

Table of Nations Discussion and Map – Genesis 10

The first set of notes are regarding the **Table of Nations** in Genesis Ch 10 and are for use in the discussion regarding the overall topic of Prophecy and which Nations are called out in the Bible as being a part of the end-times discussion...from a Biblical standpoint. These charts are also useful in seeing the links between OT prophecy and events of our time.

Part 1: Map of the Origin of Nations and Races that were dispersed by God in Genesis 10



The big question of how all the nations and races began and what was the origin of all civilization can be answered in Genesis chapter 10. The Bible reveals that every race upon the earth originated with the three sons of Noah; **Shem, Ham, and Japheth**.

Genesis 10 lists a total of 70 original founders of the nations of the world or what might be considered racial groups. They are all divided into 3 primary classifications:

Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Although the subject of the classification of the nations and the origin of languages is highly controversial in secular society, ethnologists agree on one key point: that all of mankind can be divided into three basic groups. From a Biblical worldview, we take these verses literally and believe them

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Noah and the Flood

According to the Bible, around 4600 years ago the entire world was destroyed by a flood except for Noah and his family. The flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights and after 150 days Noah's Ark rested upon Mount Ararat. After 2 1/2 more months the tops of the mountains became visible, and 40 days later Noah sent a dove and a Raven. The dove returned, and seven days later Noah sent forth the dove once again and this time it returned with an olive leaf. After seven more days the Dove sent forth once again and it did not return. Noah finally decided that the water had receded enough for him to venture forth. He had been in the ark for over a year, and after departing he built an altar and made a sacrifice. The Lord was pleased with Noah's offering and spoke to Noah saying that he would never again destroy the world by water, and the rainbow appeared as a sign of his promise to all of mankind.

For nearly 100 years Noah's family increased in numbers and prospered. They soon began to migrate according to God's promise to be fruitful and fill the earth.

The Tower of Babel

All of mankind at that time gathered in the Persian Gulf region at a place called Babel, and it was here that they followed a leader named Nimrod (Out of Ham) and built a tower to reach to heaven. It was here that they rebelled against God, and the Lord miraculously scattered them by changing their languages (confusion of tongues) and races in order to forcibly distribute them over the face of the year (Genesis 11:1-9).

Shem, Ham, and Japheth

The sons of Noah were Shem, Ham, and Japheth... these three sons of Noah represented the three great races of mankind. The above map shows a table of God's dispersion of the nation's after they migrated from the Tower at Babel.

Shem (Middle East and Mediterranean South)

Shem (Heb. "Name") was Noah's middle son and part of Noah's family of eight who survived the great flood. Shem and his wife were childless before the flood, but after the flood Shem bore a son at 110 years of age. He was father to five sons who became the fathers of the five Semitic nations as shown below. **Shem was actually the father of the nations of the ancient Near East including the Israelites and the Jewish religion, and therefore Judaism, Islam, and Christianity sprang from the line of Shem. The Semites were particularly known for their religious zeal.**

The Five Semitic Nations:

1. **Elam** (The Persians) settled northeast of the Persian Gulf.

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2. **Asshur** (The Assyrians) the Biblical name for Assyria, settled between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.

3. **Arphaxad** (The Babylonians) settled in Chaldea.

4. **Lud** (The Lydians) settled in Asia Minor, but some of them sailed across the Mediterranean and settled in northern Africa.

5. **Aram** (The Syrians) the Biblical name for Syria, located north and east of Israel.

Ham (Africa)

Ham (Heb. "hot" or "Black") was Noah's youngest son and part of the family of eight who survived the great flood. Ham and his wife bore 4 sons who became the fathers of the nations of Africa. Ham's fourth son Canaan was prophetically cursed because he gazed at his father's nakedness while he was drunk. This curse would mean later that Canaan would lose his land to the Hebrews and would be subservient to the descendants of Shem. The Hamites were known for their physical endurance.

The Four Hamitic Nations:

1. **Cush** (The Ethiopians) settled in Ethiopia (also Sudan) south of Egypt, also early in their history some of them migrated to an area north of the Persian Gulf (Gen. 10:8-10).

2. **Mizraim** (The Egyptians) the Bible name for Egypt, settled in northeastern Africa.

3. **Phut** (The Libyans) sometimes translated Libya, settled in northern Africa.

4. **Canaan** (The Canaanites) settled above Africa east of the Mediterranean (Later was given to the Hebrews).

Japheth (Europe)

Japheth (Heb. "God will Enlarge") was Noah's oldest son and part of the family of eight who survived the great flood. Japheth and Shem were both greatly blessed for respecting their father Noah. Noah's blessing on Japheth was far reaching for all of his descendants being the European (Caucasian) nations that were mentioned in Genesis 10. The Japhethites were known for their intellectual activity. America is largely European and therefore descendants of Japheth.

The Seven Japhetic Nations:

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1. **Gomer** (The Cimmerians) settled north of the Black Sea, but afterwards his descendants probably occupied **Germany**, France, Spain and the British Isles.
2. **Magog** (The Scythians) lived north of the Caspian Sea. Encompasses all the “stans” north and east of the Black sea, including the Crimea, and Ukraine and Russia
3. **Madai** (The Medes) settled south of the Caspian Sea. (now the Kurds)
4. **Javan** (The Ionians or Greeks) Javan is the Hebrew name for Greeks, they settled in Greece.
5. **Tubal** (The Turks) lived south of the Black Sea.
6. **Meshech** (The Slavs) lived between the Black and Caspian Seas,
7. **Tiras** (The Etruscans) located west of the Black Sea

Verses:

Genesis 10 New International Version (NIV)

The Table of Nations

Gen 10

This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah’s sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.

The Japhethites

² The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshek and Tiras.

³ The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath and Togarmah.

⁴ The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites and the Rodanites. ⁵ (From these the maritime peoples spread out into their territories by their clans within their nations, each with its own language.)

The Hamites

⁶ The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put and Canaan.

⁷ The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabteka.

The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.

⁸ Cush was the father of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD.” ¹⁰ The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah ¹² and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.

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¹³ Egypt was the father of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, ¹⁴ Pathrusites, Kasluhites (from whom the Philistines came) and Caphtorites.

¹⁵ Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, and of the Hittites, ¹⁶ Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, ¹⁷ Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, ¹⁸ Arvadites, Zemarites and Hamathites.

Later the Canaanite clans scattered ¹⁹ and the borders of Canaan reached from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, as far as Lasha.

²⁰ These are the sons of Ham by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.

The Semites

²¹ Sons were also born to Shem, whose older brother was Japheth; Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber.

²² The sons of Shem: Elam, Ashur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram.

²³ The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshek.

²⁴ Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber.

²⁵ Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg, because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.

²⁶ Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹ Ophir, Havilah and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.

³⁰ The region where they lived stretched from Mesha toward Sephar, in the eastern hill country.

³¹ These are the sons of Shem by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.

³² These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.

Footnotes:

- a. [Genesis 10:2](#) Sons may mean *descendants* or *successors* or *nations*; also in verses 3, 4, 6, 7, 20-23, 29 and 31.
- b. [Genesis 10:4](#) Some manuscripts of the Masoretic Text and Samaritan Pentateuch (see also Septuagint and 1 Chron. 1:7); most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text *Dodanites*
- c. [Genesis 10:8](#) *Father* may mean *ancestor* or *predecessor* or *founder*; also in verses 13, 15, 24 and 26.
- d. [Genesis 10:10](#) Or *Uruk and Akkad—all of them in*
- e. [Genesis 10:10](#) That is, *Babylonia*
- f. [Genesis 10:11](#) Or *Nineveh with its city squares*
- g. [Genesis 10:15](#) Or *of the Sidonians, the foremost*
- h. [Genesis 10:21](#) Or *Shem, the older brother of*
- i. [Genesis 10:23](#) See Septuagint and 1 Chron. 1:17; Hebrew *Mash*.
- j. [Genesis 10:24](#) Hebrew; Septuagint *father of Cainan, and Cainan was the father of*
- k. [Genesis 10:25](#) *Peleg means division*.