

Pentwater Bible Church

Genesis Message Thirty-Two The Table of Nations – Ham Concluded

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Review:

THE SONS OF HAM

This section of Scripture (*Genesis 10: 6-12*) denotes the destination of the four sons of Noah's most nefarious son Ham. Ham and/or Canaan committed some sexual sin with their father and it resulted in a curse placed on Canaan by Noah. We will chart the earthly destination of each son and their offspring as well.

1. Cush is the first son who most likely migrated to Nubia and Ethiopia in Africa. This is where most references to them refer.
2. Mizraim is second son and it also the Hebrew word for Egypt. This is where he settled.
3. Put is the third son. He settled in North Africa and is the only son without a genealogy given.
4. Canaan is the fourth son. He is the father of the Canaanites. They received the curse and they adopted the Semitic culture and language.

THE TEXT LISTS SIX SONS OF CUSH.

1. Seba is the first. Josephus identifies him as the Seba between the Blue and White Niles in Africa.
2. Havilah is the second son. He lived where one identified source of gold was according to Genesis 2: 11 located along the Arabian coast. Ishmael lived (Genesis 25: 18) here and also the Amalekites (I Samuel 15:7).
3. Sabtah is the third son. They are identified with Hadramaut, which is southern Saudi Arabia near modern Yemen. Some identify him on the west coast of the Persian Gulf.
4. Raamah is the fourth son. He is identified with those in the extreme southwest of Saudi Arabia.
5. Sabteca is the fifth son. He migrated toward Ethiopia in Africa.

RAAMAH HAS TWO SONS LISTED

1. Sheba is the first one listed. He founded the Sabean of southwest Arabia and was the home of the Queen of Sheba who visited Solomon.
2. Dedan is the second son and is identified with Northern Arabia and near Edom. References to Dedan are Isaiah 21: 13; Jeremiah 25: 23, 49: 8 and in Ezekiel 25: 3 and Ezekiel 38: 13.

NIMROD

The text digresses here to begin to develop a very prominent and notorious character named Nimrod. He was the sixth son born of Cush. His name in Hebrew means to rebel. He was the founder of Babylon and Assyria. He is mentioned in I Chronicles 1: 10, Micah 5: 6 and here in Genesis 10: 8b-9. The Hebrew text states that he was a mighty hunter before the Lord. This is indicative of his antagonism and opposition to God. He was wicked and made the whole world rebel through the building of the Tower of Babel. He was the first to establish kingdoms. This happened in two stages. The *first* is in Shinar, which included Babel, Erech, Accad and Calneh. The second kingdom is Assyria called the land of Nimrod in Micah 5: 6. After the language was separated in confused by God it drove him to Assyria from Babylon. The two have been intertwined since then.

JOSEPHUS SAYS:

"Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham the son of Noah. He was a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it was through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage, which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power...(Antiquities of the Jews Chapter 4:2)"

The Tower of Babel was in essence an attempt to have their own way apart from God. Humans were commanded to "Be fruitful and fill the earth." Instead they attempted to settle down in one location and establish a world state to offset the divine rule.

THE CULTIC BACKGROUND

Tradition suggests that Nimrod died a violent death. One tradition says that a wild animal killed him. Another says that Shem killed him because he had led

the people into the worship of Baal.

According to ancient Egyptian and Babylonian traditions, his mother was Semiramis; sometimes Semiramis is referred to as the mother of Nimrod, and sometimes as his wife, leading to the belief that Nimrod married his mother. Also according to these traditions, Semiramis, who rose to greatness because of her son, was presented with a difficulty when her son died, so instead she pronounced him to be a god, so that she herself would become a goddess.

Even though Semiramis claimed to be a virgin she had another son, named Tammuz, who she said was the reincarnation of Nimrod. She became known as the "Virgin Mother", "Holy Mother" and the "Queen of Heaven" and was symbolized by the Moon. So began the worship of Semiramis and the child-god, and the whole paraphernalia of the Babylonian religious system.

From various ancient sources, it seems that Nimrod's wife/mother; Semiramis was high priestess of the Babel religion and the founder of all mystery religions as well as goddess. After the tower was destroyed and the multiplicity of languages developed, she was worshiped as a goddess under many different names. She became Ishtar of Syria, Astarte of Phoenicia, Isis of Egypt, Aphrodite of Greece, and Venus of Rome—in each case the deity of sexual love and fertility. Her son Tammuz also came to be deified under various names and was the consort of Ishtar and god of the underworld.

According to the cult of Ishtar, Tammuz was conceived by a sunbeam, a *counterfeit* version of Jesus' virgin birth. Tammuz corresponded to Baal in Phoenicia, Osiris in Egypt, Eros in Greece, and Cupid in Rome. In every case, the worship of those gods and goddesses was associated with sexual immorality. The celebration of Lent which has no basis in Scripture, but rather developed from the pagan celebration of Semiramis' mourning for forty days over the death of Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14) before his alleged resurrection—another of Satan's mythical counterfeits."

After the decline of Babylon, their priests fled to Egypt and transported their religion with them. There the people worshipped Isis and her son Osiris (otherwise known as Horus). The same mother and child deities appeared in Greece as Ceres, the Great Mother, with the babe at her breast, or as Irene, the goddess of Peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms and in Pagan Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter. Other cultures embraced this concept such as Cyprian and Indian.

In its organized form false religion began with the tower of Babel and Nimrod. Cain was the first false worshiper, and many individuals after him followed his example. But *organized* pagan religion began with the descendants of Ham, one of Noah's three sons, who decided to erect a great monument that would "reach into heaven" and make themselves a great name (Genesis 10: 9-10; 11:4) Under the leadership of the proud and apostate Nimrod they planned to storm heaven and unify their power and prestige in a great worldwide system of worship. That was man's first counterfeit religion, from which every other false

religion in one way or another has sprung.

God's judgment frustrated their primary purpose of making a grand demonstration of humanistic unity. By confusing "their language, that they may not understand one another's speech," and scattering "them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:7-8) the Lord halted the building of the tower and fractured their solidarity. But those people took with them the seeds of that false, idolatrous religion, seeds that they and their descendants have been planting throughout the world ever since. The ideas and forms were altered, adapted, and sometimes made more sophisticated, but the basic system remained, and remains, unchanged. That is why Babel, or Babylon, is called "the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth" (Revelation 17:5). She was the progenitor of all false religions.

THE THREE BABYLONS:

In Scripture there are three Babylons, the geographic location, a world system and a corrupt religious system. We have partially examined the third; let's look at the other two.

BABYLON THE CITY

For nearly 2,000 years Babylon was the most important city in the world. It was a commercial and financial center of Mesopotamia. The arts of divination, astronomy, astrology, accounting, mathematics and private and commercial law all sprang up from Babylon. In short many of our world systems came from that region.

It became a city-state of Assyria and along the way Nabopolassar was appointed the King of the city. His son was Nebuchadnezzar. Who became king in 606 B.C. This was Neo-Babylon.

The ancient city of Neo-Babylon, under King Nebuchadnezzar II, must have been a wonder to the traveler's eyes. "In addition to its size," wrote Herodotus, a historian in 450 BC, "Babylon surpasses in splendor any city in the known world." Herodotus claimed the outer walls were 56 miles in length, 80 feet thick and 320 feet high. Chariot races took place on the top of the walls, where they were broad enough to allow a four-horse chariot to turn around. The river Euphrates went through the middle of the city under the walls and linked with a moat surrounding the walls. The river Euphrates entered and exited through two spiked gates whose bars reached down to the riverbed. When these double doors were shut and all other entrances were closed, Babylon was impregnable.

Inside the walls were fortresses and temples containing immense statues of solid gold. Rising above the city was the famous Tower of Babel, a temple to the god Marduk that seemed to reach to the heavens.

Nebuchadnezzar came from the sea lands of the tribe of Kedar in the south. (Kuwait) So did Mohammed and Sadaam Hussein. Nebuchadnezzar built the hanging gardens, (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world), and was the most important ruler of this dynasty. He marched through Israel and besieged Jerusalem three times. Nebuchadnezzar was also one of the most renowned builders in the Near East, making Babylon the most beautiful city in the region. His reign began what Jesus called in Scripture the "Times of the Gentiles" meaning the time that Gentiles would be in control of Jerusalem until Christ returns. Nebuchadnezzar also built the Ishtar Gate. It was a double gate at the south end of the processional way, which was dedicated to the goddess Ishtar. It was covered with brilliant blue glazed bricks and bas-relief animal sculptures. It is now in the state museum of Berlin. Nebuchadnezzar paved the street sidewalks with small red stone slabs. Along the edge of each stone were carved, "I am Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who made this," demonstrating Nebuchadnezzar's absolute power and influence over Babylon. This will be the Antichrist's world economic headquarters in the Great Tribulation (Revelation 17: 18; Zechariah 5:05-44). Isaiah 21:9 predicted its final fall.

HAMMURABI

The Code of Hammurabi is one of the earliest sets of laws found, and one of the best-preserved examples of this type of document from ancient Mesopotamia. There were 282 laws on an obsidian stela, which is lava like stone and it is about 8 feet tall. It was discovered in 1909. It is now on display at the Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

MATHEMATICS

They developed a form of writing based on cuneiform (i.e. wedge-shaped) symbols. Their symbols were written on wet clay tablets, which were baked in the hot sun, and many thousands of these tablets have survived to be read by us today. The Babylonians divided the day into 24 hours, each hour into 60 minutes, each minute into 60 seconds. This form of counting (hexasegimal or base 60) has survived for 4000 years. They had knowledge of trigonometry, the Pythagorean theorem 1200 years before Pythagoras did, and pi. They divided the circle into 360 degrees.

GOD IMPLORES US TO COME OUT OF HER.

Revelation 18:4-5 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying Come out of her, my people that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Today's Message

HAM CONCLUDED

Genesis 10: 13-20 And Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim, and Pathrusim, and Casluhim (whence went forth the Philistines), and Caphtorim. And Canaan begat Sidon his first-born, and Heth, and the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite, and the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite, and the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanite spread abroad. And the border of the Canaanite was from Sidon, as thou goest toward Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest toward Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboiim, unto Lasha. These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, in their nations. And unto Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, to him also were children born.

Continuing with the progeny of Ham we have the offspring of Mizraim.

1. Ludim is the first son. He migrated to Lydia in North Africa. References include Jeremiah 46: 9 and Ezekiel 30: 5 (Hebrew association with Cush and Put but not in English).
2. Anamim is the second son. He is connected with Cyrene. He is referred to as Anami of the inscriptions of the Assyrian Emperor Sargon II.
3. Lehabim is the third son. He migrated to Egypt and Libya.
4. Naphtuhim is the fourth son. He settled in the Lower Egypt area of the Delta Region. His people populated Memphis.
5. Pathrusim was the fifth son. He went to Upper Egypt in the land of Pathros.
6. Casluhim was the sixth son. He also went to Egypt to the area between Egypt and Canaan.
7. Caphtorim was the seventh son. He is connected with Crete and mentioned in Amos 9: 7 as of the Philistines from Caphtor.

Next is listed the offspring of Canaan who had eleven sons.

1. Sidon was the first son. He went to Phoenicia and became the Sidonians.
2. Heth is the second son. He became the father of the Hittites. When the Hittite empire (Cir. 1193 B.C.) fell they migrated to Cathay (Hong Kong). Some remnants of them occupied the Hill Country of Judea (Numbers 13: 29).
3. Jebusite is the third son. He inhabited Jerusalem. Biblical references include Numbers 13: 29; Joshua 11: 3, 15: 8, 18: 28; Judges 1: 21, 19: 10; II Samuel 5: 6-9 (where David took Jebus for God which was the Jebusite stronghold).
4. Amorite is the fourth son. He is referred to in the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 15: 16) and occupied the area of present day Jordan as well as the Hill Country of Judah. Biblical references include: Genesis 14: 13, 48: 22; Numbers 13: 29, 21: 13 Deuteronomy 1: 4, 44; Judges 10: 5, 8, 11: 22; Joshua 2: 10, 9: 10, 11: 3
5. Girgashite is the fifth son. He appears to have gone to Egypt as his name is mentioned by Ramses II.
6. Hivite is the sixth son. They occupied the region just north of Jerusalem. Biblical references include Genesis 34: 2; Joshua 9: 3-7, 9: 17, 11: 19.
7. Arkite is the seventh son. He occupied Lebanon, which was Phoenicia.
8. Sinite is the eighth son. He settled between Ugarit and Arvad (modern day Syria).
9. Arvadite is the ninth son. The Assyrians and Egyptians wrote of the Arvadites. They inhabited northern Phoenicia in an island associated with Tyre in Ezekiel 27: 8, 11.
10. Zemarite is the tenth son. He was mentioned in Phoenician records. They were in the northern most Egyptian stronghold in Canaan.
11. Hamathite was the eleventh son. He was associated with the Orontes River in Syria.

The biblical text (Genesis 10: 18b) tells us that after some time in the initial settlements they spread abroad. Some think due to Heth's migration that this is the family (tribe) that began China, the Mongols, Japanese and the American Indians. Genesis 10: 19 describes the borders of Canaan's initial dispersion. It was Phoenicia in the northwest, Philistia in the Southwest, The Arabah in the Southeast and then Lasha on the Northeast. This territory is almost the same as what God promised to Abraham (see charts). The finishing touch the author of this section of Genesis gives us appears in Genesis 10: 20. It describes the spread of Ham, his sons and their divisions by tribe, family, language, territory and their nations. There are a total of thirty nations mentioned in the Bible of Ham. The Bible discusses three generation in this finale.

NEXT WEEK: SHEM

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comments.** Daniel.Woodhead@pentwaterbiblechurch.com **616-928-0974**