



Women's Bible Study

The Big Picture: When we try to understand (interpret) what scripture is telling us we must read backwards before we read forward to understand the context and message of a passage or passages. In our study there is a pattern to be recognized, especially in chapter 6 through 12. We must always be careful about reading a single verse or passage in isolation. While it might be the focus of a particular study, we should always understand the broader context. This is where a literary outline can come in handy. See below.

The Book of Genesis

Focus	Four Events				Four People			
Reference	1:1-----3:1-----6:1-----10:1-----12:1-----25:19-----27:19-----37:1-----50:26							
Division	Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
Topic	Human Race				Hebrew Race			
	Historical				Biographical			
Location	Fertile Crescent (Eden-Harran)				Canaan (Haran-Canaan)			Egypt (Canaan-Egypt)
Time	c. 2000 Years c. 4000+-c. 2166 B.C.				281 Years c.2166-1885 B.C.			81 Years (1885-1904 B.C.)

Week 9 Study – Genesis Chapters 11, 12

Structure of Genesis

Part 1: The Origin of All Things

- Introduction and Creation— 1:1-2:3
- The Account of the Heavens and the Earth— 2:4-4:26
- The Account of Adam— 5:1-6:8
- The Account of Noah— 6:9-9:28
- The Account of Shem, Ham, and Japheth— 10:1-11:9
- The Account of Shem (chosen)— 11:10-26 (last because the history is to be continued)

Part 2: The History of God's People

- The Account of Terah (Abraham)— 11:27-25:11
- The Account of Ishmael (not chosen) – 25:12-18
- The Account of Isaac (chosen)— 25:19-35:29
- The Account of Esau (not chosen)— 36:1-43
- [The Account of Esau Repeated]— [36:9]
- The Account of Jacob (chosen)— 37:2-50:26

Review chapters 6 - 10, notice that the state of mankind on the earth, in contrast to God's intervention, are subject to evil forces at work to circumvent the will of God.

In chapter 7, we see the action of God to move his plan forward with the focus directed at one man and his lineage, Noah.

In chapter 9, God makes a covenant with Noah (Noahic Covenant).

Following the Noahic covenant we see that life goes on and focuses on the lives of Noah's three sons which are laid out further in chapter 10 as three distinct families are borne, the **Japhethites** (Aryans), **Hamites** (Egyptians, Babylonians, Mayans, Aztecs), **Semites** (Jews). These three families lay the foundation for important lessons to be learned as we see ourselves in the lives of these families. It also foreshadows God's ultimate plan to reclaim humanity and release the chains of bondage (sin) we are borne under.

In chapter 11 God focuses our attention on the state of the world once more and then specifically on Shem and his lineage, leading to the birth of Abram (Abraham). Chapter 11 mirrors the state of the world in the time of Noah, and then further focuses on Noah's lineage. In the chapters to come, ultimately, we zero in on the condition of one man, Abraham, whom God's uses for his will and purpose to bring forth hope to a fallen world. Ultimately and finally, one perfect, sinless man, Jesus Christ.

Week 9 Study – Genesis Chapters 11, 12

Observation:

Using the **Pericopes** in your bible as an aide, define the major events and themes in chapters 11 and 12. *A pericope is a division or section of scripture. It is a way to break up the text into manageable portions for study. In your Bible they are the headings of a section of scripture and are useful to help speedily navigate scripture so we can find the passage we're looking for. They also serve to tell us what a given section is about before we start reading. They help us dig into God's Word and allow us to more easily create outlines of the text. They are not an inspired part of the Bible; they are additions from publishers and are a tool for study. Different publishers may title pericopes uniquely. Now you can impress your friends and family with your new-found knowledge.*

1. Who are the characters in chapter 11:1-9, who is speaking in this chapter, observe the change to narration in the text.
 - a. what jumps out at you?

2. Identify the various problems associated with the Tower of Babel and the intent of the peoples, Consider what you have read thus far in Genesis 1-11 for clues. Then read Rev 21:2, what do you see there?
 - a. identify anything that is in opposition to God's will?

3. What did God do about the situation in Shinar, what actions did he take to counteract each action of the peoples, what actions did he repeat here that He has done before, what did he not do this time?

(Shinar is the area covering the southern part of the Tigris-Euphrates River basin as far north as Sippar, where the rivers converge in the area of modern southern Iraq known here as Babylon. It is the heartland of Mesopotamian civilization.)

4. What do you observe about the lineage of Shem to Abram (11:10-32) what is different than the previous lineages presented? (11:10-26)

Week 9 Study – Genesis Chapters 11, 12

5. What were the five promises God made to Abram in chapter 12?

Interpretation:

6. Thinking about bricks, why do we need to know that “they” made bricks, or that they used brick instead of stone, and why do we need to know they used tar for mortar? [*Tar or bitumen was used to waterproof the ark.* cross-references: Exodus 1:14, Genesis 14:10, Isaiah 65:3, Psalm 118:22, Matt 7:24, 1 Peter 2:3-8]
7. Why is it significant that God came down to see the tower, what did He accomplish?
8. Observing the shift and focus of the text from the “whole world” in 11:1-9 to the line of Shem to Abram, what does this say about God’s attitude toward the whole world and his attitude toward a particular family line? What does this say about God’s focus, commitment and determination?
9. Why does God seem to bring our focus on one man and his lineage in 11:10-32? Was Terah or Abram particularly righteous, perfect, or incredibly spiritual, are they super worthy individuals? (Genesis 12:7-8, 18:18, 22:18, Joshua 24:2-3)
10. In chapter 12, why is Abram willing to risk so much, give up so much and follow God into an unknown territory and future? (Read Hebrews 11:8, Genesis 15:6)
11. Why would God ask Abram to leave his country, people and father’s household, this was his whole identity up to this point?

Week 9 Study – Genesis Chapters 11, 12

Application:

12. In what areas of your life do you struggle with pride on a personal level, how can you change that?

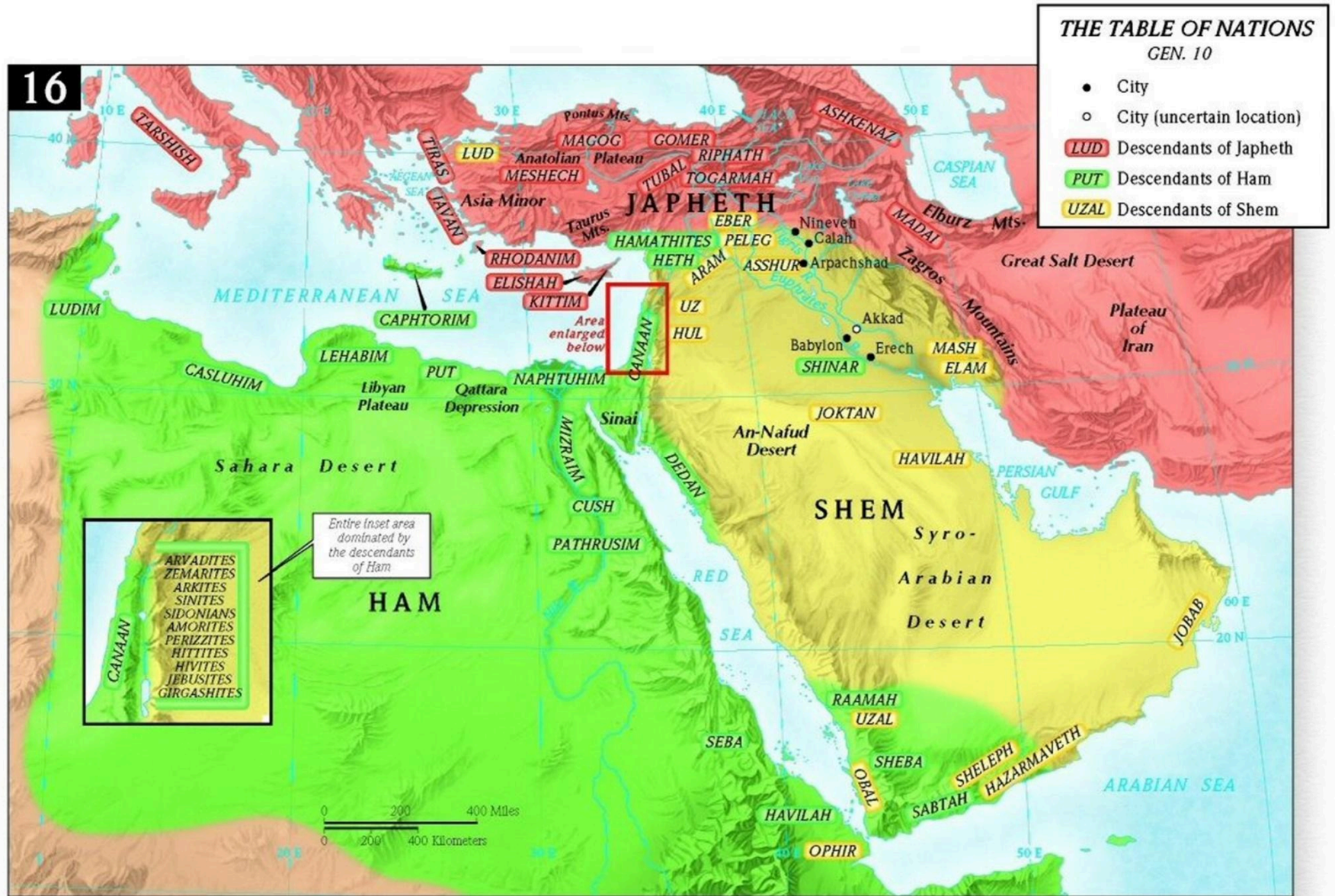
13. So, thinking about the sin narratives...Genesis 11:1-9 culminates the spread of sin narratives which began in Genesis 3 dealing with the fall of humankind. Chapter 11 reveals the fall of society. Are we learning anything from these events? How does this characterize the social structure of our world then and now? How does this affect your world view and your life today?

14. In what ways have you trusted God when it could cost you dearly? In what ways do you lack trust in God? What can you do to trust him more?

15. When has God moved you away from people in your life? Have you seen the greater good in this move, if not, can you trust God to provide better relationships or open doors to a better situation in His timing?

16. Have you ever ignored God's will for your life and tried to take control into your own hands? What was the outcome? Or do you even check with Him to ask what His will is for your life?

Week 9 Study – Genesis Chapters 11, 12



Our purpose is to glorify God and make disciples of women as we grow into our identity as daughters of the King