Noah and his sons

**Genesis 9:18**

Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. **And Ham was the father of Canaan.**

"And Ham was the father of Canaan"—would be repeated again (v.22)
- this phrase prepares the reader for the narrative that follows
- is an important statement in relation to world history—effects us to this day—especially religiously

something was going on here just a few decades after the flood—the phrase sets the stage for Noah’s prophecy as it relates to Ham's descendents
- notice it was Ham's descendent and not Shem's here that is emphasized

**Genesis 9:19**

These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

Shem, Ham and Japheth...... (and wives)
Noah had proven to be "righteous" now his sons course of actions would come to light—and how would that effect humanity
Genesis 9:20-21

20 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.
21 Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

Noah makes a mistake—however in Hebrews 11: 7 he is called “heir of righteousness”
➢ It is not stated here but most likely he repented

Genesis 9:21

21 Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

“became uncovered”: (BKC) (Heb.)—“uncovered himself” a reflexive verb

“uncovered in his tent”—the expression ‘nakedness uncovered’ is used in Lev. 18 denotes sexual relations

Repeated from v. 18

Genesis 9:22

22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

(BKC) “To the ancients, even seeing one’s father naked was a breach of family ethic. The sanctity of the family was destroyed and the strength of the father was made a mockery

...Ham went out and exultingly told his two brothers, as if he had triumphed over his father”
“saw the nakedness of his father”
(BKC) “The Hebrew expression here means what it says: Ham... saw his father’s nakedness.
He was not involved with Noah sexually, for in that case the Hebrew would be translated ‘he uncovered his father’s nakedness’

(Expositors) “Since some scholars have interpreted Exodus 20: 24-26 as a prohibition of Canaanite forms of worship, there may be an intended link between Ham and the Canaanites in the notion of nakedness”

**Genesis 9:23**
23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.

Ham’s action was not honorable... Shem and Japheth's were

➢ Character traits

The contrast between the deeds of the brothers is being emphasized

That contrast is the basis for the cursing in the later verses
So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. 

Implies Ham at first glance...however: 
(Barnes) Heb: “his son the little” 
(JFB)(‘the little, small son)—perhaps referring to Canaan the grandson

Then he said: “Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.”

And” (OKJ)

v. 25-27 Noah’s prophecy (1st recorded prophecy by a man in OT)

Probably a long interval between v. 24-25

Hebrew conjunction “and” (OKJ) does not indicate immediate sequence, but is used to connect recorded events separated from each other

And he said: “Blessed be the Lord, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.

May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.”
Noah’s prophecy

First time a man is recorded as uttering a curse

**Genesis 9:25-27**

25 Then he said: “Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.”

26 And he said: “Blessed be the Lord, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.  
27 May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.”

1. The accuracy of this prophecy
2. Noah’s words, thought not stated **effect the future**
3. Shem and Japheth are blessed but **Ham is not**

➢ Most likely Noah had come to see the character of Ham...probably influenced by the corrupt world before the flood

Why is Canaan cursed and not Ham?

1) Some commentaries say that Ham could not be cursed because he has been blessed previously by God (Gen. 9:1)

2) The fact that Canaan's name is mentioned here ➢ he could have been the one who did the wrong...

But Ham shares the **blame indirectly**--the shame of the father
Genesis 9:25

25 Then he said: “Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.”

(Vines): verse 25-27 "stamps a *theological* significance on "Canaan"-
➢ in other words part of this curse has to do with *religion*

The Canaanites, later called Phoenicians practiced a debauch and sexually perverted form of religion

Canaanite religion was centered on sex and its manifestations

(Vines) “Canaanite “--became synonymous with religious and moral perversions of every kind"

(Merril Unger: Archaeology and the O.T.) “That **Canaan’s curse** was basically **religious** has been amply demonstrated by the discovery of the Canaanite religious text...in North Syria.....

These texts corroborated the estimate of older scholars as Lenormant, who said of the Canaanite religion, ‘no other people ever rivaled them in the mixture of bloodshed and debauchery’”
Genesis 9:25

25Then he said: “Cursed be Canaan; **A servant of servants** He shall be to his brethren.”

The Canaanite **religion** had a strong influence and became a form of slavery to Israel--Israelites became cultural descendents of the Canaanites because they adopted Canaan' spiritual traditions

Ex. 13: 3 "out from bondage"--Israel was in spiritual bondage as much as they were in physical bondage
“Baal”—was the chief god of the Canaanites

“Baal’= means ‘possessor’
Worshipers of Baal were slaves to it

Lev. 18: 21- 27
God calls the idolatrous practices of the people of Canaan—abominations

Leviticus 18:27
(for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled),
Genesis 9:26

26And he said: “Blessed be the Lord, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.

Noah was blessing the Lord because he was Shem’s God

Shem worshipped God

➢ God’s blessings would come through his descendents

Blessings: Physical blessings through Abraham
Spiritual blessings through Christ—Abraham’s descendent

(v.26 last part) “And may Canaan be his servant.”

Israel conquered Canaan while entering the promised land and Canaan was partly exterminated and **subjugated to servitude by Israel**, especially in the early days of the monarchy.
Genesis 9:27

27 May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.”

‘enlarge’—used in a sense that God will allow Japheth to grow

Most of his descendents became peoples with large populations

“And may he dwell in the tents of Shem:”—implies friendly sharing of one’s hospitality and blessings

Partly fulfilled where the descendents of Japheth have benefited from Shem’s descendents: Mexicans and other Latinos in the U.S.; Chinese and Japanese on the west coast

India, Hong Cong, Singapore under the British

“And may Canaan be his servant”
—slavery repeated for those Canaanites who survived subjugation by the Israelites....as they were conquered later by Greeks, Romans, Persians (of Japheth)

Genesis 9:28-29

28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

29 So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died
Chapter 10 lists 70 nations from the sons of Noah

- Unique in world literature—the Bible is the only source of information as to where the nations came from

(Word): "This list does not purport to be an exhaustive list of the nations of the world; rather it mentions the major peoples known to Israel and their relationship to each other and to Israel."

The purpose of the table of nations is not to primarily trace ancestry. But it shows political, geographical and ethnic affiliations. the major tribes in and around the promised land

Chapter 10 contains many **historical notes**: information about peoples who would come under God’s judgment—Babylon, Assyria, Canaan, Sodom and Gomorrah, Sidon

Many of the nations recorded in chapter 10 disappear from the scriptural record, but they reappear in the **prophetic books**... many of them in connection with **end-time events**

**Chronologically** Chapter 11: 1-9 (tower of Babel and dispersion of the nations) should be before the table of nations in chapter 10

(Unger) “The reason it is placed after this event is that insertion before the table of nations would have obscured the introduction to the table of nations (Ch. 9:18-27)
Genesis 10:1
1Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

Seven sons of Japheth mentioned first—they form the largest part of humanity Few details are mentioned because they are of the least consequence to Israel...but they show up in prophecy later in the OT

Genesis 10:2
2The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

1) Gomer—Southeast Asia Cambodia, Burma, Indonesia, etc
2) Magog—Asiatics: China, Korea, Japan
3) Madai—Medes: Eurasian people: Ukraine, Romania, Poland
4) Javan—Greeks
5) Tubal (Tobolsk)—Siberia
6) Meshech (Moskva)--Moscow
7) Tiras—Indians of the Americas Tauri --(Greeks: sea people, pirates) Tarasacan Indians of Mexico

Russians
**Genesis 10:2-3**

2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

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**Ezekiel 38:2-3**

2 “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

3 and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

6 Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.

---

Ezekiel 38-39—a prophecy of Gog of Magog and his allies that will come into the land of Israel with a vast invasion force in the ‘latter days’
Genesis 10:3

3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

- Southeast Asiatics
- In ancient times lived near the Black Sea
- Togormah—Siberian, Mongolian Asiatics

Ezekiel 27:14

14 Those from the house of Togarmah traded for your wares with horses, steeds, and mules.

Associated with end time Tyre (Babylon) and its great merchant system
Genesis 10:4
4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

Mediterranean peoples—kin to the Greeks

Elishah--Cyprus

Tarshish—Spain and Portugal

Kittim—Cyprus and Southern Italy

Dodanim—Isle of Rhodes (Rodanim)

Daniel 11:30 “For the ships of Chittum (Cyprus NKJ) shall come against him”

➤ Roman fleets from Cyprus that prevented Antiochus from sacking Egypt

Ezekiel 27:12
12 “Tarshish was your merchant because of your many luxury goods. They gave you silver, iron, tin, and lead for your goods.

Genesis 10:5
5 From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.
Genesis 10:6

6 The **sons of Ham were** Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

| Ham—Africa, Middle East, India | Cush—original Babylonians  
Two branches: East Africa (blacks), India (Browns) | Put—  
Two branches: Libya, northern and central Africa (blacks)  
Pakistan, India (browns) |
<table>
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<td>Mizraim—Egypt</td>
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<td>Canaan—originally settled in Palestine (Phoenicians), but later subdued by many peoples and end up in So. Europe, Italy</td>
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Genesis 10:7

7 The **sons of Cush were** Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

| Seba—brown people of South India and Ceylon | Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabtechah—Cushite tribes of the **Arabian peninsula**. They become mingled with other Arabic tribes of Arabia |
Genesis 10:8
8Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

Genesis 10:9
9He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.”

“a hunter”—the opposite of an ideal king (shepherd)

“before”= against…when properly translated: ‘in place of God’

(Companion) “Nimrod the founder of Babylon, which partook of his character as being the great antagonist of God’s truth and God’s people”

Genesis 10:10
10And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Genesis 10:11-12
11From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

The cities and empire he built became enemies of Israel
Nimrod’s empire:
- Babylon
- Nineveh
- Calah (Calneh)

Map of Ancient Near East
Genesis 10:13-14

13 Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim).

Ludim—Lydia (western Asia minor....central Sahara north Africa)

Anamin—tribes in No.Africa bordering Egypt

Lebahim—originally Libya...scattered in western Sudan

Naphtuhim—central Egypt

Pathrusim—Southern Egypt

Casluhim

Philistines--Palestine

Caphortim--Crete
Genesis 10:15

15 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth;

| Canaanites originally settled in Palestine | Sidon—west coast of the Mediterranean | Heth—Hittites of north of Palestine |

Genesis 10:16-17

16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite;
17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;

Descendents of Canaan who occupied the promised land when Israel conquered it...they are mentioned because they would come into contact with Israel

Genesis 10:18 (first part)

18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite.

Many of these were put to forced labor under Solomon in his building projects...fulfilling Noah’s prophecy of being servants to Shem
Canaanites were called Phoenicians by the Greeks

“Spread abroad”:

1) Phoenician (Canaanites) were sailors and established many colonies in the Mediterranean world

2) They were subjugated by conquerors of Palestine (Greeks, Romans, Persians) and taken away

Many were settled in the southern Mediterranean countries: Southern Italy, Sicily, Southern Spain and Portugal
And the **border of the Canaanites** was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

The **land** of the Canaanites is described from border to border because this would be the land of promise to Israel.

These **were** the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.

Several details and notes are given of Ham’s descendents in verses 6-20 because of their frequent and obvious **contact with the Israelites**.

(Barnes) “Babylon, Cush, Egypt and Canaan are the powers that come into contact with Shem....hence it is that in the table of nations special attention is directed to Cush, Nimrod, Mizraim and to the tribes and borders of Canaan”
The sons of Shem:

**Genesis 10:21**

And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder.

Who is the oldest?

(NKJV Margin): ‘or the older brother of Japheth’
(NIV) (last part)
“Shem, whose older brother was Japheth” (OKJ) “Japheth the elder”

The descendents of Shem are repeated in chapter 11, but with fewer details

(Expositors) “It is significant that another genealogy of Shem is repeated after the building of Babylon.
In arranging the descendents of Shem in such a way, the author draws a dividing line through the descendents of Shem on either side of the city of Babylon.

The dividing line is between the two sons of Eber, Peleg and Joktan. One line leads to the building of Babylon, the other to the family of Abraham”
Genesis 10:22

The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

Elam: Poles-Slavs-Czechs-Romanians

Asshur: (Assyria) Germans-Austrians

Arphaxad: Abraham (Israel) Southwest Europeans (Chaldeans)

Lud: Adriatic—Albania, etc

Israel had close relations with Aramaeans (Isaac’s wife Rebekah from Aram) Gen.25:20

Anciently Aramaean's occupied much of Palestine

- Aramaic language was closely related to Hebrew, became the international language of trade and diplomacy in the Middle East
- One of the three languages that the Bible was originally written

Genesis 10:23

The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

Present day Syria

Scattered peoples: European Russia, Armenia,

Genesis 10:24

Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber.
Genesis 10:25

25 To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan.

Peleg = ‘to divide’ (Heb.) — a prophetic name ... great events would take place in his lifetime

“for in his days the earth was divided” — refers to people being divided ... the dispersal of nations at the tower of Babel

Peleg’s descendents, leading to Abraham are not listed in this chapter...

They are listed in chapter 11: 18-26 (after Babylon)

The rest of the chapter lists the descendents of Joktan.....

And leads up to the story of Babylon
Genesis 10:26-29

26 Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,  
27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,  
28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba,  
29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.  
30 And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east.

(Arabes) “Tribes in Southern Arabia claim that pure Arabs are descended from Joktan (Yoqtan)

The connection of Joktan with South Arabia seems to be confirmed by the names of his sons. They lend themselves to Arabic etymologies, and some may be located in Arabia.”

Two ethnic stocks of Arabs:

1) Arabian Arabs from Joktan  
Southern Arabs (settled people, towns)

2) Arabicized Arabs from Ishmael  
Northern Arabs (nomads)

(Phillip K. Hitti--History of the Arabs) “this gulf between the two Arabian stocks was never bridged. The age old division continued to be as pronounced as ever, even after Islam had apparently unified the Arabian nation”
Genesis 10:31
31 These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.

Genesis 10:32
32 These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

The summary statement of chapter 11—
The nations that descended from Noah’s sons after the flood

“from these the nations were divided”—anticipates the dispersal after Babel
Chapter 11: 1-9 Tower of Babel—founding of Babylon

**Genesis 11:1**

1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

Aprox: 100 yrs after the flood
326 yrs. Before the call of Abraham

(Keil and Delitzch): estimate around 30,000 people

They had not dispersed “Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth” (Gen. 9:2)

**Genesis 11:2**

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

The generations of Noah traveled southward from Armenia (ark rested) and the moved east

Shinar: term for the plain of Babylonia

(Expositors) “in the Genesis narratives, when man goes east, he leaves the land of blessing, and goes to a land where his greatest hopes will turn to ruin, i.e. Babylon, Sodom”
Genesis 11:3

3Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

“Come: (OKJ): “Go to”= action and (scornful) exhortation

“bake them thoroughly”—to be more durable and last through the ages

(last part)—a comparison of building techniques between Babylon and Israel

“brick for stone”—use of brick in Babylon common, in Israel stone
Asphalt common used in Babylon instead of mortar

Genesis 11:4 (2256 BC)

4And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

“a city”—the nucleus and origin of the famous capital

Could have been a type of observatory to worship the sun, moon and stars

(Adam Clarke) “Two of the Jewish Targum says that the tower was used for worship and idolatry and they intended to put an image on the peak of the tower....it is certain that the purpose of the tower was for idolatry”

“lest we be scattered over the face of the earth”—against God’s command to fill the earth
**Genesis 11:5**

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

“came down”—in judgment  
(Gen. 18:21) God went down—Sodom and Gomorrah were judged

**Genesis 11:6**

6 And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

Reflects back to previous chapters of descending from Noah and Adam  
(Word) “makes this narrative prior to chapter 10 when the various nations of the world were established”

“this is what they begin to do”—the forerunner of yet more possible transgression

“now nothing that they propose to do”  
(NSB) “The potential is that humankind will become as willfully sinful as they were before the flood”
Genesis 11:7
7Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

“Confuse their language...” –forcing them to scatter upon the earth...what they did not want to do

Genesis 11:8
8So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

What they tried to prevent happened to them in judgment
The tower is not mentioned because it is the name of the city that is most important

Genesis 11:9
9Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

To the Babylonians “Babel” meant: the gate of the god
Hebrew Babel meant: confusion, mixed-up
The story of the tower of Babel was the last judgment that occurred to mankind in those primeval ancient times.

A link of the fate between Babylon and Sodom in Genesis:

1) Both are from Ham, via Nimrod and Canaan
2) In both God ‘came down” to see what was happening

Isaiah 13:19

19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans’ pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

(Expositors) “The tower of Babel is not followed immediately by a hopeful sequel; the years roll on without a hope of renewal. The last word is Babel. It is as if to say, man must leave Babel, its proud dreams and God-defying ways, if there is to be hope.

And it is with Terah and Abraham departing from Ur in southern Babylonia that the saving history of the patriarchs begins”