

Genesis 10

This chapter describes the growth of populating the earth through the sons of Noah. Apart from Noah and his wife, the three sons and their wives were the only survivors from the flood that God sent upon the earth.

The purpose and nature of these genealogies

It is the names of the men who are included but of course without their wives there would be no children.

This record however is not just a list of names but we also have the development of many ethnic groups and where they settled. We also see that different languages were developing. The order of the sons is also unusual as Japheth the oldest is first mentioned, then the youngest son Ham and then the middle son Shem.

Japheth

Some of these sons were reckoned to be founders of seafaring people. They eventually settled furthest from Israel and spread out into modern Turkey, Russia and Europe.

Ham

His four sons all gave their names to nations Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and Canaan. **Nimrod**, a mighty warrior before God is particularly mentioned as one of Ham's sons.

It is not man's assessment that matters; it is the Lord's assessment that counts. We hear little about him and are amazed that out of this great list of people he is singled out for mention.

Apparently he was the founder of a huge kingdom, Shinar. He founded other cities including Nineveh which became the capital of the Assyrian Empire.

Ham's son Egypt is the father of 6 tribes including the ancestors of the Philistines.

Shem

The descendants of Shem are known as Semites. These people lived in the area we refer to as the 'fertile crescent.' This is where Abraham came from and we know how mightily God would use him as a new genealogy that leads to our Saviour Jesus.

The list of names in Genesis 10 testifies to the fulfilment of God's instruction to Noah and his sons to multiply after the flood.

The nations of the world are God's creation.

The diversity and variety that came to pass is amazing as clans become tribes which become nations with different languages and cultures.

The great commission.

Jesus commanded us to preach the Gospel to all nations and people groups. Even now there are still some people groups to be reached. It is wonderful how many people groups have the Bible in their own language.

Jesus born at Bethlehem is truly man and truly God. Jesus died on the Cross in Jerusalem to save us. He rose from the dead and He sent His Spirit to empower us to be effective witnesses and one day He will return.

In heaven there will be people from every tribe, nation and tongue singing "Worthy is the lamb! " Revelation 5 v. 9-10 All honour and glory are His.

Points to consider:

Nimrod was considered a mighty man, a mighty hunter and a man of vision. How big is your vision? Do we limit what God can do with us?

The nations are created by God and their boundaries defined. How could we be helped by asking God to reveal exactly where he wants us to serve Him?

How much attention should we give to cultures when sharing the Gospel?