

The Table of Nations

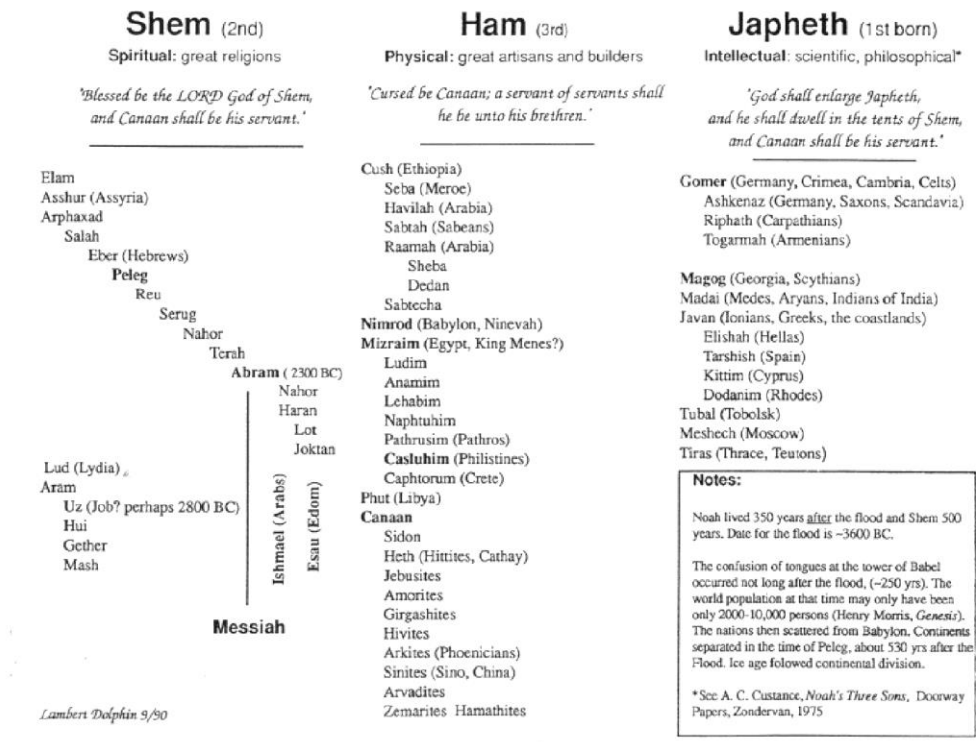
Purpose: to show how the nations of the world were divided and what it means to us today.

Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

Genesis 10:1

- From verses 2 to 5 we have the sons of Japheth:
 - Japheth is mentioned first, not just because he is the firstborn, but also because he has the least to do with the children of Israel.
 - His descendants eventually inhabited **Europe, Asia minor, India, Russia, Persia**
- From verses 6 to 20 we have the sons of Ham, who was actually the youngest of the three:
 - Ham is mentioned second, probably because of the fact that they will have many dealings with the children of Israel
 - His descendants eventually inhabited **Canaan, Egypt, Africa, Babylon, Southern Arabia**
- From verses 21 to 31 we have the sons of Shem:
 - Shem is last and most important, because Abraham came from this line.
 - His descendants eventually inhabited **Assyria, Middle East**

Here is an interesting chart of their descendants:



Why is this genealogy important?

- This record tells us where Noah's descendants went and how the nations evolved.

- It shows a true record of the development of nations – not fiction
- It shows that the earth was made to be inhabited by men – God’s design with man in the centre
- It shows that we are all of one blood – one common human nature
 - *Acts 17:26 – 28; And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*

There are also two persons mentioned that are quite significant:

Nimrod (vs. 8-12)– a might hunter on the earth.

- His name means “rebellion”, and he was a very wicked man.
- The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. This is where the tower of Babel was built.
- He also went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth ir, Calah, and Resen

Peleg (v. 25)

*To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days **the earth was divided;***

What does “...the earth was divided...” mean?

1. It seems that during the lifetime of Peleg God “divided” or scattered the nations by confusing their language.
2. It also appears that during the lifetime of Peleg God “divided” the physical earth, separating the continents and creating the separate oceans.

This is a typical world map, as we know it today:



Many geologists today believe that the continents were once connected together, based on the way that they seem to fit together and other factors. This is known as the “Continental Drift Theory”.

This is a projection of the world before it was divided:



This is a projection of the way that people migrated and settled:



What have we considered so far?

- We have an accurate record of the migration of people after the flood
- We learn that God designed the earth to be inhabited and subdued by man
- We understand that we are all of one blood, all sons of Adam
- Once again, man's wickedness can be seen through the example of Nimrod
- God divided the people during the days of Peleg

Chapter 10 shows how the nations were divided; chapter 11 shows why they were divided.

We will consider that next week.