard of God, remember what Rahab said:

"9 and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. 12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign 13 that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." (Jos 2:9-13 ESV)

APPLICATION: Throughout the Bible, if we look, we will see a God who is making Himself known to the vilest of sinners. This is our God.

The first city taken in the land of Canaan was Jericho. It was a city filled with Canaanites.

The Canaanites, left in the land, caused the nation of Israel to sin. This is exactly what God had told them would happen.

There are lessons here:

- 1) We cannot contain sin.
- 2) We cannot control sin.
- 3) If our right eye offends us we should?
- 4) Israel thought they could control sin.

Now as we see this list of **"ites"** there are two other perennial enemies (also ites) who are **not listed** and did not **descend from Ham**, but instead from Shem. The **Moabites** and the **Ammonites** (Gen 19).

Vs 19 - Here in Genesis 10, we are provided with a description of the territory that the Canaanites lived in.

Sodom is here mentioned in Genesis 10, but it will be destroyed in **Genesis 19**. When the table of nations was written Sodom was still flourishing. Keep in mind when Moses was born, Sodom had long been destroyed.

Moses was likely **handed down this information from previous writers**. By the time Moses wrote, Sodom was a city, long ago destroyed!

Vs 20 - Here is the conclusion, these are the sons of Ham, that God wants us to know about, he does not cover all, but enough for us to see how the nations developed and were dispersed.

Ham's sons, by their clans, **by their languages**, which **we will read about the division in chapter 11**.

10:21 To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, children were born. 22 The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. 23 The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. 24 Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber. 25 To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan. 26 Joktan fathered 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 The territory in which they lived extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country of the east. 31 These are the sons of Shem, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations. 32 These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood."

Vs 21 - It is from the word Shem, that we get the word Semite. From Shem came the Semitic people groups. It is through Shem's line that the Hebrews will be born.

In fact, we see it in verse 21, Shem is the father of all the children of **Eber**. Now this seems out of place for Eber is not the son of Shem, or the grandson of Shem, but the great-grandson.

Eber means = "the region beyond." **Hebrew** = "one from beyond."

Eber is the source of the word **Hebrew**. You see **Seth's main significance** is in that from Seth, God would establish the **Hebrew nation**.

Shem is also the oldest brother and elder brother of Japheth.

Now we knew that the Messiah would descend from Shem, but here it is whittled down even further, it will be through Eber. But it will not be through all the sons of Eber, but only one. We will see this develop even further.

Vs 22 - Here we are told about the five sons of Shem namely:

Elam – From Elam would come the **Persian nation**. Daniel tells us this:

8:1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. ² And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal.

Persia was the empire that followed **Babylon**. I would remind you that **Cyrus was a Persian**, who overthrew the Babylonians and directed God's people to be set free. The crazy part is that **Cyrus was named 200 years before he was born**:

44:28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.' (Is 44:28, ESV).

Asshur – Is evidently the founder of the Assyrians. However, as noted in Gen 10:11, Nimrod built Assyria. The best understanding is that Nimrod later invaded the land of Asshur and he is the one who founded Ninevah.

Thus, it is likely that the Assyrians who would invade Israel in 722 BC were a mixture of Semitic and Hamitic peoples.

There are some who believe that Ashur became the Semitic Assyrians (Shem) that were ousted by the Hamitic Assyrians (Nimrod). So the Hamitic Assyrians took their name by associated when they defeated them.

Arpachshad – Little is known of Arpachshad

Lud – According to Josephus, Lud was the ancestor to the Lydians in Asia Minor.

Aram – Is the father of the **Aramaeans**. It was the Aramaic language that would become a leading language in the ancient world. Portions of Daniel and Ezra were written in Aramaic. It was also a common language among the Jews at the time of Christ.

Vs 23 - Next we are told about the four sons of Aram:

Uz – He evidently gave his name to a region of **Arabia** which later was Job's homeland:

1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil (Job 1:1, ESV).

Hul – Modern-day **Jordan**.

Gether – Likely modern-day **Jordan**.

Mash – **Not as sure**.

These three, (Hul, Gether, and Mash or Meschech) are only mentioned here and in the genealogies in I Chronicles.

Vs 24 - Here is what we read of **Arpachshad** fathered: **Shelah** – Likely modern-day **Yemin**.

Shelah is mentioned a total of **nine times** but all of them in Gen 10, 11 and I Chronicles chapter 1.

Eber – Then to Eber (again the source of the word Hebrew) we go on to read about in the next verse.

Vs 25 - After mentioning **Eber** we mention two sons, the first is:

Peleg – We read of **Peleg**, that it was in **his days** that the **earth was divided**. His name is a play on words, for the name **Peleg** means "**divided**."

Something happened in Peleg's day, for it was in his day that the earth was divided. You see in the next chapter we are going to read about this division. Likely, it was in the days of **Peleg**, that the **languages of the earth** were **divided**.

So you know, some postulate that this was a time of great continental drift. While others believe this is rising sea-levels that result in this division. I disagree for two reasons:

1. The catastrophic plate tectonics occurred during the flood.
2. Context of the division (Gen 11)

Here we are told the **earth ארץ ('erets)** earth, land, country, world, were divided. In chapter 11 we are told why the languages would be divided.

Joktan - is mentioned next and notice what is said of Joktan in the next verse and he was the brother to Peleg. He is only mentioned around genealogies in Genesis 10 and in I Chronicles.

Vs 26-29 - Here we are told that Joktan fathered **13 sons** and they are listed for us:

Almodad – Uncertain, Morris indicates southwest Saudi Arabia.

Sheleph – Likely in what we would call southern Yemin.

Hazarmaveth – Best estimate is Yemin.

Jerah – Uncertain.

Hadoram – Uncertain.

Uzal – Southwestern Saudi Arabia, likely Yemin.

Diklah – Morris – Southern Saudi Arabia.

Obal - Modern day Yemin.

Abimael – Morris - Modern Day Oman.

Sheba – Modern day Yemin, some have on the coast of the Persian Gulf.

Ophir - Modern day Ethiopia.

Havilah – Eastern Saudi Arabia possibly on the Persian Gulf.

Jobab – Modern day Oman.

It is interesting to consider that Moses lists 13 sons of Joktan and no further, while at this point, he chooses not to list any of the descendants of Peleg.

Likely, because he is going to shift gears and talk about what went down during the days of Peleg and will pick up **six generations** from **Peleg** in **chapter 11**.

Vs 30 - Next, we are told the territory where they lived. It extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country in the east. As you read this it is crystal clear this is **real lineage**, who begat whom, even down to where they lived on the planet!

Vs 31 - These are the descendants of Shem, by their clans, **by their languages**, by their land, and by their nations. Something happened that divided people by their languages, by their lands, and by their nations: **Genesis 10 is the result - Genesis 11 is the cause.**

Vs 32 - We end here: All of these are the clans of the sons of Noah, are broken apart by their genealogies, we see many of their nations, and we understand that it was from these nations, which birthed many peoples and nations as they spread out on the face of the earth.

We have looked at 70 patriarchs that would become 70 nations. Clearly some if not many are missing, some genealogies only go a few generations. Why were these chosen, we do not know other than to say that these are the ones Yahweh wanted captured as he moved Moses to write Genesis. It is interesting that 70 nations were captured in this listing.