

DESCENT

A STUDY OF GENESIS 4-11

The Table of Nations
Genesis 9:18-10:32
June 28, 2020

The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan) These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed. - **Genesis 9:18-19**

I. NOAH'S PROPHECY

- Canaan, the youngest son of Ham, is “cursed.” Noah gives a thumbnail sketch of the course of world history through his sons.
- The “Lord God” of Shem is blessed. Covenantal language is utilized in the blessing.
- Japheth will know blessing through Shem’s descendants.

II. THE TABLE OF NATIONS (CHAPTER 10)

- The *toledot* or “generations” of the sons of Noah are enumerated.
- We see many of the enemies of Israel named in the decedents of Ham (Canaan).
- Shem’s descendants will become the people of God, thus their placement last in the table as a point of focus (Deut. 32:7-9; Acts 17:26).
- In Luke 10 Jesus sends out 72 disciples to reach the nations, likely based on the 72 nations of Genesis 10.

III. A GOOD MAN'S SIN — SOME LESSONS

1. An example of biblical inspiration: Human nature displayed in its true colors (Gen. 9:20, 12:13, 16:3-4, 27:18-19; Num. 20:10-11; 2 Sam. 11, 2 Sam. 24-25; Ps. 51; Jer. 12:1-4; Matt. 8:26, 26:70-74; Acts 7:58; Gal. 2:11).
2. We see the utter depravity of human nature (Gen. 6:5; Ps. 14:3; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 7:18).
3. It is easy to become calloused toward sin (Gen. 9:22; Isa. 5:20; Prov. 1:8-19; Rom. 1:32; 1 Tim. 4:1-3).
4. Our need for watchfulness and prayer (Luke 22:40, 46; 1 Cor. 10:12).

IV. DRIVING TOWARD ABRAM

- The narrative of Genesis is now moving quickly toward the introduction of Abram, and the story of God’s people.

KNOW: Human leadership and growth on the earth is reestablished. Humans are being fruitful and multiplying, but sin is multiplying with them. Redemption remains necessary.

DO: Seek genuine change in your life, for the glory of God.

Suggested Reading:

Israel and the Nations by F.F. Bruce

The Hole in our Holiness by Kevin DeYoung

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 9:18-10:32

1. What is the main theme in this long narrative?
2. What is so wrong about what happened in Noah’s tent?
3. God seems to pick Shem’s descendants to be blessed somewhat randomly. Is that fair?
4. How do we avoid sin in our lives? What are some concrete steps we can take?
5. The Scriptures tell us how the nations “spread out” from Noah’s sons. Why does that matter?
6. What are your application points from Sunday’s message?