**‘The Nations of the Earth’**

**Genesis 10**

**1 Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.**

**2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. 3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. 4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. 5 From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.**

**6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. 7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.**

**8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.” 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).**

**13 Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim).**

**15 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; 16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; 17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; 18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. 19 And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. 20 These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.**

**21 And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder. 22 The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. 23 The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. 24 Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber. 25 To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan. 26 Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. 30 And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east. 31 These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.**

**32 These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.**

We are often tempted to skip over genealogies and move on to the next chapter. This temptation needs to be overcome. There is much to learn from taking the time to read through chapters such as these.

The sons of Noah became all of the nations of the earth. This is important! There are seventy nations listed in Genesis 10. Curiously, we read on three separate occasions,

**“These were the sons of \_\_\_, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.”**

What makes this a curious statement, is there were NO separate “languages” until after the Tower of Babel debacle. We know this, and so did Moses, who was inspired by Holy Spirit to write this chapter. Certainly God knew the Tower of Babel would be built and there He would confuse the languages of the earth. However, the generations of Noah, though having but one language until Babel, were born BEFORE Babel, so the information in Genesis 10 is placed before Genesis 11.

Reading through Genesis 10, we quickly see that the sons of Ham receive far more attention than those of Japheth and Shem.

The first person the passage zeros in on is Nimrod. He is the son of Ham’s son, Cush. An interesting, though little known fact, is the meaning of Nimrod’s name. Nimrod means: “We will revolt.” Who would ever give their child such a name and expect a well-behaved child? We know that Ham was a rebel, for he fathered a child (Canaan) through his own mother. It could be that his rebellious nature was passed down to his sons, his grandsons, and his great-grandsons. The sins of the fathers often pass on to their children for generations.

Concerning Nimrod we are told, **“[H]e began to be a mighty one on the earth.”** What does this mean?

“Three sections in this unprecedented verse indicate something very peculiar happened to Nimrod. First, note where the text says, “he began to be.” In Hebrew, this is **chalal**, which means **“to become profaned, defiled, polluted, or desecrated ritually, sexually or genetically.”** Second, this verse tells us exactly what Nimrod began to be as he changed genetically—“a mighty one” (gibbowr, gibborim), one of the offspring of Nephilim. As Annette Yoshiko Reed says in the Cambridge University book, Fallen Angels and the History of Judaism and Christianity, “The Nephilim of Genesis 6:4 are always…grouped together with the gibborim as the progeny of the Watchers and human women.”[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) And the third part of this text says the change to Nimrod started while he was on “earth.” Therefore, in modern language, this text could accurately be translated to say: **“And Nimrod began to change genetically, becoming a gibborim, the offspring of watchers on earth.””**[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2)

How this began to happen we are not told.

We are further told, **10 And the beginning of his [Nimrod’s] kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).** Nimrod’s vast kingdom covered an estimated 210,000 – 300,000 square miles![[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn3)

In verse 9, we read about Nimrod, 9 **He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.”** This doesn’t sound too bad, yet it is. “Before the LORD” means “[T]o show defiance. It implies that Nimrod was brave enough to defy God openly and to his face.”[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn4)

Though Nimrod, the son of Cush, has received a lot of attention until this point, the sons of Canaan get more.

We learned in Genesis 9 how Noah cursed Canaan, the son of Ham, through maternal incest. At such an early stage in the Bible, if we knew nothing more than the genealogy, we might wonder why there is such focus on Canaan’s sons. As we continue to study the Bible, we learn the descendants of Canaan will become the Canaanites, a nation utterly detested by God. They worshiped false gods and in defiance against God, mingled their DNA with that of more rebellious angels.[[5]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn5) This brought hybrids, and therefore giants, back into the earth. Since God had promised to never again bring a flood of waters to wipe out all flesh, in the course of time, He will command Israel to utterly wipe out seven specific people groups descended from Canaan: the Canaanites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Perizzites. This will be judgment against them for engaging in behavior God had forbidden.[[6]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn6)

There is one more person to consider, Peleg. He is the son of Eber, who was the son of Salah, who was the son of Arphaxad, who was the son of Shem. In regards to Peleg, we are told, **“for in his days the earth was divided.”** What does this mean? Some people have concluded that the continents became divided during the days of Peleg. Others claim that the division of languages because of Babel explains this phrase. Which is it? **Jonathan Sarfati** writes,

“To determine the context, we should always interpret Scripture with Scripture. Take the verse in question, ‘To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth (erets) was divided’ (Genesis 10:25). There’s nothing else in Scripture to indicate that this referred to continental division. But only eight verses later (note that chapter and verse divisions were not inspired, but added much later, in 1205), the Bible states, ‘Now the whole earth (erets) had one language and one speech’ (Genesis 11:1), and as a result of their disobedience, ‘the LORD confused the language of all the earth (erets)’ (Genesis 11:9). This conclusively proves that the ‘earth’ (erets) that was divided was the same Earth that spoke only one language, i.e. ‘earth’ (erets) refers in this context to the **people of the Earth**, not Planet Earth.”[[7]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn7)

What is written here is a lot, but taking the time to consider the specifics of Genesis 10 is much better than skipping it.

Kathleen

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) Annette Yoshiko Reed, Fallen Angels and the History of Judaism and Christianity: The Reception of Enochic Literature (Cambridge, 2005) 214

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref2) FORBIDDEN GATES. PART 19. By Thomas R. Horn November 17, 2010 BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF NEPHILIM RESURRECTION? <http://www.newswithviews.com/Horn/thomas155.htm>

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref3) https://www.bible-history.com/old-testament/nimrod-kingdom.html

[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref4) <https://historum.com/threads/nimrod-a-mighty-hunter-before-god.29837/>

[[5]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref5) Genesis 6:4 “There were giants on the earth in those days, **and also afterward**, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them.”

[[6]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref6) For years people have wondered why God would order such a thing. When we understand that the genome of Canaan’s descendants became corrupt with the same corruption which brought about the Flood, we realize that the destruction of the hybrids would be the only way to stop their defiled gene “pool” from spreading throughout the earth, which, in turn, would prevent humankind from entering into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

[[7]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref7) <https://creation.com/in-pelegs-days-the-earth-was-divided>