



STUDY OUTLINE

THE DISPERSION OF MAN / THE TOWER OF BABEL

Genesis 10:1 - 11:9

Passage: **Genesis 10:1-11:9.**

Author: **Moses**

Date of Writing: **1450-1410 B.C.**

Introduction and Theme: After chapter 3, Satan isn't mentioned by name in Genesis, but he and his demonic hosts are at work doing their utmost to keep the promised Redeemer from being born. This was Satan's purpose throughout all of the Old Testament. After all, he did not want his head crushed by the Savior (Gen. 3:15). God had declared war on Satan and the deceiver intended to fight back.

Major Point: It is important to learn from our past, prepare for the future, and live in the present.

Four great events occur in Genesis 1-11:

1. The Creation of the World and Man (1:1-2:25).
2. The Corruption of Man, the Fall (3:1-5:32).
3. The Destruction of Man, the Flood (6:1-9:29).
4. The Dispersion of Man, the Tower of Babel (10:1-11:32).

I. Post Flood: God's commandment to Noah and his sons was; "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Gen. 9:1). After the flood, the descendants of Noah's three sons repopulated the earth. But the new beginning with Noah led to one of the most arrogant revolts against God recorded anywhere in scripture. It is likely that the events of chapter 11 occurred prior to those in chapter 10 and that the scattering described in chapter 10 was the consequence of God's judgment at Babel. The story was placed here in Genesis so it could lead into the genealogy of Shem which leads into the genealogy of Abraham, the founder of the Hebrew nation.

II. Descendants of Noah's three Sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 10: 1-32).

A. Seven Sons of Japheth (vs. 2-5).

1. The Japhetic people moved primarily north from Babel and scattered from there.
2. Known for development of science, philosophy.
3. Responsible for man's mental well-being.
4. Have dominated the world since 539 B.C., with the defeat of the Babylonians by Cyrus the Great.

B. Four Sons of Ham (vs. 6-21).

1. The Hamitic people moved primarily into the regions of North Africa.
2. Known for technical proficiency.
3. Responsible for man's physical well-being.

C. Five Sons of Shem (vs.22-32).

1. The Semetic people moved primarily into Assyria and parts of Arabia.
2. Known for Religious insights.
3. Responsible for man's spiritual well-being.

III. Rebellion (Gen. 11:1-9).

- A. Nimrod, Ham's grandson, established the land of Shinar(Babylon) and Assyria(Nineveh). Gen.10:8-11.
- B. The people gathered into Babylon (vs.1-4).
- C. This was in direct opposition to God's command (Gen. 9:1, Psalm 2).
- D. God's Response (vs.5-9).

IV. The Separation (Gen.10:5).

From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nation

(v.10:5 NASB).

- A. In Common Hebrew style Moses gives the result of the dispersion before he explains the cause.
- B. The nations "were separated" at the Tower of Babel which is described in chapter 11:1-9.
- C. With the Tower of Babel the Lord showed His dislike for internationalism and established nations as the chief political entities.
- D. Nations will be the norm in the Millennial Kingdom and the New Heavens and Earth.
- E. The diversity of languages is designed in part to keep peoples separated into these political entities.

Principle: Nationalism comes from God and is for man's protection. Internationalism is of Satan who wants to rule the whole earth.

Words to define:

Nation: *a masculine noun meaning nation, people, country.*

Family: *a feminine noun meaning an extended family, a tribe, a clan. The inhabitants of an individual household is referred to as a “house”. Several families (households) together constitute a “tribe”.*

Language: *a system of communication used by a nation, people, or other distinct community often contrasted with dialect.*

THE TOWER OF BABEL



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