

Genesis 10 - The Nations From Noah's 3 Sons; Nimrod; The Founding of Babylon and Nineveh

I. Prologue: Primeval history (Gen 1:1—11:9)

(3) The terrible progress of sin (Gen 4:1—11:9)

(C) Tower of Babel (Gen 10:1—11:9)

(a) Table of nations (10:1-32)

(i) Line of Japheth (10:1-5)

(ii) Line of Ham (10:6-14)

(iii) Line of Canaan (10:15-20)

(iv) Line of Shem (10:21-32)

Toledoth of the Sons of Noah (Gen 10:1—11:9)

The purpose of the section (10:1-32) involves three things regarding the status of Israel and of the Gentile nations:

1. God showed His divine providence in the distribution of the nations.
2. God showed the relationship of Israel to the other nations (Deut 32:8-9) in that when He gave different peoples territories on the earth, this division was based in part on the number of Jews that would play a role in that nation's history.
3. God showed the unity of humanity, that there is no such thing as racial or ethnic superiority. Even the election of Israel was not based on ethnic superiority, nor did the election of Israel give them ethnic superiority. On the contrary, Israel's election was for the purpose of fulfilling God's divine program, and it placed upon Israel a greater responsibility and accountability.

With very few deviations, Gen 10 is copied in 1 Chr 1:4-23, showing that it was taken to be quite historical.

The division of humanity covers four areas: geographical, dialectical, tribal, and national (v5,20,31). The names in Gen 10 fall into four categories: some names are listed as individuals, some as tribes, some as cities, and some as nations.

The Chronology of Gen 10-11

The chronology of Gen 10-11 is reversed: the events of Gen 11:1-9 occurred before the dispersion of the nations in Gen 10. Note the difference between 11:1 and 10:5:

Gen 11:1: Now all the earth **used the same language** and the same words.

Gen 10:5: From these *the people of* the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, **every one according to his language**, according to their families, into their nations. (Cf. 10:20,31)

Gen 11:1-9 is the cause, Gen 10 is the result.

Genesis 10

(C) Tower of Babel (Gen 10:1—11:9)

(a) Table of nations (10:1-32)

(i) Line of Japheth (10:1-5)

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

1 Now these are *the records of* the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.

1 These are the records of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, to whom descendants were born after the flood.

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

- "...these are *the records of* the generations of" - *toledoth*, the various *toledoths* throughout Genesis help us understand how the book came into existence

— This *toledoth* was likely written by one of Noah's sons, which was passed down to Moses sometime shortly after the Exodus, who compiled it with the other *toledoths* and, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, compiled Genesis

Toledoths in Genesis

1. Introduction to the Generations (1:1—2:3)

2. Generations of the heaven and earth (2:4—4:26)

3. Generations of Adam (5:1—6:8)

4. Generations of Noah (6:9—9:29)

5. Generations of the sons of Noah (10:1—11:9)

6. Generations of Shem (11:10-26)

7. Generations of Terah (11:27—25:11)

8. Generations of Ishmael (25:12-18)

9. Generations of Isaac (25:19—35:29)

10. Generations of Esau (36:1—37:1)

11. Generations of Jacob (37:2—50:26)

| NOAH (70*) | | |
|---|--|---|
| SHEM (26) | HAM (30*) | JAPHETH (14) |
| 1. Elam 2. Asshur 3. Arpachshad - Shelah - Eber - Peleg - Joktan - Almodad - Sheleph - Hazarmaveth - Jerah - Hadoram - Uzal - Diklah - Obal - Abimael - Sheba - Ophir - Havilah - Jobab 4. Lud 5. Aram - Uz - Hul - Gether - Mash | 1. Cush - Seba - Havilah - Sabtah - Raamah - Sheba - Dedan - Sabteca - Nimrod 2. Mizraim - Ludim - Anamim - Lehabim - Naphtuhim - Pathrusim - Casluhim (Philistines) - Caphtorim 3. Put 4. Canaan - Sidon - Heth - Jebusites - Amorites - Girgashites - Hivites - Arkites - Sinites - Arvadites - Zemarites - Hamathites | 1. Gomer - Ashkenaz - Riphath - Togarmah 2. Magog 3. Madai 4. Javan - Elishah - Tarshish - Kittim - Dodanim 5. Tubal 6. Meshech 7. Tiras |

* Number of nations, not counting Nimrod.

2 The sons of Japheth were **Gomer**, **Magog**, **Madai**, **Javan**, **Tubal**, **Meshech**, and **Tiras**.

2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer and Magog and Madai and Javan and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras.

2 Japheth's descendants included Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

2 The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras.

- The lineage of Japheth is mentioned first, although he was the youngest; the listing of lineage here goes from lesser to greater relative to Israel (youngest to oldest), as a crescendo to Shem, who carried the messianic line, into Abraham. The principle of dealing with the oldest son last is repeated many times in Genesis.

— The genealogy of the non-elect is always placed before the chosen line: Cain before Seth (Gen 4-5); Ishmael before Isaac (Gen 25); Esau before Jacob (Gen 36-37). The choice of Shem and the rejection of Ham has already been intimated (9:25-27), and is confirmed in this chapter.

— The seven sons of Japheth primarily settled to the north and west of Israel (Europe and eventually North America). Japheth's lineage is passed over quickly without much comment because they have the least involvement in the OT narrative.

- "...Gomer" - modern day (north central) Turkey; area south of the Black Sea. *Gomer founded those whom the Greeks now call Galatians*. [Josephus, *Antiquities*, 1.6.1]

- "...Magog" - the "stans": Kazakhstan, Usbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan; located between the Black and Caspian Seas

— *Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians* [Josephus, *Antiquities* 1.6.1]

— The Scythians migrated from central Asia to southern Russia in the 8th-7th century BC

- "...Madai" - Medes; area of the Caspian Sea (2 Kings 17:6; 18:11; Is 13:17; 21:2; Jer 25:25; 51:11,28). It is believed some descendants migrated to India.

- "...Javan" - Greeks; the Hellenic race; settled along the Aegean Coast of Asia Minor.

Connected with Tarshish and Tubal (Is 66:19); Meshech and Tubal (Ezek 27:13);

Phoenicians and Philistines (Joel 3:6).

- "...Tubal" - Heroditus' *Histories* (450 BC) speaks of both Tubal and Meshech as dwelling SE of the Black Sea, which would include modern day Turkey

- "...Meshech" - Josephus says that Meshech were the Cappadocians [*Antiquities*, 1.6.1], who settled in eastern Turkey (Cf. 1 Peter 1:1)

- "...Tiras" - a number of scholars (certainly not a majority) believe the phonetics of this word has changed, and subsequently changed to Rosh. Others believe it refers to the Italians.

— Wilhelm Gesenius, considered the father of lexicography (the art and science of compiling definitions), said that "undoubtedly" Rosh is Russia [Gesenius' *Hebrew and*

Chaldee Lexicon (Samuel Bagster and Sons, 1847; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987), 752.]

— Gesenius came to this conclusion in 1842, long before the communist revolution in Russia (1917), while Russia was still a Christian Orthodox nation

— Charles L. Feinberg in his commentary *The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord*, also concluded that Rosh = Russia

3 The sons of Gomer *were* **Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.**

3 The sons of Gomer *were* Ashkenaz and Riphath and Togarmah.

3 Gomer's descendants included Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

3 And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah.

- "...Ashkenaz" - Germany; Denmark

- "...Riphath" - also called Diphath (1 Chr 1:6); Josephus locates them as Paphlagonians, between the Black Seas and Bythnia, on southern edge of the Black Sea; also thought to be a distant northern tribe

- "...Togarmah" - Cappadocia, Armenia, Asia Minor (Cf. Ezek 27:14; 38:6); also thought to be a distant northern tribe. Josephus [*Antiquities*, 1.6.1] links Togarmah with the Phrygians, modern day western Turkey.

4 The sons of Javan *were* **Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.**

4 The sons of Javan *were* Elishah and Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim.

4 Javan's descendants included Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim,

4 And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

- "...Elishah" - Cyprus; Crete

- "...Tarshish" - Spain, more specifically southern Spain, near Gibraltar

- "...Kittim" - Cyprus (separate than Elishah's section of Cyprus)

- "...Dodanim" - also called Rodanim (1 Chr 1:7); northern Greece, Macedonia

5 From these *the people of* the **coastlands of the nations** were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

5 From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

5 from whom the coastal nations spread into their own lands and nations, each with their own language and family groups.

5 By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

- "...coastlands of the nations" - a phrase by which the Hebrews described all countries which were accessible by sea (Is 11:11; 20:6; Jer 25:22); refers to transoceanic areas, to

both east and west

- This verse describes a three-fold basis of division of Noah's descendants: language, family (including tribal divisions), and their nations (referring to national divisions)
- This verse describes a total of 14 nations, and the time span given here is two generations. The division based on language shows that Gen 10 was written after the dispersion of mankind outlined in Gen 11.

Why does the Bible always use such "strange" names? We force it to: we keep changing the name of things (Petrograd/St Petersburg/Leningrad/St Petersburg; Byzantium/Constantinople/Istanbul; et al.); but we don't change the names of our ancestors!

(ii) Line of Ham (10:6-14)

The descendants of Ham (v6-20) formed the eastern and southern peoples of Mesopotamia. The Cushites (descendants of Cush) settled in south Arabia, and in present-day southern Egypt, Sudan, and northern Ethiopia. They became mingled with Semitic tribes dwelling in the same region; hence there is repetition of some of the names in other lines.

The final Hamite line that was significant for Israel was the Canaanite group. Once again the listing employs "begot" (*yalad*) to list the cities and tribes of peoples living in the Promised Land. Sidon was the predominant Phoenician city. Hittites (*hòet*, "Heth") is problematic, but may refer to a pocket of Hittites from the early movements of tribes. The Jebusites dwelt in Jerusalem. Amorite was a general reference to western Semites, but here points to a smaller ethnic group in the mixed population of Canaan. The other seven Canaanite tribal names are less problematic; they were tribes that settled in Lebanon, Hamath on the Orontes River, and all through the land. Their listing is significant after the passage pronouncing the curse on Canaan (9:25-27). Among the Hamites are found not just all the Canaanite peoples but Israel's other great enemies, Egypt (Mizraim), Babylon and Assyria.

6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

6 The sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan.

6 Ham's descendants included Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan.

6 And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.

- "...sons of Ham" - they moved into southwest Asia and northeast Africa, including the area of Canaan, southern Asia Minor, western Saudi Arabia, and west to Egypt and south of Egypt

— These people-groups became perennial enemies of Israel (Egyptians, Canaanites, v15-20)

- "...Cush" - Ethiopians [Josephus, *Antiquities*, 1.6.2]; Cush bordered Egypt to the south, which is modern-day Sudan

- "...Mizraim" - a Hebrew dual for Egypt, comprising the lower and the upper divisions of that land. The two capitals of Egypt were Memphis and Thebes. Sheba was in southwest Arabia (Cf. the Queen of Sheba, 1 Kings 10:1-13), and Dedan was in northern Arabia.

— Some of the people in these ancient kingdoms traced their lineage to Joktan from Shem (Gen 10:29). So there was a mixing in the settlement. Seba was in Upper Egypt. Havilah ("sand-land") could refer to northern and eastern Arabia on the Persian Gulf or the Ethiopian coast. Sabtah, ancient Hadhramaut, was on the western shore of the Persian Gulf. Raamah and Sabtecah were in southern Arabia.

- "...Put" - or Phut; identified as Libya [Josephus, *Antiquities*, 1.6.2]. Put is the only son of Ham whose genealogy is not given.

- "...Canaan" - the cursed son of Ham (see notes on 9:22,24-25)

7 The sons of Cush were **Seba**, **Havilah**, **Sabtah**, **Raamah**, and **Sabteca**; and the sons of Raamah were **Sheba** and **Dedan**.

7 The sons of Cush were Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

7 Cush's descendants included Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca.

Raamah's descendants included Sheba and Dedan.

7 And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabteca: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan.

- "...Seba" - upper Egypt; Sudan

- "...Havilah" - southern Arabia

- "...Sabtah" - west coast of the Persian Gulf

- "...Raamah" - southwest Saudi Arabia; Oman

- "...Sabteca" - Ethiopia

- "...Sheba" - southwest Saudi Arabia; Yemen; home of Queen of Sheba

- "...Dedan" - northwestern Saudi Arabia; also connected with Edom (Jer 25:23; 49:8; Ezek 25:13)

8 Now Cush fathered **Nimrod**; he became **a mighty one** on the earth.

8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.

8 Cush fathered Nimrod, who became the first fearless leader throughout the land.

8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

- "...Nimrod" - "we will revolt" or "to rebel" ; the sixth son of Cush (first five mentioned in v7a; Cf. 1 Chr 1:10; Micah 5:6). You will not find a more fitting "type" of the future Antichrist in all of the Bible than Nimrod.

- "...a mighty one" - Nimrod is called "mighty" 3x (v8-9)

9 He was a mighty hunter **before** the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter **before** the LORD."

9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD."

9 He became a fearless hunter in defiance of the LORD. That is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a fearless hunter in defiance of the LORD."

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

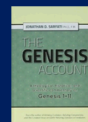
- "...before" [2x] - "in defiance of"; this verse deals with Nimrod's relationship to God: he was a mighty hunter "before the LORD."

— The terminology implies antagonism against and in opposition to God [Fruchtenbaum]. Nimrod had no respect for human rights nor the fact that human beings are image-bearers of God. We learn from the Jerusalem Targum that Nimrod was a hunter of both animals and humans.

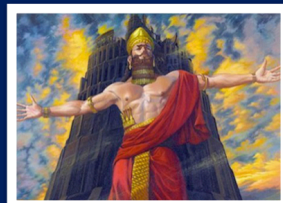


The Jerusalem Targum

Jonathan D. Sarfati, *The Genesis Account: A Theological, Historical, and Scientific Commentary on Genesis 1–11* (Powder Springs, GA: Creation Book Publishers, 2015), 642.



The Jerusalem Targum paraphrases this passage as follows: "He was powerful in hunting and in wickedness before the Lord for **he was a hunter of the sons of men**, as he said to them, 'Depart from the judgment of the Lord and hear the judgement of Nimrod.' Therefore, it is said as Nimrod the strong one, strong in hunting, and wickedness before the Lord."



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

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

10 His kingdom began in the region of Shinar with the cities of Babylon, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh.

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

- "...his kingdom" - Nimrod was building a kingdom, a counterfeit/satanic kingdom on the earth

— Every person born is born into this kingdom of darkness until the gospel penetrates their heart and mind (Cf. Acts 26:17-18; Col 1:13)

- Where was Nimrod's kingdom located? It has two parts:

— First, he built four cities around Babel (Babylon), thus setting the stage for the Babylonian Captivity.

- "...Babel" - Babylon, phase 1; Assyria, phase 2 (v11)

— Interesting that centuries later, both Assyria and Babylon, arch-enemies of Israel, would be used as God's tools for judgment against a disobedient Israel

— Nimrod planted the seeds of hatred for God and His people in both Babylon and Assyria, and later God used both nations/empires to discipline Israel

— Micah 5:6 calls the land of Assyria "the land of Nimrod"

- "...Erech" - located 100 miles south of Babylon

- "...Accad" - well-known to be located north of Babylon, along the Euphrates

- "...Calneh" - location unknown

- "...land of Shinar" - "between the rivers" (Tigris and Euphrates); also called Mesopotamia (*meso* = "middle"; *potamia* = "rivers")

— Shinar was not just the location of a previous world capital; it's also the location of a future world capital (Cf. Zech 5:5-11; Rev 17-18)

— A.W. Pink said: "The vision or prophecy (Zech 5) contains the germ which is afterward expanded and developed in such detail in Rev 17-18." [*The Antichrist*, 281]

Nimrod

- "Rebel"
- First "World Dictator"
- Founder of Babylon & Nineveh
- Ancestor of the Aramean tribes in the steppes of Mesopotamia. His descendants (v23) are not well known.

Inserted in this table of nations is the story of Nimrod. This is the first "begot" (NIV, "was the father of") section and forms a major stylistic break from the tribal names preceding it. Attempts to identify or date Nimrod have proven unsuccessful. Because his name seems to

be connected with the verb "to rebel" (*marad*), tradition has identified him with tyrannical power. He was the founder of the earliest imperial world powers in Babylon and Assyria. The table simply presents him as a mighty hunter, a trait found commonly in Assyrian kings. He was founder of several powerful cities. The centers he established became major enemies of Israel.

Alexander Hislop, in his book, *The Two Babylons*, gives the background of how Nimrod was responsible for the Tower of Babel. It was he who attempted to bring together the human race after the Flood in an effort to get them united into a nation of which he could become the great world ruler. He was the rebel, the founder of Babel, the hunter of the souls of men. He was the lawless one, and he is a shadow or a type of the last world ruler, the Antichrist who is yet to appear. The first great civilization, therefore, came out from the sons of Ham.

Nimrod persuaded mankind not to ascribe their happiness to God, but to think that his own excellency was the source of it. And he soon changed things into a tyranny, thinking that there was no other way to wean men from the fear of God, than by making them rely upon his own power. —Josephus, Antiquities of Jews, l.c.4.2.

From the foundation of the world none was ever found like Nimrod, powerful in hunting, and in rebellions against the Lord. —Targum of Jonathan

He was powerful in hunting and in wickedness before the Lord for he was a hunter of the sons of men, and he said to them, 'Depart from the judgment of the Lord, and adhere to the judgment of Nimrod!' There is it said, 'As Nimrod is the strong one, strong in hunting, and in wickedness before the Lord.' —Jerusalem Targum

Cush begat Nimrod, who began to prevail in wickedness, for he shed innocent blood, and rebelled against Jehovah. —Chaldee paraphrase of 1 Chr 1:10

11 From **that land** he **went** to Assyria, and built **Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah,**

11 From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah,

11 From there he went north to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, and Calah,

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

- "...that land" - Babylon; something happened that pushed Nimrod out of Babylon/Mesopotamia and to Assyria

— The reason Nimrod left Babylon for Assyria is noted in 11:1-9: The context of that passage indicates that Nimrod was the actual leader of the revolt of the Tower of Babel, and it was the confusion of tongues that forced Nimrod to go from Babylonia to Assyria.

- "...Nineveh" - known as early as 2800 BC, it was the center of the powerful Assyrian kingdom, which attained its height under Sennacherib, Esarhaddon, and Ashurbanipal

— It was situated on the Tigris River, about 200-250 miles from the city of Babylon. It was against this stronghold that Jonah and Nahum directed their prophecies.

- "...Rehoboth-Ir" - present day Rebit, a suburb of Nineveh

- "...Calah" - present day Kalhu, located 18 miles south of Nineveh on the Tigris River, near the modern town of Nimrud

12 and **Resen** between Nineveh and Calah; **that is the great city.**

12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

12 along with Resen, which was located between Nineveh and the great city of Calah.

12 And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city.

- "...Resen" - located between Nineveh and Calah, present day Risdu

- "...that is the great city" - all four cities made up Nineveh, so it made up a great metropolis

— All these cities were originally Hamitic cities, but over the course of time, they became Semitic cities; the Hamites were displaced by the Shemites

13 **Mizraim** fathered **Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,**

13 Mizraim became the father of Ludim and Anamim and Lehabim and Naphtuhim

13 Egypt fathered the Ludites, the Anamites, the Lehabites, the Naphtuhites,

13 And Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim,

- "...Mizraim" - Ham's second son

- "...Ludim" - Lydia, northern Africa

- "...Anamim" - Cyrene

- "...Lehabim" - Egypt; Libya

- "...Nathtuhim" - lower Egypt; the people of Memphis

14 **Pathrusim, Casluhim** (from whom came the Philistines), and **Caphtorim.**

14 and Pathrusim and Casluhim (from which came the Philistines) and Caphtorim.

14 the Pathrusites, the Casluhites (from which came the Philistines), and the Caphtorites.

14 And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (out of whom came Philistim,) and Caphtorim.

- "Pathrusim" - upper Egypt

- "...Casluhim" - the Philistines

- "...Caphtorim" - Crete

(iii) Line of Canaan (10:15-20)

15 Canaan fathered **Sidon**, his firstborn, and **Heth**,

15 Canaan became the father of Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth

15 Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn, along with the Hittites,

15 And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth,

- "...Canaan" - Ham's fourth son, the cursed son, had a total of 11 sons. Now begins a list of the eleven sons of Canaan; these became known as the Canaanites (v15-18):

- Sidon
- Heth
- Jebusite
- Amorite
- Gihonite
- Hivite
- Arkite
- Sinite
- Arvadite
- Zemarite
- Hamathite

— These descendants were all under the curse of Ham's son Canaan (9:25) because he uncovered his father's nakedness (9:22)

— Later, in Deut 7:1-5, God commands the Israelites through Moses to completely wipe out the Canaanites, after God gave them 400 years to repent (Gen 15:16)

- "...Sidon" - Phoenicia

- "...Heth" - father of the Hittites, whose great empire held sway from 1600-700 BC

— The principal cities of the Hittites were Carchemish on the Euphrates and Kadesh on the Orontes

— These people settled in the vicinity of Hebron, and witnessed Abraham's purchase of the Cave of Machpelah from Ephron (23:8-10).

— Esau married into the tribe. The Hittites found their way into the Assyrian and Egyptian inscriptions. Archaeologists have found valuable remains of the civilization of that powerful empire.

— After the fall of the Hittite Empire, they migrated to the Far East and became known as the Cathay, now associated with Hong Kong

16 the **Jebusite**, the **Amorite**, the **Girgashite**,

16 and the Jebusite and the Amorite and the Girgashite

16 the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,

16 And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite,

- "...Jebusite" - Jerusalem (Joshua 15:8; 18:28; Judges 1:21; 19:10; 2 Sam 5:6-9)

- "...Amorite" - occupied the Hill Country of Judah at one time (Num 13:29; Deut 1:44; Judges 10:5; Joshua 11:3)

— They also occupied the east side of the Jordan (Num 21:13; Deut 1:4,7; Joshua 2:10; 9:10; 24:8; Judges 10:8; 11:22)
- "...Girgasite" - location unknown; if they are related to the Gerasenes of Luke 8:26,37, it would put them in the area of the Sea of Galilee

17 the **Hivite**, the **Arkite**, the **Sinite**,

17 and the Hivite and the Arkite and the Sinite

17 the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,

17 And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite,

- "...Hivite" - occupied the central hill country of Judah, north of Jerusalem, including the city of Gibeon (Joshua 9:3-7,17; 11:19) and Shechem (34:2)

- "...Arkite" - Lebanon; Phoenicia

- "...Sinite" - made up the city-state between Ugarit and Arvad

— Some associate the Sinites with the Chinese, and modern Hebrew uses the word to describe them, but it's unclear whether that was the meaning in Biblical Hebrew; others believe this refers to the Chinese

18 the **Arvadite**, the **Zemarite**, and the **Hamathite**; and **afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad.**

18 and the Arvadite and the Zemarite and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad.

18 the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites.

Later, the Canaanite families were widely scattered.

18 And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad.

- "...Arvadite" - Tyre

- "...Zemarite" - They were the northernmost Egyptian stronghold in the Land of Canaan located at the border of Amurru

— This is modern Sumra, a city between Arvad and Tripoli at the mouth of the El-kabir River, also known as the Eleutheros River

- "...Hamathite" - located on the Orontes River in Syria

- "...afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad" - means that after a period of time in the noted settlements, the families/tribes were "spread abroad"

— This shows it was possible for the Hittites and Sinites to move to the Far East, where they fathered the Mongols of China and Japan. This would also include the American Indians.

19 The territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon going toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; *and* going toward Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

19 The territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; as you go toward Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

19 The Canaanite border extended south from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and east toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

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.

- Outlines the borders of the Canaanites. When Moses wrote Genesis, while Israel was in the wilderness, he provided the location of the Canaanite clans that God would later command the Israelites to completely annihilate (Cf. Deut 7).

— It ran from Sidon (the northwest border) south to Gaza (the southwest border), east to Sodom and Gomorrah (the southeast border), then north to Lasha (northwest border).

— This would make the western border the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. These are the approximate borders of the Promised Land that was later promised to Abraham.

20 These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, *and* by their nations.

20 These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, by their nations.

20 These are Ham's descendants, listed by their families, each with their own lands, language, and family groups.

20 These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations.

- There are a total of 30 nations here, although this has various interpretations (29 excluding Nimrod and the Philistines; 30 including either the Philistines or Nimrod; 31 including the Philistines and counting Nimrod once; or 32 including the Philistines and counting Nimrod twice for Babylon and Nineveh). The time span given here is three generations.

- Notice the dispersment at the tribal/family level, the linguistic dispersion, at the geographic/territorial level, and nationally

— This is another reason why it's quite obvious that Gen 10 was written after Gen 11 because there was no such thing as independent languages until God disrupted the languages in Gen 11

(iv) Line of Shem (10:21-32)

21 Also to **Shem**, the father of all the children of **Eber**, *and* the older brother of Japheth, *children* were born.

21 Also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, *and* the older brother of Japheth, children were born.

21 Shem, Japheth's older brother, also had descendants. Shem was the father of the descendants of Eber.

21 Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder, even to him were children born.

- "...Shem" - Shem's descendants settled in the Middle East

— From "Shem" we get the term "semitic" referring to the semitic peoples. These include the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Arabs, Hebrews

- "...Eber" - the origin of the word "Hebrews" (Cf. 14:13). The main significance of the line of Shem was that he was the father of the Hebrews.



22 The sons of Shem were **Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.**

22 The sons of Shem were Elam and Asshur and Arpachshad and Lud and Aram.

22 Shem's sons included Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

22 The children of Shem; Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram.

- "...Elam" - Persian; the empire that followed Babylon during the 70-year captivity of Judah
 - They are represented by the chest and arms of silver in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan 2:39a); the bear in Daniel's vision (Dan 7:5), and the ram in Daniel's next vision (Dan 8:20)
 - In 1935, Persia was changed to Iran; they were an ally to the newborn State of Israel in 1948. They became an Shiite Islamic theocracy in 1979, and have been enemies with Israel & the US ever since.
 - In Ezek 38:5, Ezekiel saw Persia's future turn from a perennial ally against Israel to an invader
- "...Asshur" - the name of the region and people of Assyria, where Nimrod, a Hamite, had founded several cities (v11)
 - These were the Semitic Assyrians who supplanted the Hamitic Assyrians of Gen 10:11
- "...Arpachshad" - Josephus identified them with the Chaldeans; they resided northeast of Nineveh
 - Arpachshad was the "seed son"
- "...Lud" - the Ludbu of the Assyrians. Perhaps Lud was a shortened form of Ludda, possibly another name for Lydia (in what is now western Turkey)
- "...Aram" - in the general area of Aramea, between Damascus and the Euphrates River; a common Hebrew name for Syria

23 The sons of Aram were **Uz**, **Hul**, **Gether**, and **Mash**.

23 The sons of Aram were Uz and Hul and Gether and Mash.

23 Aram's descendants included Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

23 And the children of Aram; Uz, and Hul, and Gether, and Mash.

- "...Uz" - Josephus locates him in the area of Trachonites in northeastern Canaan; northwest Mesopotamia (22:21). Job lived in Uz (Job 1:1).

- "...Hul" - Josephus locates him in Armenia; more likely he was located in the Leja region

- "...Gether" - specific location unknown, but Josephus locates him in Bacteria in northeastern Afghanistan

- "...Mash" - specific location unknown, but Josephus puts him in Mesene at the mouth of the Euphrates near Charax

24 **Arpachshad** fathered **Shelah**; and Shelah fathered **Eber**.

24 Arpachshad became the father of Shelah; and Shelah became the father of Eber.

24 Arpachshad fathered Cainan, Cainan fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber.

24 And Arphaxad begat Salah; and Salah begat Eber.

- "...Arpachshad" - v24-30 focus on the line of Arpachshad, the "seed son"

- "...Shelah" - location unknown

- The LXX states Arphaxad begat Kenan and Kenan begat Salah, placing Kenan between Arphaxad and Salah. The shorter order is picked up in Luke 3:35-36.
- Obviously, the Hebrew Text behind the LXX included a generation left out by the Masoretic Text.)”
- “...Eber” - the name of the region of Ur of the Chaldeans
- The children of Eber comprised many different groups among the sons of Shem. The name Eber has been associated with the word Hebrew, the name by which the Israelites were known by other peoples. They were the ones who possessed the knowledge of the true God.
- The term “Hebrew” is racial, while “Israelite” is national. In later days, these words were used as synonyms.

25 Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was **Peleg**, for in his days **the earth was divided**; and his brother’s name was Joktan.

25 Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan.

25 To Eber were born two sons. One was named Peleg, because the earth was divided during his lifetime. His brother was named Joktan.

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.

- “...Peleg” - means “division”

- “...the earth was divided” - many scholars and geologists like to speculate that this is when the continental drift happened...initially there was one giant land mass, then the continents drifted to where they sit today.

— However, that is not the context of the passage. The “division” that took place in Peleg's day was the division of languages that is discussed in Gen 11 after God's judgment at the Tower of Babel (Cf. v5,20,31). It simply means that the division of languages in Gen 11 happened during Peleg's lifetime.

26 **Joktan** fathered **Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah**,

26 Joktan became the father of Almodad and Sheleph and Hazarmaveth and Jerah

26 Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

26 And Joktan begat Almodad, and Sheleph, and Hazarmaveth, and Jerah,

- “...Joktan” - v26-29 lists the 13 sons of Joktan, each of whom became Arabian tribes

- “...Almodad” - southern Arabian people of the Tribe of Al-Mudad in Yemen

- “...Sheleph” - southern Arabian people of es-Sulaf in Yemen; also called Salaf or Salif

- “...Hazarmaveth” - located in Hadramaut of South Arabia

- “...Jerah” - the Jerakh next to the Hazarmaveth

27 **Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,**

27 and Hadoram and Uzal and Diklah

27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

27 And Hadoram, and Uzal, and Diklah,

- "...Hadoram" - the Adramitae of South Arabia

- "...Uzal" - the old name for modern Sana, the capital of Yemen

- "...Diklah" - Dakalah of Yemen

28 **Obal, Abimael, Sheba,**

28 and Obal and Abimael and Sheba

28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

28 And Obal, and Abimael, and Sheba,

- "...Obal" - the Abel of South Arabia or Yemen

- "...Abimael" - unknown

- "...Sheba" - the Sabeans of southwest Arabia; also listed as being part of Ham's line in 10:7

29 **Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab;** all of these were the sons of Joktan.

29 and Ophir and Havilah and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan.

29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were Joktan's descendants.

29 And Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab: all these were the sons of Joktan.

- "...Ophir" - identified with Aphar, the Sabeian capital; some have identified it with Somalia

— Ophir was famed for its fine gold. Solomon sent his men along with Hiram's to extract it and to transport it to Palestine (1 Chr 29:4; 2 Chr 8:18; Job 22:24; 28:16; Ps 45:9)

— In addition to gold, they found precious metals and gems in great abundance. Soon Solomon's kingdom rivaled all the surrounding lands in wealth.

— Much of the gold overlay of the Temple of Solomon came from Ophir.

- "...Havilah" - west coast of Arabia, north of Yemen; also mentioned in Ham's line in 10:7

- "...Jobab" - Job? southeast Saudi Arabia; identified in the area of Mecca

30 Now their settlement extended from **Mesha** going toward **Sephar**, the hill country of the east.

30 Now their settlement extended from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the hill country of the east.

30 Their settlements extended from Mesha towards Sephar, the eastern hill country.

30 And their dwelling was from Mesha, as thou goest unto Sephar a mount of the east.

- "...Mesha" - western border

- "...Sephar" - eastern border

31 These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, **according to their languages, by their lands, and according to their nations.**

31 These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their nations.

31 These are Shem's descendants, listed by their families, each with their own lands, language, and family groups.

31 These are the sons of Shem, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations.

- "...according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, *and* according to their nations" - an event occurred that divided the earth tribally (by family), divided the earth linguistically (by language), divided the earth geographically (by lands), and created the modern nations

— We learn about this event in Gen 11...

32 These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their descendants, by their nations; and out of these the nations were **separated** on the earth after the flood.

32 These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.

32 These are the families of Noah's sons, according to their records, by their nations. From these people, the nations on the earth spread out after the flood.

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.

- The colophon for the line of Noah summarizes the whole chapter, reminding the readers that all families came from Noah, but some were of special interest for the nation Israel.

— Ethnology makes it evident that neither the sons of Japheth nor the sons of Ham ever comprised what some folk call the lost ten tribes of Israel.

- The total number of nations, combining the families of all three, is 70. Thus, the human race at this point until today is united by virtue of a common ancestor: Noah, through his three sons.

- "...separated" - the cause of this division is described in Gen 11