

The Nations God Made after the Flood

Genesis 10:1-32

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Introduction:

Last week in our sermon series from Genesis, we saw how Noah received an oracle from God about the destiny of his sons.

- This oracle came in response to how Noah's sons had responded to Noah's sin.
 - You will remember that Noah, who had stood like a rock in the midst of the perverse generation before the flood,
 - now fell, in a time when there was not so much temptation.
 - Such times are the most dangerous because we do not rely on the Lord.
 - Things had settled after the great flood, and Noah had planted a vineyard and was rejoicing in the fruits of it,
 - but rather than giving thanks before God and drinking wine before Him, he sought to get more from the wine than is lawful and became drunk.
- The result was that his son Ham discovered him naked and passed out with drunkenness in his tent,
 - but instead of being ashamed for his father and covering him, knowing that his father would be ashamed of his folly,
 - Ham took pleasure in his father's sin and went to show his brothers, Shem and Japheth.
 - His brothers acted in a much more godly way—
 - instead of glorying in their father's sin, they stood shoulder to shoulder with their backs to their father and covered Noah with a blanket, refusing to even look upon him.
- We saw that the LORD responded to what had been done with an oracle.
 - He used what each brother had done as an occasion to proclaim what would do with some of their descendants...
 - With Ham, that He pronounced a curse upon one of his sons, Canaan...
 - And upon Shem and Japheth He pronounced blessing that would come to them.
 - We saw that Canaan was destined to be under the total dominion of his brothers—a slave of slaves—which finds its fullest expression in hell...
 - And that Shem is said to have the LORD (who is ever blessed) as his God, which is everything...
 - because if you have God as your God, you cannot die, you will be fully pardoned and delivered from your sin. You will be fully blessed...
 - And then we saw that Japheth, who had stood at his brother's side to oppose sin and shame, would do so again...

- That he would dwell in the tents of Shem—which is to say that he would share in Shem’s inheritance of having God as his God and all the blessing that that goes with that!
- We saw how this was fulfilled when Christ came, and the Greeks and so many of the Europeans (who come from Japheth) found salvation in Jesus, the blessed LORD, who is also the son of Shem.
- I pointed out that many of Ham’s descendants have also come, and that it was only the sons of his son Canaan that were almost entirely cut off...completely dominated over by death and hell...
 - The Canaanites became an example of what happens to those who glory in sin and then give themselves over to it—

That is the background which we bring now as we see the table of nations which is presented to us in Genesis 10.

- This is probably not the most popular chapter in Genesis—and may even seem tedious to read...
 - and indeed we are told not to waste our time with genealogies as some kind of spiritual exercise...
 - but at the same time we are told that all scripture is useful for us if we use it rightly—for edification and the strengthening of our faith,
 - so we dare not skip over this chapter, but rather let us see what we can learn from it.
 - In looking at it, we want to understand two perspectives...
 - First, that this was penned by Moses, so it is not so much a prophecy of what is to become of the nations (as the oracle of Noah that we looked at last week was),
 - but it is a presentation of the nations that Israel knew about when it was written, showing where they came from—it was history to the first readers of it.
 - These names, many of which are unfamiliar to us, were well known to them.
 - It would be as if we were getting a history of the people of England and Canada and the United States and of Iran and Russia and China...
 - And seeing where they had come from.
 - When they read of Eber at the end of the table, they, of course, knew immediately that he was their forefather—the name Hebrew is from Eber...
 - So that is the perspective of those who first received this scripture...
 - And second, we need to see it from our own perspective now that Christ has come.
 - We also know about Eber, and we know what eventually happened to the Canaanites,

- and we know also about Babel and Abraham and how God promised to bless the nations through his seed...
- And we know beyond all that how the LORD has blessed the nations of the earth through Abraham's seed,
 - And we know that the One who is His seed is Jesus Christ, the Son of God from heaven, who died on the cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
 - We read about these nations from that perspective, and it is right that we do so...
 - For the LORD tells us in His word that these things were written not just for the ancient people, but for us who live after the coming of Christ.
- So to get all that we can from this table with its many unfamiliar names,
 - our purpose will not be to dig out the history of all of these people unless we know about them from scripture,
 - but rather to learn of our LORD and His gospel that we may love Him and serve Him better.

So with that in mind, please give me your attention as I read Genesis 10 to you.

Genesis 10:1-31: Now this *is* the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood. ²The sons of Ja-pheth *were* Gomer, Ma-gog, Mad-a-i, Ja-van, Tubal, Me-shech, and Ti-ras. ³ The sons of Gomer *were* Ashkenaz, Ri-phath, and To-gar-mah. ⁴ The sons of Ja-van *were* E-li-shah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Do-da-nim. ⁵ From these the coastland *peoples* of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations. ⁶ The sons of Ham *were* Cush, Miz-ra-im, Put, and Canaan. ⁷ The sons of Cush *were* Se-ba, Hav-i-lah, Sabtah, Ra-a-mah, and Sab-te-chah; and the sons of Ra-a-mah *were* Sheba and De-dan. ⁸ Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Ac-cad, and Cal-neh, in the land of Shi-nar. ¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Re-ho-both Ir, Ca-lah, ¹² and Re-sen between Nineveh and

Ca-lah (that *is* the principal city). ¹³ Miz-ra-im begot Lu-dim, An-a-mim, Le-ha-bim, Naph-tu-him, ¹⁴ Path-ru-sim, and Cas-lu-him (from whom came the Philistines and Caph-to-rim). ¹⁵ Canaan begot Si-don his firstborn, and Heth; ¹⁶ the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; ¹⁷ the Hi-vite, the Ark-ite, and the Sin-ite; ¹⁸ the Ar-vad-ite, the Zem-a-rite, and the Ha-math-ite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. ¹⁹ And the border of the Canaanites was from Si-don as you go toward Ge-rar, as far as Ga-za; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Ad-mah, and Ze-boi-im, as far as La-sha. ²⁰ These *were* the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands *and* in their nations. ²¹ And *children* were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of E-ber, the brother of Ja-pheth the elder. ²² The sons of Shem *were* E-lam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and A-ram. ²³ The sons of A-ram *were* Uz, Hul, Ge-ther, and Mash. ²⁴ Ar-phax-ad begot Sa-lah, and Sa-lah begot E-ber. ²⁵ To E-ber were born two sons: the name of one *was* Pe-leg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his

brother's name *was* Jok-tan. ²⁶ Jok-tan begot Al-mo-dad, She-leph, Ha-zar-maveth, Je-rah, ²⁷ Ha-do-ram, U-zal, Dik-lah, ²⁸ O-bal, A-bim-a-el, She-ba, ²⁹ O-phir, Hav-i-lah, and Jo-bab. All these *were* the sons of Jok-tan. ³⁰ And their dwelling place was from Me-sha as you go toward Se-phar, the mountain of the east. ³¹ These *were* the

sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations. ³² These *were* the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

And there we end the reading of God's holy Word,

- May the LORD bless it to our hearing and understanding.

As we consider this passage and what it has to teach us, I want to follow an outline from a couple of the verses that we read earlier in Acts 17.

- You will recall that we read the account of Paul's visit to Athens where he saw this Greek intellectual city that was wholly given over to idols...
 - Paul rebuked them and told them that they should forsake this foolishness and turn to the one and only true God who made them...
- And in saying that, he spoke of how God has ordered the nations and determined their times and places...
 - In Acts 17:26-27, he said of God:
 - **Acts 17:26-27: "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him**

So in looking at Genesis 10, we will first consider how it shows that

- I. God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth.**
- II. God has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.**
- III. God has done this in such a way that they should seek the LORD, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him.**

By using an inspired outline, we can be sure that at least our general observations about the Table of Nations will be in agreement with God's revelation.

- We will rightly understand what this separation of the nations was all about.
- So let's get started with the first point...

- I. God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth.**

A. In Genesis 10, we have presented to us how the whole world was populated from Noah and his three sons.

1. We know this from scripture...

- We know that the whole world was populated from this one family because the rest of the world was wiped out in the flood.

- We have seen that only Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives survived the flood.
 - And in Genesis 9:19, we are told expressly that the whole earth was populated from Noah's three sons.
 - The apostle Paul also declares very plainly that we are all from one blood in Acts 17, and that God has brought us forth from one blood.
 - Of course this was true to start with in Adam—even Eve was made of his rib—and everyone else is their descendent, but it was true again with Noah.
2. This has been a difficult thing for the skeptics to accept.
- They often derided those who would believe such a thing.
 - John Calvin mentions that many in his day questioned how it could be possible that all the nations with all their variety came from one pair.
 - In the 18 and 1900s, unbelieving scholars took delight in ridiculing anyone who believed this on account of the sure findings of science...
 - from historical studies that indicated that civilisations predated Noah,
 - and from their notions about evolution that suggested that different people groups evolved from different ancestors, and that it took hundreds of thousands of years to get the variety we have today.
 - Interestingly, more recent studies and findings are putting these arguments to silence.
 - As to the historical arguments, increasingly the consensus of historians due to all the evidence that has been found is that the Egyptian history is greatly exaggerated. It was once considered gold.
 - As to the old evolutionary arguments, now a professor named Joseph Chang, a statistician at Yale, has done mathematical studies of the family tree of the world in which he concluded that we all share a common ancestry from 3 or 4000 years ago.
 - Since that time we have been able to compile giant data bases of DNA, and geneticist Peter Ralph concluded that Europeans go back about 3000 years and projected from that that there was an all ancestor generation of the whole world about 3400 years ago.
 - It is quite well established that the variation we have by natural selection in world could easily have occurred within the last 4000 years.
 - And there is more and more agreement that we are all from a common parentage (one blood)...
3. But whatever scientists may say, and with whatever confidence they may say it, it is for us to believe the Holy Scriptures.
- The scriptures are God breathed, and if they say that we were all descended from Noah and his sons, we are to believe it.
 - The Bible is God breathed, and we can be sure of what it says.

B. How we ought to praise God for the multiplication of men upon the earth!

1. Even this list is not at all exhaustive, but only highlights some of the principle figures from which the various people groups descended.
 - In some cases, individuals are named, but in other cases, it is nations or tribes that are described—so there were a lot of people that were brought forth in a very short time!
2. They were able to multiply like this because God enabled them to do so!
 - We saw before that His command to be fruitful and multiply and to fill the earth was not only a command, but also a blessing that enabled them do so.
 - It is God’s goodness that provides for our food and our safety so that we are able to multiply.
 - Again and again He has provided for us.
 - It is noteworthy that in North America, many of the natives were running out of resources due to population growth...
 - yet now there are many times as many people with an abundance of resources.
 - The LORD gives us the power to get wealth—to sustain ourselves in the earth.
3. It is for us to trust Him—to look to Him for our provision and safety.
 - If we do not, we will be filled with fear and confusion.
 - Of course I do not mean to say that we are not to recognise problems...and deal with them!
 - God uses our intelligence and ingenuity within the working of His providence to take care of us...
 - That is primarily what He used to enable us to provide for a growing population in North America.
 - The LORD raises up people who continually find out ways to sustain ourselves—but our eyes must be on the LORD for this, or we will be always anxious about what will happen to us.
 - We will act in fear rather than in faith.
 - Make a point of thanking God regularly for your daily bread, and of asking Him to continue to provide for you from day to day.
 - If He takes care of the birds, how much more will He take care of you?
 - Are you not of much more value than they?
 - Moreover, remember that we are to trust God not only for our daily bread, but also for multiplying a godly seed...
 - It is only by His grace that we bring forth the next generation—and even more that we will bring forth a godly generation in the church.
 - And it is only by His grace that we can multiply disciples in the kingdom of God by evangelism.

- Let us pray earnestly for God to advance His kingdom and to preserve a godly seed for His glory.
- So when we see how God multiplied nations from one man, we ought to be stirred up both to gratitude for what He has done and to trust that He will multiply us today.
- And there is another application to this belief that we are all of one blood that we must not miss...
- C. Believing that we are all from one blood ought also to have a profound effect on the way we look at each other.
1. Just think what it was like for Israel when they read of these nations in Genesis 10...
 - These were the nations that were all around them.
 - They knew the names of them and had dealings with them—and here Moses wrote this in which he reminded them that these nations were all brothers to them—that all came from Noah.
 - It should have struck their heart cords and caused them to say, “these are our brothers!”
 - They had the command from the LORD to love their neighbour as themselves, and here they were reminded that their neighbours were their own flesh and blood.
 - Remember when God brought Eve to Adam?
 - He exclaimed with delight that she was bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh.
 - He was delighted to have a companion that was like him in the world!
 2. And now as we look at this table of nations and we see all these names...
 - And we know that most of us are from Japheth—but who was he but Shem and Ham’s brother?
 - And we too have God’s command to love our neighbour as ourselves and on top of that, we know that Christ has commanded us to preach the gospel to all nations...
 - It ought to move our hearts with great warmth toward our neighbour, whatever colour he may be or whatever nation he may be from or whatever language he may speak,
 - to know that these are all our brothers!
 - But there is one thing I want to clarify...
 - It is true that we are all one race in a general sense, but it is also true that there are different races of men...
 - A race is simply a people with a common ancestry.
 - There are indeed Scots and Nigerians and Russians...
 - And we are not called to pretend otherwise.

- There are differences between Americans and Canadians because of different backgrounds and there is nothing wrong with recognising that.
- There is nothing wrong with enjoying and acknowledging this variety...
 - but let us never forget that at the bottom of it all, we are all of one blood—one race...
 - and let us strive to treat one another as brothers.

TRANS> So you see how much good comes from believing that God has made us all of one blood.

- If we acted consistently with this truth, the world would be a very different place—a much better place—a much more unified place where we all treated one another as brothers!
 - But alas—we must see as well that there is division—not only of a proper sort, but also of sinful sort.
 - Our next point from Acts 17 is that...

II. God has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.

A. Genesis 10 emphasises the division that there is between people.

1. Repeatedly there are statements like the one in verse 5 that speak of this division...in this case, of the Japhethites:
 - **Gen 10:5: From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.**
 - A similar statement is made about the sons of Ham (in verse 20), and another about the sons of Seth in verse 31,
 - and then we have the general conclusion in verse 32 which says:
 - **Gen 10:32: These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.**
2. And notice the various kinds of divisions that are spoken of here.
 - a. The same four kinds of division are mentioned in relation to each of Noah's sons—in verse 5, of Japheth, in verse 20 of Ham, and in verse 31 of Shem...
 - Look at verse 5—
 - There is geographical separation—into their respective lands...
 - There is linguistic separation—each according to his language...
 - There is familial separation along blood lines—each according to the families or clans...
 - And there is political separation—each into their nations.
 - b. These divisions do not represent clear lines...

- For example, in Canada, we have people from all different blood lines, but we are united geographically...
 - And if you have, say French speaking people in Iran from different parts of the world, they will often unite with each other around language.
 - Some of the names mentioned in Genesis 10 are actually places or cities, such as El-i-shah and Tar-shish in verse 4 which are said to be sons of Javan...*sons* in this case meaning that he founded these cities.
 - So you see that there are different kinds of divisions—geographic, linguistic, familial, and political.
- B. At face value, these divisions might seem innocent enough, and some of them are, but we know that some of them are the result of wickedness...
1. Remember that we do not read this passage in isolation from the rest of scripture, and we know from that that many of the divisions are from sin.
 - a. For example, we know that Israel went to Egypt in the famine, but they remained divided from the Egyptians for several reasons that were sinful...
 - In part, they did not mingle because the Egyptians did not embrace the true religion that Israel carried in the covenant with Abraham.
 - The Egyptians had turned from the one true God over the years and worshipped idols, and this kept them separate.
 - Also, the two nations were separate because the Israelites were shepherds, and the Egyptians found that occupation loathsome...an unwarranted prejudice.
 - And again, there was separation because the Egyptians made Israel slaves and this kept them distinct.
 - b. Likewise, when Israel came to Canaan, they were kept distinct from the Canaanites because of the detestable practices of the Canaanites...
 - The Canaanites had gone deeper and deeper into idolatry and into sexual perversity—everything from sodomy to incest to child sacrifice!
 - It was for this cause that God ordered Israel to fulfill the curse He had put on the Canaanites by wiping them out.
 - So this was division borne of the sin of Canaan.
 2. And in our text from Genesis 10, we see division on the basis of tyranny.
 - a. In verse 8, we are told of Nimrod who became “a mighty one in the earth.”
 - From what we are told of him, and from the kingdoms he founded, it appears that this indicates that he was the first tyrant.
 - This term was used negatively in Genesis 6 to describe Nephilim—they were the mighty men of old that also appeared after the flood.
 - That is probably a statement that prepares for Nimrod.
 - He became a wrong kind of leader.
 - Fausett puts it like this in his Bible dictionary:
 - “Nimrod subverted the existing patriarchal order of society by setting up a chieftainship based on personal valor and maintained by aggression.”

- It is good and right that we have princes and governors to rule over us in society and to promote good order...
 - We need government to lead us in defence, and to uphold law and order, punishing wrong and settling disputes, and protecting the poor.
 - Such government is a great service to men, and those who exercise it justly are faithful servants to their people.
 - I saw how important this is recently when the bridge near our house was closed...
 - Because of the bridge closure, the police had to take the long way around to respond to calls...
 - As a result crime in that area went way up!
 - That only shows what it would be like if there were no officers at all!
 - b. But there have always been those in history like Nimrod who arise as tyrannical mighty men in the earth...
 - He was proverbially a mighty hunter—probably one who was skilful at slaying wild beasts that tormented the people.
 - It is well known that animals had multiplied in the ancient world and were a constant threat, so a mighty hunter would be held in great esteem...
 - And in this way, we presume, he gained a band of loyal followers to rule...
 - And then, lusting after power, he began to exalt himself as a god among men...
 - Leaders who are tyrants seem to feel that the whole world belongs to them and they became oppressors and robbers.
 - Everyone is there to serve them, and must serve them.
 - They amass great armies and go in and plunder cities and nations and are never satisfied until they rule the whole world.
 - They are like a drug addict, only they crave power and dominion instead of narcotics.
 - They have no regard for their fellow man, and no regard for the LORD God.
 - They set themselves up as gods...
 - Many times they even demand worship of themselves, and there is evidence that Nimrod did this from inscriptions that have been found.
 - c. In any case, we see that he founded wicked kingdoms—Babel, E-rech, Accad, and Ca-lah, in the land of Shi-nar.
 - We will see more about his ambition and hubris, or at least that of his kingdom, next week in Genesis 11...
 - But here you have a division of nations—as well as a unity of nations around Nimrod—in wickedness.
3. And we know from chapter 11 something about the division by language...
- that it too was a sinful division born of sin.

- Obviously, Shem, Ham, and Japheth all spoke the same language,
 - But we will see in chapter 11 that the LORD confuses the languages of the nations to humble them and restrain them—
 - lest the world totally unite in wickedness and proud rebellion...
 - More about that next week,
 - But I just want you to see here that the division based on language we know, and Israel knew, when we read Genesis 10 was a division borne of wickedness.
- C. Now you must understand that God is the one who sovereignly brings about these divisions.
1. Paul's statement in Acts 17:26 makes this certain.
 - In His sovereign providence, He appointed the times of each nation and of its rise and fall, and determined the territory that it would inhabit.
 - He raises up kingdoms and brings them down as He pleases for the accomplishment of His purposes...
 2. And this is true of all divisions, whether they are wicked divisions or natural ones due to migration and such things.
 - Certainly, it is clear that the LORD was the one who made the divisions based on language—and as a judgement...
 - But we must also recognise that it was the LORD who gave power to wicked Nimrod that brought about division and terror among the families of the earth.
 - When Paul says that the LORD determined the times and boundaries, he means that of them all—both godly and ungodly ones.
 - We are constantly told by the prophets that the Lord raised up the Moabites or the Assyrians or the Babylonians...
 - It is stressed that He rules among the nations and raises one up and brings another down...
 3. And so we conclude that all the divisions of nations described in Genesis 10 were God's doing.
 - Again, some of them are not necessarily wrong sorts of divisions, but the point is that the LORD is the one that brings them all about according to His purposes...

TRANS> And that naturally leads to a question—why? What is God's purpose?

- And that brings us to our third point this morning...from Acts 17...
 - According to Paul:

III. The LORD divides the nations so that they should seek the LORD, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him.

- A. The LORD wants to make people see their need of Him in this way.
1. He wants to humble them and restrain them and break down their plans so that they will see that they cannot prosper without Him...

- All the prosperity they have actually comes from Him; but they do not acknowledge Him—
 - Their prosperity corrupts them because they are not thankful and they keep demanding more and more and they begin to oppress their neighbour if they are at the top of the ladder and to steal if they are at the bottom.
 - And worst of all, they either turn to idols or make themselves to be their own masters—
 - They do not call upon God or give Him thanks...
2. By sending them divisions and other difficulties, they realise that they are not the masters of their own fate...
- They are dead men—men who cannot keep their souls alive...
 - And the intent is that then they will humble themselves and call upon the name of the LORD to be saved...
- B. But there is more to this division than just division...
1. A major theme in God's dealings with men is emerging before our eyes as we move along in Genesis...
- a. The LORD is also dividing men to make a distinct people for Himself—
 - He is separating out a people that will bear witness to Him and that will receive His oracles and His gracious saving mercy.
 - They will be called out from among the nations to be His people...
 - Consider how this is developing as we read along in Genesis...
 - b. Last week we saw the oracle of God given to Noah that the LORD would be Shem's God and that Japheth would find blessing in the tents of Shem.
 - This was only the beginning of the LORD separating a people for Himself from the other nations...that developed further with the calling of Abraham.
 - c. This week we see more development in Genesis as we see all the nations divided and then at the end, we see Shem's family.
 - We already know from the oracle of Noah that there is something special for him,
 - and both we and the first readers of Genesis 10 know what lies ahead—we know about the calling of Abraham who was one of Shem's descendants...
 - We know, in fact, that Abraham will come from Eber (the father of the Hebrews) through Peleg,
 - The son who is singled out as the one whose name refers to the division of the nations that God has made in the earth.
 - And Eber is singled out in verse 21 where Shem is said to be the father of all the children of Eber.
 - There is something special about Eber.

- And as has been the pattern throughout Genesis so far, Moses introduces Peleg to us at the end of genealogy (just as he did Noah)...
 - and after finishing what he has to say about the other families of the earth, he singles him out...
 - and in chapter 11, verse 10 and following, we will see the detailed genealogy of Abraham is carried on from Eber...
 - And Abraham will become the main subject after this, just as Noah become the main subject after a brief intro in chapter 6,
 - And with Abraham and his family, this prominence will be true to the end of Genesis and beyond!
 - His family is singled out for the great blessing of having God as his God!
 - Rather than scattering His salvation all around, God concentrates it upon Abraham his descendants...
 - He separates them out from the rest of the world.
- This is obvious enough as we follow scripture, but I want you to see that we are told expressly that...
2. The LORD divided the nations with reference to Abraham's seed—Israel!
- a. The scripture teaches that He arranges things in particular for the sake of His church—His kingdom in the earth.
- Deuteronomy 32:8 expressly states this:
 - **Deut 32:8: When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel.**
 - So this means that division of nations that we read about in Genesis 10 is very purposeful—for the blessing of the church...
 - And the church is blessed that they in turn might be a blessing to the nations!
- b. Consider how God was preparing the nations for the sake of His people in Genesis 10!
- 1) Take Egypt—Mizraim, a son of Ham...
- Mizraim is only mentioned as one of the nations that is separated, but think of what God was doing with them...
 - He put them by the Nile River where there is an abundant harvest, and He strengthened them...
 - And so Egypt became a place where Israel went in times of famine—
 - God had plans for His people, who desperately needed to see their need of Him, to be trained by hard labour in Egypt.
 - For them to be slaves their under oppression and then for the LORD to bring them out in a great display of His power and holiness...

- But you see, God was preparing for this with the division of Mizraim as a people.
- 2) And take Nimrod, whom we saw as a mighty one in the earth—a tyrant who was full of hubris—the founder of godless Babylon...
- God had great purposes for His people in mind with Babylon and Nineveh...
 - He would use these wicked cities to display to the world the kingdom of men at its height.
 - In chapter 11, we will see Him humbling them...
 - And they will appear again at centre stage years later when Israel leans on idols like Baal and then looks to Assyria and Babylon for strength...
 - Only to find themselves at last in bondage to Babylon and Assyria...
 - all to teach them to lean on the LORD their God and not on the city of man.
- 3) And we could mention the Canaanites—those who give themselves over to detestable practices...
- The LORD will have them placed in Palestine, the land that He will give to His people when He brings them out of Egypt...
 - Here in Genesis 10, we see God preparing the Canaanites for their role...
 - And Israel will be tested when God gives them the task of wiping them out because of their wickedness.
 - How many lessons they will learn from this—about avoiding their worship, about avoiding their practices, about trusting the LORD in battle—
 - God arranged all the nations with reference to Israel, His church, His people.
- c. Seeing this ought to give us great confidence and encouragement in our day when we see the many enemies we have, even as God’s people.
- There is nothing random about it at all!
 - God has determined their preappointed times and boundaries, and though they may persecute and though they may wipe many of us out,
 - God is in it because of His great love for us...
 - He does it not to destroy His church, but to restore it and to preserve it.
 - While it is right for us to plead for mercy, we should give thanks for what God does no matter how hard it may be.
 - Know when you see enemies coming against us that the LORD is in it.

- And there is one more thing that we must not miss...
- 3. God separates out Israel not only for their own blessing, but also that they might be a blessing to the nations...
 - a. That is what Paul said in Acts 17...
 - He arranges things in such a way that the nations will see that they need God—that they will grope for Him to find Him!
 - b. And we see what God did—
 - 1) In the fullness of time, He sent forth His Son to redeem His people!
 - This was done very openly in the sight of the nations.
 - And God had the nations arranged all around Israel—
 - He had the Romans in the seat of power...by them there was law and order throughout much of the world, and a great network of roads.
 - And He had the Greeks who had been humbled by Rome and whose philosophy was burning out...
 - But they had given the world a common a common language and their schools of learning...
 - The boundaries and times were in His hands...
 - He had placed these nations according to His sovereign plan—here in Genesis 10, we see the Greeks—Javan, Japheth’s son, is their father...
 - Already they are going out to their place in the coastlands—where they will be prepared for the gospel over the next 2000 years.
 - 2) And you know what happened—
 - The Greeks and the Romans welcomed the gospel, and they helped to carry it all over the world...
 - And when Roman was invaded and conquered, the conquerors themselves were converted.
 - It was God who determined the times and the boundaries of these people who divided them according to the sons of Israel.
 - They came and they received the gospel.
 - c. Let us keep this perspective ever before us!
 - God has placed us where we are in His wisdom, and we are to be His witnesses...
 - This begins in your own home and it extends to your community—to your neighbourhood, your workplace, your city...
 - And even if people don’t believe, God had put that tyrant or that persecutor or that mocker in your path in His wisdom.
 - Acknowledge His hand and bow in humble worship!

- And pray, pray, pray, that God will not only use these people He has placed around you for your growth, but that He will bring them to His salvation.
- As Franz Delitzsch says regarding Israel and the table of nations:
 - “The idea of the people of God [among the nations] implies that they have to regard all nations with them as future partakers with them of the same salvation, and to embrace them with an interest of hopeful love unheard of elsewhere in the ancient world.”
- How much more should we embrace the unbelievers around us with an interest of hopeful love unheard of elsewhere in the modern world?
 - They are around us by God’s appointment.
 - He is the one that put them there.
 - We have the gospel, and they are one blood with us.
 - By His grace, see that you do not forget it!
 - **Acts 17:26f: He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being.**