

## Genesis 10:1-7, 13-32

- Verse-by-verse notes (we will study verses 8-12 with Chapter 11 next week)
  - (10:1) All of humanity are descended from these three sons of Noah
    - They spread out upon Earth after the confusion of tongues at Babel. This chapter records that spreading
  - (10:2-4) The descendants of Japheth spread mostly north and west, becoming what today are essentially known as Europeans. One branch went eastward and established Media (the Medes) and India
  - (10:5) Even in the confusion of tongues at Babel, God left the idea of family intact, as people settled and moved according to their families, which each had its own language
  - (10:6-7, 13-20) The descendants of Ham eventually settled much more of Earth than those of Japheth or Shem. They spread mostly south to south-west, and settled much of Asia Minor, the Promised Land (Canaan), portions of the Arabian peninsula and pretty much all of Africa.
    - It is also likely that one branch eventually migrated eastward (either the remnants of the Hittites or some of the descendants of Sin) and settled Asia, and therefore also North, Central & South America and the Pacific
  - (10:21) Eber may have been the person from which the term Hebrew was derived
    - Since the Biblical names prior to the confusion of tongues all have significance in Hebrew, it's possible that Eber's language was not subject to confusion. This may mean that he didn't take part in Nimrod's rebellion, and that a language much like Hebrew is humanity's original language!
  - (10:22-31) The descendants of Shem never went all that far. They spread mostly to the Middle East, Arabia and Central Asia
    - Peleg was born to Eber around 100 years after the Flood. It is most likely that the confusion of tongues occurred before he was born, for he seems to have been named for the event (Divided)
    - Shem's descendants are named to the fifth generation after him, which shows that by the time he wrote this account Shem had probably lost touch with his brothers' descendants

- He and his brothers may have come together one final time to bury their father when he died, and caught up on the family genealogy then
- (10:32) There are 70 nations listed in this chapter

➤ Theme notes

- The differing human “races”
  - All of humanity is simply a “kind” – there are no “races”
  - Humanity was forced to spread in family groups that spoke the same language
    - This created small, inbreeding populations where recessive genetic traits became dominant, creating “peoples” with distinctive characteristics (skin color, eye color, height, hair texture, thought processes, etc.)
      - The human genome was still sufficiently pure to allow for inbreeding among family members. It was not outlawed until Leviticus 18, when congenital defects could be expected due to the deterioration of the human genome
      - Nature and diet would also play a factor in these characteristics (not many dark-skinned Scandinavians, or light-skinned central Africans)
- The importance of family (communion theme)
  - When God confused the languages of humanity, He still left the family intact (10:5,20,31)
  - God is the Author and Protector of the idea of family
    - His work will never destroy the family
  - Each Genesis 10 family had to brave the Dispersion
    - They did it together
    - They took the idea of family to the ends of the earth
  - Communion passage: **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**