

**Steve Greenberg's Handout, Wednesday 7pm, March 18, 2026**  
**Week 09 March 18, 2026: Gen 10-11 Table Of Nations, Tower Of Babel**

**Quote from David Guzik's Commentary on Blue Letter Bible**

**THE TABLE OF NATIONS**

*"The tenth chapter of Genesis... stands absolutely alone in ancient literature, without a remote parallel, even among the Greeks, where we find the closest approach to a distribution of peoples in genealogical framework... The Table of Nations remains an astonishing accurate document."* (William F. Albright, cited in Boice)

- a. **The sons of Japheth**: He was the father of the Indo-European peoples, those stretching from India to the shores of Western Europe. They are each linked by linguistic similarities that often seem invisible to the layman but are much more obvious to the linguist.
- b. **Gomer**: From this son of Japheth came the Germanic peoples, from whom came most of the original peoples of Western Europe. These include the original French, Spanish, and Celtic settlers.
- c. **Magog...Tubal, Meshech**: These settled in the far north of Europe and became the Russian peoples.
- d. **Madai**: From this son of Japheth came the ancient Medes and they populated what are now Iran and Iraq. The peoples of India also came from this branch of Japheth's family.
- e. **Javan**: From this son of Japheth came the ancient Greeks, whose sea-faring ways are described in [Genesis 10:5](#).
- a. **Ashkenaz**: From this son of Gomer came the peoples who settled north of Judea into what we call the Fertile Crescent.
- b. **Togarmah**: From this son of Gomer came the Armenians.
- a. **Ham**: The descendants of Ham are the peoples who populated Africa and the Far East.
- b. **Cush**: Apparently, this family divided into two branches early. Some founded Babylon (notably, **Nimrod**) and others founded Ethiopia.
- c. **Mizraim**: This is another way the Bible refers to Egypt. **Put** refers to Libya, the region of North Africa west of Egypt. **Canaan** refers to the peoples who originally settled the land we today think of as Israel and its surrounding regions.
- . **Children were born also to Shem**: From Shem comes **Elam**, who was an ancestor of the Persian peoples; **Asshur**, who was the father of the Assyrians; **Lud** was father to the Lydians who lived for a time in Asia Minor; and **Aram** was father to the Arameans, who we also know as the Syrians. **Arphaxad** was the ancestor of Abram and the Hebrews.

**Genesis 10:1-5 Nations Descended from Noah (1Chr. 1:5–27) The Family of Japheth**

**Gen 10:1** Now this is the genealogy (**records**) of the sons (**descendants**) of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons (**children which**) were born to them after the flood.

**Gen 10:2** The sons (**descendants, nations**) of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

**Gen 10:3** The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. (**1Chron 1:6 spelled Diphath**)

**Gen 10:4** The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. (**1Chron 1:7 spelled Rodanim**)

**Gen 10:5** From these the coastland peoples (**and islands people**) of the Gentiles (**nations**) were separated (**or separated themselves**) into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families (**groups**), into their nations.

**This process covered a long time, as families migrated to particular regions.**

**Genesis 10:6-14 The Family of Ham (1Chr. 1:17–27; Luke 3:34–36)**

**Gen 10:6** The sons of Ham (**descendants populated the African**) were Cush, Mizraim (**or Egypt**), Put (**or Phut**), and Canaan.

**Gen 10:7** The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah (**or Sabteca**); and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

**Gen 10:8** Cush (**father, ancestor**) begot Nimrod; he(**Nimrod**) began to be a mighty one(**man**) (**mighty warrior**) on the earth.

**Gen 10:9** He(**Nimrod**) was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty (**or great**) hunter before the LORD.

**Nimrod's kingdom and plans are opposed to what God desires.**

**Gen 10:10** And the beginning (**foundation**) of his kingdom (**land of Babylonia**) was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar (**aka Babylon**)

**Gen 10:11** From that land he(**Nimrod**) went (**and expanded his territory**) to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah,

**Gen 10:12** and (**Nimrod built**) Resen between Nineveh and Calah (**that is combined to be the principal or great city**)

**Gen 10:13** Mizraim (**father, ancestor of the Egyptians**) begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

**Gen 10:14** Pathrusim, and Casluhim (**from whom came the Philistines**), (**compare Jer 47:4; Amos 9:7**).

**Genesis 10:15-21 The Family of Canaan (1Chr. 1:17–27; Luke 3:34–36)**

**Gen 10:15** Canaan (**father, ancestor of the Hittites**) begot Sidon (**Sidonians**) his firstborn, and Heth;

**Gen 10:16** the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite;

**Gen 10:17** the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;

**Gen 10:18** the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed (**later scattered abroad**).

**Gen 10:19** And the borders of the Canaanites was from (**or extended to**) Sidon, as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

**The fact that Genesis mentions the four cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim and they will be still standing, testifies to the antiquity (truth) of this account.**

**Gen 10:20** These were the sons (**descendants**) of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands (**territories**) and in their nations.

**Gen 10:21** And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber (**included the Hebrews**), the (**older**) brother of Japheth the elder.

**Genesis 10:21-32 The Family of Canaan (1Chr. 1:17–27; Luke 3:34–36)**

**Gen 10:22** The sons (**descendants**) of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad (**Arpachshad**), Lud, and Aram.

**Gen 10:23** The sons of Aram (**ancestor of the Syrians**) were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. (**aka 1Chron 1:17 Meshech**)

**Gen 10:24** Arphaxad (**father**) begot Salah (**Cainan**), and Salah (**father**) begot Eber. (**compare Luke 3:35, 36**).

**Gen 10:25** To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg (**Literally means division**), for in his days the earth (**world**) was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

**1Chron 1:19** To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days, "the earth was divided"; and his brother's name was Joktan.

**Gen 10:26** Joktan (**father**) begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

**Gen 10:27** Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

**Gen 10:28** Obal, Abimael, Sheba, (**1Chron 1:22 Ebal**)

**Gen 10:29** Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons (**descendants**) of Joktan.

**Gen 10:30** And their dwelling place (**settlement extended**) was from Mesha as you go, toward Sephar, the mountain (**hill country**) of the east.

**Gen 10:31** These were the sons (**descendants**) of Shem, according to their families (**family groups**), according to their languages, in their lands (**territories**), according to their nations (**national identity**).

**Gen 10:32** These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations (**descendants**), in their nations; and from these the nations were divided (**separated & spread abroad**) on the earth after the flood.

### **Genesis 11:1-9 The Tower of Babel**

**Gen 11:1** Now the whole earth had one language and one speech (**one vocabulary, literally was one lip**).

**Gen 11:2** And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east (**eastward**), that they found a plain in the land of Shinar (**aka Babylon**), and they dwelt (**settled**) there.

**Gen 11:3** Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly (**kiln with fire**)." They had brick for stone (**building materials**), and they had asphalt (**tar, bitumen**) for mortar.

**Gen 11:4** And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name (**famous name**) for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth (**as the Lord had commanded**)."

The tower was a ziggurat a temple tower (for astrological and occult practices) where people planned to worship god through the stars and the heavens. The city builders saw themselves as establishing their own destiny and seeking God on their terms. The planner's and builders of Babel wanted to prevent the population from being dispersed or scattered as God had instructed.

**Gen 11:5** But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built (**were building**).

Correlation passage:

Gen 18:20 And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

Gen 18:21 "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

**Gen 11:6** And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one (**unified themselves**) and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do (**they become proud and rebelled against Me**); now nothing that they propose to do (**with regards to every evil thing, they imagine**), will be withheld from them (**or it will now be impossible for them to do**).

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

Luk 1:51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Luk 1:52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly.

**Gen 11:7** "Come, let Us (**The Godhead: Father, Son, Holy Spirit**) go down and there confuse their language (**Lit: lip**), that they may not understand one another's speech (**language**)."

**Gen 11:8** So the LORD scattered them abroad, (**away**) from there, over the (**whole**) face of all the earth, and they ceased (**stopped**) building the city.

**Gen 11:9** Therefore its(**city**) name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

This resulted in a different languages.

The term Babel comes from the Tower of Babel story in the Bible.

Humanity once spoke a single language.

People tried to build a tower reaching heaven in rebellion to God.

God confused their language so they couldn't understand each other.

This caused people to scatter across the world.

**Genesis 11:10-26 Shem's Descendants (1Chron. 1:17-27; Luke 3:34-36) Abram's Family Line**

**Gen 11:10** This is the genealogy (**generations, records**) of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood.

**These men lived is much shorter than those who lived before the flood**

**Gen 11:11** After he(**Shem**) begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot (**fathered**) sons and daughters.

**Gen 11:12** Arphaxad lived thirty-five years, and begot (**became the father**) Salah.

**Gen 11:13** After he begot (**became father of**) Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three (**403**) years, and begot (**fathered**) sons and daughters.

**Gen 11:14** Salah lived thirty years, and begot (**became father of**) Eber.

**Gen 11:15** After he(**Salah**) begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three (**403**) years, and begot (**fathered**) sons and daughters.

**Gen 11:16** Eber lived thirty-four (**34**) years, and begot (**became father of**) Peleg.

**Gen 11:17** After he(**Eber**) begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty (**430**) years, and begot (**fathered**) sons and daughters.

**Gen 11:18** Peleg lived thirty (**30**) years, and begot (**became father of**) Reu.

**Gen 11:19** After he(**Peleg**) begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine (**209**) years, and begot (**fathered**) sons and daughters.

**Gen 11:20** Reu lived thirty-two (**32**) years, and begot (**became father of**) Serug.

**Gen 11:21** After he(**Reu**) begot (**became father of**) Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven (**207**) years, and begot (**fathered**) sons and daughters

**Gen 11:22** Serug lived thirty (**30**) years, and begot (**became father of**) Nahor.

**Gen 11:23** After he(**Serug**) begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred (**200**) years, and begot (**fathered**) sons and daughters.

**Gen 11:24** Nahor lived twenty-nine (**29**) years, and begot (**became father of**) Terah.

**Jos 24:2** And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including **Terah**, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River (**Euphrates**) in old times; and they served other gods (**false gods**).

**Gen 11:25** After he(**Nahor**) begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen (**119**) years, and begot (**fathered**) sons and daughters.

**Gen 11:26** Now Terah lived seventy (**70**) years, and begot (**fathered**) Abram (**Abraham**), Nahor, and Haran.

Terah was father of Abraham. The promise to bring forth the deliverer would come through this family (Gen 3:15).

James 2:23 NKJV - And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

### **Genesis 11:27-32 Terah's Descendants**

**Gen 11:27** This is the genealogy (**generations, records**) of Terah: Terah begot (**fathered**) Abram (**Abraham**), Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot (**fathered**) Lot.

**Gen 17:5** "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

**Gen 11:28** And Haran died before his father Terah (**in his presence, still living**) in his native land (**land of his birth**), in Ur of the Chaldeans.

Ur of the Chaldeans was a city in southern Babylonia, the remains of the city are located in modern day Iraq.

**Gen 11:29** Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai (**later called Sarah**), and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah.

**Gen 17:15** Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

**Gen 11:30** But Sarai was barren (**unable to become pregnant**); she had no child.

**Gen 16:1** Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

**Gen 16:2** So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children (**God promised us a child, I have a plan so we can have a child, we have an old custom to help with these situations**). Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

**Gen 16:3** Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.

**Gen 16:4** So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes (**Hagar after having the child, despised and saw Sarah as insignificant because she could not have a child**).

**Gen 11:31** And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt (**settled**) there (**little over five hundred miles northwest of Ur**).

#### Stephen's testimony

**Act 7:2** And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

**Act 7:3** "and (God) said to him (Abraham), 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'

**Gen 11:32** So the days of Terah were two hundred and five (**205**) years, and Terah died in Haran.

**End:**

**Extra Notes:**