

January 10-Genesis 10

Today we come to another genealogy passage in Genesis 10. This text is all about the offspring of Noah and the eventual nations they come to represent. Within the list provided we read of many of the eventual enemies of the people of Israel. It is fascinating to think that Noah, the man whose line eventually leads to Jesus, also produced a line that gave rise to many of the greatest adversaries of the people of God. This truth should give us pause as we reflect on the reality that even godly descendants do not guarantee our own righteousness.

One man who gets special attention in Genesis 10 is Nimrod. Nimrod is described as a “mighty man” in verse 8 and a “mighty hunter” in verse 9. Evidently, based on the text, Nimrod was a man who stood out amongst his peers. He was great among men, but he also evidently desired to be great even in comparison to God.

Nimrod’s name in the Hebrew literally means “we shall rebel”. His rebellious influence is clear when you read the beginning of verse 10 which says “The beginning of his (Nimrod’s) kingdom was Babel...” Nimrod was a kingdom builder, a man who began many civilizations, and in the case of Babel his kingdom desired to be equal with God (Genesis 11:4).

History has witnessed many “Nimrods” (pun intended) who believed that they could build a kingdom that would rival God’s. In fact, we can read over and over again the stories of men who have set out to establish their own dominance in the world while attempting to subvert the rightful place of God in the process. While there is no shortage of men who have tried to gain equality with God, there is no one who has been successful.

In contrast to men like Nimrod, God’s people are those who recognize that the job of man is not to establish their own kingdom but to actively serve in the kingdom of God established by Christ. Jesus shares with us that his kingdom is not of this world because it is not from this world (John 18:36), Christ did not come for political power or prestige in this age but He is returning again. On that day, He will establish His kingdom for all to see (Revelation 11:15) and then Nimrod and everyone else who attempted to overthrow the glorious king will be a part of all of humanity of which the Bible says “every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:10-11).