



Genesis – Chapter 9:26-10:20
The Table of the Nations (Ham and Japheth)
(Lesson #19)

9:20 Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. 21 He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. 24 ¶ When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers." 26 He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. 27 May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant." 28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years. 29 All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

Vs 26 -As we set here, following these sins (Noah and Ham) it has been 1700 or more years of time passage since we heard when God said:

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (Ge 3:15 ESV)

What happened to this promise? It was definitely not fulfilled in Noah. We are picking up the thread right here.

Then Noah declares "blessed be Yahweh, the God of Shem", here we see in this prophetic declaration, Shem is given a place above even Japheth.

Why? As far as we can tell the brothers responded the same. Veiled here, but we will see this develop, it is through the lineage of **Shem** that God will indeed **crush the head of the serpent!**

Again, when we see this as only a declaration from Moses, we miss the larger point. God is using this moment to pronounce a curse on the Canaanites (for their future rebellion) and a blessing on Japheth, and a greater blessing through Shem.

Here another thread, a little more information, that the coming deliverer will be the seed of the woman, and he will come through the lineage of Shem. We will continue to develop this thread as we move forward.

OK, the second component of the curse: Let, "Canaan" be the servant of Shem.

Here in a moment, we will actually begin to trace out the nations that descend from Ham. We will see where his fourth son lands and we will see this curse (**prophecy**) play out over time.

Vs 27 - Here additional components of the blessing and the curse. A blessing is pronounced upon Japheth, may God enlarge Japheth!

Now **Japheth's name** means to open or to **enlarge**. So there is play on words going on here.

But interestingly enough, the **Japhethites** would dwell in the **tents of the Shemites**, they would have communion with the Shemites.

This had the idea of friendly association, of common communion. Imagine that Gow will dwell with men. Here the Japhethites will dwell in the tents of the Shemites.

This is understood in different ways, by different scholars. As you continue to consider Japheth, dwelling in the tents of Shem, it is not part of a curse, but part of a blessing.

Japheth, for the most part is Europe and what would become North America, European descendants.

What is amazing, as you think about all this and we will see it unfold, it is the **Japhetite's** (Europe and ultimately North America), to a **much larger degree** have adopted the **God of Shem**, even over the Semitic and Hamitic nations.

Let Japheth dwell in the tents of Shem. Let Canaan be his servant, in this case it seems to be that Canaan will be servant to both Shem and Japheth. We will see this play out as we move through Genesis.

Vs 28 - Here the **chapter concludes** with just a statement of fact, wrapping up the life of Noah. Noah lived an **additional 350 years after the flood**..

Vs 29 - At **950** Noah is one of the oldest living patriarchs. Having served God, having walked with God, **Noah went home**.

Apart from Christ, Noah is a man who we would do well to model. Was he perfect? No, but what a man of faith.

As we come to **Genesis 10**.

There are **Two Important Points** to understand:

- 1) The most important point, the main goal is for us to see the sinfulness of the nations, Israel's unique birth, and their ultimate purpose in God's plan of redemption.
- 2) Chapters 10 and 11 are not in order.

It is important to understand that **Genesis 11:1-9 occurs first** and then most of **Genesis 10 occurs second**. Also, when we get there, I will show you where I believe the **tower of Babel** occurs in the genealogies of Genesis 10.

Point #2:

"1 ¶ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there." (Ge 11:1-2 ESV)

"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." (Ge 10:1-5 ESV)

Genesis 10 provides the genealogies and the ultimate **result**. **Genesis 11** is the **cause**.

In preparation for today's lesson, I uploaded "**The Table of the Nations in Genesis 10 and 11**" document.

Observations from Japheth's lineage:

Observations from Ham's lineage:

Observations from Shem's lineage:

Here in Genesis 10, we have 70 patriarchs and most believe these represent 70 different nations.

Pastor Andy Woods stated: *“if you do not understand Genesis 10, you will not understand your Bible.”*

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 - So we only have recorded the three sons of Noah, we would assume, but we cannot be sure others were born to Noah and his wife prior to the flood, but we do not know for sure.

Equally, we can see here from this account that it was after the flood that sons were born to Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

These are the generations of... We have talked about this Hebrew word before; it is the word: **תולדה (towl'dah)**. It means generations. As I have told you it is likely being used as a subscript, and connects with the author who wrote the previous section. This is the **fourth time** you have seen it, here are the other **three**:

(1:1-2:3) *Ge 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.*

(2:4-4:26) *Ge 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.*

(5:1-6:8) *Ge 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*

(6:9-9:29) Ge 10:1 - Here again... It is likely that these events were being handed down from person to person as the nation of the promised seed continued to develop.

I discussed this possibility in the paper “The Genesis of Genesis.” These records would have arrived in Goshen and would end up in the hands of Moses. He would compile the first five books of the Bible.

Now as we come to the descendants of Japheth, Ham, and Shem, generally, they dispersed as these maps indicate.

Vs 2 - As you think about who is who, please keep in mind, people groups names changed, one people group at times absorbed other people groups, we can only be so certain, of who is who, this far removed.

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** says: “... 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 is. 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 Thirasians; 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 Reginians.”

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:** “... Throgramma the Throgrammeans, 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. **It is in Egypt, that the nation of Israel spent 400 years in captivity. The descendants of Ham, Egypt 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 was building a kingdom in the **land of Shinar**. It is here in Shinar, where the tower of Babel will be constructed:

1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth (Gen 11:1-4, ESV).

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god (Dan 1:1-2, ESV).

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 **he built** (he did not complete Babel, but he did complete) **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 you 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 both Babylon and Nineveh, a major city of the Assyrian nation.

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, (Mongoloid peoples). I do not know we can be sure. But I want you to know.

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, which 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**.
