

## TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 10-12

### OVERVIEW:

The descendants of Noah; Babel: the origin of races and languages; God's call and covenant with Abram; Abram's journey to Canaan and Egypt.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

After listing one name after the other in the midst of the genealogy in chapter 10, when you get to the name Nimrod (10:8-10), all of a sudden God interrupts the list to give you a commentary on him. You might say that this is God's way of taking a highlighter and trying to communicate to us, "Don't miss this!" (Note that the same thing happens in the genealogy that lists Nimrod in I Chronicles 1:10.)

Interestingly, Nimrod is the grandson of Ham, which, as we've already seen, is associated with a curse. His name means "rebel," and his epithet is that he was "a mighty hunter before (or, against) the Lord." He was, obviously, a keen hunter of animals in the land of Shinar, but the context lets us know that he was also hunting something else... Men! Men to become a part of a kingdom (10:10). Nimrod wanted to set himself up as a king over a kingdom of rebellion against God!

Keep in mind that the theme of the Bible is all about a kingdom, where Jesus rules over all the earth from His throne for a period of 1000 years (Gen. 2:3; II Peter 3:8). The history of mankind and God's record of history in the Bible is really nothing more than God moving to put His Son on the throne, and Satan doing everything he can, not only to stop Him, but to put himself there! (Isa. 14:12-14) Note that the first mention of "kingdom" in the Bible is in reference to a king whose name means "rebellion," who is seeking to establish a world empire. *If you are unfamiliar with the principle of "First Mention" in terms of Bible study, God has so orchestrated the revelation of His Word that the first time a key biblical principle is mentioned, the context foreshadows its future scope. For example, the first time "love" is mentioned in the Bible, (Gen. 22:2), it is in the context of a loving father offering his only begotten son as a sacrifice. The future scope is obvious!*

Note, also, that the first mention of "Babel" is in verse 10. From this point in the Bible, Babel, or Babylon (Hebrew = Babel, Greek = Babylon), will always stand for that which is opposition to God and His people.

Nimrod recognized that to establish a world empire, he would need to unify the people, both governmentally and religiously (*"Let us build us a city and a tower" – Gen. 11:1-4*). The "city" is the governmental symbol, and the "tower" is the religious symbol. Practically speaking, the "city" and "tower" of Babel was Satan's attempt to unite the people of the earth in a one-world government, one-world religion, under one king. Obviously, Nimrod is a forerunner and type of the Antichrist who is a king of rebellion who seeks to establish a world empire by unifying the people of the earth in a one-world government and religion.

In striking contrast to rebellious Nimrod, chapter 12 introduces us to Abram, a man who symbolizes submission to God. God's call to Abram was: *"Get thee out of thy country...unto a land that I will*

*show thee...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him*" (12:1-4). Without hesitation, consideration, or deliberation, Abram, in faith, left his homeland and all that he knew and loved for an unidentified land. For his uncompromising faith, God holds Abram up as a shining example (Heb. 11:8).

Even though Abram exercised such great faith in God on one hand, when famine struck in verse 10, rather than exercise the same trust in God, "*Abram went down into Egypt.*" This is the first mention of "Egypt" in the Bible. Note that Egypt is always a "downward" move in Scripture, and will always be associated biblically with the world and sin. (i.e. Rather than trust God, Abram looked to the world to meet his needs.)

Abram exemplifies the fine line between walking by faith and walking by sight... Walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh (Gal. 5:16-17).

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As the PROMISED SEED OF ABRAHAM – Gen. 12:3 (Gen. 18:18; Matt. 1:1; Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:16)

In ABRAHAM – (*Abraham is a type of Christ in that he leads the way to a better land of promise – Heb. 11:8-11, 13-16*)