

The Nations
Genesis 10 - 11:9

How to use this Scripture Engagement



Pray to Begin

Before you start each lesson, ask the Lord to use it to grow you in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Read the Bible passage

Invite God to open your eyes and deepen your understanding of His Word as you read the passage.



Study the Scripture Engagement Guide

Go through the Scripture Engagement study provided to reflect on the meaning, context, and personal application of the passage you've read.



Reflect on the Scripture Engagement Questions

After every teaching, consider the Scripture Engagement questions listed for personal reflection and application and for your small group discussions.



Listen to Dr. J. Vernon McGee's Teaching

If you'd like to hear the complete audio teaching on the passage, visit ttb.bible or scan the QR code on the last page to download the THRU the BIBLE app in your own language.



Use our recommended **pause and resume icon**. This will guide you to move through the content thoughtfully and at your own rhythm.

For your consideration

How to use this Scripture Engagement	Page 2
--------------------------------------	-----------

From One Family to Every Nation (Genesis 10:1-20)	Page 4
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The Spread of Peoples (Genesis 10:2-7)	Page 10
---	------------

The First Empire and the Hunter of Souls (Genesis 10:8-12)	Page 14
---	------------

The Line of Promise and Redemption (Genesis 10:21-32)	Page 18
--	------------

The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-4)	Page 22
--	------------

God's Divine Intervention (Genesis 11:5-9)	Page 26
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The Nations

Dear Heavenly Father,

Just as Your Word declares in Acts 17:26, that You “made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth”, we thank You for Your sovereign hand in history. Help us love all nations as You do, to walk humbly in Your plan, and to live for the glory of Your name among every people.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Key Insights

Genesis 10 is **not just a list of names**. It is the Bible's '**Map of Nations**'. This chapter lays out the roots of **every major ethnic group** on earth, all descended from **Noah's three sons** after the flood.

Noah's three sons



Japheth



Ham



Shem

This genealogy is *far more significant* because:

It forms the **foundation** for the world's ethnic divisions



It shows **God's involvement in human history** through families and nations

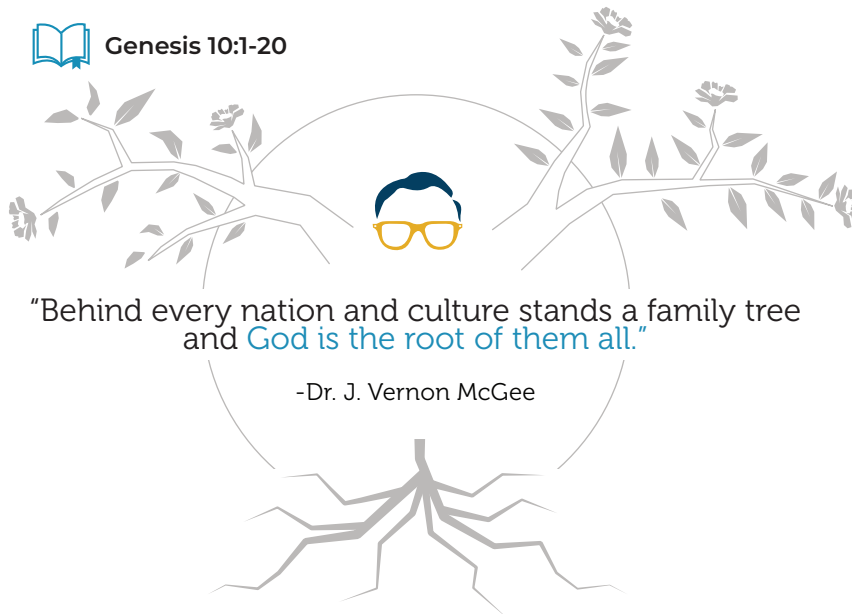


It **traces the line of the Messiah**, setting the stage for God's redemptive plan through the descendants of Shem

From One Family to Every Nation



Genesis 10:1-20



"Behind every nation and culture stands a family tree and **God is the root of them all.**"

-Dr. J. Vernon McGee



Spiritual Truths

God Works through Families

“Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah...” (v.1)

From the beginning, God has chosen to **carry out His plans through generations**, through parents passing truth and blessing to their children.

Every Nation has a Common Ancestor

Genesis 10 traces the nations of the world back to one family. This demolishes any notion of racial superiority or segregation.

All humanity is one blood (Acts 17:26), descended from Noah, and before him, from Adam.

The Pattern of Scripture: The Rejected Line First

McGee points out that **God mentions the rejected line first** - Japheth and Ham, before turning to the accepted line - Shem, through whom **Christ would come**.

This pattern reminds us that God doesn't hide humanity's rebellion, but He highlights His redemptive line.



“ Notice that throughout the Bible, God follows this same pattern of giving the rejected line first and saying a word about it, then He drops that subject entirely and does not bring it up again. Finally, He gives the accepted line the line which is leading to the Lord Jesus Christ. ”





Reflection

Question 1

Am I intentionally passing down a legacy of faith to the next generation?

Question 2

Have I ever thought of myself being superior or inferior because of the caste, race, or skin color, in which I was born in?



Application

Question 4

Pray for nations and ethnic groups, just as God has commanded us, “Love your neighbor as yourself”.

Draw your Application



The Spread of Peoples



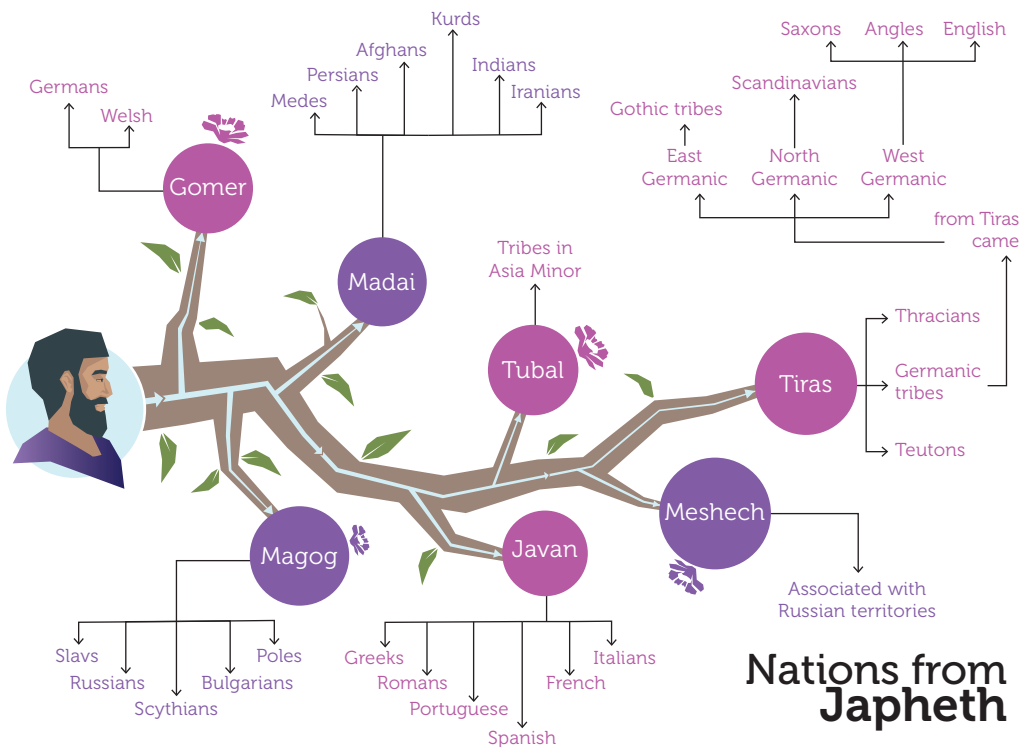
Genesis 10:2-7



Spiritual Truths

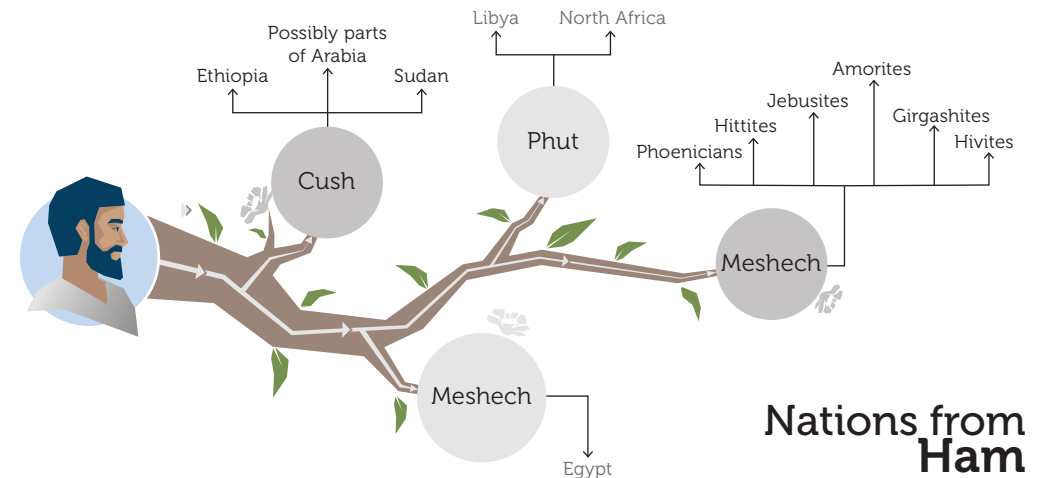
Sons of Japheth - Founders of European and Central Asian Peoples

"The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras." (Genesis 10:2)



Sons of Ham - Founders of African and Middle Eastern Peoples

"The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan." (Gen. 10:6)



"The curse was placed on Canaan, not on Ham or the African peoples. This is vital to correct false teachings that have misused Scripture to justify racial prejudice."



"Behind every nation stands a family. Behind every family stands a promise or a rebellion."



Reflection

Question 1

How can I celebrate the cultural diversity of God's creation and honor God's redemptive plan for all?

Question 2

How should remembering we are one human family affect how I treat others?



Application

Question 3

We should stand against prejudice in thought, word, and action. What are some practical ways we can put this into practice in our society?

Draw your Application



The First Empire and the Hunter of Souls



Genesis 10:8-12



Key Insights

Nimrod, The First Empire Builder

"Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth." (v.8)

Nimrod wasn't just a strong man, he was the **first political leader** attempting to create a centralized empire after the flood.

The word "mighty one" implies **dominion, control**, and possibly **oppression**.

This marks the beginning of **human government apart from God**.

Hunter of Souls, Not Animals

"He was a mighty hunter before the Lord." (v.9)

Not a hunter of wild animals, but a figurative **hunter of men**, gathering and controlling people for his own purposes.

"Before the Lord" implies a bold **defiance or challenge** to God's authority.

Nimrod becomes a **type of the Antichrist**, the future global leader who defies God and deceives people.



The Cities of Rebellion

"And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel..." (v.10)

Nimrod's kingdom begins in **Babel**, which later becomes Babylon, the **symbol of rebellion, confusion, and false religion**.

These urban centers reflect **man's effort to build without God**, a theme echoed in the next chapter with the Tower of Babel.



Nimrod was the rebel, the founder of Babel, the hunter of the souls of men. He was the lawless one, and he is a shadow or a type of the last world ruler, the Antichrist who is yet to appear.

”





Reflection

Question 1

In what ways does Nimrod reflect modern patterns of worldly leadership?

Question 2

What warnings can we draw from Babel's foundations when building our own "kingdoms"?



Application

Question 3

Build your life not on Babel's ambition but on Christ, the cornerstone. Write how you will build your life on Christ. What you will avoid so as not to follow Babel's ambition.

Draw your Application



The Line of Promise and Redemption

 Genesis 10:21-32

Key Insights

Shem - Father of the Semitic Nations

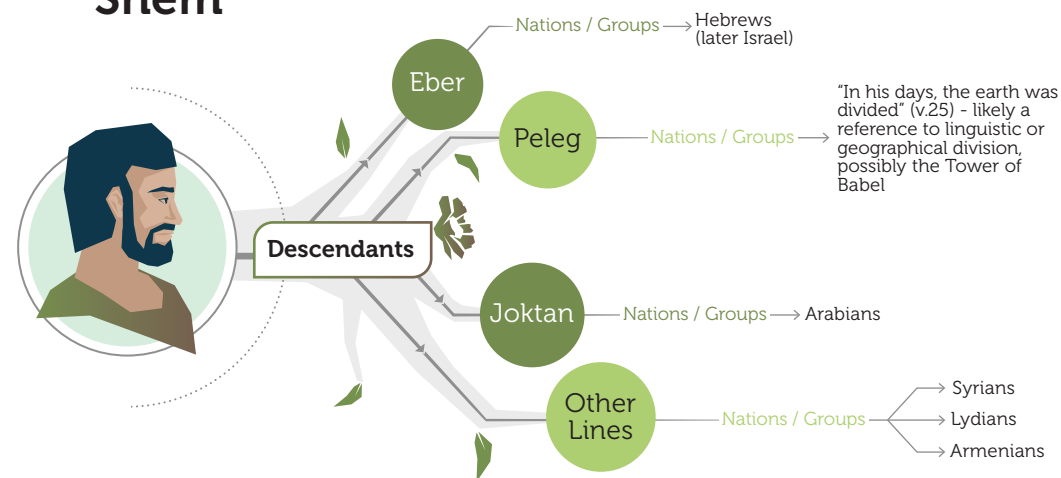
"And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber..." (v.21)

Shem is called the father of **Eber**, from whom the **Hebrews** descended.

He represents the **chosen line** that God would use to bring about **redemption** through Abraham, Israel, and ultimately Christ.

Shem is linked to spiritual blessing rather than dominance through conquest.

Nations from Shem



These groups played a major role in ancient history, especially in the region of the **Middle East**.

The **Arabian** tribes, including those from Joktan, populated the **southern desert regions**.

The **Syrians** and **Armenians** were prominent during the biblical and early post-biblical periods.

Spiritual Truths

God's sovereign hand is evident in **human history**, raising up nations and using them for His purposes.

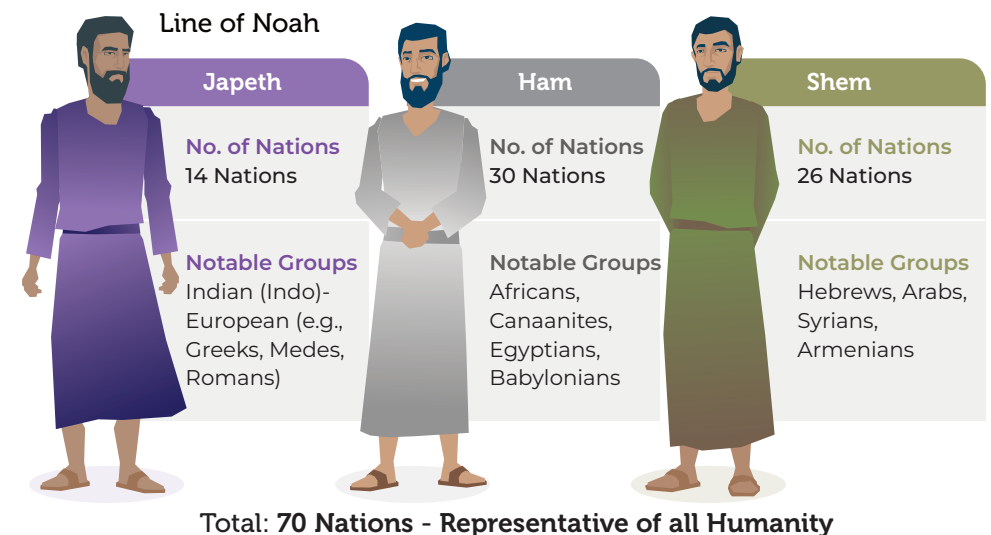


God is showing us what He has done with the nations of the world.

Shem's line became prominent during the times of David and Solomon when Israel became a beacon of God's rule on earth.

This chapter showcases the **unity of mankind** and also the **diversity of nations**, setting the stage for the gospel to reach all people (Acts 17:26-27).

Nations Count from Genesis 10





Reflection

Question 1

How does the line of Shem remind us of God's plan for redemption?

Question 2

What does this chapter tell us about God's care for all peoples, not just Israel?



Application

Question 3

Do you recognise that you are part of a global mission to share the gospel? Ask God to cultivate a heart and desire to have unity with believers, and to share the gospel among people all over the world, from every language, nation, and country.

Draw your Application



The Tower of Babel



Genesis 11:1-4



Spiritual Truths

Unified Language - One Speech

"Now the whole earth had one language and one speech." (v.1)

Humanity spoke a **single language**, reflecting a shared origin and unity after the Flood. This was pre-Babel harmony.

Truth: Unity without God's guidance leads to rebellion. Language, while a gift, can be misused for selfish ambition.

Settling in Shinar - Stopping When God Said Go

"As they journeyed from the east... they found a plain in the land of Shinar." (v.2)

Man settled in **Shinar (Babylon region)** instead of scattering as God commanded.

This movement shows a **willful decision to stay together** in one place, in defiance of God's directive to fill the earth (*Genesis 9:1*).

Truth: Disobedience often begins with small choices.



Building with Bricks - Man's Effort

"Come, let us make bricks and... let us build..." (v.3-4)

They used **brick instead of stone** and **asphalt instead of mortar** - signs of man's innovation. They were attempting to **create a city and a tower** to reach the heavens, not physically perhaps, but symbolically.

"Let us make a name for ourselves" is an expression of pride and self-glory.

Truth: Human effort, when driven by pride and self-glory, builds monuments of rebellion.

The Tower as Rebellion & Religious Symbolism

The **Tower of Babel** was more than architecture, it was:



A rallying point
for humans in
defiance of God



A symbol of man's ambition
to rule himself
without God



A religious ziggurat
where creation was
worshipped instead of
the Creator
(*Romans 1:25*)

Truth: Idolatry often disguises itself as progress. The Tower stood for human-centered religion and world unity apart from God.

The Spirit of Nimrod Continued

Nimrod's ambition (*Genesis 10:8-10*) flowed into this project.

He desired a **capital city (Babel)** and a **monument of control (the tower)**.

This was not about safety or protection but about **rebellion and control**.

Truth: When man says, "Let us make us a name", he forgets that only God can exalt or establish a name that lasts.



Reflection

Question 1

How does “making a name for ourselves” reveal a heart of rebellion against God?

Question 2

What does this passage teach us about the danger of pursuing unity and ambition that excludes God?

Question 3

Have you or your church planned something which you thought was good but did not truly include God in the process?



Application

Question 4

In what ways are you seeking to glorify self or looking for self recognition?
How can you actively glorify God with your choices instead?

Draw your Application



Divine Intervention, and the Beginning of Nations



Genesis 11:5-9



Spiritual Truths

God Saw the Heart Behind the Tower

“But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower...” (v.5) This is not suggesting God was unaware, it expresses divine attention and concern. **God personally intervenes** when man’s plans threaten God’s purpose for mankind.

Truth: God sees through human ambition and responds when pride tries to replace obedience.

Unity Without God is Dangerous

“Indeed the people are one... now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.” (v.6) Unity isn’t always good; it depends on the purpose.

Human potential + shared language = unrestrained rebellion when untethered from God.

Truth: God sets limits for our protection. He will lovingly disrupt what endangers our souls.

Divine Judgment: Confusion of Languages

“Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language...” (v.7)

God confused their language as a direct reversal of their false unity. Instant inability to communicate halted the building effort.

Truth: Prideful human efforts are fragile. They fall apart when God intervenes.

The Scattering of the Nation

“So the Lord scattered them... and they ceased building the city.” (v.8)

The city was abandoned. The plan failed. The name **Babel means “confusion”**. The scattering fulfilled God’s original command to **“fill the earth”**. (Genesis 9:1)

Truth: What man tries to do in rebellion, God will undo to preserve His greater plan.



Now man is scattered over the face of the earth. They were together in their rebellion, but now they can't understand one another. You know, a language barrier is a wall that is higher than the Wall of China. It is that which separates people, and it is stronger than any national border and any ocean.



Key Insights

A Judgment and a Blessing

God’s act was a **judgment** to halt humanity’s collective rebellion, and a **blessing** to protect mankind from his own destructive ambition.

God disrupted false unity to **preserve His redemptive plan**.

Contrast with Pentecost

Babel: Languages confused → Nations scattered

Pentecost: Languages redeemed → Gospel preached to all

Acts 2 was **God’s redemptive answer** to Babel, speaking in known languages to gather, not scatter.

Truth: What sin scattered, grace gathers. The gospel crosses every language and nation.



Reflection

Question 1

What does this passage reveal about God's heart for a united, global family in His redemptive plan?

Question 2

Have you ever planned something and then realized that it isn't going according to your plan? How do you deal with such situations?



Application

Question 4

Pray intentionally for people of different nations and languages to know Christ. Look for ways to support or be involved in the mission to share the gospel.

Draw your Application



Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

McGee's Quote



The gospel is for you, whoever you are and whatever tongue you speak. It's for you. It's for all the nations of the world. We are told in the final book of the Bible that there will be gathered into His presence "...a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues..." (Revelation 7:9).



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