

Genesis Chapter 10 Commentary

1 Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood.

Vernon McGee points out often that in giving genealogies the evil lines are given first and the lineage of Christ and the continuance of God's people is given in last.

Secondly, we understand from the genealogies given here; that eventually all the nations of the earth were populated. Historians can trace many nations population back to a point, but suffice it to say: the only people who kept genealogy records were the Israelites; and they are the only nation we can be very sure of where they lived throughout time.

We note that this chapter of genealogy is showing the fulfillment of the command given to Noah and his sons in: ***Ge 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.***

I will not take the time and space to express, the many varied opinions of many commentators on which people populated which parts of the earth. Scripture will tell us what we need to know as we go along. It is very interesting though; how many nations and names can be traced back to this very chapter of scripture.

2 The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. 3 And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. 4 And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. 5 By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

Notice that this is a verse telling what will happen in the future. We do not know all the ancestors that were first in this nation (USA); but historians believe that the first people to inhabit this nation were the seed of Japheth. We are a Gentile nation in biblical history.

Go to ***Isaiah chapter 42*** and see the relationship to this verse in Genesis. It is the prophetic picture; that the church of Christ will come, in the future, to the Gentiles, and they shall be grafted into the family of God. Here is one hint: ***Isa 42:4; 1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.***

6 And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan. 7 And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtecha: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan. 8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

Nimrod means rebellion. Nimrod became a mighty one in leading in rebellion against God. Scripture will bring this out in the next chapter. Notice; ***"he began to be a mighty one in the earth"*** which is revealed to us today as the satanic evil (inherent fallen nature), which dwells in the flesh of man.

Prophetically, sin reigns in the heart and fleshly nature of man and has become mighty in the earth, not in Heaven.

9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

That Nimrod was a mighty hunter is what gave him favor in the eyes of men, and helped establish him as a leader over them. We shall see later in scripture that he became so great in the eyes of men that he placed himself in the stead of God. We see this in the attempt to build a tower to heaven. It is a picture of Satan seeking to destroy the souls of men. The same story line (lie) he started with in the Garden of Eden: ***Ge 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.***

10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Nimrod was the one who founded Babel; and Babel was named Babel; because there the Lord confounded the languages of men, as we see in: ***Ge 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.*** He also founded 3 other cities as described here.

We also recognize here; mankind has not just started trying to create a one world leader, as men even today are striving to do. This is the epiphany of the pride of man in revolt against God. Man just doesn't want to admit that God is supreme.

Certainly it began, in the beginning, when satan rose up against God and tried to usurp his authority. It occurred again, when satan tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden. It occurs here in the building of Babel.

11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah,

We have a reference here of a scripture that reveals something to us, seen in: ***Mic 5:6 And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.***

Genesis 9:11 tells us that Asshur (a son of Shem) came forth from Babel and built Nineveh and 3 other cities. Notice that "***the land of Nimrod***" is the gateway or entrance to Assyria. So we see that the influence of Nimrod is carried forward to Assyria. We shall see Nineveh again in the book of Job.

Several commentators agree with: *Adam Clarke's Commentary: Verse 11. [Out of that land went forth Asshur] The marginal reading is to be preferred here. He-Nimrod, went out into Assyria and built Nineveh; and hence Assyria is called the land of Nimrod, Mic 5:6. Thus did this mighty hunter extend his dominions in every possible way. The city of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, is supposed to have had its name from Ninus, the son of Nimrod; but probably Ninus and Nimrod are the same person. This city,*

which made so conspicuous a figure in the history of the world, is now called Mossul; it is an inconsiderable place, built out of the ruins of the ancient Nineveh.

12 And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city. 13 And Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim, 14 And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (out of whom came Philistim,) and Caphtorim. 15 And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth, 16 And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgasite, 17 And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite, 18 And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad. 19 And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha. 20 These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations. 21 Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder, even to him were children born.

From this, and other text; we can draw the conclusion; the three named children of Noah were born in the following order; Japheth, Ham, Shem. This then would be a beginning of the pattern God set in motion; and brings out clearly later on in scripture "***the elder shall serve the younger***" and "***so the last shall be first and the first last***"

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: I. The description of Shem, Ge 10:21. We have not only his name, Shem, which signifies a name, but two titles to distinguish him by: He was the father of all the children of Eber. Eber was his great grandson; but why should he be called the father of all his children, rather than of all Arphaxad's, or Salah's, &c.? Probably because Abraham and his seed, God's covenant people, not only descended from Heber, but from him were called Hebrews; Ge 14:13, Abram the Hebrew. Paul looked upon it as his privilege that he was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, Php 3:5. Eber himself, we may suppose, was a man eminent for religion in a time of general apostasy, and a great example of piety to his family; and, the holy tongue being commonly called from him the Hebrew, it is probable that he retained it in his family, in the confusion of Babel, as a special token of God's favour to him; and from him the professors of religion were called the children of Eber. Now, when the inspired penman would give Shem an honourable title, he calls him the father of the Hebrews.

22 The children of Shem; Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram. 23 And the children of Aram; Uz, and Hul, and Gether, and Mash. 24 And Arphaxad begat Salah; and Salah begat Eber. 25 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. 26 And Joktan begat Almodad, and Sheleph, and Hazarmaveth, and Jerah, 27 And Hadoram, and Uzal, and Diklah, 28 And Obal, and Abimael, and Sheba, 29 And Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab: all these were the sons of Joktan. 30 And their dwelling was from Mesha, as thou goest unto Sephar a mount of the east. 31 These are the sons of Shem, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations. 32 These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.

Divided means: *to break through, spread or separate (oneself), disperse, divide, be out of joint, part, scatter abroad, separate self, sever self, stretch, sunder.* We understand from the definition of "***and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.***" that it was not like they got together and said; you go to this country and I will go there, but rather, it simply means that they spread out over the earth and populated it.

By these sons of Noah was the earth populated; that God's command might be fulfilled in: ***Ge 9:1*** ***And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*** In creation all human life descended from Adam and Eve. After the flood; all human life descended from Noah and these three sons of Noah.