

THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS (#1)

During the months of May and June we will be studying a special series entitled the “Antiquity of Nations”.

Lesson #1 Origin of Nations Gen.10:32

While at Athens, Paul taught that all nations had a common origin in one historical figure – “And He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His offspring.’ Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.” (Acts 17:26-29)

Christianity has always been the leading voice that God is the Master designer of both the universe and nations. “No other religion and no other world view can match biblical Christianity’s model of God design of the diversity of people into nations.” (C.S.Lewis)

This lesson will study five aspects of the Origin of Nations as recorded in Genesis 10.

1. The table of nations recorded in Gen.10 is the oldest ethnology in historical literature. It is the only available reliable source of the origin of the postdiluvian people becoming nations (Gen.10:32).

“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 by Wm.F.Albright, pg.245)

In the fourth Toledoth (genealogy account) of Genesis (10:1-11:9), **seventy nations** are identified as deriving from the three sons of **Noah**:

- Japheth (14 nations)
- Ham (30 nations)
- Shem (26 nations) Messianic lineage (Luke 3:34-38).

The fourth Toledoth contains both the **Origin of Nations** (Gen.10:1, 32) and the **Origin of Languages** (Gen.11:1-9).

2. The dispensing of families into nations is recorded in the fourth Toledoth of Genesis.

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

This is what Paul had in mind when he said, “God made from ONE, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth.” (Acts 17:26)

“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)
Peter also taught that the origin of the 70 postdiluvian nations were derived from ONE SAVED family out of the antediluvian civilization – “And (God) 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.” (2 Pet.2:5)

3. The time line for the dispensing 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 (palag / niphalf.)**; and his brother’s name was Joktan.” (Gen.10:25)

Peleg was the fifth generation of Shem from the flood (Gen.10:22-25). In Hebrew, Peleg means “division or divided.” There were ten generations are recorded from Shem to Abraham (Gen.11:10-26).

Peleg was the fifth generation after the flood that brought divine judgment upon the Tower of Babel and the division of families into nations.

A special note of interest is that the fifth generation from Adam was Jared (Gen.5:4-18). In Hebrew, **Jared** means “descend.” Jared was the generation when the sons of God began cohabiting with the daughters of men and producing the Nephilim that later resulted in the flood (Gen.6-9).

There is different Hebrew word for divide (parad / niphalf) [to separate] in Gen.10:5 and 32.

4. There were six characteristics of the postdiluvian world prior to the judgment of the Tower of Babel. (Gen.10:5, 20, 32).

Generations	(Toledoth)	genealogy
Families	(Mishphachah)	heredity
Tongues	(lashon)	ethnology and language
Lands	(erets)	geography and territory
Nations	(goy)	ethnography and boundaries

One language – “Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.” (Gen.11:1)

5. The origin of nations became the fifth doctrine of divine institutions in the plan of God (Gen.10-11).

- DI #1 human freedom (Gen.1:26-27)
- DI #2 employment (Gen.2:4-8, 15)
- DI #3 marriage (Gen.2:18-25)
- DI #4 family (Gen.3:20; 4:1)
- DI #5 **nation** (Gen.10-11)

God designed five divine institutions for the human race by the fourth Toledoth time line of Genesis.

Divine institutions are NOT privileges offered by the government, but **inalienable rights** offered by God.

“He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble.” (Luke 1:51-52; Ps.75:7)

Based on the fourth Toledoth and the postdiluvian nations of Genesis - “Every human being on earth today is your cousin, whether first, second, or thousandth.” (Origin of Nations by Tim Osterholm).