

Genesis 10: The Table of Nations

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Genesis 10-11 provide a bridge from **Noah** to **Abram**. The actual number of generations and years is uncertain.

If there were no missing generations in Genesis 11, **Eber** would have outlived **Abram**.

Genesis 10 and 11 are not chronological. The nations were scattered after **Babel**.

Genesis 10 gives the record of **70** nations that followed the Flood. It shows how the sons of Noah became the ancestors of all the people groups of the world—in one short chapter.

Keep in mind that the most important aspect of these family records is the descent of **Shem**.

William Foxwell Albright: Genesis 10 “stands absolutely alone in ancient literature.” (Boice, volume one of Genesis commentary, p. 402)

The science of **linguistics** provides remarkable clues about the relationship of ancient peoples and provides validation of the dispersion of Japheth’s descendants.

The descendants of Japheth were the most widely dispersed and likely populated the **American** continents.

God’s command to Noah was to “**fill the earth**” (Gen 9:1). What happened instead? What is the parallel between Cain and Nimrod? What makes this problematical?

Nimrod (whose name means *rebellion*) is described three times as “**mighty**.” In what respect?

Nimrod was the first person in the Bible described as having a **kingdom**. (Gen 10:10)

Two of the greatest cities of the ancient near east were built by Nimrod: **Babylon** and **Ninevah**. (Gen 10:10-11)

In what way were Nimrod’s cities “great”? What did they become known for?

What two titles were given to Shem? (Gen 10:21) By virtue of these two titles, Shem is directly associated with both the **Jews** and the **Gentiles**, with the latter association perhaps fulfilling the prophecy of Noah: “let [Japheth] dwell in the tents of Shem” (Gen 9:27).

Nimrod was probably *not* a son of Cush but was more likely a contemporary of **Eber**.

The name of Eber’s son Peleg means “**divided**” and is a likely reference to what? (Gen 10:25)