

# 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
    - 6. 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

## Lesson 02

- 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.
  - 1. 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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