

November 7, 2010

The Descendants of Dissidence (Part 2)

Genesis 9:18 – 10:32

GENESIS 9:18-29

- 19 “from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed”- setting up Ch 10 “The Table of Nations”
20-21 The Downfall of the Righteous Man- grows wine and gets drunk
22 “the father of Canaan”- Gen 10:6, given Hebrew narrative style, Canaan and his brothers are likely already born
“saw the nakedness of his father”- shameful yet even more shameful was telling his brothers. May mean even more took place – Lev. 18 (especially 3, 6-7, 24-25)
24 “knew what his youngest son had done to him” how did he know? What was done? Makes more sense given Lev. 18
25-27 “cursed IS Canaan”- Gen 3:17; 4:11 God curses. Here it is Noah cursing Ham’s son, not Ham. “Canaan” comes from the Hebrew for stooping/ submitting. WHY

GENESIS 10:1-5 – Japheth

- 2-4 Japheth is listed first, but is not the oldest (v.21). This list is from least to most important
Gomer- Assyrian Gimmirrais, found north of the Black Sea
(v. 3) Ashkenaz, Riphath, & Togarmah- peoples of the Upper Euphrates region
Magog- Scythians mentioned in Ezel 39:6 also north of Black Sea
Madai- Hebrew term for Medes, bordering the Caspian Sea
Javan- Hebrew name for Ionia/Greece- (v. 5)
(v. 4) Elisha- unknown
Tarshish- Spain & Gibraltar region
Kittim- Kition in Cyprus
Dodanim- Possibly the Greek island of Rhodes
Tubal- Rivals of Assyria, live northeast of Cilicia in Asia Minor
Meshech- Lived east of Tubal, near Black Sea
Tiras- sea people, possibly the island of Thrace (west of Black Sea, north of Tubal)

5, 20, 31 → “each with his own language”- we’ll discuss this in connection to 11:1- “whole earth had one language”

GENESIS 10:6-20 – Ham

Ham is listed with more detail and more importance than Japheth because Ham’s descendents will have more interaction with the descendants of Shem.

- (6) Cush- the upper Nile region, modern Ethiopia
(7) Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, Sabteca- all Arabian provinces
(8-12) Nimrod- a mighty hunter who establishes civilizations through aggression
+ Babel- ancient city of Babylon
+ Erech- ancient city of Uruk in Mesopotamia
+ Accad- became a center for Semites in Babylon
+ Calneh- unknown
+ Shinar- elsewhere refers to Babylon, may be Shumir of Sumeria
+ Ninevah- most famous Assyrian capital
+ Rehoboth-Ir- uncertain
+ Calah- chief Assyrian center southeast of Ninevah
+ Resen- one of the sub-cities to the Metropolis of Ninevah
Egypt- Northern Africa, bordering Mediterranean
13-14 Ludim- northern Africa, west of Nile River
Anamim- north Africa, west of Egypt, near Cyrene
Lehabim- Early Libyans, desert tribes
Naphtuhim- People of Lower Egypt
Pathrusim- Pathros, south of Scythia (see Japheth’s descendant- Magog)
Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came)- an island/coastal nation in Mediterranean
Caphtorim- likely from Crete and later amalgamated with Casluhim as “Philistia”
Put- ancient Libya or “Punt”- modern Somali country
Canaan- Originally covered the low coastal plains of northeast Egypt. Later expanded through the Jordan River valley

- 15-18 Sidon his firstborn- sea coast city in Canaan, famous for Jesus' Woe Tyre & Sidon
 Heth- origin of Hittites
 the Jebusites- ancient inhabitants of Jerusalem
 the Amorites- resided in the hill country of Canaan before the Israelite conquest
 the Girgashites- relatively unimportant tribe, lending credibility to the list!
 the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, the Arvadites, the Zemarites, the Hamathites.
- 8-10 Nimrod- "before YHWH" does not always have a positive connotation. Many Christian and Jewish interpreters attribute the Tower of Babel to Nimrod's rule. Babel (Babylon) is earth's first "empire" and it is established at the hands of a hunter and warrior.

GENESIS 10:21-32 – Shem

- 21 Shem is the oldest son of Noah, Ham is youngest (9:24)
 Elam- inhabited land east of Tigris River and Babylon
 Asshur- early name for Assyria, northern Mesopotamia
 Arpachshad- mountainous region northeast of Ninevah
 Shelah- only mentioned because of his son, Eber
 Eber- the descendant from which the Hebrews come (11:12-15)
 Peleg- earth divided by confusion of languages (Gen 11)
 Joktan- fathered 13 tribes of southern Arabia (v26-29)
 Lud- possibly Lydians in western Asia Minor
 Aram- the Aramean Plain extending from mountains of Labanon to beyond the Euphrates
 Uz- home of Job (Job 1:1)
 Hul, Gether, & Mash- Unknown

Babbling over Babel
Genesis 11:1-9

- v. 1 is not in contradiction to 10:5, 20, 31 if we recall the Hebrew style of narrative
- 4 a tower with its top in the heavens, and a name for ourselves!- egotism and pride
- 5 "YHWH came down"- they are trying to ascend to the heavens, yet YHWH still has to come down
- 6 "nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible"- sinful depravity in united self-interest
- 8 They intend to stay put and make a name for themselves, God disperses them across the planet to do what He had intended- multiply and fill the earth (9:1)
- 9 "its name was called Babel, because there YHWH babbed the language of all the earth."

The Descendants of Dissidence (Part 3)
Genesis 11:10-32

Remember Genesis 5:6-24? 10 Generations. What do we have here in Genesis 11:10-26?

Father	Begat	Age	End Result
Shem	100	600	and he had other sons and daughters
Arpachshad	35	438	and he had other sons and daughters
Shelah	30	433	and he had other sons and daughters
Eber	34	464	and he had other sons and daughters
Peleg	30	239	and he had other sons and daughters
Reu	32	239	and he had other sons and daughters
Serug	30	230	and he had other sons and daughters
Nahor	29	248	and he had other sons and daughters
Terah	70	205	and Terah died in Haran (11:32)
Abram, Nahor, and Haran			Next story begins

Haran- father of Lot, Nahor- ancestor of Rebekah (Isaac's wife)
 Abram- means "exalted father" or "the father is exalted"
 Ur of the Chaldeans- Southwest of Babylon near the Persian Gulf
 They came to Haran- they followed the Euphrates northwest to this Mesopotamian city
 Haran and Ur were both chief cites for worshipping the Mesopotamian moon god Sin