

NOON BIBLE STUDY: GENESIS 10

WE NOW BEGIN TO LEARN ABOUT LIFE IN THE "NEW WORLD" THAT IS POST-FLOOD EARTH. NOAH HAS DIED, AND THE FAMILIES OF HIS THREE SONS WILL LITERALLY REPOPULATE THE EARTH. THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR TRAVELS WILL DRAW THE NATIONAL AND CULTURAL LINES THAT MAKE UP WHAT WE KNOW OF WORLD HISTORY. WE WILL READ WHAT IS TYPICALLY THOUGHT OF AS THE "BORING" PARTS OF THE BIBLE - A GENEALOGY - BUT THE NAMES AND PLACES OF THIS CHAPTER WILL SHAPE THE WORLD.

HERE'S A HELPFUL NOTE FROM THE ESV STUDY BIBLE ABOUT THE FORMAT OF THIS CHAPTER: THIS ENTIRE PASSAGE SETS OUT, LARGELY IN THE FORM OF LISTS, HOW THE DESCENDANTS OF NOAH'S THREE SONS POPULATE DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE EARTH. ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF SPECIAL INTEREST ARE OCCASIONALLY ADDED. THIS GENEALOGICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL PASSAGE IS DESCRIBING A PROCESS THAT COVERED A LONG TIME, AS FAMILY CLANS MIGRATED TO PARTICULAR REGIONS (SEE MAP). THE ANCESTOR AFTER WHOM THE CLAN OR TRIBE IS NAMED MAY NOT HAVE LIVED IN THE REGION THAT LATER BEARS HIS NAME. EACH OF THE THREE MAIN PARTS OF THIS SECTION CONCLUDES WITH A REFERENCE TO CLANS, LANGUAGES, AND NATIONS" (ESV STUDY BIBLE, GENESIS 10:1-32)

GENESIS 10:1-5 - JAPHETH'S LINE

THERE ISN'T MUCH WE LEARN ABOUT JAPHETH'S LINE OTHER THAN HIS SONS AND THE FACT THAT THEY SETTLED ALONG THE "COASTLANDS".

GENESIS 10:5 (NLT) - THEIR DESCENDANTS BECAME THE SEAFARING PEOPLES THAT SPREAD OUT TO VARIOUS LANDS, EACH IDENTIFIED BY ITS OWN LANGUAGE, CLAN, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY.

PERHAPS YOU RECOGNIZE A FEW OF THE NAMES LISTED IN THIS FIRST SECTION (AND THE REST OF THE CHAPTER FOR THAT MATTER).

MAGOG (V. 2) - MENTIONED LATER IN SCRIPTURE AS A FINAL NATION SATAN WILL USE TO ATTACK GOD'S PEOPLE (EZEKIEL 38, 39, REVELATION 20:8)

TARSHISH (V. 4) - THE MEDETERIANIAN PORT CITY THAT JONAH FLED TO WHEN HE RAN FROM THE LORD RATHER THAN PREACHING AT NINEVAH.

KITTIM (V. 4) - LATER USED IN SCRIPTURE OF THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS AND IN GENERAL FOR LANDS FAR WEST OF ISRAEL.

(SEE MAP ON FINAL PAGE)

GENESIS 10:6-14 - HAM'S LINE

AS WE READ THESE VERSES, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO REMEMBER THE EVENTS OF GENESIS 9. HAM "SAW HIS FATHER(NOAH)'S NAKEDNESS" (9:22) AND AS A RESULT WAS CURSED BY NOAH - MORE SPECIFICALLY HIS SON CANAAN WAS CURSED (V. 25). NOAH

ALSO PROPHETICALLY PRONOUNCED THAT HAM'S DESCENDANTS WOULD BE THE SERVANTS OF SHEM AND JAPHETH'S DESCENDANTS. VERSES 6-14 INTRODUCE US TO HAM'S SONS, AND SPECIFICALLY CANAAN.

ESV STUDY BIBLE: "HAM'S DESCENDANTS RECEIVE CONSIDERABLY MORE ATTENTION THAN THOSE OF JAPHETH AND SHEM. AMONG THEM FIGURE MANY OF ISRAEL'S ENEMIES, SUCH AS THE EGYPTIANS, BABYLONIANS, PHILISTINES, AND VARIOUS CANAANITE GROUPS. HAM'S IMMEDIATE SONS ARE CUSH, EGYPT, PUT, AND CANAAN (V. 6)."

WE WILL LEARN MUCH ABOUT THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF CANAAN IN GENESIS (AS WELL AS EXODUS-JUDGES) BUT THESE SCRIPTURES ACTUALLY HIGHLIGHT ANOTHER ONE OF HAM'S SONS THAT WILL BE SIGNIFICANT FOE FOR GOD'S AND HIS PEOPLE.

V. 8-12 - NIMROD - NIMROD IS CALLED "A MIGHTY ONE", A "MIGHTY HUNTER BEFORE THE LORD" AND IS THE FIRST LEADER OF WHAT IS THE FIRST KINGDOM ON THE EARTH - BABEL, WHICH WILL LATER BECOME BABYLON (WHICH WE WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT IN GENESIS 11). NIMROD FOUNDED/BUILD A NUMBER OF VERY SIGNIFICANT CITIES IN THE REGION OF SHINAR (BABYLON & ASSYRIA). IT IS FROM THIS AREA THAT THE GREAT EMPIRES OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION WILL GROW. THE FIRST OF THESE BEING THE EMPIRE OF ASSYRIA (CAPITAL NINEVEH) FOLLOWED BY BABYLON ITSELF.

THESE EMPIRES WILL NOT ONLY CONSISTENTLY BE AT ODDS WITH GOD'S PEOPLE - BUT THEY ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "SYSTEM OF THIS WORLD" WHICH IS AT ODDS WITH GOD'S RULE AND DOMAIN. THOUGH NIMROD IS CALLED "A MIGHTY HUNTER BEFORE THE LORD" THE FOUNDING OF HIS OWN KINGDOM DOMAIN IS NOT ALIGNED WITH GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSES ON THE EARTH. GOD WAS TO BE KING OVER THE EARTH, NOT A NIMROD LIKE CUSH'S SON, NO MATTER HOW MIGHTY HE MAY HAVE BEEN.

GENESIS 10 DOESN'T GIVE US A LOT OF COMMENTARY ABOUT THIS MOMENT, BUT AS THE SCRIPTURES UNFOLD, ONE CAN SEE HOW THIS MOMENT SHAPED THE FUTURE.

V. 14 - THIS SECTION ENDS WITH A MENTION OF CASLUHIM, AN UNKNOWN FIGURE TO US TODAY, BUT WHOSE DESCENDANTS WILL BE WELL KNOWN - THE PHILISTINES.

GENESIS 10:15-20 - HAM'S SON, CANAAN'S LINE

(REMEMBER AGAIN WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT HAM AND CANAAN FROM GENESIS 9.) SOME OF THESE NAMES (ESPECIALLY V. 1-17) WILL LIKELY BE FAMILIAR AS THEY ARE INCLUDED LATER AS THE FAMOUS "-ITES" THAT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WILL ENCOUNTER.

GENESIS 10:21-32 - SHEM'S LINE

SHEM IS NOAH'S OLDEST SON AND IT IS THROUGH HIS LINE THAT ABRAHAM AND THE NATION OF ISRAEL WILL EVENTUALLY TRACE THEIR LINEAGE (WE'LL LEARN THAT IN GENESIS 11 & 12).

SHEM HAS 5 SONS (ELAM, ASSHUR, ARPAKSHAD, LUD AND ARAM) WHO HAVE MORE SONS - BUT BEFORE EVEN SHEM'S SONS ARE LISTED, HIS GREAT-GRANDSON IS MENTIONED - EBER. SHEM, THE SON OF NOAH IS IDENTIFIED AS "THE FATHER OF THE CHILDREN OF EBER". WHY IS THIS MENTIONED?

THIS SPECIAL FOCUS IS LIKELY BECAUSE IT IS THROUGH **SHEM'S** LINE, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THROUGH HIS GREAT GRANDSON **EBER'S** FAMILY THAT GOD IS GOING TO WEAVE HIS REDEMPTION STORY. EBER IS THE HEBREW WORD "*EBER*" WHICH IS WHERE WE GET

THE HEBREW WORD " /BR/ "FROM. THE WORD "IBRI" IS WHAT IS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AS "HEBREW". THE HEBREW PEOPLE - THE DESCENDANTS OF EBER - WILL BE THE SPECIAL PEOPLE GOD CHOOSES TO BLESS AND WORK THROUGH AND WITH ON THE EARTH!

GENESIS 11 WILL ELABORATE FURTHER ON THE LINE OF EBER. EBER WILL FATHER PELEG WHO WILL FATHER REU WHO WILL FATHER SERUG WHO WILL BE THE FATHER OF NAHOR WHO WILL BE THE FATHER OF TERAH WHO WILL BE THE FATHER OF ABRAHAM (GENESIS 11:16-26).

ALL OF THIS BEGINS WAY BACK IN THE GENEALOGY IN GENESIS 10!

ONE FINAL POINT ON THIS SECTION. VERSE 25 MENTIONS THAT ONE OF EBER'S SONS, PELEG, WAS ALIVE IN THE "DAYS THE EARTH WAS DIVIDED." THIS LIKELY POINTS US TO WHAT WE WILL READ NEXT IN GENESIS 11. THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE SPIRIT AND PURPOSES OF HUMANITY ON THE EARTH DURING THESE YEARS AFTER THE FLOOD - WE WILL SOON SEE INTO THEIR HEARTS AND INTENTIONS. SOMETHING BIG IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN THAT WILL CHANGE THINGS ON THE EARTH YET AGAIN. WE KNOW THERE ISN'T A FLOOD ON THE HORIZON BUT A DIVISION WILL OCCUR TO THWART HUMANITY'S PLANS AS THEY ONCE AGAIN TURN AWAY FROM GOD.



MANY OF THE PEOPLE GROUPS MENTIONED IN GENESIS 10 CAN BE IDENTIFIED WITH RELATIVE CERTAINTY. IN GENERAL, THE DESCENDANTS OF HAM SETTLED IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COAST, THE DESCENDANTS OF SHEM IN MESOPOTAMIA AND ARABIA, AND THE DESCENDANTS OF JAPHETH IN EUROPE AND THE GREATER AREA OF ASIA MINOR.