## Bible Geography

## The Table of Nations

## Genesis 10

I. The Descendants of Japheth

(Genesis 10:1-5)

- A. The descendants of Japheth are given as seven sons and seven grandsons.
  - 1. These genealogies may not be complete.
  - 2. The purpose seems to be to list those who became the founders or heads of nations that were prominent in history.
- B. Gomer located near the Black Sea (cf. Eze. 38:2-6)
  - 1. Ashkenaz Asia Minor (probably the Phrygians and Mysians) but later moved to Armenia (cf. Jer. 51:27)
  - 2. Riphath unknown
  - 3. Togarmah usually associated with northern Armenia (cf. Eze. 27:14; 38:6)
- C. Magog "Land of Gog" probably the Scythians (cf. Eze. 38:2-6; 39:6; Rev. 20:8)
- D. Madai refers to the Medes
- E. Javan Hebrew word for the Greeks (cf. Isa. 66:19; Eze. 27:13, 19)
  - 1. Elishah inhabited islands of the Aegean Sea [Aeolians] (cf. Eze. 27:7)
  - 2. Tarshish Spain
  - 3. Kittim Cyprus
  - 4. Dodanim either Troy or the Isle of Rhodes
- F. Tubal and Meshech probably settled southeast of the Black Sea, approaching the Caspian Sea (cf. Isa. 66:19; Eze. 27:13; 32:26; 38:1-3; 39:1)
- G. Tiras thought to refer to the Thracians or to the Etruscans of Italy
- II. The Descendants of Ham

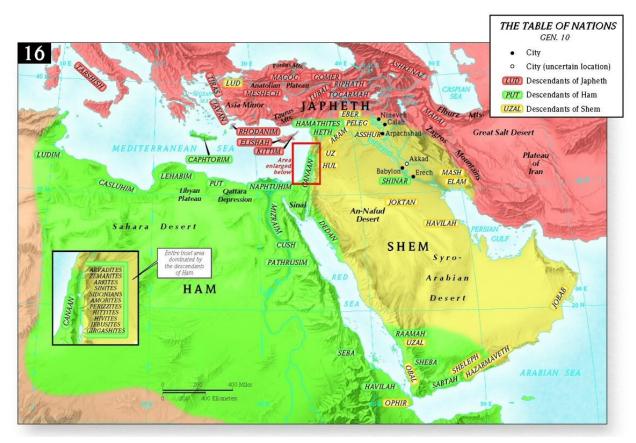
(Genesis 10:6-20)

- A. The descendants of Ham are listed as 4 sons, 24 grandsons, and 3 great-grandsons.
- B. Cush often refers to Ethiopia, but also refers to a region in Asia, a part of Mesopotamia (cf. Gen. 2:13; Isa. 11:11; Eze. 38:5), and to a region in southern Arabia (cf. Num. 12:1)
  - 1. Seba part of Egypt, called Sabaeans in Isa. 45:14 (cf. Isa. 43:3; Psa. 72:10)
  - 2. Havilah possibly southern Arabia or near modern Somalia (Gen. 28:15)
  - 3. Sabtah probably northern Arabia
  - 4. Raamah probably eastern Arabia
  - 5. Sabtecha unknown
  - Nimrod Assyria, founder of Babylon (often associated with Gilgamesh)
- C. Mizraim Hebrew name for Egypt
  - 1. Ludim Lud, either Lydia in Asia Minor or Nubia in Africa (cf. vs. 22)
  - 2. Anamim unknown
  - 3. Lehabim Libya
  - 4. Naphtuhim Egypt, probably Memphis
  - 5. Pathrusim Pathros
  - 6. Casluhim unknown
  - 7. Caphtorim possibly Crete, origin of the Philistines

- D. Phut Libya, north Africa (cf. Jer. 46:9; Eze. 27:10; 30:5; 38:5; Nahum 3:9)
- E. Canaan Palestine and southern Syria
  - 1. Special interest is given to the Canaanites, due to their history with Israel.
- III. The Descendants of Shem

(Genesis 10:21-32; 11:10-26)

- A. The descendants of Shem are given as 6 sons and 5 grandsons with focus then shifting to a great-grandson, Eber, and his descendants.
- B. Elam Persia
- C. Asshur Assyria
- D. Arphaxad Chaldea
  - 1. Salah was the father of Eber.
  - 2. Eber had two sons, Peleg and Joktan.
  - 3. Joktan had 13 sons who became heads of tribes of Arabians.
  - 4. Through Peleg would come Abraham and the nation of Israel.
- E. Lud Lydia of Asia Minor
- F. Aram likely Syria (cf. Num. 23:7)
- G. In Genesis 11, the genealogy of Shem is recorded to introduce Abram.
  - Shem → Arphaxad → Salah → Eber → Peleg → Reu → Serug → Nahor → Terah → Abram
  - 2. Of course, this is where the history of man takes a dramatic turn...
- H. God had not abandoned man after the Flood or the sin at the Tower of Babel.
- I. Instead, He was working out a plan for man's redemption through His chosen man and seedline.



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