

THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS

After the introduction section (Gen.1:1-2 and 3), the book of Genesis is divided into eleven sections for study by the Hebrew word TOLEDOTH, which is translated into English as an account of “Generations”.

In genealogies, Toledoth is used to give these eleven **accounts** of the human race related to messianic history.

- Gen.2:4-4:26 Account of heavens and earth
- Gen.5:1-6:8 Account of Adam
- Gen.6:9-9:29 Account of Noah
- Gen.10:1-11:9 Account of Shem, Ham, and Japheth
- Gen.11:10-26 Account of Shem
- Gen.11:27-25:11 Account of Terah
- Gen.25:12-18 Account of Ishmael
- Gen.25:19-35:29 Account of Isaac
- Gen.36:1-8 Account of Esau
- Gen.36:9-37:1 Account of Edomites
- Gen.37:2-50:26 Account of Jacob

We are presently studying the fourth Toledoth of Genesis (10:1-11:9). We will divide the fourth section into these two parts for study.

- Gen.10:1-32 Origin of nations
- Gen.11:1-9 Origin of languages

The fourth Toledoth is the **account of Shem, ham, and Japheth**. It identifies seventy nations derived from the three sons of Noah (10:1, 32).

- Japheth 14 nations
- Ham 30 nations
- Shem 26 nations

This lesson will study SIX aspects of the origin of nations as divine institutions in human history.

1. The table of nations given in Genesis Ch.10 is the oldest ethnology in historical literature.

It is the only available reliable source of the origin of Postdiluvian nations.

“The table of nations stands absolutely alone in ancient history, without a remote parallel, even among the Greeks, where we find the oldest approach to a distribution of people in genealogical framework – it remains an astonishingly accurate document.” (Genesis, pg.245, Dr.Wm.F.Albright)

The number seventy plays an interesting role in the biblical history: 70 nations, 70 children of Jacob in Egypt, 70 elders for Moses, 70 years promised, 70 years in Babylonian captivity, 70th week of Daniel, 70 rulers of Sanhedrin, 70 writer of LXX, and 70 AD 5th to Rome.

2. The dispersion of families into national entities is what is recorded in the fourth Toledoth of Genesis.

(Gen.10:1-11:9). It also records the common ancestry of the Postdiluvian civilization.

The origin of the 70 nations were derived from one saved family – Noah and his three sons – “And did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.” (2Pet.2:5)

3. The dating of the dispersion of families into nations is given as the “days of Peleg.”

“And two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan.” (Gen.10:25)

Peleg was the fifth generation from Shem and the flood (Shem, Arphaxed, Salah, Eber, and Peleg) (Gen.10:22-25). Ten generations are recorded from Shem to Abram (Gen.11:10-26). His name in Hebrew means “division” (palag / niphal pf) Gen.10:25. Peleg was the generation after the flood that brought the judgment of Tower of Babel (Gen.11:1-9).

It is interesting that the fifth generation from Seth was Jared. **Jared** means descend and it was the generation of sons of God cohabiting with daughters of men and producing the nephilim race.

4. Postdiluvian nations have the following four characteristics (Gen.10:5) [Japheth, 20 / Ham, 32 / Shem].

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| • Families | (mishphachah) | Genealogy and heredity |
| • Tongues | (lashon) | Ethnology and language |
| • Lands | (erets) | Geography and territory |
| • Nations | (goy) | Ethnography and boundaries |

“From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their **lands**, every one according to his **language**, according to their **families**, into their **nations**.” (Gen.10:5)

“These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies (Toledoth), by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.” (Gen.10:32)

5. Here is a short list of nations that we might recognize that came from Noah’s three sons.

(Genesis Record by Henry Morris). “Every human being on earth today is your cousin, whether first, second, or thousandth.” (Origin of Nations by Tim Osterholm)

Japheth: Indo-European, Scythian, Medes-Persia, India, Romans, Greeks, Armenian, Russia, Spain.

Ham: Sumerian, Ethiopian, Egypt, tribes of Africa, Babylon, Phoenician, Hittite, Canaanite, Chinese, Japanese, Mongoloid, Americas (Indian, Aztec), Australia Aborigines, south Pacific.

Shem: Hebrew (eber), Elamite, Arabs (Sunnite Arab/ Ishmael), Edomites (Idumeans), Aramean and Syrian, Assyrian, Shem carried the messianic genealogy of Jesus Christ (Gen.10:21-25; 11:10-26; 1 Chron.1:24-27; Luke 3:34-36) .

6. The origin of nations became part of the doctrine of “Divine Institutions” in the plan of God (Acts 17:26-27).

Divine Institutions (DI) are not privileges offered by government, but inalienable rights offered by God.

We are reminded that God is in control of divine institutions and human history (Ps.75:7; Luke 1:52) “When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man; he set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.” (Deut.32:8)