

Week 10 – Babel and Blessing

Genesis 10, 11

Main idea: As Noah's prophetic word begins to take shape, we see God bring _____ so that He can ultimately bring _____.

I. The human _____ is united in posterity yet plagued with division. (10:1-32)

a. Some general observations about the "Table of Nations"

- i. It is a listing of individuals, tribes, and regions
- ii. Shows us that the human race is united in _____.
- iii. Shows us that we are divided by territory, _____, race, and culture. (10:5, 20, 31)
- iv. The nations listed relate somehow to Noah's prophetic blessing and cursing at the end of chapter 9.

b. Japheth's descendants (10:2-5)

- i. These are the Indo-European nations
- ii. Gomer – Germany
- iii. Madai – Medes, Indians of India
- iv. Javan – Greeks
- v. Tubal and Meshech – areas of Russia
- vi. Togarmah – Armenians
- vii. Dodanim (or Rodanim, NIV) – Rhodes

c. Ham's descendants (10:6-20)

- i. These are the African and Canaanite nations
- ii. Cush – Ethiopia
- iii. Mizraim – Egypt
- iv. Put – Lybia
- v. Nimrod – Babylon, Ninevah
- vi. The "ite" nations of Canaan – to be DRIVEN OUT of the land (see Lev. 18)

- d. Shem's descendants (10:21-32)
 - i. These are the Middle-eastern/Persian nations
 - ii. Eber – believed to be the root of the word “Hebrew”
 - iii. It is from Shem's descendants (the “Semites”) that the Jewish nation and ultimately the Messiah would come

- e. How is Noah's oracle (9:25-27) fulfilled?
 - i. The curse on Canaan:

 - ii. The blessing on Shem:

 - iii. The blessing on Japheth:

II. **Man's _____ is his pride and defiant self-promotion.** (11:1-9)

- a. This city is representative of their self-made _____, comfort, sufficiency, and prosperity. All of the things they were created to seek from the hand of God **alone**, they make **for themselves** in the establishment of Babel.

- b. In building the tower, they were after _____ and a predictable, comfortable _____.

- c. The hopelessness of Babel was not God's final word. Fast forward all the way to the book of Acts to the day of Pentecost and you know what happens? The Holy Spirit enables the gospel to be preached in **every language**, to **all nations!** (Acts 2:1-13)

- III. God's _____ is persevering and rooted in permanent promises. (11:10-32)
- a. The Table of Nations in chapter 10 gave us the general sweep of civilization in the ancient world; Babel filled us in on the “how” and “why”; this genealogy then narrows the focus once again to **one family**, in fact **one man** through whom all the nations of the world will be blessed.

 - b. See chart: “God’s promises through Genesis and beyond...”

 - c. As we bring this study to a close, the call of God on our lives is crystal clear: He desires that we be women of unwavering _____ in the unfathomable _____ that God has for us in Christ.

God's promise through Genesis and beyond...

God makes a promise	The promise is threatened	God's will prevails
Adam and Eve will be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it, enjoying perfect harmony with God, each other, and the world He created.. (1:28)	The serpent tempts Eve and for the first time sin corrupts human nature and death becomes a reality (3:1-13; the "and he died" refrain in ch. 5)	In the midst of the curse, God pronounces the promise that one day the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. By faith, Adam names his wife "life-giver." (3:15, 20)
Eve gives birth to Cain and Abel, confident that the promise of Genesis 3:15 would be fulfilled in one of them. (4:1, 2)	Cain rebels against God and murders his brother Abel with no hint of remorse. He is banished from God's presence and produces a lineage of sinful, violent rebels. (4:8-24)	Seth is born and Eve declares, "God has appointed me another SEED!" (4:25)
The promise of Genesis 3:15 is renewed as Seth's descendants begin to call on the name of the Lord and worship is restored. Enoch, who walked with God all the way to glory, is the epitome of Seth's godly line. (4:26-5:32)	Either fallen angels intermarry with humans or Seth's line intermarries with Cain's line. Either way, a corrupted lineage is birthed so that it is said, "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." God vows to destroy mankind from the face of the earth. (6:1-13)	There is one righteous man who finds favor with God. God commands him to build an ark and spares his family from the destruction of the flood. (6:14-8:19)
Noah's family exits the boat safe and sound and God renews his creation blessing for Noah and his descendants thus enabling them to "be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." (8:20-9:17) Because Noah's family has been spared, there is still hope for the promised Serpent-crusher to come.	Sin remains in the hearts of Noah and his sons. Noah sins by becoming drunk and a curse is pronounced on Ham's descendants. (9:18-27)	A blessing is pronounced on Shem's descendants. (9:25, 26)
The seed promise of Genesis 3:15 remains as blessing falls on Noah's descendants through Shem. (9:25, 26)	In defiance of God's command to "fill the earth" man settles in one place and builds a monument to their self-worship. God confuses their language and scatters the nations. (11:1-9)	In spite of their idolatry, another line of promise emerges from Shem's descendants as Eber begets Peleg who ultimately begets Abram. (11:10-26)
Abram is born through Shem's line and God covenants with him, saying that through his offspring (SEED!) all the nations of the earth will be blessed. So the Genesis 3:15 blessing is passed down once again! (11:27-12:3)	Abram's wife is barren....for a VERY long time (way passed childbearing years). Abram's ability to have a son with his wife is humanly impossible. (11:30, 17:15-17)	God miraculously opens Sarah's womb (yes, He changes her name) and she gives birth to Isaac. (21:1-3)
fast forward through Israel's history Again and again, the prophet's testify that God's covenant remains and that the Messiah – the promised Serpent-crusher - is coming! (Gen. 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Is. 9 and 53)	Again and again, Israel breaks covenant and worships other God's. This gives her enemies the upper hand and God allows her to be taken captive and scattered. There are some REALLY dark periods in Israel's history! (Basically the entire Old Testament)	The New Covenant is affirmed and after a long period of silence, the long awaited Messiah, the promised Serpent-crusher is FINALLY born! (Jer. 31:27-40; Luke 1:26-56)
Jesus will finally crush Satan's head, redeem Israel, and offer salvation to the whole world! (Luke 1:32, 33; 1:68-79; 2:29-32)	Early in his life, Herod seeks to destroy young Jesus. Many years later his life "ends" on a cruel Roman cross as He is brutally executed for crimes He did not commit. From all appearances, Satan wins. (Matt. 2:13; 27:1-56)	As prophesied in Genesis 3:15, the cross was merely a "bruising." Three days later...the Serpent-crusher lives again! (Matt. 28:6)
The promised Seed will come again and crush Satan's head once-and-of-all by banishing him to a fiery hell. Jesus will reign forever with His bride, the Church. (basically all of Revelation, 1 Thess. 5; 2 Thess. 2)	In the meantime, Satan rules the world – oppression, violence, immorality, religious persecution and deception prevail. (Matt. 24; Eph. 2:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3:3)	There will be a final judgement followed by the making of a new heaven and new earth - eternal paradise for God's people. We will finally be back in "Eden" where it all began! (2 Peter 3:10-13; Rev. 21, 22)

