

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 10-11

Journey through the Bible (11)

Period 3 - The Scattering of Nations

- Recorded in **Genesis 10-11**
- Consists of 3 events
 - The “Table of Nations”
 - The tower of Babel
 - The lineage from Noah to Abram
- Time frame - ~2400-2100 BC

Table of Nations - **Genesis 10**

- AKA, “The Descendants of Noah”
- Noah had 3 sons, from which all nations originated.
- With some research we can discern where each of the descendants are believed to have settled, and the nationalities that developed

Table of Nations - **Genesis 10**

- Japheth, **10:2-5**
Had 7 sons, and 7 of their offspring are mentioned (certainly there were many more)
- They included “the coastland peoples of the Gentiles”.
From Japheth we have many European nations and some from Asia.
Waldron states his descendants included Italians, Greeks, Spanish, Medes and Persians and others.

Table of Nations - **Genesis 10**

- Ham, **10:6-20**

4 sons listed, and numerous other descendants.

Among his offspring we have Babel, Shinar, Assyria (Nineveh), Calneh and Canaan (where the “Promised Land” would be).

Mentioned are Sidonians, Sodom and Gomorrah, & the Jebusites

Regionally, they settled in Africa, Canaan and a portion of the Persian Gulf.

Table of Nations - **Genesis 10**

- Ham, **10:6-20**
Nations included Ethiopians, Egyptians, Canaanites, Arabians, Philistines and early Babylonians.
- Nimrod (**10:8-12**), a “mighty hunter before the LORD” established a kingdom (first mention in scripture) which included influential nations in later Bible history (Assyria, Babel, etc.)

Table of Nations - **Genesis 10**

- Shem, **10:21-32**
Through his descendants, the seed promise would continue
- 5 sons are mentioned, and several other descendants.
10:21, “the father of all the children of Eber”, likely a reference to the Hebrews. Eber is mentioned in the lineage to Abram (**11:14-17**)

Table of Nations - **Genesis 10**

- Shem, **10:21-32**

Nations descending from Shem would include the Israelites, Edomites, Moabites, Arabian tribes, etc.

Table of Nations - **Genesis 10**

- Shem, **10:21-32**
- Mentioned also is Peleg (**10:25**) “for in his days the earth was divided”
This is likely a reference to the tower of Babel
- Genesis 10 is a summary of developing nations over the first few centuries after the flood.

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- Timeframe, likely ~2300-2200 BC, between 100 & 300 years after the flood. Many say about 100 years later (**cf. Genesis 11:17-18** - Peleg was born about 100 years after the flood). If a century, the estimated population would be about 30,000. The number could be much greater if it was later. This is mere speculation.

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- Recall **Genesis 9:1, 7, 18-19** - from Noah's 3 sons the earth was populated. Vs. 1 notes they were told to multiply and "fill the earth". This was God's intention!
- **Genesis 11:1-2** notes, "*the whole earth had one language and one speech*" This unity led to a desire to build a tower to the heavens and to make a name for themselves (**11:3-4**)

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- **11:5-6**, the LORD came down to see the city and was concerned. THEY (plural) spoke of where this would lead. Nothing they purposed would be withheld from them.
- Problems with this:
 - 1) They were not filling the earth
 - 2) God was not in their plans
- God takes measures to keep the world from again totally abandoning Him

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- **11:7**, They (God) confuse their language.
- **11:8**, as a result the people were scattered abroad “over the face of all the earth.”
- **11:9**, they ceased building and the name of the city was Babel (confusion)
Again, the scattering is mentioned.

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- Some lessons to consider:
- God means what He says and says what He means.

The earth was created for man to inhabit and subdue - **Genesis 1:28**, **Isaiah 45:18**, He formed the earth “to be inhabited”

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- Some lessons to consider:
- When we make plans, we must NOT leave God out of our plans

Psalm 127:1, *Unless the LORD builds the house...*

Proverbs 3:5-6, *trust in the LORD... in all your ways acknowledge Him*

James 4:13-15 - “If the Lord wills...”

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- Some lessons to consider:
- In our plans, let us remember to glorify God

What was happening was a repeating of what led to the flood

1 Peter 4:11, *in all things God may be glorified*

1 Corinthians 10:31, *do all to the glory of God*

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- Some lessons to consider:
- Your bad decisions will not stop God's will

Psalm 33:11, *the counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations*

Proverbs 19:21, the LORD's counsel - that will stand

Romans 8:28, all things work together for good... according to His purpose

The Tower of Babel - **Genesis 11:1-9**

- Some lessons to consider:
- **Consider the power of unity**
While misplaced in our text, the LORD understand that when man is united, “nothing they purpose to do will be withheld”
- That applies equally when we work together to do His will - **Ephesians 4:1-3, Amos 3:3, Ephesians 4:16, etc.**

From Noah to Abram- **Genesis 11:10-26**

- This text continues the genealogy from **Genesis 5** which traced the seed from Adam (through Seth) to Noah.

This text takes us from Noah to Abram.

God's plan for man's redemption continues to unfold

From Noah to Abram- **Genesis 11:10-26**

- Some observations about this list.
 - We are reminded that men die (though not stated as in **Gen. 5**)
 - Notice that ages begin to decline
 - Noah - 900 years, Shem - 600 years
 - Arphaxad - 438 years, Salah - 433 yrs
 - Eber - 464 years, Peleg - 239 years,
 - Reu - 239 years, Serug - 230 years,
 - Nahor - 148 years, Terah - 205 years,
 - Abram - 175 (**Gen 25:7**)

Are you including
God in your plans?

Let us pray!