

“The End of the Beginning” Genesis 11:10-32

Prel Rmks

Text ~ Title ...

(10) This is the genealogy of Shem: **Shem** was one hundred years old, and begot **Arphaxad** two years after the flood. (11) After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. (12) Arphaxad lived thirty-five years, and begot **Salah**. (13) After he begot Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters. (14) Salah lived thirty years, and begot **Eber**. (15) After he begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters. (16) Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot **Peleg**. (17) After he begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters. (18) Peleg lived thirty years, and begot **Reu**. (19) After he begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years, and begot sons and daughters. (20) Reu lived thirty-two years, and begot **Serug**. (21) After he begot Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters. (22) Serug lived thirty years, and begot **Nahor**. (23) After he begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. (24) Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and begot **Terah**. (25) After he begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters. (26) Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot **Abram**, Nahor, and Haran. (27) This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. (28) And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. (29) Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. (30) But Sarai was barren; she had no child. (31) And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. (32) So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

INTRO

Two divisions:

The Genealogy of Shem vv. 10-26 (Shem to Abram)

Vertical genealogy – similar to chapter 5

The Genealogy of Terah vv. 27-32

Horizontal genealogy – similar to chapter 10

I. The Genealogy of Shem 10-26

This genealogy represents a major shift in focus for the historical record in Genesis:

All of mankind (Shem, Ham, Japheth) – to one particular family line

From the Table of Nations in Chapter 10 – to one nation that will descend from one man Abram

The focus will continue to narrow – Isaac → Jacob (Israel)

Through this line of descendants that the Messiah, the Savior will come into the world

What are some things we should note from this genealogy?:

10 generations from Shem to Abram covering 290 years

292 years after the flood

Noah still alive ~ No total years given

No statement that they “died”

Life expectancy began to decline very dramatically during this time

Chapter 5		Chapter 11	
Adam	930	Shem	600
Seth	912	Arpachshad	438
Enosh	905	Shelah	433
Kenan	910	Eber	464
Mahalelel	895	Peleg	239
Jared	962	Reu	239
Enoch	365	Serug	230
Methusaleh	969	Nahor	148
Lamech	777	Terah	205
Noah	950	Abram	175
AVG	912		36

Age at which children were born was dramatically lower too:

Chapter 5		Chapter 11	
Adam		Shem	
Seth	105	Arpachshad	35
Enosh	90	Shelah	30
Kenan	70	Eber	34
Mahalelel	65	Peleg	30
Jared	162	Reu	32
Enoch	65	Serug	30
Methusaleh	187	Nahor	29
Lamech	182	Terah	70
Noah		Abram	
AVG	115		36

Genesis 10:8-12 Cush begot **Nimrod rebel**; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. **(9)** He was a mighty hunter **before in the face of = in defiance of the LORD**; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." **(10)** And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. **(11)** From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, **(12)** and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

1 Chronicles 1:10 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

Micah 5:6 They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land And when he treads within our borders.

The Tower of Babel was likely only about 100 years after the flood.

Nimrod was the grandson of Ham, the great grandson of Noah

Peleg = division

Introduction of false religion (worship of false gods):

Towers – ziggurats: temples to demons (escape another flood)

Nimrod thought he could avenge God's judgment that was poured out on his forefathers in the flood

Astrology and worship of the stars

Spiritism and worship of animals

All part of the worship of Yahweh God

Man is born to worship ... man is bound to worship ...

Babylon is not well spoken of throughout the rest of scripture:

Revelation 14:8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Revelation 16:19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Revelation 17:5 And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 18:2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

Purpose of the genealogy of Shem:

1. To narrow the focus of the historical record to one nation among the many

Redemptive history will now be told through the history of that one nation – not all of mankind, but through the lineage of one people group, one ethnic group, one nation

2. To bridge the history from Shem just after the flood to Abram – to get to Abram, the father of that entire people group that will be the focus of the Bible until the birth of Christ, and even after.

The Genealogy of Shem

II. The Genealogy of Terah 27-32

This genealogy is more like what we saw in chapter 10.

What was happening within one family at a certain time.

Gives us the account of where Abram began.

(27) This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot.

(28) And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in **Ur of the Chaldeans Babylonians**.

Ur – a thoroughly pagan city: south of Babel – near Erech – built in the river valley of the rivers that empty into what we call the Persian Gulf

It was a very advanced city for its time

{library: collection of stone tablets that were the books of that day}

All of the evils of the worship at Babel and in Babylon were transported to Ur.

Worship of heavenly bodies – night sky: stars and the moon.

Terah's name was the name for the moon God.

{chief archaeologist: Jane Moon}

(29)

Then Abram and Nahor took wives: **the name of Abram's wife was Sarai**

half sister Genesis 20:12 = daughter of his father but not his mother,

"my princes" but the actual name was the name of the moon goddess – "the queen of heaven"

and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, "queen"

the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah his niece

and the father of **Iscah (unknown)**.

(30)

But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

This is important ...

(31)

And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan;

Acts 7:1-4 Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?"

(2) And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: **The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham** when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, **(3)** and said to him, 'GET OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY AND FROM YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.' **(4)** Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from

there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.

God called Abram to leave Ur

Isaiah 51:1-2 "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock *from which* you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit *from which* you were dug. **(2)** Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah *who* bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him."

and they came to **Haran Charan** and dwelt there.

Due north of Ur – why did they take this route?

Charan was a place of moon worship – a temple to the moon god was there

(32)

So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

Abram would leave his father there in Charan and journey on to Canaan

Where did Terah go when he died?

Implications and Applications

1. How quickly mankind can get off track spiritually and how far off track!

Adam & Eve ~ In the garden (God had to intervene)

Fresh start ... covenant of grace ... a little over 1500 years later: (God had to intervene)

Genesis 6:5-7 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. **(6)** And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. **(7)** So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

After the flood – fresh start – a little over 100 years = Tower of Babel (God had to intervene)

God chose one nation to be His special people to be a blessing to the rest of the nations

What we see in the rest of Genesis ...

The sad story of sin and dysfunction and departure from God – God intervening:

Abraham – 12:1-25:18

Isaac – 25:19-26:35

Jacob – 27:1-36:43

Joseph – 37:1-50:26

What we see in the rest of the OT

repeated failure of the nation of Israel to be faithful to God – God intervening repeatedly to judge them

2. How merciful God is toward us, in spite of our sin and rebellion to have a plan for our redemption.

Genealogies in Luke and Matthew – Jesus, the Son of Abraham

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: