

Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Ten: The Beginning of the Dispersion of Nations – Genesis 9:18-11:9

Read Genesis 9:18-11:9 carefully and answer Questions 1-3 from 9:18-29.

- 1) List Noah's three sons.
- 2) What particular talent did Noah have and how did this strength play a part in a weakness (9:20-21)?
- 3) What strength do you have that at times becomes a weakness (you will not be asked to share this in your discussion unless you volunteer)? Have you thought to make this a specific matter of prayer?

From Genesis 9:18-29:

- 4) According to the following verses, which well-known Bible characters were descendants of Shem: Genesis 11:10-26 (in verse 26), 25:19-20 and 24-26, 35:22 (see with 32:28 and 49:28), Luke 3:23-38 (compare verses 23 and 36)?
- 5) Consider Ham's actions. What was the general nature of his sin and how seriously does God take this? See Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:2-3.
- 6) Noah cursed the descendants of Ham (Canaan was one of Ham's descendants [10:6]) and blessed Shem and Japheth and their descendants.
 - a) How have the words of others had a lasting impact on you (good or ill)? Give examples.
 - b) Each person is responsible before God for his or her own choices. Noah's curse on Canaan did not excuse the perverse behavior for which some of Canaan's descendants were known. Is there a wrong attitude or destructive behavior that has been passed down to you for which you need to take responsibility and correct? If so, what is it?
 - c) Read Ephesians 4:29. Write the names of family members, close friends, or work associates you will you make a special effort this week to build up with affirming words.

From Genesis 10:1-32:

- 7) Reread chapter 10 and list the names of people or cities that are familiar to you.

- 8) “Shinar” is the plain on which the city of Babylon was located. Quickly skim Revelation 18, noting that in Revelation, “Babylon” symbolizes all that opposes God. According to Genesis 10:6-11, who founded Babylon, which of Noah’s sons was his ancestor, and what other empire (that later became Israel’s enemy) did he found (compare 10:11 with 2 Kings 17:6)?

- 9) Based on the ways you have recently used your time and resources, what would you say you are “building into”? Make a *specific* (and honest) list below.

From Genesis 10:1-32:

- 10) Canaan is mentioned in Genesis 9:18, 22, and 25-27. What do you learn from the following passages about his descendants? Genesis 10:15-19, together with Genesis 15:16 (where the Canaanites are collectively called “Amorites”), Genesis 15:18-21, Genesis 18:20-21, Numbers 13:1-2, Joshua 11:1-8, 20, and 1 Kings 16:29-33 (note the identity of Jezebel’s father, compare with Genesis 10:15)?

- 11) Why do you think God included the information in Genesis chapter 10?

- 12) What kind of an example would you like to set for your descendants? Be specific.

From Genesis 11:1-9:

- 13)** Compare Genesis 11:1 with Genesis 10:5 and 20. What information, contained in these verses, indicates that the events of Genesis 11:1-9 must have preceded or occurred early in the range of history covered by Genesis 10?
- 14)** According to Genesis 11:2 and 4, what was the underlying sin of the men who were building the city and the tower. Which words show their determination to break the command God had repeatedly given (see Genesis 1:28 and 9:1 and 7)?
- 15)** In the end, God's purposes always prevail.
- a)** Which of the verses makes this point?
 - b)** With regard to which present circumstance in your own life do you need assurance that God's purposes will prevail?