

Walk Through the Bible

GENESIS 10-11

OVERVIEW

Genesis chapter 10 compiles a list of names of those who descended from Japheth, Ham, and Shem after the flood (**v.1**). The purpose of this chapter is not to establish the lineage of these various tribes but to clarify the boundaries between them. The first section lists the sons and descendants of Japheth (**v.2-5**). The second section details the line of Noah's son Ham (**v.6-20**). The final section of the table of nations describes the descendants of Shem that will lead to Abraham and the nation of Israel (**v.21-32**).

In chapter 11, we see mankind unifying to build a city and a tower in rebellion against God. The people sought to make a name for themselves and to keep from being dispersed over the face of the earth (**v.1-4**). God intervened in this building project by confusing the language of the people, and causing them to be scattered all over the earth (**v.5-9**). The chapter ends by offering a direct genealogy from Shem to Abram (**v.10-32**).

DISCUSSION

- In Hebrew, the name Nimrod is a verb that means "*to rebel*." Simply based on the people groups that descended from Nimrod, in what ways do you think he "lived up" to his name (**Genesis 10:8-12**)?
- In the line of Shem, we find a man named Eber, from whom the Hebrew people are believed to have descended. The name Eber means, "crossing over". Why would this be a fitting name for the Hebrew people (**Genesis 10:21**)?
- What motivation did the people have to build a city and a tower (**Genesis 11:4**)? In what way would this building project meet that purpose?
- What reason did God give for intervening in the plans of mankind (**Genesis 11:6**)? Why would this be a problem?
- How was the curse/judgment of **Genesis 11** reversed in **Acts 2**?

