

God and the Nations

GENESIS 9–11

FIRST DAY: Introduction

There is nothing quite as breathtaking as seeing a rainbow after a storm! These variegated prisms of color and light arch over the freshly washed landscape and remind us of God's covenant of mercy. After the great flood, God promised that He would never again destroy the whole world with a flood. He initiated a better plan to save His creation from corruption and judgment. Working through the lineage of Noah's son, Shem, God set apart one descendant after another to institute a godly line. It was through this chosen line that God ultimately provided the Messiah, His Son Jesus, to pay the penalty of judgment and free men from the corrupting influence of sin.

In Genesis 9 through 11, man's inevitable proclivity toward sin and rebellion is clearly portrayed. However, overarching this display of corruption is God's merciful covenant, and His unfolding plan to save His creation from the bondage of sin. In Romans 5:20, Paul declared the eternal truth that *where sin abounded, grace abounded much more*. Though man has a natural bent toward sin, God has provided the ultimate covenant of mercy to those who will receive Jesus as their Savior.

Ask God to help you embrace His overarching covenant of mercy.

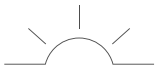
SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 9:1–17

1. Having been saved from God’s judgment by faith, Noah and his family were beginning a new chapter for the human race. After *God blessed Noah*, what did He instruct him to do? Genesis 9:1

- a. Compare this with Genesis 1:28a. What do you see?

2. God then established a different relationship between mankind and the animal kingdom. From Genesis 9:2–4 note and comment on the following ordinances of God concerning the animals:

- a. *Fear* of man (verse 2)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Before the flood, animals were not afraid of man. After the flood, God sanctioned animals as a source of food and caused them to have a fear and dread of man. According to Isaiah 11:6–9, Jesus will re-establish the original relationship between man and animals in the Kingdom Age.

- (1) How is this a mercy?

- b. *Food* for man (verses 3–4)

- (1) Link this with Leviticus 17:11 and 14 to explain the significance of an animal’s *blood*.

3. In Genesis 9:5 God declared that He would *demand a reckoning* for murder, whether committed by man or animal. Record God's ordinance concerning this from Genesis 9:6.
 - a. Pastor David Guzik points out, *Because man is made in the image of God, his life is inherently precious and cannot be taken without giving account to God.*¹¹ How does God's command help you to appreciate the sanctity of life?
4. God reiterated His command to *be fruitful and multiply*. He then established His *covenant* with all life on *earth* (Genesis 9:7–10). Cite this *covenant* from Genesis 9:11.
5. According to Genesis 9:12, God would give mankind a *sign of the covenant*. Use Genesis 9:13–17 to describe this *sign*.
 - a. What does this reveal to you about God?

6. What most stands out to you about this new chapter in human history?

7. According to Genesis 9:14, God would accompany the *cloud* with a *rainbow*. When God looks at His rainbow, He remembers His covenant with you. What do you remember when you see a rainbow? Genesis 9:15–16

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 9:18–29

1. From Genesis 9:18–19 summarize what you learn about *the sons of Noah*.

2. According to Genesis 9:20, Noah became a *farmer* and *planted a vineyard*. What happened when he *drank of the wine* from his vineyard? Genesis 9:21
 - a. Though Noah was a great man of faith, he still sinned and made mistakes. How does this speak to you?

3. Read Genesis 9:22–23. Bible scholars say that Ham defiled his father in the tent. He then intentionally mocked his father to undermine his authority as a man of God. With this in mind, contrast Ham's sin with the actions of Shem and Japheth.

- a. Connect this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

(1) Exodus 20:12

(2) Proverbs 11:13

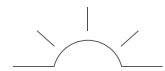
4. When Noah *awoke*, he *knew* what Ham *had done to him* (Genesis 9:24). Noah then prophesied concerning his sons. From Genesis 9:25–27 cite and remark on his prophecy concerning:

- a. Ham's son Canaan (verses 25, 26b, 27b)

- (1) Three times Noah declared that Canaan would be a *servant* to his brothers. According to the book of Joshua, this was the fate of the Canaanites when Israel conquered their land. What do you find interesting about this?

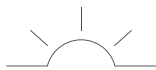
- b. Shem (verse 26)

- c. Japheth (verse 27)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why was Canaan cursed? Bible scholars are divided on this point. Some say it was because the sins of Ham, the father, were inherited by his son, Canaan. Others say Canaan was complicit in his father's actions. A third opinion suggests that Canaan enjoyed hearing about Noah's humiliation.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

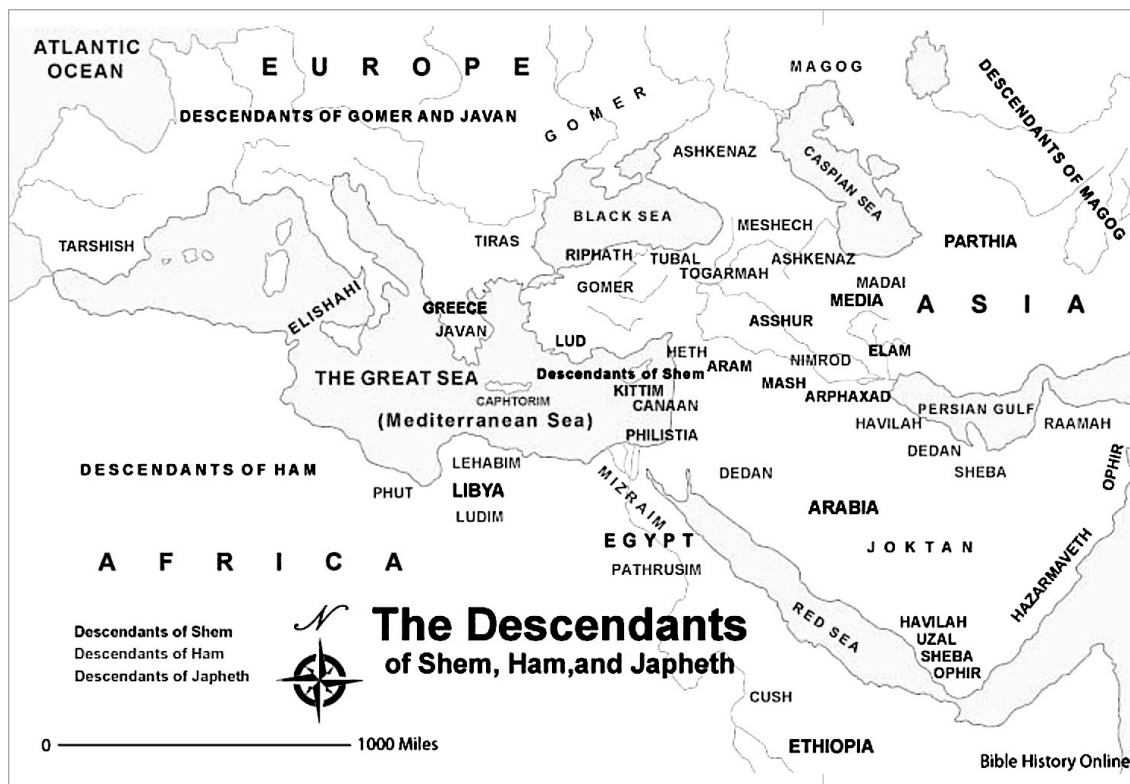
Noah was about 500 years old when his sons were born. According to the Bible time-lines, Noah, Shem, and Abraham would have all been living at the same time.

5. Genesis 9:28–29 records that Noah lived 350 years after the Flood and 950 years in total. Share any lessons you received from the testimony of Noah.

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 10

1. Genesis 10:1–32 documents the origins of the nations through the *genealogy of the sons of Noah*. We invite you to use the names listed below to find some of the nations originating from Noah’s descendants:

FROM JAPHETH (verses 2–5): Europe/Asia Minor	FROM HAM (verses 6–20): Egypt	FROM SHEM (verses 21–31): Middle East/ Arabian Peninsula
Gomer	Cush	Elam
Magog	Mizraim	Asshur
Madai	Put (Phut)	Arphaxad
Javan	Canaan	Lud
Tubal	Havilah	Aram
Meshech	Raamah	Mash
Tiras	Sheba	Joktan
Ashkenaz	Dedan	Hazarmaveth
Riphath	Nimrod	Havilah
Togarmah	Ludim	Uzal
Elishah	Lehabim	Sheba
Tarshish	Pathrusim	Ophir
Kittim	Philistia (Philistines)	
	Caphtorim	
	Heth	



2. Genesis 10:8–12 highlights the legacy of Ham’s grandson, Nimrod. Read these verses and record your observations concerning Nimrod.
 - a. Bible scholars say that in context, the phrase *mighty hunter* indicates that Nimrod, whose name means *rebel*, was a hunter of men or a ruthless warrior in opposition to God. *The beginning of his kingdom was Babel*, later known as Babylon. This has been the site of many wicked and idolatrous kingdoms over the course of history, and will play a role in the end times (Revelation 18:1–4). What does this convey to you about the consequences of rebellion in a person’s life?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The name *Peleg* means *division*. Bible scholars say this could be a reference to either the continental divide when the land masses of the earth broke up, or to the events that unfolded in Genesis 11 concerning the Tower of Babel.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*Of all those things here
in the tenth chapter,
there are no other
documents that speak
with the accuracy that
Genesis does on the
origin of the people
groups and nations.
You can't find any
other piece of ancient
literature that has this
kind of accuracy.*
—Pastor Brian Brodersen

(1) How is this a warning for you? See also 1 Samuel 15:23a.

(2) Why do you think Nimrod is mentioned in this chapter?

3. According to Genesis 10:25, what happened in the days of Peleg?

4. Compare the events of this chapter with the apostle Paul's declaration in Acts 17:26–27. What do you see?

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 11

1. Genesis 10:8–12 introduced Ham's grandson Nimrod, and Genesis 11 opened with the fate of his kingdom. Use Genesis 11:1–2 to set the scene for the building of this kingdom.

2. Contrary to God's command to *fill the earth* (Genesis 9:1), the people made their own plans. Use Genesis 11:3–4 to fill in their statements:

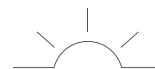
- a. *Come, let us* _____ (verse 3)
- b. *Come, let us* _____ (verse 4a)
- c. *Let us* _____ (verse 4b)
- d. *Lest we be* _____ (verse 4c)

(1) Based on these statements, what do you think was their intention?

(2) What dangers or sins can you identify in their plan?

3. According to Genesis 11:5, *the Lord came down to see the city and the tower* that the people of Shinar had built. Note and comment on:

- a. The problem (Genesis 11:6)
- b. God's intervention (Genesis 11:7)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The building materials had the same waterproof substance that was used on the ark. Erecting a waterproof tower revealed the people's lack of trust in God's promise that He would never again flood the earth. They chose self-preservation over God's promise.

(1) Use Psalm 18:26 to understand how God deals with men.

(2) Remark on the contrast between God's *let Us* statement and the people's *let us* statements of Genesis 11:3–4.

c. The result (Genesis 11:8–9)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

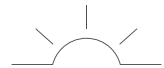
As Nimrod and his cohorts had held a council of conspiracy and aggression on earth, so God now called a "council," as it were, in heaven, to institute formal action to prevent the accomplishment of Nimrod's plans.¹²

—Dr. Henry Morris

(1) Notice that *the LORD scattered them abroad*. Contrast this with God's original intent (Genesis 9:1) and the people's intent in Genesis 11:4c. What do you see?

(2) *Babel* (Babylon) means *confusion*. Link this with Proverbs 16:5, 18 and James 3:16 and comment on the ultimate reason for the *confusion* at Babel.

- (3) How do you see the attitude of Babel at work in the world today? See also Psalm 2:1–6.
- (4) Pastor Warren Wiersbe says, *The unity of mankind would only give people a false sense of power that would lead them into even greater rebellion against God.*¹³ How does this reveal the mercy of God in His judgment at Babel?
4. Genesis 11:10–26 listed the descendants of Shem, which became the primary focus of the biblical record. Genesis 11:27–32 introduced a key figure in this lineage, Abram. Read these verses and record anything you find interesting about Abram’s background.
5. While man’s plan was to join forces to become an all-powerful civilization at Babel, God’s plan was to choose two ordinary people (Abram and Sarai) through whom He would accomplish His great purposes. How does this contrast minister to you?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the genealogy given after the flood, there is a marked decrease in the lifespan of mankind.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Use your study this week in Genesis 9–11 to share your greatest takeaway concerning:
 - a. Mankind and nature
 - b. God’s covenant
 - c. Sanctity of life
 - d. God’s mercy
 - e. The pervasive nature of sin
 - f. Rebellion against God
 - g. God’s wisdom
2. Share any insights you received this week about Our Great Creator.