



MESSAGE/SERIES:

BIBLICAL BEGINNINGS/ Genesis 10-11 *“Building a City for Ourselves?”*

DATE: APRIL 26, 2020

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

Genesis 10-11, 8:20-21, 9:1, 18-19, 21-22, 25-27, 2 Samuel 8:13, Jeremiah 32:20, Genesis 18:17-21, Deuteronomy 32:8-9, Deuteronomy 4:19-20, Hosea 1:8-11, Romans 1:18-32, Ephesians 6:12 (Demonic powers of deception), Revelations 12:9, 1 Corinthians 3:14

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[GENESIS 10-11]

10- *“These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood. The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. From these the coastland peoples spread in their lands, each with his own language, by their clans, in their nations. The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord. Therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.” The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim,*

Lehabim, Naphtuhim, Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came), and Caphtorim. Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth, and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites dispersed. And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. These are the sons of Ham, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations. To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, children were born. The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber. To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan. Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, Obal, Abimael, Sheba, Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan. The territory in which they lived extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country of the east. These are the sons of Shem, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations. These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.

11- Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "**Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.**" And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the Lord said, "**Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.**" So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters. When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah. And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had

other sons and daughters. When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber. And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters. When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg. And Eber lived after he fathered Peleg 430 years and had other sons and daughters. When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu. And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters. When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered Serug. And Reu lived after he fathered Serug 207 years and had other sons and daughters. When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered Nahor. And Serug lived after he fathered Nahor 200 years and had other sons and daughters. When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah. And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters. When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran."

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[GENESIS 8:20-21] *Fresh off of the Ark- We see Noah's thankful heart and a fresh start for man as well as a faithful and gracious God towards sinful man...*

[GENESIS 9:1] GOD reaffirms His command to man in his fresh start in Genesis 9:1: *"Be fruitful and Multiply and fill the earth."*

- *(Genesis 1)- God is just repeating what He had told all of creation in creation week...*
- *(Genesis 1:28)- God tells Man specifically in... "And God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

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

[GENESIS 9:21] Noah gets drunk

[GENESIS 9:22] Ham sees and most likely had evil thoughts about his father sexually

- ***“Ham took a sniggering delight in the spectacle of his aged father sprawled naked in his tent. He also took perverse pleasure in exposing his father’s folly to his brothers. His action mocked and ridiculed. It was a proto-abrogation of what would be the fifth commandment to “Honor your father and your mother”—and a heinous breach of the hierarchical order of creation. Ham desecrated his filial relationship, sinning against both his father and God.”***

R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 152.

- **Shem & Japheth-** Honored Noah and did not look on or dishonor Noah in anyway
 - *1 Peter 4:8*

[GENESIS 9:25-27] God prophecies about the sons of Noah

- (v25) ***“cursed be Canaan; a servant shall he be to his brothers (Shem & Japheth)”***
- (v26) ***“Blessed be the Lord, **the God of Shem**; and let Canaan be his servant”***
- (v27) ***“May **the Lord enlarge Japheth**, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.”***
 - *Servant most likely means a world-wide service*
 - *A servant to all other nations (the Hametic people)*
 - *Servant Most likely also carried the idea of Stewardship of Spiritual/Physical/Intellectual realms for the world*
- ***In light of the curse of Ham and the prophecy of the Lord God toward all three Sons let us look at the people groups represented and what they steward...***
 - **Ham: Physical realm Steward:**
 - *People groups traced to Ham- Egyptians, Sumerians, African Tribes, Chinese, Japanese, American Indians, South Sea islanders*
 - **Shem: Spiritual realm Steward**
 - *People groups traced to Shem- Jews, Muslims/Arabs*
 - **Japheth: Intellectual realm Steward (intellectual explorers)**
 - *People groups traced to Japheth- Greeks, Romans, Europeans, Americans*

- (v27) “Enlarge Japheth”= to make open= mentally curious/ open minded man

Dr. William Albright: (Concerning Genesis 10- The Table of Nations)

“It stands absolutely alone in ancient literature. Without a remote parallel, even among the Greeks, where we find the closest approach to distribution of peoples in genealogical framework... the table of nations remains an astonishingly accurate document.”= Biblically Historical Accuracy

[GENESIS 10:8-9] Historical records indicate that the evil **Nimrod** named his son a name that meant “**let us Rebel**”

- *After leaving Babel Nimrod established or founded **Nineveh** (Jonah would later Minister to this sinful city)*

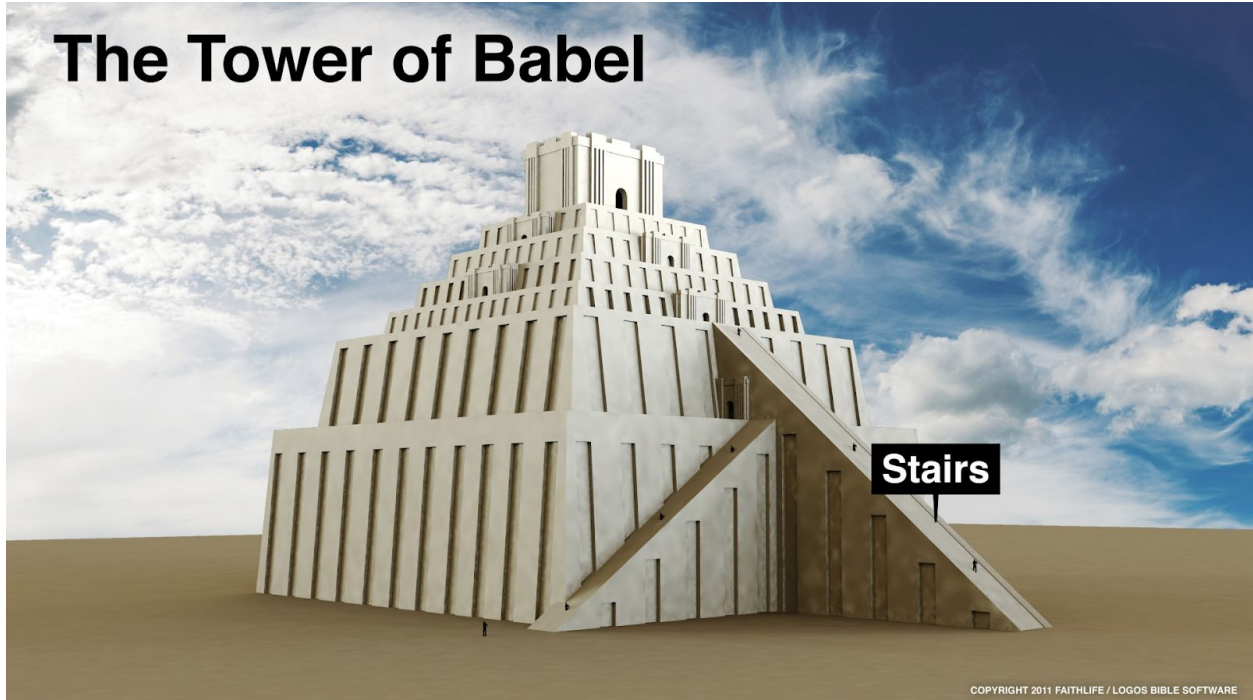
Mesopotamian Ziggurats and the Tower of Babel

“The biblical account of the Tower of Babel and its construction is one of the topics that attracted the first explorers to the ancient Near East. It is also the subject of many representations in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and modern and contemporary art. The Old Testament account portrays the tower as a symbol of human arrogance against God (Gen 11). The account’s conclusion, wherein God confuses humanity’s language, has resulted in the term “Babel” being associated with chaos and confusion (Finkel and Seymour, *Babylon*).

Multiple sites in the ancient Near East have been tentatively identified as the Tower of Babel. In 1899, Robert Koldewey discovered the remains of the Babylonian ziggurat known as Etemenanki (Sumerian É.TEMEN.AN.KI, meaning “house of the foundation of heaven and earth”), which is often considered the “real” Tower of Babel.”

Luigi Caiafa, “Mesopotamia, Archaeology Of, Middle Bronze through Iron Age,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

The Tower of Babel



Genesis 11:27–32 “This short section introduces the narratives about Abram (Abraham) and his family. The genealogies in Genesis have so far followed a pattern of 10 names between important figures (e.g., Adam to Noah, Noah to Abram). This paragraph includes eight names, possibly foreshadowing the central theme of Abram’s story—that the list will become complete again with the birth of Isaac, the child of promise. The ninth and 10th family members are Abram’s sons Ishmael and Isaac.”

John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 11:27–32.

OUTLINE:

[GENESIS 10]

Japheth (10:2–5): *a list of his descendants, including Gomer, Magog, Tubal, and Meshech*

Ham (10:6–20): *a list of his descendants, including Canaan and Nimrod*

Shem (10:21–32): *a list of his descendants, including Peleg (who may have lived during the tower of Babel dispersion). He was the ancestor of Terah (the father of Abram) and Abram and Sarai*

H. L. Willmington, *The Outline Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ge 10:1–32.

[GENESIS 11]

Today's message covered **Genesis 11:1-9**

I. **The Sin (11:1–4):** *All human beings attempt to unify themselves for their own glory.*

*⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us **build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.**"*

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ge 11:4.

A. WE WANT TO BUILD A CITY

- Babylon is the **beginning place of all non Christian religions**
- The city was the **collection of all the peoples of the world at that time**
 - *One world government (not guided by God or Biblical principle)*
 - *One world leader in Nimrod who was a rebel against God*

B. WE WANT TO BUILD OUR OWN ALTARS & APPOINT OUR OWN PRIESTS

- Ham's Son Cush fathered Nimrod & Nimrod a form of the Anti-christ
- Nimrod named his son a name that meant "Let us Rebel"
- Nimrod became a dictator leader that was leading the people away from God and to Idol worship
- Nimrod after the tower of Babel founded Nineveh (the great and sinful city God sent Jonah to)

- The tower of Babel was dedicated to the **Zodiac** and the pagan gods represented in the constellations

- The people came to be not one people worshipping the God of the Bible but **one people worshipping many gods**

C. WE WANT TO BUILD OUR OWN FOLLOWING

- **They wanted to be famous** But the Bible says we are to make the name of God (Jesus) Famous
- **They wanted to be remembered** But God wanted them to remember His grace
 - *The common grace of God extends to all men (covenant with mankind after the flood)*
 - *The Special Grace of God extends to people to follow Him alone (by trusting in Jesus alone)*

- **They wanted to make their own way to god** (religion) but God came down to us (Penal substitution)--
 - *a tower to the heavens*
 - *A stairway to the gods*
- **They wanted to make their own plans** but God has not changed His plan for us
 - *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*
 - *(Today) glorify His name in all the earth (Isaiah 42:10)*

II. The Sentence (11:5–9): *God scatters them by confusing their language at the tower of Babel.*

- *God deals with sinful man once again and causes His message to go to the ends of the earth*
- *God deals with sin and causes us to have to rely on Him again and not just ourselves (man)*
- *God deals with sin and accomplishes His own mission (sovereignty) causing the to fill the earth/spread out*

III. The Settlement (11:10–32): *A history is given of Shem’s descendants. Shem is the ancestor of Abraham.*

H. L. Willmington, *The Outline Bible* (IWheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ge 11:1–32.

[Interactive Application]

1. Nimrod is a form of the AntiChrist. What do all men share with Nimrod and the coming Antichrist?

2. The Tower of Babel is where God confused the languages as well as established the nations. What three men are the fathers of the Nations? _____

3. What is another title for Genesis 10? The _____ of _____.
4. After the flood the landscape was different and continents are thought to have moved therefore the families traveled by foot, animal, and by boat to settle in new areas. What people are Jewish and Arab people from? **Shem, Ham, or Japheth** (circle one)

