

Study Guide for March 1st, 2009 The Origin of the Nations. Genesis 10

Most modern readers will skim over Gen. 10 – The Table of the nations – and proceed with the “story line” which picks up with The Tower of Babel. While it doesn’t make for great story, the author of Genesis (Moses) has theological purposes for inserting this list of the descendants of Noah. Even a cursory reading reveals there is a degree of symbolism since the lists are selective (only certain lines of descent are developed). The following questions and observations are designed to help you grasp the theological significance and see its importance in the development of a biblical worldview.

I. The Big Picture:

A. Count the number of nations descended from . . .

1) ... Japheth: ___ + 2) .. Ham: ___ + 3) ... Shem: ___ = ___ Significance?

B. Read Acts 17:26-27. How does Paul describe God’s sovereignty over the nations?

II. The Three Boys:

A. Recall what was predicted / prophesied by Noah regarding . . .

1) Japheth (see Gen. 9:27)

2) Shem (see Gen. 9:26)

B. What have you learned about Canaan from . . .

1) Gen. 9: 22, 24, 27:

2) Gen. 10:6, 15-18

3) Gen. 10:18b-19

4) Gen. 15:16-21:

C. How does God respond to the “curse” in the following passages?

1) Gal. 3:13-14

2) Philip. 2:6-11:

III. The Two (Evil) Empires:

A. How is Nimrod described? (see Gen. 6:4)

How does he gain power?

B. The phrase **before the Lord** means **in the estimation of**. The Lord considered Nimrod a mighty hunter (of people) and tyrant. Who might be like him today?

C. What role will Ninevah and Babylon play in Israel’s history centuries later?

D. What will happen in . . . Nineveh? (see Jonah 3-4) . . . Babylon? (see Dan.4)