

Greater Memphis Community Bible Study

GENESIS

Chapters 1 -11

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

CHAPTER 10A



A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS

SEPTEMBER 18 CHAPTER 11- THE TOWER OF
BABEL & GRADUATION!

SEPTEMBER 25 WE BEGIN OUR NEW STUDY



GENESIS


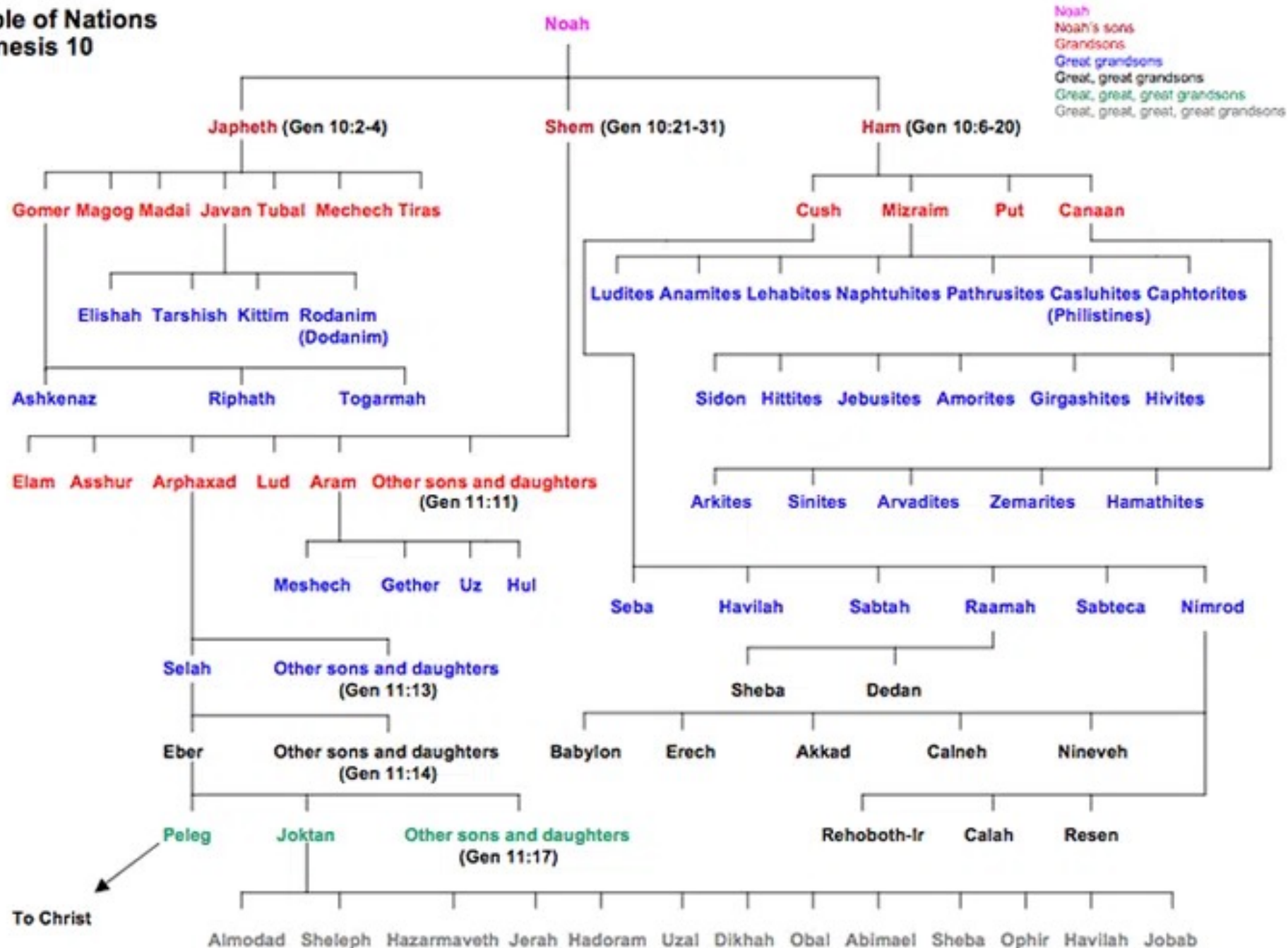
	Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations		Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
	CHAPTERS 1–2	CHAPTERS 3–5	CHAPTERS 6–9	CHAPTERS 10–11		CHAPTERS 12–25	CHAPTERS 26–27	CHAPTERS 28–36	CHAPTERS 37–50
Beginnings	Beginning of the human race					Beginning of the chosen race			
Result	Confusion and scattering					Bondage in Egypt			
History	Primeval history					Patriarchal history			
Chronology	Over 2,000 years					Approximately 300 years			
Emphasis	Four major events					Four important people			
Key Words and Phrases	“In the beginning” (1:1) “Generations” (5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2)								
Theme	God promises to redeem and bless His people.								
Key Verses	3:15; 12:3								
Christ in Genesis	Pictured in the seed of the woman (3:15); Melchizedek, the high priest (14:18); the humiliation and exaltation of Joseph (chapters 37–50)								

Table of Nations Genesis 10





Chapter 10

Verse 1- *Now these are the records of the generations of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and sons were born to them after the flood.*

generations (תולדות - *tol-dot*)- Could be translated as “genealogies” or “lineages.” These are not exhaustive or complete but a representative of how the descendants of these three sons spread out over the earth.

Later, in chapter 11, we will read about the effect of the Flood on the descendants of Noah- nothing!

This is the formal beginning of the Table of Nations. It begins with the familiar formula of “Shem, Ham, and Japheth” (5:32; 6:10; 9:18), but Moses will describe where their descendants landed in reverse order- Japheth first, then Ham, and finally Shem.

Chapter 10

Verse 2- *The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.*

Moses begins to name 70 of Noah's offspring, starting with Japheth (9:24). He lists seven sons in this verse and then seven grandsons of Japheth (three of Gomer and four of Javan) in the next two verses.

- **Gomer-** Russian Ukraine?
- **Magog-** People of the far north (Scythians- Ezekiel 38, 39) Russians?
- **Madai-** Medes (modern Iran)
- **Javan-** Greeks, Europe
- **Tubal, Meshech-** central and eastern Asia Minor (modern Turkey)
- **Tiras-** ancient Thrace (southeast Europe)

Noah's descendants (Table of Nations)

NOAH

Japheth

Gomer, Magog
Madai, Javan, Tubal
Meshech, Tiras

Sons of Gomer

Ashkenaz
Riphath, Togarmah

Sons of Javan

Elishah, Tarshish
Kittim, Dodanim

Shem

Elam, Asshur
Arphaxad, Lud, Aram

Son of Arphaxad

Salah

Son of Salah

Eber

Sons of Eber

Peleg, Joktan

Sons of Joktan

Almodad, Sheleph
Hazarmaveth, Jerah
Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah
Obal, Abimael, Sheba
Ophir, Havilah, Jobab

Sons of Aram

Uz, Hul, Gether, Mash

Ham

Cush, Mizraim
Phut, Canaan

Sons of Cush

Seba, Havilah, Sabtah
Raamah, Sabtecha, Nimrod

Sons of Raamah

Sheba, Dedan

Sons of Mizraim

Ludim, Anamim
Lehabim, Naphtuhim
Pathrusim, Casluhim
Caphtorim

Sons of Canaan

Sidon, Heth, Jebusite
Amorite, Girgashite, Hivite
Arkite, Sinite, Arvadite
Zemarite, Hamathite

Chapter 10

Verse 3- *The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.*

Seven of Japheth's grandsons are named from two of his sons- Gomer (Russia/Ukraine) and Javan (Greece).

The three grandsons by Gomer were:

- **Ashkenaz-** Russia? Modern Ashkenazi Jews are from Germany, Poland, and Russia
- **Riphath-** Also, Diphath (1 Chron. 1:6) is from an unknown area
- **Togarmah-** the far north and Asia Minor (Turkey)

Chapter 10

Verse 4- *The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.*

Seven of Japheth's grandsons are named from two of his sons- Gomer (Russia/Ukraine) and Javan (Greece).

The four grandsons by Javan were:

- **Elishah**- Cyprus (Mediterranean people)
- **Tarshish**- Southwest Spain or Asia Minor
- **Kittim**- The island of Cyprus?
- **Dodanim**- The island of Rhodes- People around the Aegean Sea

Chapter 10

Verse 5- *From these the people of the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.*

This was after Babel, when the people groups were divided in four ways:

- Geography
- Language
- Tribe
- Nation

This is evidence that although mankind was commanded to scatter and as God commanded Adam in 1:28 and Noah in 9:1, they dispersed from Babel once God confused their language in 11:8.

Chapter 10

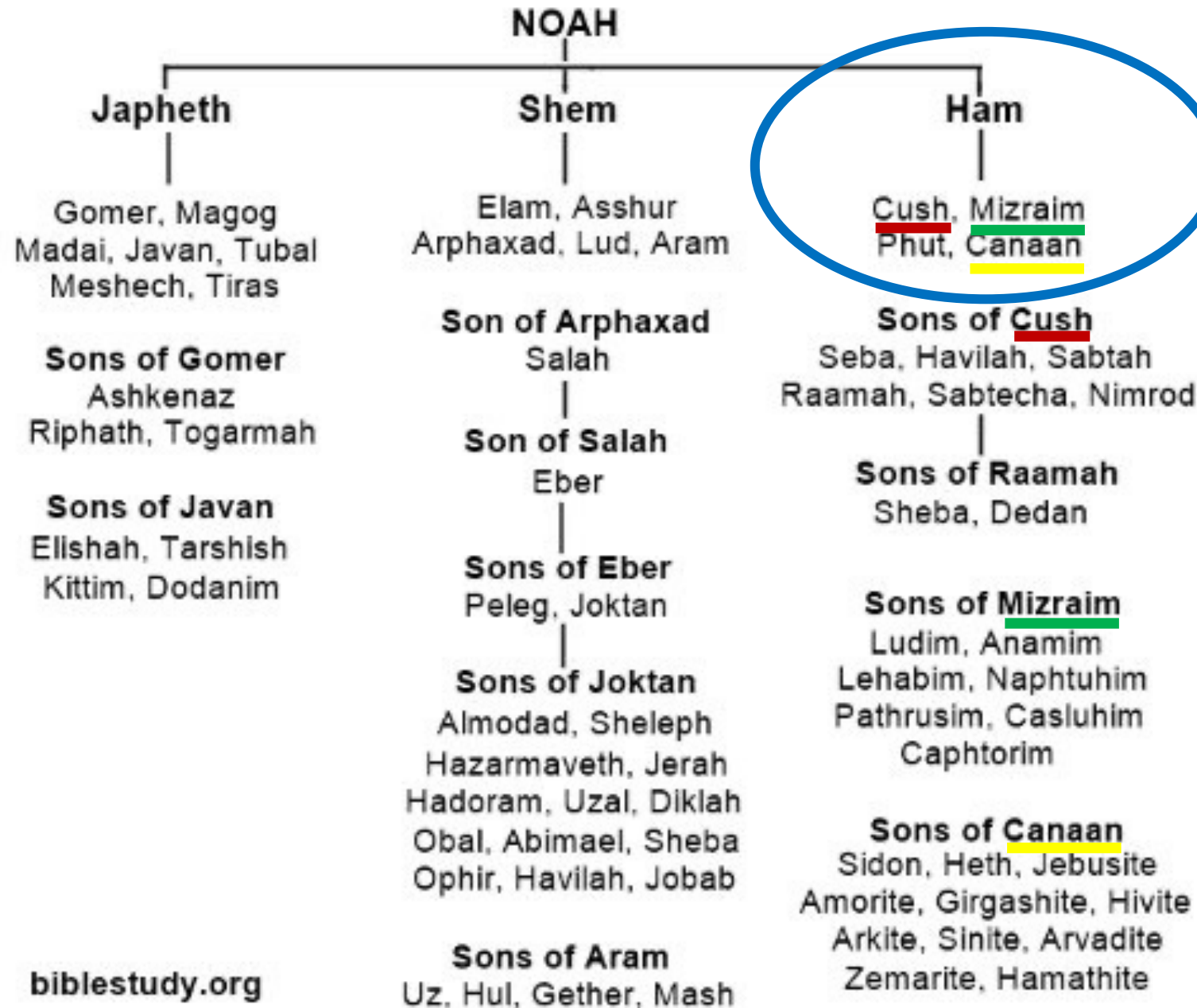
Verse 6- *The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.*

God blessed Shem, Ham, and Japheth but cursed one of Ham's sons, Canaan.

- **Cush-** Ethiopia (Kos/Kosh- Egyptians, Kushu- Assyrians)
- **Mizraim-** Egypt
- **Put-** North Africa, Libya
- **Canaan-** This area is described in verse 19:

The territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon going toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; and going toward Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

Noah's descendants (Table of Nations)



Chapter 10

Verse 6- *The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.*

God blessed Shem, Ham, and Japheth but cursed one of Ham's sons, Canaan.

- **Cush-** Ethiopia (Kos/Kosh- Egyptians, Kushu- Assyrians)
- **Mizraim-** Egypt (MSRM- Ugaritic tablets, MISRI- Amarna tablets, MUSUR- Assyrians, MUSRI- Babylonians, MASRI- Egyptians (still today))



- The Egyptian god Horus of the first Egyptian dynasty (of over 30) had the head of a falcon. Other animals were worshipped (ram, jackal, cat, goose, cow, lioness, frog, lioness, ibis, crocodile).
- On his head was the sun encircled by a serpent (a symbol of divinity).
- According to Egyptian records, their land appeared out of the water. A falcon flew down with a reed in its mouth, a symbol of the new world starting. This is a variation of the creation account.
- Much of Egyptian mythology is a retelling (distortion) of the actual creation account.

Chapter 10

Verse 7- *The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.*

- **Seba-** (India or Sri Lanka) is mentioned only with Sheba in Psalm 72:10 and with Ethiopia in Isaiah 43:3.
- **Havilah-** (East Africa) mentioned in 2:10-11: *Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.*

Havilah is listed as one of the sons of Joktan. It apparently refers to an area in Arabia.

- **Sabtah-** (Somalia), perhaps a commercial (Ethiopian) city in Arabia
- **Raamah-** South Arabia
 - Sheba & Dedan- both in Saudi Arabia
- **Sabteca-** modern Yemen

Chapter 10

Verse 8- *Now Cush fathered Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.*

Nimrod (rebel) Built Babel (Babilu), Erech (Uruk), Accad (Akkad), Calneh (Nippur?) in Sumeria, Nineveh, Caleh, Ir, Rehoboth, Resen in Assyria.

Nimrod was:

- The first noted leader and champion hunter (Vv. 9–10)
- A man whose exploits caused a proverb on later Israel- *“Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.”* (v. 9)
- Someone who founded significant cities in Upper and Lower Mesopotamia (Vv. 10–12). (Mathews)

Chapter 10

Verse 9- *He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.”*

This Jewish proverb is interpreted in at least two ways by scholars. First, Nimrod was mighty and had God’s favor. Second, since Nimrod possessed physical strength and intelligence that he set himself in opposition to the Lord.

The writer of Psalm 66 describes God in verse 7: *“He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; The rebellious shall not exalt themselves!”*

Some interpret this in a third and neutral sense, only that Nimrod was exceptional in his accomplishments.

Chapter 10

Verse 10- *And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

Nimrod's accomplishments are further described. Those in these kingdoms were his main supporters.

Babel is referred to as “Babylon,” which follows the Greek usage. Babel was located on the west bank of the Euphrates, about 80 kilometers or 50 miles south of what is today Baghdad, Iraq.

Erech was also a city on the Euphrates, about 200 kilometers or 125 miles southeast of Babel.

Accad was possibly a city in the north of Babylonia, but it is recorded nowhere else in the Old Testament.

Shinar is a Hebrew name for all of Babylonia, which is the southern part of modern Iraq.

Chapter 10

Verse 11- *From that land he went to Assyria, and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah,*

Nimrod also ruled from Shinar (Babylonia) to Assyria.

Assyria was one of the greatest empires of the ancient Middle East. It is mentioned numerous times in the Old Testament. Its center was in what is now northern Iraq, and its capital was Nineveh.

Nineveh is referred to in Jonah as “the great city.” Its ruins are located near the modern city of Mosul, Iraq.

Rehoboth-Ir is a Hebrew for “the city squares” or “the city plazas,” perhaps referring to a suburb of Nineveh.

Calah was located south of Nineveh and was the royal residence. Today in Arabic, it is called “Nimrud,” who in Islamic commentaries is a son of Canaan and not a son of Cush. (Reyburn & Fry).

Chapter 10

Verse 12- *and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.*

Resen- This city was located between Nineveh and Calah, but knowledge of this ancient city has been lost.

It's obvious that Nimrod was both a hunter (killer) and builder of prominent cities. This reminds us of the beginning of the book, when Cain murdered and built a city after he was exiled (4:17). It also reminds us of those who built the Tower of Babel (11:4, 5, 8).

Those who follow the Lord (Noah and Abraham) are remembered for building altars of worship to the Lord (8:20; 12:7–8). (Mathews)

Everybody is building something- their lives and accomplishments are monuments to themselves or altars to the Lord.

Chapter 10

Verse 13- *Mizraim fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,*

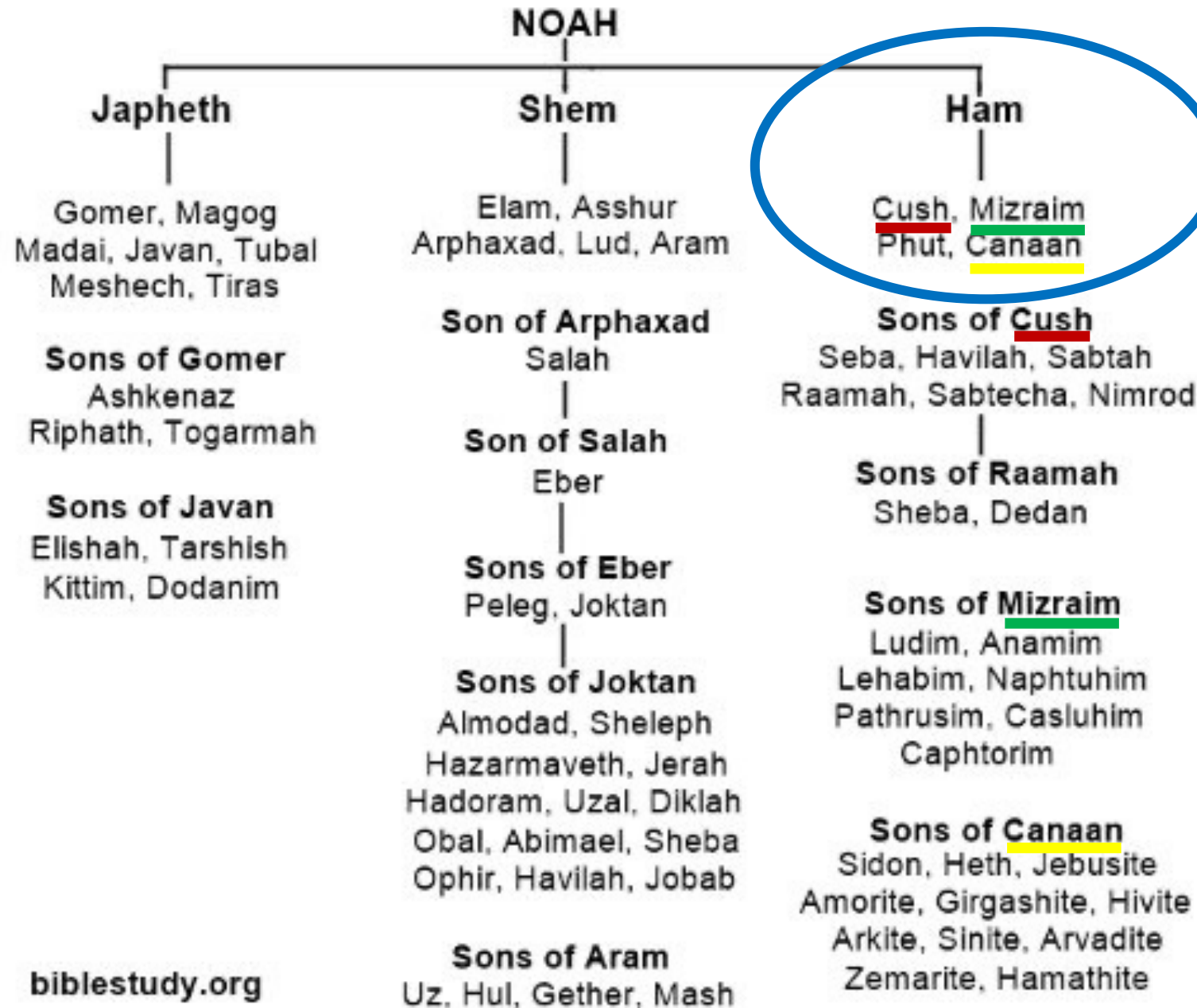
Mizraim- Father of the Egyptians?

This verse picks up the list of nations that was interrupted by verses 8-12. Verses 13-14 contain seven names, all with the plural suffix in Hebrew, and only a few are known for certain. English translations handle the plural Hebrew names in various ways.

Translators use the forms that are usual for referring to the people of a particular foreign nation or group.

Ludim occurs in the singular *lud*, as archers in the Egyptian army. **Anamim** is unidentified, and **Lehabim** may be identified as the Lubim in 2 Chr 12:3; 16:8; Dan 11:43, and probably refers to the Libyans. **Naphtuhim** is also unidentified.

Noah's descendants (Table of Nations)



Chapter 10

Verse 14- *Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines), and Caphtorim.*

Egypt (Mizraim) also produced Pathrusim (Jer. 44:15), referred to as Upper Egypt. Casluhim. Philistines are people from the Aegean area who invaded the land of Canaan and Egypt in the 13th century B.C. and later came into conflict with the Israelites. Caphtorim is almost certainly an ancient name for the island of Crete; it is used in Jeremiah 47:4; Amos 9:7.

Chapter 10

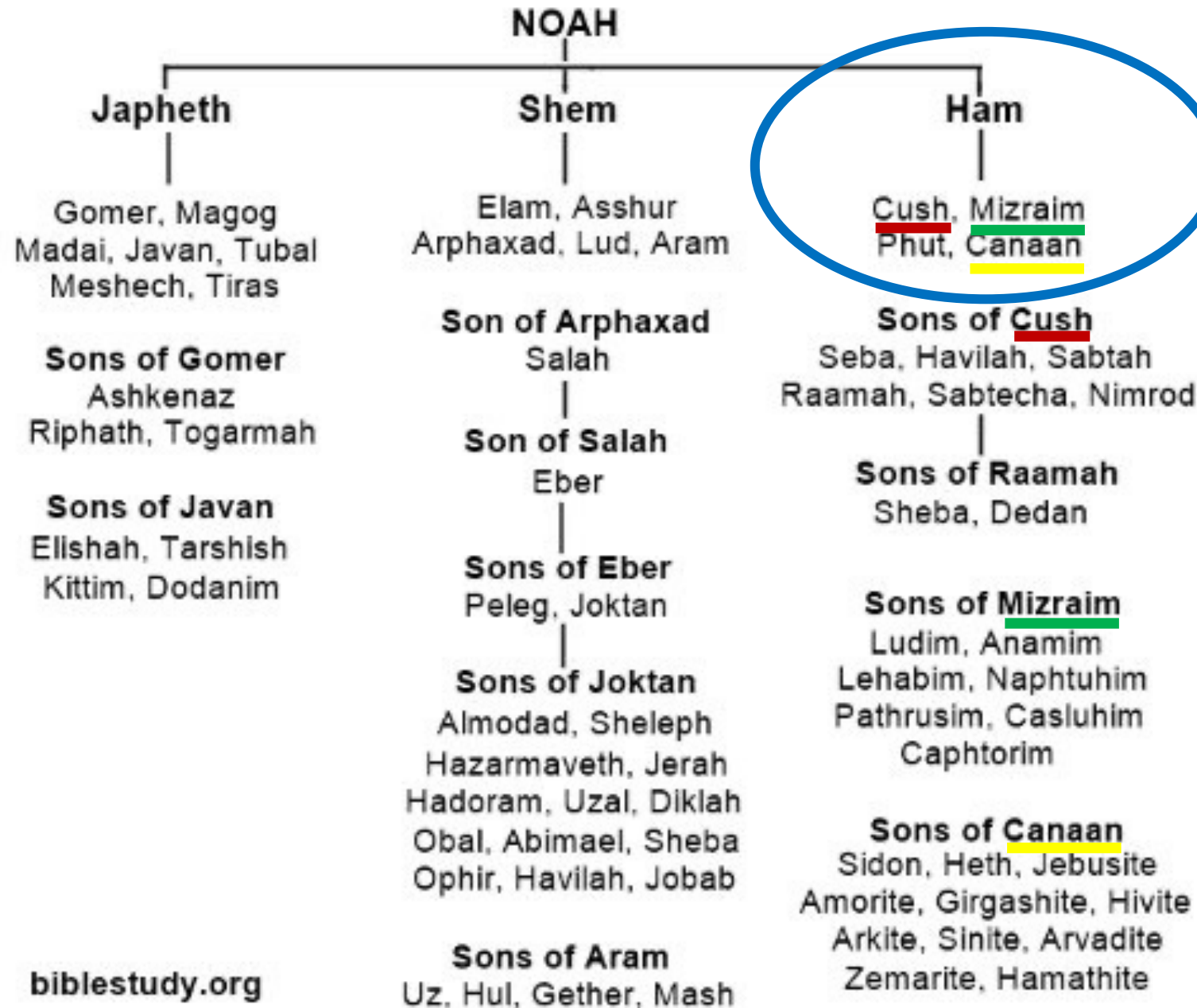
Verse 15- *Canaan fathered Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth,*

This verse mentions Canaan, the last-mentioned son of Ham in verse 6, and his eleven descendants.

Sidon is the oldest city of Phoenicia, which probably gives rise to its being referred to as his firstborn. Here Sidon probably stands for Phoenicia as a whole, as it does in Judges 18:7; 1 Kgs 5:6; 16:31.

Heth refers to the ancient Hittites who dominated much of Canaan from 1600 to 700 B.C. Eventually, they were absorbed into the Assyrian empire.

Noah's descendants (Table of Nations)



Chapter 10

Verse 16- *the Jebusite, the Amorite, the Girgashite,*

These descendants in Canaan's list of names of peoples end with the Hebrew suffix "i," meaning "people of." In English, it is "-ites." The first four names are Canaanite peoples.

Jebusites refers to the ancient inhabitants of the city of Jerusalem (Jebus) (Josh.15:8; 2 Sam 5:6-9).

Amorites in the Old Testament are the people who occupied the promised land west of the Jordan before the arrival of the Israelites (Amos 2:9–10).

Girgashites are mentioned here and in another list (Gen 15:21). No indication of where they lived is given.

Chapter 10

Verse 17- *the Hivite, the Arkite, the Sinite,*

The list of the eleven descendants of Cannan continues.

The **Hivites** were a people located in the vicinity of Gibeon (Josh. 9:7; 11:19) near Shechem at the foot of Mount Hermon.

The **Arkites** were inhabitants of a city mentioned only here in the Old Testament. It is known today as Arqa, north of Tripoli in Lebanon.

The **Sinites** were inhabitants of a town, possibly in the neighborhood of Arqa. They are mentioned only here and in 1 Chr. 1:15.

Chapter 10

Verse 18- *the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad.*

The last three on the list of Canaan's eleven descendants are listed.

The **Arvadites** are mentioned in Ezek. 27:8, 11. The city is known from the Amarna letters and other ancient texts as an important maritime city north of Arqa. It is known today as Ruad.

The **Zemarites** are the people of a city located south of Arvad. It is mentioned often in the Amarna letters (diplomatic correspondence between Egypt and other countries) but only here in the Old Testament.

Hamathites are the people of the city of Hamath mentioned numerous times in the Old Testament (Num 13:21; Josh 13:5; Judges 3:3).

Chapter 10

Verse 19- *The territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon going toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; and going toward Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.*

The Canaanite borders are described in terms of eight cities, but it's impossible to draw a boundary line since the locations of the last five are not known.

From **Sidon** in the direction of **Gerar**: Sidon is in Phoenicia (modern Lebanon), and **Gerar** is southeast of Gaza.

Some scholars think the purpose of this verse is not to define Canaan's borders but rather to give its general area by naming a few important locations along its borders.

Chapter 10

Verse 19- *The territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon going toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; and going toward Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.*

This verse defines the region of the Canaanites God would later give to the people of Israel, the Promised Land (Exodus 3:17).

Some of the Canaanite clans listed in the previous verses will be wiped out, and others will become servants to God's people. This is partly due to the curse of Noah against Canaan in Genesis 9:20-25. It is also due to the extraordinary evil in which Canaan's descendants participated (Deuteronomy 9:3-6).

Sodom and **Gomorrah**, as well as **Admah**, and **Zeboiim**, will become so well known for their wickedness that their names will become shorthand for depraved evil. God's judgment on them is described in Genesis 19. All four cities were destroyed by the wrath of God for their wickedness. The only one of the five cities of the plain (Zoar/Bela = “destruction”) was spared because of Lot (Genesis 19:20-23).

Chapter 10

Verse 20- *These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, and by their nations.*

Is this in contradiction to what we will read in chapter 11:1 “Now all the earth used the same language and the same words?”

The lists given here are meant to be broad. Rather than tracing through time, this “table of nations” shows how the sons of Noah fathered all the tribes and peoples of the ancient world.

Ham’s sin against Noah resulted in a curse (Genesis 9:20-25). The Canaanites will later participate in great wickedness and be conquered by Israel (Deuteronomy 9:3–6). The following verses will describe how the people of Israel will come from the line of Noah's son Shem.

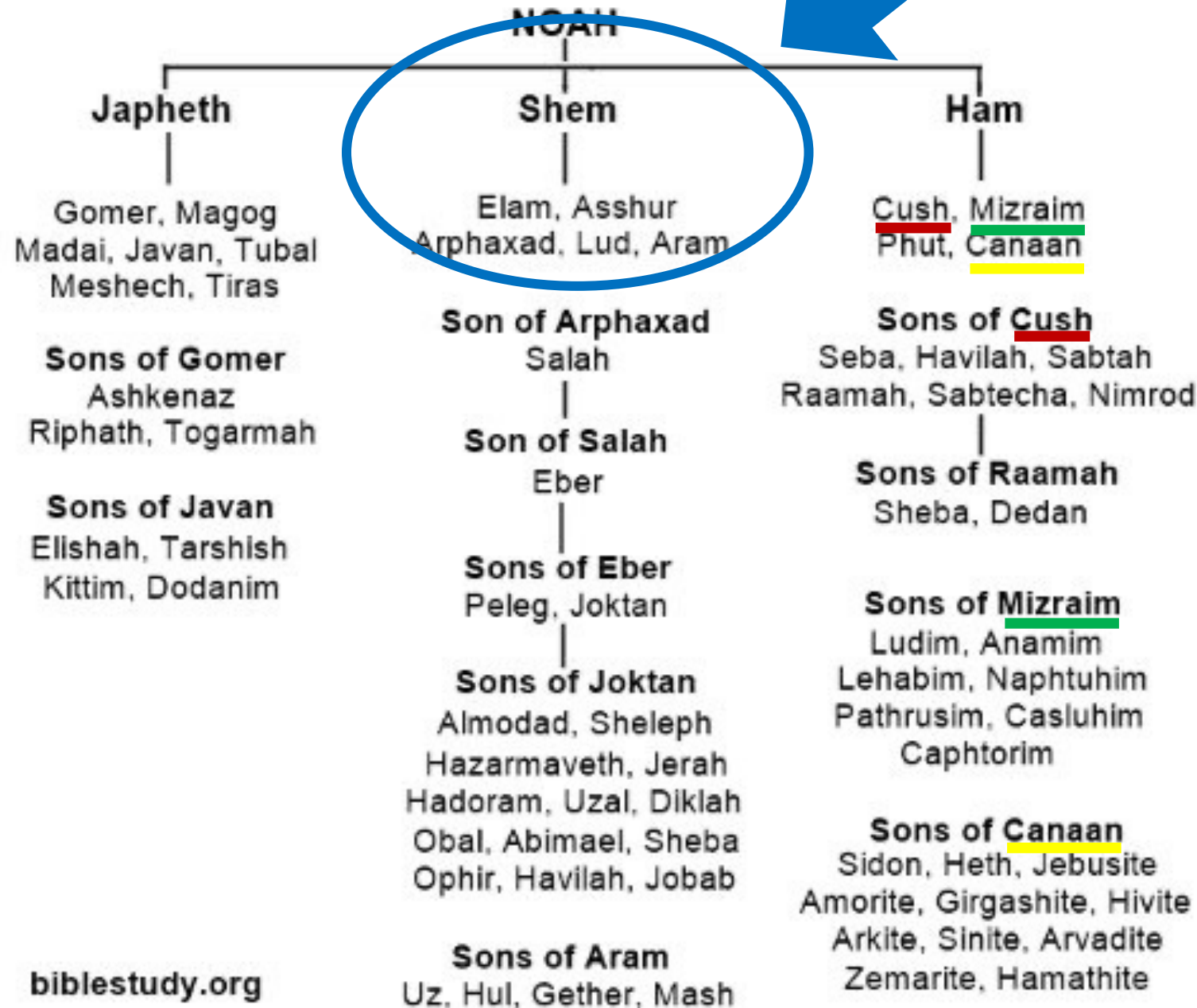
Chapter 10

Verse 21- *Also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, and the older brother of Japheth, children were born.*

This begins the final section of the Table of Nations. Shem was the oldest of Noah's sons. Earlier, Ham was described as the youngest or least son (Genesis 9:24). Here, Shem is said to be the older brother of Japheth. It seems Shem was the oldest of the three sons Noah brought with him on the ark (Genesis 7:1). Shem's line is the one that will lead to Abraham and ultimately to Christ.

Verse 21 begins by referring to Shem as the father of the **Eberites**. This is typical of genealogies, especially in the ancient world. The term "father" is often used to refer to any male ancestor (Genesis 15:15; Genesis 31:3). This makes Shem the "father" of the **Eberites**, in the sense that, as Eber's great grandfather, Shem is the ancestor of that people. Through the Eberites, eventually, Shem's line will lead to Abraham (Abram).

Noah's descendants (Table of Nations)



Chapter 10

Verse 22- *The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.*

Elam is the name referring to people in Babylonia, northeast of the Persian Gulf, whose capital was Susa (Gen. 14:1; Isa. 11:11).

Asshur is the Hebrew word for Assyria. (Verse 11).

Arpachshad is mentioned only here and in 1 Chr. 1. Its significance and location have never been established for certain.

Lud referred to as “Ludim” under verse 1, maybe the Lydians of Anatolia (Speiser)

Aram refers to the Arameans, frequently mentioned in the Old Testament (Num. 23:7; 2 Sam. 8:6; 1 Chr. 1:17). Their kingdom was once in Damascus, and through their influence, the Aramaic language became a language of commerce and diplomacy.

Chapter 10

Verse 23- *The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.*

Of the four sons of Aram, only one is known.

Uz is known mainly as the native land of Job in Job 1:1. Lamentations 4:21 speaks of Edom as a “dweller in the land of Uz.” Uz is also mentioned in Jeremiah 25:20. Its location is unknown.

Hul, Gether, and Mash are unknown.

Chapter 10

Verse 24- *Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber.*

Shem's line leads through Arpachshad to Shelah to Eber and eventually to Abraham and the Israelites. This makes Shem the ancestor of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

This also fulfills the curse given by Noah (Genesis 9:20–25) that Canaan's descendants would be subservient to those of Shem.

Chapter 10

Verse 25- *Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.*

The name “Peleg” and the word “divided” are similar in Hebrew (P-L-G). This dividing of the earth probably refers to the scattering of the peoples of the earth as God confuses their language at the Tower of Babel.

Joktan was probably the younger brother of Peleg, and this name is associated with Arabia. Maybe Joktan is the father of the Arab peoples.

Chapter 10

Verse 26- *Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,*

The genealogy of Shem continues with his great-great-grandson, Joktan, and his 13 sons are listed. Seven of the thirteen names are unknown.

Hazarmaveth is generally agreed to be “Hadramaut,” the modern name of a region in South Yemen, which gives a hint as to the general location.

Jerah is a Hebrew word meaning “new moon.” Later on, the moon would become one of the foremost gods worshiped in the region, which seems to be the ancestral homeland of Arabic peoples.

Chapter 10

Verse 27- *Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,*

The unknown names in Joktan's list are Almodad, Jerah, Hadoram, Diklah (Arabic for date palm), Obal, Abimael, and Jobab.

Uzal is an unknown location but occurs in Ezek 27:19 as a source of wine bartered with Tyre.

According to Arabic tradition, Uzal (or Azal) was the pre-Islamic name of San`a, the capital of North Yemen. (Reyburn & Fry)

Chapter 10

Verse 28- *Obal, Abimael, Sheba,*

There is little known about **Obal** (maybe Yemen) and **Abimael** (“my father is truly God”).

Sheba is sometimes used to refer to the entire Arabian peninsula. Supposedly it is connected with the Queen of Sheba in 1 Kings 10.

The Table of Nations is primarily given to explain the family relationships involved in the descendants of Noah. The exact locations of where these descendants migrated is secondary.

Chapter 10

Verse 29- *Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all of these were the sons of Joktan.*

The list of the 13 sons of Joktan ends with Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab.

Ophir was famous for its gold (1 Kings 9:28). Its location could be in South Arabia.

Havilah was also famous for its gold (Gen 2:11; 25:18; 1 Sam 15:7). Its location could be in South Arabia.

Chapter 10

Verse 30- *Now their settlement extended from Mesha going toward Sephar, the hill country of the east.*

The locations of Mesha, Sephar, and the hill country of the east are unclear. Again, the main point of this passage is not geography but lineage. How did Shem, Ham, and Japheth become the ancestors of all of the world's nations? We will discover the “why” of their different languages and geography soon.

Chapter 10

Verse 31- *These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, and according to their nations.*

This is the formal conclusion to the genealogy of Shem and his descendants. The line from Shem to Abraham will be described more specifically in chapter 11.

All people groups, including every possible tribe or race, are descended from Noah and his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Chapter 10

Verse 32- *These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their descendants, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.*

This is the summary statement for the Table of Nations and sets up the events of the next chapter, which explains the events in chapter 10.

Next week...

Chapter 11 -

“The Tower of Babel”

