

FATE OF THE ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE TABLE OF NATIONS (Genesis 10)

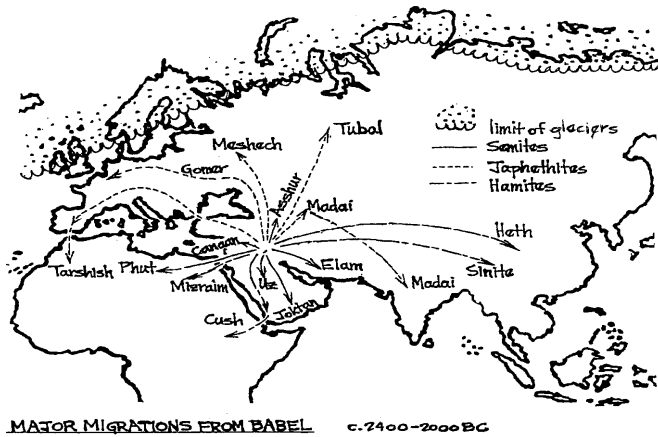
Genesis chapter 10 lists 70 ethnic groups that dispersed from the Tower of Babel and from which the earth's peoples are descended.¹ **The fate of these groups is traceable from Biblical statements and extrabiblical sources.** This type of study points up the fact that Genesis 10 (as well as, of course, all Scripture) is factual and accurate history. Knowledge of where today's ethnic groups came from helps in understanding the ethnic violence which has historically existed in the Balkan states, and in what are today the Russian republics. The people groups of Genesis 10 also re-emerge in Biblical prophecy, e.g., Ezekiel 38.

Introduction

Approximately 70 descendants of Noah are listed in Genesis chapter 10. These are said to be the progenitors of all nations on earth after the flood (Gen. 10:32). Accordingly Genesis 10 has been called "The Table of Nations."

Only men are listed. Presumably, a proportionate number of daughters was born in each family. **There may also have been numerous unnamed descendants.** This is indicated by the fact that some sons have no listed offspring, whereas others have many named (e.g., Joktan had 13 named sons, Gen. 10:26-29).

Perhaps the unnamed descendants had family lines that died out. **Only the listed descendants gave rise to family lines which continued to flourish, at least beyond the dispersion from Babel.** The listing of descendants represents those family lines existing at the time of the dispersion from Babel, as indicated by the statement of Gen. 10:32, that from these people the whole earth was populated.

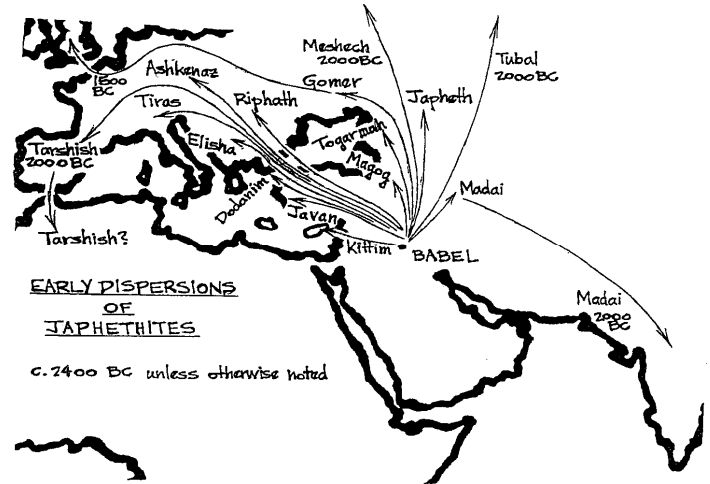


Some of Noah's descendants are not named as individuals, but by the plural form of the family which they originated (e.g., Gen. 10:15-18 which lists the families of Canaan). We now consider the places and nations associated with these progenitors in order of the listing in Genesis 10.

Japheth and His Descendants

Noah had prophesied that "God shall enlarge Japheth" (Gen. 9:27). In fact, Japheth's descendants did experience

remarkable prosperity and dispersion (Table 1 next page). Their names show that they settled vast portions of the earth, migrating westward to the Aegean, northward into Europe, and eastward into the Asian subcontinent. **Japheth's descendants are the Indo-europeans, identified as the Gentiles in Genesis 10:5.**



The name of Japheth himself is found in ancient literature as Iapetos, the legendary father of the Greeks, and Iyapeti, the reputed ancestor of the Aryans in India. In Australian aboriginal legend, he was Yaperi.

Sons of Japheth: Gomer (10:2)

Gomer, the first named son of Japheth, is identified by Herodotus, Plutarch, and other ancient writers, with the district of Cimmeria, north of the Black Sea, a name surviving to the present as "Crimea." Cimmeria was in northern Assyria of ancient times, and Gomer appears in Assyrian inscriptions as Gamir or Gimirrai (whence the name Cimmeria).

Gomer also apparently gave his name to the Germani. **Thus, Gomer gave rise to all the peoples that settled from the Black Sea to eastern Germany.** This is the meaning of the reference to "Gomer and all his bands" in Ezekiel 38:6.

Gomer's progeny also entered Wales, Cymry, and Cambria. This migration may have been fairly late, and comparable with the time of large-scale migration from northern Europe into Assyria (about 800 BC).

Magog (10:2)

The prefix "ma-" is an ancient root meaning "place of" or "land of," so that Magog's name can be translated "the land of Gog." The Greek root translated "land of" is the suffix "-ea" or "-ia" and in this form Magog's name is preserved in present-day Georgia (may be read "Gog-ia"), today a state near the Black Sea associated with the Russian-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States.

A certain Babylonian king wrote to an Egyptian pharaoh c. 1450 BC, referring to Magog as a barbaric tribe living in the north, presumably in the vicinity of the Black Sea. There may have been conflict between Magog and the Cimmerians, but in any case, Josephus says that Magog was the ancestor of the Scythians, who originally inhabited the Black Sea area and eventually migrated to the region of Greece,

becoming the first known inhabitants recognized by secular history there.

According to Ezekiel (38:2,6; 39:1,2), Magog, as well as Tubal and Meshech, inhabited "the uttermost parts of the north." **Generally speaking, these three sons of Japheth - Magog, Tubal, and Meshech - can be considered the ancestors of the modern Russian peoples.** In Ezekiel 38:2 they are associated with "Rosh" (evidently a reference to Magog; translated "chief" in the AV), the name from which modern Russia was derived. Some descendants of Magog also migrated eastward, giving rise to the Mongols or Mongolians.

TABLE 1. DESCENDANTS OF JAPHETH

Ancestor/ Lineage	Exists Today	Absorbed/ Extinct?	Future Re-emergence?
1. Gomer	X		Ezek. 38:6
2. Magog	X		Ezek. 38:2, 39:6; Rev. 20:8
3. Madai	X		Ezek. 38:5; Dan. 8:20
4. Javan	X		Isa. 66:19
5. Tubal	X		Isa. 66:19; Ezek. 38:2-3
6. Meshech	X		Ezek. 38:2-3, 39:1
7. Tiras		X	
8. Ashkenaz	X		Jer. 51:7
9. Riphath		X	
10. Togarmah	X		Ezek. 38:16
11. Elishah	X		Dan. 8:21
12. Tarshish		X	Isa. 60:9, 66:19; Ezek. 38:13
13. Kittim		X	Dan. 11:30
14. Dodanim		X	

Nine out of 14, or about 65%, of Japhethite lines retain their identity.

Madai, Javan and Tubal (10:2)

The name Madai is associated with the Medes, who were located west of the Caspian Sea in the ninth century BC. They eventually settled in Persia and were (along with the Semitic Elamites; see below) ancestors of the Persians. In about 500 BC they appeared in history under the leadership of King Cyrus. **It was apparently through this group of Japhethites that the Aryans arose, who later migrated to India as the ancestors of the east Indians.**

The name Javan is the original form of Ionia, the very ancient name for Greece. The early Ionians first appeared in Hittite records as the inhabitants of the western coastal regions of Asia Minor. The same word is translated "Javan" in some Old Testament passages (Isa. 66:19; Ezek. 27:13,19), and as "Greece" in others (e.g., Zech. 9:13). **Both Japheth and his son Javan gave rise to the original founders of the Greeks.**

Tubal's name is preserved in Tobolsk, a major city of eastern Russia. In Scripture Tubal is commonly associated with two other sons of Japheth, Magog and Meshech (e.g., Ezek. 38:2) and was one of the progenitors of the Russians (see above, Magog). Tubal is identified with the Tabalaeans of Assyrian documents and the Tibareni (or Tibarenians) of

Herodotus. Tubal is first named as a country in the annals of Shalmanesar II in the ninth century BC. The territory of Tubal was later captured by Tiglath-Pileser III. Perhaps some of Tubal's descendants migrated west to the region of the River Tiber.

Meshech and Tiras (10:2)

Meshech is preserved in the name Muskovi (the former name of Russia) and Moscow (or Muscovy, an older form of the name). He is mentioned in Ezekiel 38:2 in connection with Magog and Tubal (as discussed above) and was a founder of the Russian peoples. The descendants of Meshech first appeared in the northern part of Mesopotamia during the reign of Tiglath-Pileser I c. 1100 BC. Later they were called the Muski in the inscriptions of Sargon II.

Tiras, the last named son of Japheth, was the ancestor of the Thracians, according to Josephus. Thrace is now part of Italy. **Tiras is also associated with the Etruscans** of ancient Italy, or at least with an Aegean counterpart of the Etruscans.

Sons of Gomer (Grandsons of Japheth): Ashkenaz (10:3)

Jewish tradition associates Ashkenaz with Germany or German Jews who are still called the Ashkenazi. Ashkenaz was also most likely the ancestor of the Indo-European Ashkuza, who lived southeast of Lake Urmia in the time of Esarhaddon (c. 650 BC).

Ashkenaz has also been identified with the Scythians. Some ethnologists think the name Ashkenaz was preserved in the names Scandia and Saxon, as peoples migrated from Germany into Denmark, Scandinavia, and western Europe. Other descendants of Ashkenaz stayed in a part of Armenia which Strabo says was called Sakasene,

Riphath and Togarmah (10:3)

The name Riphath has not appeared in ancient documents. However, Josephus names him as the ancestor of the Paphlagonians. It has been suggested that the Carpathians may also have descended from Riphath, and that **the name Europe was originally a corruption of Riphath.**

The Armenians have traditionally cited Togarmah as their ancestor. Turkey and Turkestan also have a possible association with Togarmah. Togarmah is mentioned in Ezekiel (27:14 and 38:6). The latter reference describes "Togarmah of the north quarters and all his bands," possibly a reference to Armenia and Turkestan in general.

Some sources (e.g., the Jewish Targums) claim that the name "Germany" derives from Togarmah. Togarmah was probably the ancestor of a people mentioned in Hittite records from about 1350 BC. Assyrian inscriptions call them the Tilgarimmu of the Aurua Mountains. The geographical location seems to have been near Carchemish.

Sons of Javan (Grandsons of Japheth): Elishah (10:4)

The name Elishah eventually was used in the form of Hellas, which came to be applied to Greece as a whole. Ezekiel (27:7) refers to Elishah, probably in reference to the people of Sicily and Sardinia. The Tell el Armarna tablets and

Ugaritic tablets mention the Alasians, descendants of Elishah living in Cyprus.

Elishah appears prominently in ancient Greek legends. The legendary Greek paradise was the Eilesian fields; the *Iliad* mentions the Eilesian people; and *Iliad*, as well as *Ilium*, the ancient name for Troy, are variations of the name Elishah.

Tarshish (10:4)

Tarshish has been identified with Tartessos in Spain and with Carthage in north Africa. However, both of these were Phoenician cities and the Phoenicians were Canaanites. **Possibly the descendants of Tarshish were the original settlers of Spain and north Africa but the Phoenicians were later more prominent in these regions.** Tarshish appears numerous times in the Old Testament and is almost always related to a land which was "afar off" (e.g., Isa. 66:19; Ps. 72:10). The Phoenicians imported silver, iron, tin, and lead from Tarshish (Ezek. 27:12). Solomon had a "fleet of Tarshish" (1 Ki. 10:22). Jonah tried to flee from God by taking a ship to Tarshish (Jon. 1:3).

The navy of Solomon was apparently a smeltery or refinery fleet which brought smelted metal home from the colonial mines. Much of this trade was with the Phoenicians, and some of it was in joint venture with them. In fact, the name "Tarshish" means "smeltery," and the ancient Phoenicians, the first great mariners, founded iron smelteries, mines, and settlements in many lands, including at least Spain and England, and quite possibly even America.² Other descendants of the man Tarshish may in fact have been preserved as the "Neanderthal Man" or "Cro-Magnon Man" in Spain and France (and similarly for Gomer's descendants in Germany; see above).³

The Biblical name Tarshish thus probably refers to more than one place, though sites proposed for Tarshish the city have ranged from the island of Rhodes to western Anatolia, Sardinia, and Carthage (as mentioned above). Apparently Tarshish the man gave his name to a city which, under the Phoenicians, became famous for smelting, the word "Tarshish" eventually becoming a generic term for "smeltery."

Ezekiel 38:13, describing the Tribulation attack on Israel by Gentile nations, mentions "the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof." Based on the generic meaning of Tarshish in Ezekiel's time, this reference is most likely to the western nations generally.

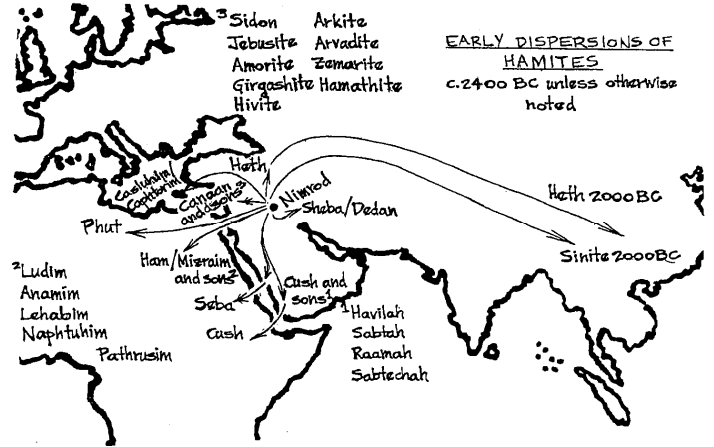
Kittim (10:4) and Dodanim (10:4)

Kittim is almost certainly associated with Cyprus; the capitol of Cyprus in ancient times was in fact called Kition (spelled Chittim in Isa. 23:1, 12). The use of the name Chittim in Jeremiah 2:10 and Daniel 11:30 to refer to the Greeks in general supports this identification and extends the progeny of Kittim to the Greek mainland as well. It is also possible that the term "Ma-Kittim" (land of Kittim) may have given rise to the name Macedonia.

Dodanim is the same, apparently, as Rodanim (1 Chron. 1:7). This name is probably preserved today in the geographical names Dardenelles and Rhodes.

Ham and His Descendants

The descendants of Ham migrated mainly into Africa. **However, it is incorrect simply to identify Hamites with Africans** (Table 2 next page). Some Hamites eventually migrated elsewhere, and at least some of the original Africans were descended from non-Hamites such as Tarshish. In more recent millennia, other non-Hamitic peoples (e.g., the Arabs, a Semitic people) have conquered and settled portions of Africa.



Sons of Ham: Cush and Mizraim (10:6)

Cush is the same in the Bible as Ethiopia, although Cush included not only Ethiopia but present-day Nubia and part of the Sudan. The Cushites apparently first migrated southward into Arabia, settling in the western part of Arabia bordering on the Red Sea (2 Chron. 14:9; Isa. 45:14). Separate groups of Cushites eventually made further migrations, one such group becoming the Kassites east of Assyria. Another group crossed the Red Sea into Ethiopia. The Tell el Armarna tablets call this land "Kashi."

Mizraim is the ancestor of the Egyptians, and is the customary name for Egypt in the Bible. Egypt is also called "the land of Ham" (e.g., Ps. 105:23), suggesting that Ham accompanied his son Mizraim in the original settlement of the Nile valley.

Since Mizraim is a plural form, this may not have been the exact form of his name originally. **Possibly the semi-legendary founder of Egypt's first dynasty, Menes, was the same as Mizraim.** At any rate, in early Egyptian inscriptions the expression "two lands" is quite common.

The fact that the Hebrew word for Egypt (Mizraim) has a dual ending may reflect the Egyptian concept of two lands. The "two lands" concept may have originated from the unification of the upper and lower kingdoms in the most ancient times, or possibly from Egypt's dual agricultural characteristics (the "black land" being the name for the fertile Nile valley, and the "red land" referring to the rest of Egypt).

Phut and Canaan (10:6)

Phut in the Bible is the same as Libya, applied to the region of north Africa west of Egypt. The Septuagint in fact translates "Phut" as "Libya" in Genesis 10:6. This identification is confirmed by Josephus. An alternative spelling of Phut is "Put" (1 Chron. 1:8; Nahum 3:9).

Canaan of course is the ancestor of the Canaanites and gave his name to the land of Canaan. The Canaanites spoke languages that had Semitic origins, such as Moabite, Aramaic, and Phoenician. In fact Hebrew is designated "the tongue of Canaan" in Isaiah 19:18. **However, the language of a people does not always indicate its physical genealogy.** The Muslim conquest of the Mediterranean world brought with it the Arabic language to many non-Semitic peoples, for example. Thus the linkage of the Hebrew tongue with Canaan signifies a linguistic borrowing, not a physical lineage between the Hebrews and Canaanites.

TABLE 2. DESCENDANTS OF HAM

Ancestor/ Lineage	Exists Today	Absorbed/ Extinct?	Future Re-emergence?
15. Cush	X		Isa. 11:11; Ezek. 38:5
16. Mizraim	X		Isa. 11:11
17. Phut	X		Ezek. 38:5
18. Canaan		X	
19. Seba		X	
20. Havilah		X	
21. Sabtah		X	
22. Raamah		X	
23. Sabtechah		X	
24. Sheba		X	Ezek. 38:13
25. Dedan		X	Ezek. 38:13
26. Nimrod		X	
27. Ludim		X	
28. Anamim		X	
29. Lehabim		X	
30. Naphtuhim		X	
31. Pathrusim		X	Isa. 11:11
32. Casluhim		X	
33. Caphtorim		X	
34. Sidon		X	Matt. 11:22
35. Heth	X		
36. Jebusite		X	
37. Amorite		X	
38. Girgasite		X	
39. Hivite		X	
40. Arkite		X	
41. Sinite	X		Isa. 49:12
42. Arvadite		X	
43. Zemarite	X		
44. Hamathite		X	Isa. 11:11

Out of 30 Hamite lines, only 6, or 20%, retain their identity today.

Sons of Cush (Grandsons of Ham): Seba (10:7)

Seba apparently migrated from southwestern Arabia across the Red Sea into the Sudan, giving his name to the Sabceans. These were the people who fell on Job's oxen and asses and took them away (Job 1:14-15).

People called Sabceans are known in both Arabia and Africa. Josephus identifies "Saba" as the ancient city of Meroe in upper Egypt. Several men named Sheba (Gen. 10:7,28; 25:3) may have been named after Seba, though not directly related to him. **The ancient kingdom of Sheba in Africa however is associated with Sheba in Psalm 72:10.**

Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah (10:7)

Havilah evidently lived in Arabia. He is mentioned in connection with Cush, Seba, and Sabta (Gen. 10:7; 1 Chron. 1:9), the last named being identified definitely with Arabia. Another "Havilah" in the Table of Nations was a Semite, a son of Joktan (Gen. 10:29).

The ancient city of Sabatah in Arabia is identified with the descendants of Sabtah, and Raamah is associated with other peoples of Arabia in Ezekiel 27:2.

Sabtechah (Sabtecha in 1 Chron. 1:9), along with Havilah, Sabtah, and Raamah, seems to have settled in Arabia, though he is not mentioned again in the Bible and his name is unknown in other ancient records. His line may be extinct or may have been absorbed by other peoples.

Sons of Raamah (Great Grandsons of Ham): Sheba, Dedan (10:7)

Sheba was a son of Raamah, the only son of Cush whose own sons' names are listed. Sheba and Dedan (the other listed sons of Raamah) were presumably prominent in their day, which may account for the fact that two of Abraham's grandsons through Keturah were later apparently named after them (Gen. 25:3). Sheba's descendants settled in Arabia and also possibly migrated into Africa across the Red Sea.

Dedan is also associated with Arabia, as specified in Isaiah 21:13. Ezekiel 38:13 mentions the descendants of Dedan in association with those of Sheba. Together with "the merchants of Tarshish," they will give lip service against Magog's Tribulation attack on Israel. **Such Tribulation references indicate that untraceable descendants of many of the progenitors in Genesis 10 remain alive and await a re-emergence as recognizable ethnic groups.**

The Most Influential Son of Cush (Grandson of Ham): Nimrod (10:8-12)

The most influential descendent of Cush was Nimrod. Arab place names in present-day Iraq and surrounding regions point to the activity of Nimrod there; e.g., Birs-Nimrod, the name for the ruins of Borsippa (near the ruins of the original Tower of Babel as restored in about 600 BC by Nebuchadnezzar),⁴ and Nimrud at Calah.

Nimrod may have been the youngest son of Cush, since he is the final one who is named. Perhaps he was especially sympathetic with Canaan, presumably the youngest son of Ham (or anyhow the last son named in Gen. 10:6) and certainly the recipient of Noah's harsh curse (Gen. 9:25). Or perhaps Cush resented this curse more as time passed.

In any case, Nimrod's name is a form of the phrase "Let us revolt!" The inference is that Nimrod was encouraged and even trained to organize a rebellious assault on God's purposes for mankind.

Thus Nimrod "began to be a mighty one in the earth" and soon had all the Hamites, together with many Japhethites and Semites, under his influence. He and his followers finally settled in the fertile plain of Shinar (Gen. 10:10; 11:2) and began building a great complex of cities, with the beginning of his kingdom at Babel (Gen. 10:10).

As Nimrod's power grew, he became "a mighty hunter before the Lord" (Gen. 10:9). The reference to Nimrod's hunting prowess may refer to outstanding ability in hunting animals or to hunting men to enslave them. Wild beasts may have been thought to be a real danger, especially some of the mega-fauna that were still living in these early years after the flood. Consequently a strong man who could hunt and slay such animals would become a hero and gain a great following.

However, there was probably no actual danger to mankind from the animals, as indicated by the promise of God to put the "fear and dread" of man on all of them (Gen. 9:0). **Nimrod's hunting actually was to bring men under his control and was "against the Lord"** (Gen. 10:9 translated literally). The Jerusalem Targum says: "He was powerful in hunting and in wickedness before the Lord, for he was a hunter of the sons of men, and he said to them, 'Depart from the judgment of the Lord, and adhere to the judgment of Nimrod!' Therefore it is said: 'As Nimrod the strong one, strong in hunting, and in wickedness before the Lord'."

The center of Nimrod's empire was Babel or Babylon.

Other cities in the central complex were Erech (Uruk in Babylonian records), Accad (also spelled Akkad or Agade), and Calneh (Gen. 10:10). Excavations in Babylon, Erech, and Accad indicate ancient occupation antedating Abraham.

Erech is 40 miles northwest of Babylon, and Accad is immediately north of Babylon. Calneh has not yet been identified. These three central cities were in the land of Shinar, later called Sumer. Shinar is equated in Daniel 1:1-2 with Babylonia, an identification also made in extra-biblical sources. **The city Accad gave its name to the Akkadian empire, essentially synonymous with the Sumerian empire.** Both the Sumerian and the Akkadian empires are recognized in secular sources as the most ancient empires.

From Babel, Nimrod's empire expanded (Gen. 10:11). The phrase "went forth Asshur" may perhaps be translated to mean that Nimrod "went forth *into* Asshur [Assyria]."

Interestingly, Micah 5:6 calls Assyra "the land of Nimrod." Alternatively, Asshur may have begun his own settlements which Nimrod eventually colonized. **In any event, Nimrod was attempting to bring all peoples under a centralized and presumably totalitarian rule.**

Cities in Nimrod's expanded empire were Ninevah, Rehoboth, Calah, and Resen. Ninevah is known from modern excavations and was located on the upper Tigris River as Babylon was on the Euphrates. Ninevah was about 200 miles north of Babylon and was later the capital of the Assyrian empire. **Calah has been excavated on the Tigris about 20 miles south of Ninevah. It is still called "Nimrud" by the Arabs.** Assyrian legends speak of Ninus (a form of "Nimrod") as the founder of Ninevah.

Rehoboth and Resen have not yet been positively identified, but Genesis 10:12 says that Resen was between Ninevah and Calah. The complex of cities was "a great city."

Sons of Mizraim (Grandsons of Ham): Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim (10:13)

The sons of Mizraim in Genesis 10:13-14 are all given as the names of peoples, with the plural "-im" ending. The Ludim

apparently were eventually absorbed into other cultures or became extinct.

The Anamim, Lehabim, and Naphtuhim have not yet been traced in ancient documents and they are not mentioned again in Scripture, except in the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 1:11. They may have been an important tribe in Egypt at one time but apparently were either absorbed into other cultures or became extinct. **These peoples, and other descendants of Mizraim (plus other Hamites, e.g., Cush, Seba) possibly generated the deposits of bones often misinterpreted as "prehistoric man"** (e.g., *Homo erectus*, *Australopithecus robustus*) as they spread throughout Africa, killing game as they went.

Pathrusim, Casluhim and Caphtorim (10:14)

The Pathrusim settled in Pathros in Upper Egypt. They were apparently absorbed eventually into other Egyptian families and did not maintain a distinct identity.

The Casluhim are here said to have been the ancestors of the Philistim (the Philistines). Otherwise little is known of them; they are not again mentioned in Scripture, except in the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 1:12, and have not been identified in other ancient records. Apparently the Casluhim did not migrate to Egypt, like most of Mizraim's descendants, but settled in the eastern Mediterranean coast. **Eventually the Philistines became extinct or were absorbed into other cultures.**

Like the Casluhim, the Caphtorim are identified in the Bible with the Philistines (Jer. 47:4; Amos 9:7). Secular writings generally place the origin of the Philistines on the island of Crete, and identify Caphtor as Crete. Jeremiah 47:4 refers to the Philistines as "the remnant of Caphtor," and with the eventual disappearance of the Philistine people, the Caphtorim became extinct.

Sons of Canaan (Grandsons of Ham): Sidon and Heth (10:15)

Sidon was the progenitor of the Phoenicians. His name was given to a major Phoenician city of antiquity. The city of Sidon ranked with Tyre as an important commercial center.

Heth is said to have been the ancestor of the Hittites in Genesis 23:10. The Hittites ruled a great empire centered in Asia Minor for over 800 years, apparently having migrated there from their original home in Canaan. In Abraham's day, however, Hittites were living in Canaan (Gen. 15:19-21) and only later reached the peak of their power in Asia Minor. They were a great power there during Solomon's reign (2 Chron. 1:17). The earliest large-scale use of iron after Flood was due to the Hittites in about 1000 BC.⁵

It is probable that, when the Hittite empire finally collapsed, a remnant of the people fled eastward. Cuneiform monuments record the name of the Hittites as "Khittae," and this may well have been further modified to "Cathay" (an old name for China) as they settled again in the Far East. Russian history also tells of a people called the Kitai. **Archeologists have noted a number of similarities between**

the Hittites and the Mongols; e.g., both are known to have pioneered in the art of smelting and casting iron and in the use of horses.

Jebusite, Amorite and Gargasite (10:16)

The Jebusites and the remaining eight sons of Canaan given in Genesis 10:16-18 were the ancestors of the Canaanite tribes that occupied the land when the Israelites arrived. The Jebusites, apparently descended from Canaan's son Jebus, were early inhabitants of Jerusalem (Josh. 15:63). They eventually became extinct or lost their identity as a people.

The Amorites were at one time one of the most prominent Canaanite peoples, with their name sometimes used as representative of all of them (e.g., Gen. 15:16). The Tell el Armarna tablets call these tribes the "Armurru." Eventually the Amorites became extinct or were absorbed.

The Gargasites are mentioned elsewhere in Scripture (e.g., Gen. 15:21; Deut. 7:1; Josh. 3:10, 24:11; Neh. 9:8). However, nothing is known of their location and no mention has yet been found of them in ancient records besides the Bible.

Hivite, Arkite (10:17)

Some cities of the Hivites have been excavated from Sidon to Jerusalem, and the Hivites are mentioned frequently in the Bible. The Arkites were centered in the region around Tell Arka in Syria.

Sinite (10:17)

The Sinites, apparently descended from a man named Sin, may have had considerable influence, as suggested by the similarity of the name to other Biblical names (e.g., the wilderness of Sin, Mt. Sinai, Sinim).

Oriental cultures both ancient and modern have tended toward ancestor worship. The actual deification of ancestors may be reflected in the frequent use of the name "Sin" in the ancient pantheons. One of the most important Assyrian gods was "Sin." Thus, Sin the son of Canaan may have exerted enough influence in the Sumerian-Assyrian region to be eventually elevated to a deity.

The Biblical mention of a people of the Far East called the Sinim (Isa. 49:12), together with references in ancient secular histories to a people in the Far East called the "Sinae," suggests that **some of Sin's descendants migrated eastward, while others went south into Canaan.**

Those who traveled east in the dispersion from Babel may have retained a belief in the one true God and may have been trying to separate themselves from those who did not retain such a belief.⁶ At least this is suggested by the strongly monotheistic stance of the most ancient Chinese religion. **It is also significant that the Chinese people have always been identified by the prefix "Sino-," and the name "Sin" often appears in Chinese names in the form "Siang" or its equivalent.**

It is likely, then, that two sons of Canaan, Heth and Sin, are the ancestors of the Oriental peoples. Only of the Canaanites does the Bible make the statement "afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad" (Gen. 10:18), suggesting that these tribes eventually dispersed more

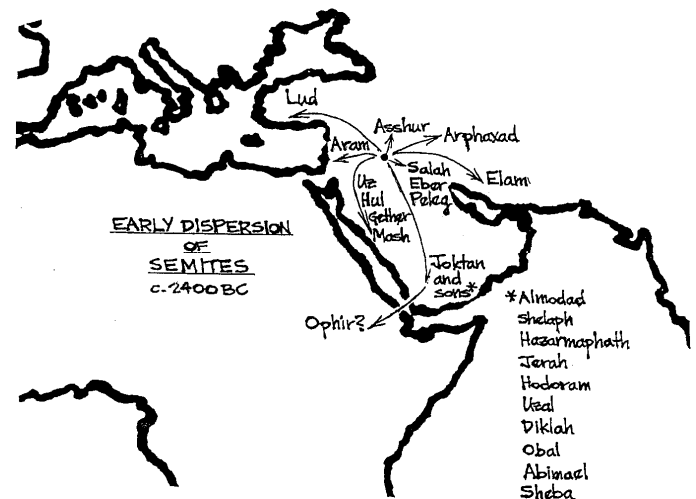
than any of the others. Perhaps this is best seen in their spread into Asia and then ultimately into North and South America via the land bridge between Asia and Alaska. **These peoples generated so-called "prehistoric" remains (e.g., *Homo erectus*, *Ramapithecus*) by killing game as they migrated.**

Arvadite, Zemarite, Hamathite (10:18)

The Arvadites lived in Arvad, a port city of the Phoenicians. The Zemarites settled about 6 miles south of Arvad in a town called Sumur in the Tell el Armarna tablets, and still known today as Sumra. The Hamathites were centered in the prominent Syrian city of Hamath, mentioned often in Biblical history.

Shem and His Descendants

Descendants of Shem dispersed primarily into regions that figure prominently in Scripture, i.e., the "Bible lands."



The Jews and Arabs are the major surviving Semite lines (Table 3 next page).

Sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram (10:22)

Elam is the ancestor of the Elamites, a people identified in ancient records. Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, was the apparent leader of the league which invaded Canaan in the time of Abraham (Gen. 14:4-5). The ancient city of Susa or Shushan was their capital. **The Elamites eventually merged with the Medes (descendants of Madai and hence of Japheth) to form the Persian empire centered at Susa.**

Asshur was the progenitor of the Assyrians. However, the land of Asshur began its history as part of Nimrod's empire (Gen. 10:11). **Consequently, the Assyrians were a mixture of both Semite and Hamitic (Babylonian) peoples.** A region in Assyria known as Arrapachitis may stem from the name of Arphaxad. Otherwise little is known about him.

According to Josephus, Lud was the ancestor of the Lydians in Asia Minor. However, a similar name (the Ludim in Gen. 10:13) is listed as Hamitic in descent. Though it is uncertain, the Ludim, as well as the other peoples mentioned in

Genesis 10:13, probably remained in the vicinity of Egypt, as discussed above.

Aram was the ancestor of the Arameans, the same as the Syrians. These people became a great nation. The Aramaic tongue was the language of business and commerce even in Assyria and Babylonia and was commonly spoken in both Old Testament times (portions of Daniel and Ezra were originally written in Aramaic) and in the time of Jesus.

Sons of Aram (Grandsons of Shem): Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash (10:23)

Uz gave his name to a region in Arabia which was later Job's homeland (Job 1:1). The descendants of Uz have not yet been traced in secular sources. Likewise, descendants of Hul, Gether and Mash (or Meshech) have not yet been traced in ancient documents, nor are they mentioned in Scripture again, except in the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 1:17. Like the people of Uz, they may once have been an important tribe in Arabia, but were absorbed or died out.

Son of Arphaxad (Grandson of Japheth): Salah (10:24)

Nothing is known of Salah except that he was an ancestor of Abraham (Gen. 11:11-26) and hence of Christ (Luke 3:35). Salah's place in the ancestry of the Jews and as a link in the Messianic line makes him significant despite the little that is known about him.

that Eber eventually gave his name to the Hebrew people, the most significant Semitic line because it led to the Messiah. Abraham, for example, was called a Hebrew (Gen. 14:13), indicating that he was of the children of Eber.

In these early Scriptures "Eber" applies to a much larger group than only Abraham's descendants. Eber's other descendants (descendants of Eber's son Joktan in Gen. 10:26-30; and descendants of Peleg in Gen. 11:16-26), left little mark on history as far as is known.

Sons of Eber (Great Great Grandsons of Shem): Peleg (10:25)

Peleg was an ancestor of Abraham and hence of Christ. **Peleg is also unique in the Table of Nations in that the meaning of his name is given.** The phrase "in his days was the earth divided" indicates that his name means "division."

The only division mentioned in the Table of Nations is the division of the nations (Gen. 10:5,20,31,32). These verses seem to refer to a linguistic and geographic division rather than to an actual splitting of the continents. This is especially clear in verse 5, where the division is said to be "after his tongue." It is possible, however, that a geological division of the continents begun during the Flood became complete soon after the linguistic division.⁷

Joktan (10:25)

Little is known of Joktan and his descendants, except that they settled mostly in Arabia and at one time were important there. Joktan is not mentioned again in Scripture, except in the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 1:19ff., and has not been identified in secular documents.

Sons of Joktan (Great Great Great Grandsons of Shem): Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, Hedoram, Uzal, Diklah, Obal, Abimael (10:26-28)

The descendants of Almadad and the other sons of Joktan have not yet been traced in ancient documents and they are not mentioned again in Scripture, except in the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 1. Apparently an important tribe at one time, they evidently were absorbed into other cultures or became extinct.

Sheba (10:28)

Sheba may have given rise to the Sabeans in Arabia, though another Sheba is listed as a grandson of Ham in Genesis 10:7 as discussed above. **It is perhaps more likely that Ham's grandson Sheba was actually the precursor of the Sabeans for two reasons:**

(1) Many of the early Hamites were also in Arabia, and Job 1:15 recounts the Sabean attack on Job's asses and oxen. Job himself may have been of Semitic descent (as discussed below). other factors being equal, an attack of Hamitic Sabeans on the Semite Job seems more probable than Semitic Sabeans attacking their own distant relative.

(2) Most of Joktan's descendants left no traceable mark on history, whereas many of Ham's descendants did.

TABLE 3. DESCENDANTS OF SHEM

Ancestor/ Lineage	Exists Today	Absorbed/ Extinct?	Future Re-emergence?
45. Elam		X	Isa. 11:11
46. Asshur		X	Isa. 11:11
47. Arphaxad		X	
48. Lud		X	Isa. 66:19; Ezek. 27:10, 30:5
49. Aram		X	
50. Uz		X	Jer. 25:20
51. Hul		X	
52. Gether		X	
53. Mash		X	
54. Salah		X	
55. Eber	X		

Out of 26 Semitic lines, only one (about 5%) is identifiable today.

From Peleg, the 56th person listed in Gen. 10, through Jobab, the 70th person, nothing is known of current lineage or future re-emergence.

Son of Salah (Great Grandson of Japheth): Eber (10:24)

Eber was an ancestor of Abraham (Gen. 11:15-17) and hence of Christ. By the time Moses wrote Genesis, about 1500 BC, Abraham had already lived and the Messianic importance of Abraham was well known. The resulting significance of Eber is emphasized in Genesis 10:21, in which Shem is called "the father of all the children of Eber." An additional reason for designating Shem in this way seems to be

Ophir (10:29), Havilah (10:29) and Jobab (10:29)

Ophir in later Biblical times was a region famous for its gold (1 Ki. 10:11; Job 22:24, 28:16; Ps. 45:9; Isa. 13:12). Apparently located in Arabia, it may have been where the descendants of Ophir settled. There is a slight possibility that Ophir (which can also be spelled "Aphir") may have given his name to Africa ("Aphir-ca").

Another Havilah was the grandson of Ham (Gen. 10:7). If the fate of Joktan's other descendants is any guide, the Semitic Havilah left no discernable mark in history, and Biblical references to Havilah (except in Gen. 10:29 and 1 Chron. 1:23) are to the Hamitic descendent.

Jobab has been identified with the Job in the book of Job. The final "-ab" means "father." Jobab's possible ancestry of Job is consistent with the fact that Job lived in the land of Uz (Job 1:1), Uz being a grandson of Shem and hence a distant relative of Jobab.

Conclusions

All mankind is descended from Noah and his three sons who lived through the Flood. **Noah gave his name to all people in the form of the word "man."** Etymologically, "man" and its equivalent in other languages stems from "ma-nu" or "water-Noah," i.e., the Noah who was preserved on the water.⁸

Japheth's descendants seem to have experienced the most numerous and frequent preservation of family lines that can be identified with extant ethnic groups. This seems consistent with Noah's prophecy in Genesis 9:27, that "God shall enlarge Japheth." As Table 1 shows, a number of peoples descended from Japheth will emerge in the Tribulation, according to Biblical prophecy, and about 65% of Japhethite lines are known to have retained their identity today.

Several Hamite lines became extinct or at least cannot be traced down through history. As Table 2 shows, only 20% of Hamite lines retain a traceable identity today. **The remaining Hamites, however, spread out to more parts of the earth than either the Japhethites or the Semites.** This seems to be the emphasis in the unique phrase of Genesis 10:18, "afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad." Some Hamites will re-emerge as ethnic groups in the Tribulation, as Table 2 shows.

Of the Semites, none of the family lines seems to have left a lasting mark on history, except the descendants of Eber, ancestor of Abraham. Most lines seem to be extinct. As Table 3 shows, approximately 5% of Semite lines can be traced in history.

In general, the fate of the families is Genesis chapter 10 has included the following outcomes: (1) retention of lineage or identity for some peoples (e.g., Jews, Greeks, Armenians); (2) apparent extinction with no mention later in the Bible or history; (3) loss of identity now, but a future re-emergence as indicated by Biblical prophecies.

Selected Readings

Davis, J.J., *Paradise to Prison*, Baker, 1975); pp. 135-143.
McEvedy, C., *The Penguin Atlas of Ancient History*, Penguin, 1982.
Morris, H.M., *The Genesis Record*, Master Books, 1976; pp. 247-262.
Morris, H.M., *The Revelation Record*, Tyndale, 1983; pp. 109-110.
Taylor, C.V., *The Oldest Science Book in the World*, C.V. Taylor, 1984; pp. 122-123.

Notes

1 The dispersion from Babel was in about 2400 BC (J. Henry, "What Is the Age of the Universe?," <creationconcepts.org>, 2001).

2 The largest known ancient mining operation of all was the removal of up to 50 million pounds of copper (25,000 tons; cp. 6000 tons of gold used in Solomon's temple; see J. Henry, "Solomon's Temple and Solomon's Mines," <creationconcepts.org>, 2005) from shafts near the coast of Lake Superior. These were the mines of Kitchi-Gummi which were worked for about 1200 years beginning around 2500 BC. Most of this copper apparently disappeared from the New World, implying that merchant vessels from the Old World shipped it to Europe, Asia, and Africa (R.Jewell, *Ancient Mines of Kitchi-Gummi*, Jewell Histories, 2000, pp. 1, 19, 121). **Solomon's merchant marine may have been involved.**

There is evidence of world wide navigation, trade, and commerce in ancient times. **The dispersion from Babel guarantees that there was at least a period of global travel.** Diverse artifacts indicate that global travel persisted throughout antiquity. For example, the Newark Holy Stones, ancient tablets inscribed with the Decalogue, were unearthed from Indian mounds in Ohio from 1860-1867 and appear to be genuine (R.W. Alritz, "The Newark Holy Stones: The History of An Archaeological Tragedy," *Journal of the Scientific Laboratories, Denison University*, Vol. 57, 1980, pp. 1-57 and 58-72). The implication is that global navigation occurred and included Hebrews many centuries before Columbus ever sailed.

3 Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon were not primitive and in fact were long lived, since at the time of the dispersion from Babel, human life spans had not yet declined to the present level. See J. Henry, "More Legends of the Creation, Flood and Babel," <creationconcepts.org>, 2006.

4 C.W. Ceram, *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*, Random House, 1986. pp. 326-331; J. Henry, "Do Ruins of the Tower of Babel Exist?," <creationconcepts.org>, 2001.

5 Genesis 4:22 says that iron was used before the Flood, presumably widely. Putting the Flood at 2517 BC (J. Henry, "What Is the Age of the Universe?," <creationconcepts.org>, 2001) means that the Hittites recovered the widespread use of iron after a lag of more than a millennium.

6 C.H. Kang and Ethel R. Nelson, *The Discovery of Genesis*, Concordia, 1979, pp. 109-112.

7 The continents may have been joined before the Flood into a pre-Flood "supercontinent" (J. Henry, "The Pre-Flood World," <creationconcepts.org>, 2007). Forces of the Flood then initiated the break-up of the supercontinent, but the break-up was not complete until *after* the dispersion of peoples from Babel. The chronology is as follows: (1) the Flood and initiation of supercontinent dissolution, 2517 BC; (2) the dispersion from Babel, c. 2400 BC, supercontinent dissolution continuing; (3) birth of Abraham, 2167 BC, supercontinent dissolution virtually complete; (4) present-day "continental drift" occurring at a very low rate of only centimeters per year as a residual effect of the Flood-induced tectonic activity.

8 B. Sage, "Noah and Human Etymology," *ICR Impact*, No. 83, May 1980, p.1.