

In 1879 Lieutenant George De Long... set out with a crew... on the *USS Jeannette*... in hopes of claiming the North Pole for the United States. De Long's plans were based on maps... developed by mapmakers at the time (cartographers). ... Like most mapmakers... Dr. August Heinrich Petermann believed there was an open polar ice-free sea... teeming with marine life "*whose waters could be smoothly sailed, much as one might sail across the Caribbean or the Mediterranean.*"

Unfortunately... every previous expedition that had sailed north in search of the sea had run into a problem — ice. ... Now you might think that running into ice (every time) would lead scientists to abandon the theory of an Open Polar Sea. - Not so. The scientific community can be extremely bull-headed... as if they can never be wrong! (And this being the case)... Petermann merely modified the original theory by adding the idea of a "thermometric gateway." As Hampton Sides recounts the story in his book *In the Kingdom of Ice*:

"If an explorer could just bust through this icy circle, preferably in a ship with a reinforced hull, he would eventually find open water and enjoy smooth sailing to the North Pole. The trick, then, was to find a gap in the ice... a natural portal of some kind."

So with enormous faith in science... George De Long and his crew of 28 men wanted to find that portal. ... However... it didn't take long for De Long to realize that all the cartographers... scientists... and geographers... had been wrong. He wrote, "*I pronounce a thermometric gateway to the North Pole a delusion and a snare.*" ... He and his men encountered ice that seemed to stretch out forever.

They were running up against the rocks or hardened ice of reality. In September 1879... the *USS Jeannette* got trapped in the ice pack and his crew escaped and tried to walk toward Siberia. ... The crew got separated. Some made it to Siberia and survived... others continued their lonely trek through the ice... moving northward. ... As for George Washington De Long... he died in late October 1881 of starvation. He was covered up by snow... except for one of his arms... which was raised as if to signal toward the sky.

What are the maps for your life? ... What are the assumptions... the worldviews that guide your life? ... Is your map true... or false? ... All too often we stake the expedition of our lives on false maps.

It might be safe for me to assume that many people in this room today... answer my question of what map guides your life... by saying that it is the Bible. That's good.

Chuck Swindoll (one of my favorite preachers)... has written:

“Ever since I was knee-high to a gnat, I have been taught and have believed in the infallibility of Scripture. ... When the subject turns to infallibility, (the inerrancy of Holy Scripture,) I’m convinced that there is no wobble room. Can’t be. Take away the absolute and you’ve opened up an unpluggable hole in your theological dike...”

But if your answer is that Scripture is your guide... then please allow me to ask a further question: In our zeal to believe and hold on tight to our faith that the Bible does not contain any errors... (in order for us to do this)... do we have to ignore evidence from critics (such as science... history... and literature)? Are we digging a hole in the sand and burying our heads in it... so that we can't notice clear evidence from the Bible's critics...?

The answer is NO! Indeed it is an emphatic **NO** !!! ... The honest truth is that the Bible's **critics** have to ignore a lot of well-established facts that point to it's **truth**. ... You see... the Bible is self-authenticating... in many ways. It isn't just the hundreds of Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah... by which every detail has been accurately fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. It is also chapters like the one we come to this morning in Genesis chapter 10.

Now... if you have been with us during this study through the book of Genesis... you know that during our last time together in Genesis... we had completed the narrative about Noah and the world-wide flood... in Genesis chapter nine. (That had some pretty amazing stuff... didn't it?) ... Maybe some of you were curious... and so you took a peek at what comes **next** in Genesis. ... If you **did**... what did you see in Genesis chapter ten (our passage for this morning)...? It's a bunch of names... isn't it...? The whole chapter consists of a long list of hard-to-pronounce names... tribes... clans... titles... and lands. ... Reading them is kind of like reading the label on a can of bug spray: It kills Hivites... Arvadites... Sinites... Zemarites... Jebusites... Girgashites... and can do away with your basic mosquito bites!

*Ahhh... Pastor(?)... Are you trying to tell us that there is something in this listing of strange names... that will help us believe that the Bible is **true**...? Is there **really** a faith-building benefit in studying this genealogical record...?*

Yes... that is exactly what I am declaring! The tenth chapter of Genesis... although often quickly passed right over... by Bible readers... is actually a remarkable document... which is proving the Bible to be true. ... This astounding chapter rings so true... that the Bible's critics don't know what to do with this chapter... so they ignore it. They dig a hole in the sand...

and they bury their heads to it (as it were.) ... However... one such critic has bravely gone on record... with his comments about Genesis chapter 10. William Foxwell Albright... (a liberal scholar – far from being a person who believed in the inerrancy of Scripture)... wrote:

“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 people in a genealogical framework. The table remains an astonishingly accurate document.”

So I am going to ask you to please bear with me this morning. Exercise some patience as we traipse through these rather uncommon names to us... and I promise you some faith-building truths... as your reward. You may also need to exercise some of your patience toward me... if I don't pronounce some of them... in the way you have heard them pronounced before... (Seminary did not offer a course in how to pronounce the Bible's most difficult words to read.) So I'll pretend... and you will too... that I got it right... if it is anywhere close... OK...?

Genesis chapter ten is a record of how mankind fanned out over all the earth... like spokes in a wheel... radiating from a center... which both science and Scripture agree – was the Middle East. History calls the Middle East – “*The Cradle of Civilization*” or “*The Cradle of Mankind*,” doesn't it? ... Once the Ark landed on dry land... in this “cradle”... after the flood... the sons of Noah became the heads of three major divisions of families of mankind.

The last time I was with you... we studied the prophetic utterances of Noah... They concerned what contributions his three sons would have on the new humanity. To his son Shem... Noah declared he would have great

influence on the religious primacy of mankind. Shem's descendants are known as "Semites" or "the Semitic people." It should not surprise us then... that from the Semitic people... religious belief (both true and false)... has spread over the earth. Abraham was Semitic. Mohammed was Semitic. And of course Jesus was Semitic. So all three of the world's primary religions were developed by Semites – Judaism... Islam... and Christianity.

At the end of Genesis chapter nine... (where we saw this truth spoken by Noah about Shem)... we also saw Noah give his prophecy about Ham's descendants... and Japheth's. We did not take a lot of time with these incredible prophetic blessings... nor will we here... but they lead us into chapter ten... very nicely. So I **will** say a little.

To Ham... a sense of technical proficiency was proclaimed. The Hemitic people have been the technicians of the world... showing amazing adaptability to the areas in which they lived. As we get into today's passage... and see where they spread out... you will understand why I've called them humanity's technicians.

To Japheth... a sense of enlargement was pronounced. When you see where his descendants settled... you will see that this was a geographical enlargement... as well as an intellectual enlargement... that Noah prophesied.

History has abundant confirmation that the end of Genesis chapter nine... and going into Genesis chapter ten... is extremely accurate. ... So Let's dive into those names now... shall we...? We begin with Japheth and his descendants.

Genesis 10:1-5

This part (that deals with Japheth and his descendants)... is the shortest of the three sons of Noah. But the chances are that most of us in this room are descendants from this line. The family of Japheth is essentially what we call the Aryans.

The what...? Uh... oh!

Yes, the Aryans. Adolph Hitler made a big deal about the race of Aryans. He claimed that Germans were pure Aryans... and the others were mongrels. Jews... of course weren't Aryans. They were (according to Hitler) an inferior race of Semites (from Shem.) Well... Hitler was right about the origin of his people... and the origin of the Jewish people. But how much more wrong can a person be... than to assume that Aryans are somehow superior to any of Noah's other son's descendants...? There is no superior or inferior race!

Early in the history of mankind (after the flood)... the Japhethites (or Aryans) split into two divisions. One group settled in India... and the other group settled in Europe. Together they formed (and most of you know this term) the "Indo-European" family of nations. Social scientists who keep track of genetic records and how people groups spread over the earth... use this common heading "Indo-European." This is because modern genetics has revealed what we see in Genesis chapter 10... that Europeans and the people of India share this common ancestry. So if you are Aryan... the next time you are in India... you should realize that you are visiting your cousins! Both the people of India and Europeans trace their

ancestry back to Japheth. This is not only from the Bible – it is also from science.

The Greeks say that their original ancestor was a man named “Japetos.” This is the name “Japheth,” in Greek. (You can see the resemblance to Japheth.)

The ancient culture of India includes an account of a world-wide flood... that is similar in many ways to the Biblical account that we just got finished studying. The name of their hero is not Noah. It is “Satyaurata.” Interestingly... Satyaurata has three sons. (Now listen to the names of his three sons...) His oldest was “Iyapeti.” What is significant about that...? “Iyapeti” is the Hindi version of Japheth. Now the other two names have a closer connection to our English-listening ears. The second son’s name in the ancient Indian story about the flood is “Sharma” (which is Hindi for Shem.) And the third son is C’Harma... which means Ham.

Genesis is embedded into the ancient history of other cultures!

In the first few verses of Genesis chapter ten... we read that Japheth has seven sons. Only two of them are traced for us with much detail. ... But the first son of Japheth that is mentioned is Gomer. This name... Gomer... eventually transitions into the names “Gaul”... and “Gallic.” These are the people... interestingly enough... to whom the New Testament book of Galatians was written. The Galatians were Gauls.

Many of us here have a Gallic or Celtic (or Keltic) ancestry. We are descendants of Gomer. Our people migrated to the North and settled in Spain... France... and Great Britain. From the large family of Gauls... came most of the families of Western Europe... and eventually America.

The oldest son of Gomer is Ashkenaz. He and his descendants first settled around the Black Sea and later moved to Scandinavia. Another son... Togarmah... gave rise to our present-day Turkish people... the Armenians... and those who migrated into Southern Germany.

The two other sons of Japheth were Madai... and Javan. These two are the easiest to trace in history. The Madai became the Medes... of the famous Medes and Persian Empire. And there is no question that Javan is the ancestor of the Greeks. His name is found all over Greece.

So modern history and genetic science confirms this Genesis account of how the descendants of Japheth spread out.

Next we come to the family of Ham. His people are the highly gifted technicians. Here is why that is seen as true. All of the early civilizations were Hamitic. They civilized the world's primitive conditions. From Ham came the Egyptians... the Babylonians... the Mayans... the Aztecs... and the Sumerians. We owe a great deal to the technological skills the Hamitic people produced.

Genesis 10:6-14

The four sons of Ham are relatively easy to trace through history. Cush is associated with the people of Southern Arabia and Ethiopia. Mizraim became the father of the Egyptian Empire. Put and his people settled west of Egypt in North Africa... and Canaan centered largely in and around Palestine... but they would spread out later.

Now our Biblical account zooms in on an individual named Nimrod. He is called "a great hunter." Genesis chapter ten gives him quite a bit of press... here... (treating him different than all the others.) ... Nimrod is a

rather mysterious figure. But we do know that he is the founder of both Babylon and Nineveh (two great cities.)

The prominent thing that is said about him is that he was a mighty man... “a mighty hunter before the Lord...” Now... it was the work of kings in those very ancient days... to be hunters. This was a time when civilizations were sparse... Nimrod’s was one of the first (if not the first.) Wild animals were a constant threat to people. Hunter Kings therefore offered protection and safety and gathered people around them.

Nimrod had developed a great reputation as such a hunter/king. That is how he evidently started these great cities... where he organized hunting parties that made people feel safe and protected. ... But Nimrod apparently led them to a different danger. The Jewish Talmud says that Nimrod was also “*a hunter of the souls of men.*” He was not only interested in people’s physical need for safety... he also was interested in their souls.

Nimrod introduced a very degraded and perverted religion first to Babylon... which then spread to Nineveh... and then to other parts of the world.

Nimrod’s wife was Semiramis. According to ancient Babylonian records... Nimrod and Semiramis had a son... which they claimed was virgin-born. Semiramis then founded the mother-child cult. This was the central character of the religion of Babylon – this worship of mother and supposedly virgin-born child.

You can see how this was a clever attempt on the part of Satan to anticipate the genuine virgin birth of Jesus... and to cast disrepute on the Nativity... long before it happened. Anyway... this Babylonian myth

(started by Nimrod)... was passed down in many forms of false religions through the centuries.

The mother and virgin-born child cult (for example) spread to Egypt as Isis and Osiris. In Greece it was Venue and Adonis. In Hindu it became Ushas and Vishnu. This same cult prevailed in various other cultures. We see Jeremiah of our Old Testament confront it when the Israelites were sacrificing to the "Queen of Heaven." This Queen of Heaven was Semiramis (the wife of Nimrod.)

The Mother-Child cult is very similar to what Roman Catholic gradually morphed into... around 1200 BC... where Mary... the mother of Jesus... and Jesus Himself are worshipped as co-redeemers.

Nimrod started this wide-spread false religion... back in the days when he founded Babylon. It is traceable to many false religions world-wide. (And look at how unified all of Scripture is!) We see that it will all culminate just as the last book of the Bible (Revelation) declares. "*The great harlot*"... whose name is what...? ("*Mystery Babylon the Great*") will be slain. This passage in Revelation uses Nimrod's very beginning of the world's false religions... and declares that they will all be defeated... just before Jesus returns.

The destruction of Babylon in the Book of Revelation... is the final destruction of man's attempts to live without the True and Living God in his life. Nimrod... (it's founder) did all that he could to keep man living his life apart from the True and Living God. One of his efforts we will see next week... in the Tower of Babel. He wanted one world... united by Babylonism. ... Nimrod was a mighty hunter before (which can also be

read as “against” the Lord. He was a hunter of men’s souls... keeping them from God.

Genesis 10:15-20

These tribes which occupied the land of Palestine at the time of Abraham... were a morally degraded people.

Sidon is the mentioned first-born of Canaan. He founded the city by that name... located near Tyre... on the coast of Phoenicia.

Heth is the father of the Hittite nation. (Now here is something very fascinating!) ... Only in current years... have Bible critics stopped pointing to the Bible’s several references to Hittites... as proof that the Bible is incorrect. Until recently they were saying that there has never been any evidence of any such people. Well guess what... Archeology has now produced an abundance of relics that are unquestionably from a civilization known as Hittite. Scholars are now well aware of a great civilization that flourished under the Hittites.

Now the third family of descendants from Noah is Shem.

Genesis 10:21-32

The noteworthy thing said here... is that:

Shem was the father of the children of Eber. Actually Eber was the great-grandson of Shem... and from Eber comes the word Hebrew. Abraham... the founder of the Hebrew nation... was six generations down from Eber... and Abraham was an Eberite (or as we now know it – a Hebrew.)

Now look again at verse 25...

What is the deal about Peleg's time...? What do you think this means:
"...in his days the earth was divided..."?

Peleg in Hebrew means: "Division." Some scholars believe that this refers to the division of people when God divided them at the Tower of Babel. But verse 25 says that the **earth** ("*ha eretz*" in Hebrew... and by the way... the same "*ha eretz*" we see in chapter one... which God created) was divided.

Science tells us today... that the earth is still dividing. There is a continental shift. The continental plates of each continent is slowly drifting apart. Looking at a map of the world... it does not take a vivid imagination to see that all of the world's continents look like several giant puzzle pieces that once fit together as one big land mass.

Personally... I lean to the understanding that before Peleg's day the world was not several continents. It was one piece of unified land. But during Peleg's day... after the flood (which might have – in part – caused it)... and a little while after the Tower of Babel... the earth split apart into several continents... taking people and animals with them as they suddenly tore apart... The momentum of that action is being observed today by science... as continental shift... watching it slow to a halt. This would explain how descendants of Ham (like the Mayans and Aztecs, and other Indian people) got to the Americas. There is too great of a distance between the continents today... for man and animals to swim to their present-day locations... after the Ark landed.

Genesis ten is a very self-authenticating chapter of the Bible. There is much here to validate its truth. God stands behind all of the history of mankind... and He is bringing it all to His intended culmination. God is

narrowing the entire flow of history to His pre-determined objective. Are you in line with His purpose...?

... ..

Ronald Pinkerton is a hang-glider who described a near accident in a magazine article I once read. He told how he was suddenly and forcefully lifted 4,200 feet in the air. And then... just as suddenly and forcefully... he was heading in the opposite direction – down! ... A blast of air sent him plummeting to the ground from that enormous height. ... Let me use his words to describe it:

I was falling at an alarming rate. Trapped in an airborne riptide, I was going to crash! Then I saw him – a red-tailed hawk. He was six feet off my right wing tip, fighting the same gust I was.

I looked down: 300 hundred feet from the ground and still falling. The trees below me seemed like spikes.

I looked at the hawk again. Suddenly he banked and flew straight downwind. DOWNWIND! If the air is anywhere it is upwind! The hawk was committing suicide.

Two hundred feet. From nowhere the thought entered my mind: "Follow the hawk." It went against everything I knew about flying. But at this point all my knowledge about flying was useless. I was at the mercy of the wind. I followed the hawk.

One hundred feet. Suddenly the hawk gained altitude. For a split second I seemed to be suspended motionless in space. Then a warm surge of air started pushing the glider upward. I was stunned. Nothing I knew as a pilot could explain this phenomenon. But it was true. I was rising.

On occasion... we all have downdrafts in our life. It might be a reversal of your financial security... or a humiliating experience at the hands of someone you never would have thought would treat you that way. Perhaps it is a health concern.

It is exactly times like this that we need the word of God to turn to... this self-authenticating book we have been examining today. ... But... do you know what...? Sometimes this book (just like the hawk) will instruct us to take an action... that goes against everything we know about living... everything in our understanding of what is right.

“Do you really want me to love this scoundrel who shows such contempt toward me? Lord... it is as if they just spit in my face!” ...
... “God... do I really need to apologize and ask forgiveness to Mrs. Gottrocks when she has been so cruel and nasty to so many people...” *“Lord... can’t someone else go and confront my friend who is sinning? I don’t want to lose their friendship.” ...* ...
“This is my last twenty dollars... I need it to get through the month. The poor we will always have with us...” *“Pray out-loud... Lord... teach Your Word to kids?... Really... God...?”*

If God’s Word tells us to dive... we need to trust it enough... to humble ourselves... and treat our own life-knowledge as useless. Once you do that... watch God send His thermal wind that will lift you up!