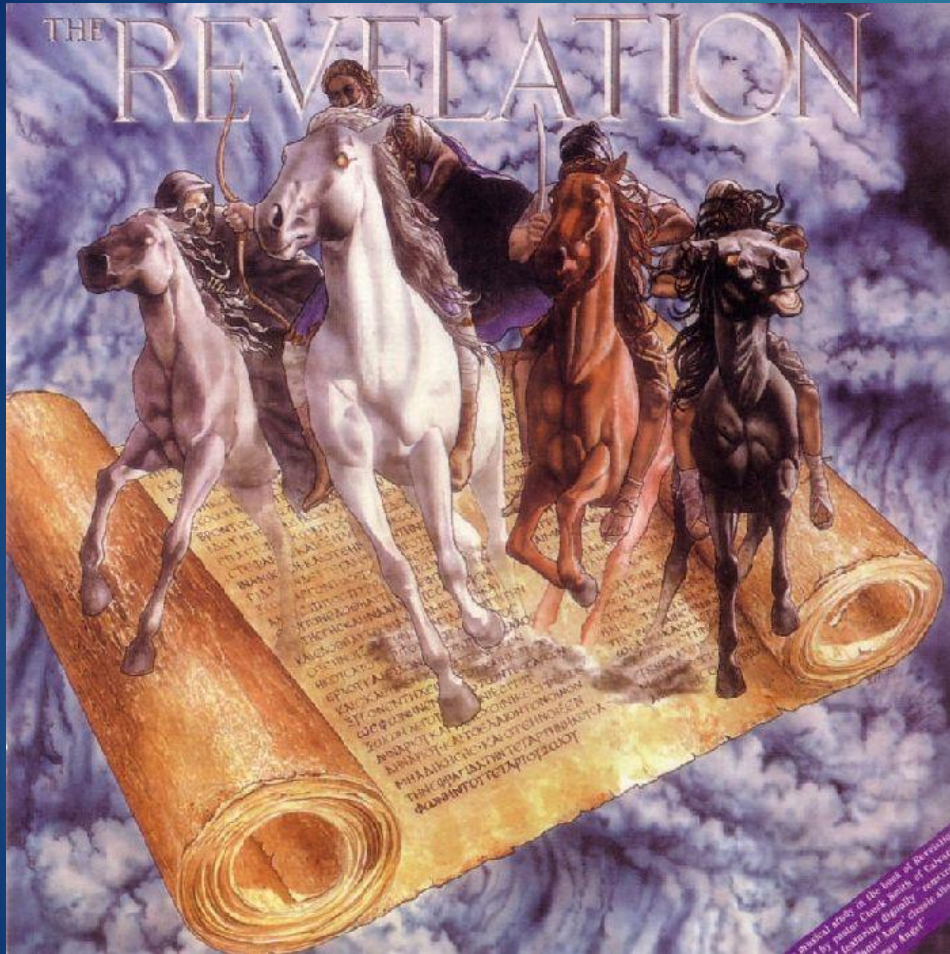


GOD'S REDEMPITIVE PLAN FOR THE AGES



Lesson 3

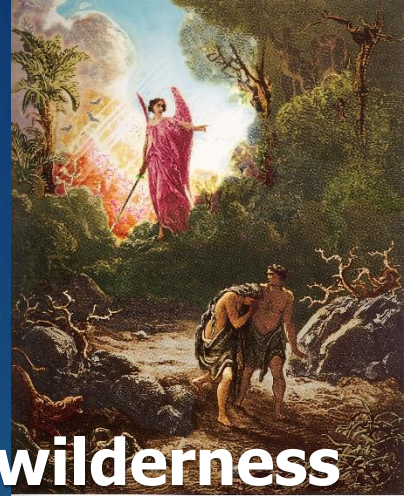
The Playing Board of History

Precursory Studies to the Book of Revelation

REVIEW—LESSON 2

The Act that Changed the World

Why Moses included Genesis



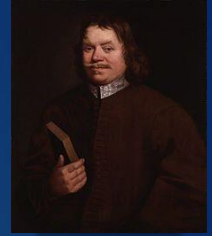
- ▶ A generation 20 and older was dying in the wilderness
- ▶ A new generation would need to know why
 - ▶ Answer—Earth has been in rebellion since the fall (**Gen. 3-6, 10**)
 - ▶ The fall had changed the heart of man (**Gen. 8:21**)
 - ▶ Hope would be found in the God of creation (**Psa. 90:1-2**)
 - ▶ Thru the seed of the woman the blessing would be regained (**Gen. 3:15**)
 - ▶ Return to the Lord in faith
- ▶ Abraham would receive this promise of hope thru faith

- ▶ **The seed / ruler / hope of Israel and the world, would come thru his great grandson Judah, says Moses:**
 - ▶ **The scepter, nor the ruler's staff, will depart from Judah, until he who comes to whom it belongs—Shiloh, i.e., Messiah (Gen. 49:1, 8-12)**
 - ▶ **This king will be higher than Agag [Gog]; His kingdom shall be exalted; He shall rule the nations (Num. 24:7-9)**
 - ▶ **However, you Israel, will do evil in the latter days (Deut. 31:29), and will be dispersed among the nations (Deut. 4:30-31; Lev. 26:44-45)**
 - ▶ **But I will send a greater Moses who knows the Lord face to face, and He will bring you out (Num. 23:21-22; 24:8-9; Deut. 30:1-5; 18:15; 34:9-12)**
- ▶ **So Balaam says, "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob and a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab [crown of Moab],... One from Jacob shall have dominion" (Num. 24:17-19)**

AN ANALOGY FOR US

Pilgrims Progress

Come Out From Among Them!



- ▶ **The Red-Line—The Kings Highway**
- ▶ **The narrow gate—Matt. 7:13**
- ▶ **The Black-Line—The way of Apollyon (destruction)**
- ▶ **The Broad-way leading to destruction**
- ▶ **The first bookend, the first H & E—The City of Destruction (from the Fall)**
- ▶ **The second bookend, the new H & E—The celestial city**

WHO ARE THE NATIONS?

Genesis 10



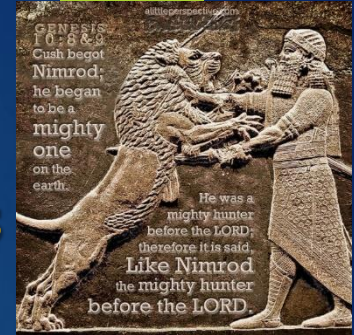
- ▶ The naming of the nations in **Genesis 10** is actually out of chronological sequence with respect to **Genesis 11** and the tower of Babel
- ▶ The story of the tower of Babel actually happens first
- ▶ Before there can be nations and peoples with geographical boundaries, they first have to be scattered over the earth
- ▶ So, Moses will list the nations and the peoples, then tell why and how they were scattered
 - ▶ They had refused the mandate given to Noah, to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth (**Gen. 9:1**)
 - ▶ There was nothing they could not do (**Gen. 11:6**)

THE SONS OF JAPHTEH (10:2-6)

PELEG	ALMOGAD
SELEPH	HAZARMAVETH
JERAM	
HADORAM	
UZAL	
DIKLAH	
OBAL	
ABIMAEI	
SHEBA	
OPHIR	
HAVILAH	
JOBAB	
CUB	
RAAMAH	DEDAN
SABTECHAH	
NIMROD	(CITIES IN SHINAR)
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	(CITIES IN ASSYRIA)
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- ▶ As the islands of the nations, vs. 5, they make up the outer fringe of the known world
- ▶ When the focus is on God’s universal kingdom, these nations again come into view, showing His plan for all mankind (e.g., see Psa. 72:8)
- ▶ At the coming of the future king, Num. 24:17ff., these nations will again be included in God’s rule (Num. 24:23-24)
- ▶ Fourteen names are listed, seven sons and 7 grandsons
- ▶ The sons of Magog, Madai, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras are omitted and lists only the sons of Gomer and Javan (see Ezek. 38:2ff.)

THE SONS OF HAM (10:7-21)



- ▶ Moses' directs the reader to **Nimrod's exploits**
- ▶ **His character** implies his deeds were neither heroic nor entrepreneurial, but defiant and dastardly
- ▶ **Nimrod's kingdom**, his rule (mamlacah), which was vast, **had a starting point**, a place of origin—**Babel**
- ▶ **This rule began in** the land of **Shinar** (Sumer), which is considered **separate from** the land of **Assyria** (**vs. 11**)
- ▶ All the names move geographically from south to north
- ▶ **The importance of this note** lies in its introduction of **Babylon** which is the subject of **11:1-9**



Two Assyrian soldiers forcing
Babylonian captive to grind bones
of his family, 7th - 6th c. BCE..
From Nineveh palace.



- ▶ **The association of Assyria with Babylon** is significant, since **Assyria** is associated with the list of **Shem**
- ▶ “That he built” can include the idea of rebuilding
- ▶ In so doing, Moses has taken Assyria out of its natural associations with Shem and given it a new identification with Babylon (cf. **Num. 24:24** where again Assyria is associated with Babylon [Eber])
- ▶ Thus, a distant son of Ham was at war with the distant sons of Shem (**Gen. 3:15; 12:3b; 9:25-27**)
- ▶ All this **appears to be the beginning** of the **symbolic value for Babylon**, seen in **Isa. 13-14; 47**, and fully developed in “**Mystery Babylon the Great**” in **Rev. 17**
- ▶ **Micah 5:6** also speaks of Assyria as the “land of Nimrod”



THE SONS OF SHEM

ELAM				ALMODAD	
ASSHUR				SHELEPH	
<u>SHEM</u> (26)-----	ARPHAXAD---	SHELAH-----	EBER--	JOKTAN-----	HAZARMAVETH
	LUD				JERAH
	ARAM-----	UZ			HADORAM
		HUL			UZAL
		GETHER			DIKLAH
		MASH			OBAL
					ABIMAEEL
					SHEBA
					OPHIR
					HAVILAH
					JOBAB

- ▶ Begins with an introduction, **vs. 21**, to draw out the lines of continuity running through chapter 10—i.e., **looking back** to Japheth without noting Ham, and possibly to the Noahic blessing in 9:26-27; **looking forward**, to the father of the sons of Eber
- ▶ The mention of **Eber anticipates** the genealogy of **11:10-26**, which results in the **birth of Abraham**
- ▶ The list is traced up to the two sons of Eber and there follows the line of **the second son, Joktan**
- ▶ **Joktan** and **Peleg** thus **form** a dividing line or **division**
- ▶ **Joktan** and his sons lead to the building of Babylon (**11:1-9**); and **Peleg**, points to the genealogy of Abraham and the promised land (11:10-26; cf. 10:25—in his days the earth was divided)
- ▶ Not only is the land divided in the confusion of languages (**11:1**), but more fundamentally, **two great lines of humanity diverge** from the midst of the sons of Shem
- ▶ Those who seek to make a name for themselves in the building of **Babylon (11:4)** and those for whom God will make a name (12:2) in the call of **Abraham**

THE PURPOSE OF THE TABLE

- ▶ His purpose in this genealogy is to provide a **context for Babylon (11:1-9)**
- ▶ Notice in **11:1-2**, they journeyed eastward, as did Adam and Eve, **Gen. 3:24**, and as did Cain, **Gen. 4:7**
- ▶ It is important that **the starting point** of the events of the story is a **land west of Babylon**
- ▶ Moses is contrasting God's way of blessing, Eden and the Promised Land, with humanity's own attempt to find the "good" by travelling East
- ▶ **In Genesis**, when people go "**east**," they leave the land of blessing, Eden and the Promised Land, and go to a land where their greatest hopes will turn to ruin, **Babylon and Sodom**
- ▶ **Note:** from Sinai a generation will go east into the wilderness where **Num. 13-14** tell us that a whole generation dies because they "did not believe" in the Lord and enter the promised land (**Num. 14:11**)

JUDGMENT ON BABEL AND ITS TOWER



▶ Like Cain, (**Gen. 4:16-17; 25:1-6**), they journeyed east the land of Shinar

▶ There they built a city tower in defiance of God (**1-2**)

▶ They built the tower to make a name for themselves in imitation of the mountain of God in the Garden of Eden (**4, see Ezek. 28:12-**14*, 16**)

▶ Their goal was to keep from being scattered abroad over the earth (**4**)

▶ The visitation of the Lord was not a visitation of grace as it was with Noah, but a visitation of judgment mixed with grace, they were not destroyed (**5-6**)

▶ Dividing the lip, they were forced to stop, and were scattered over the face of the whole earth as commanded of Noah in **Genesis 9:1 (8)**

▶ From their lands the nations would continue to rebel by trying nations into one (**the book of Daniel**)

▶ **Ephesians 2:11-12** says they were separate from Christ, the seed of the woman; and were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel; strangers to the covenants of promise; having no hope and without God in the world

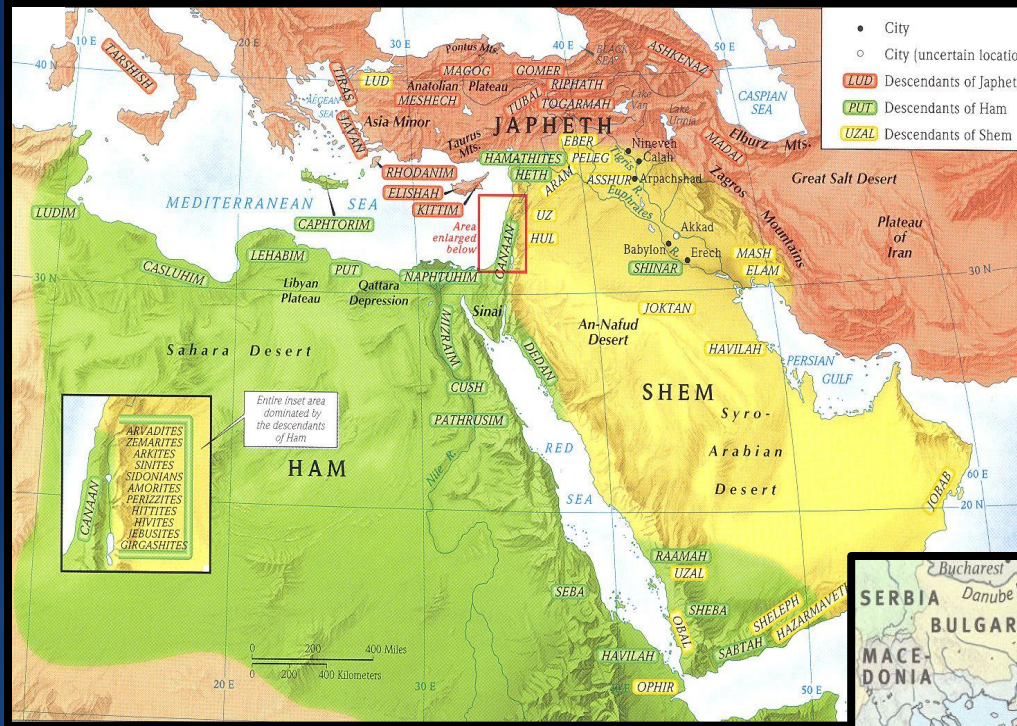
▶ So, the nations would expand in their rebellion without the true knowledge of God, imitating the true worship and history found in the creation account with a false imitation



THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE



SIDE BY SIDE



Moses' World

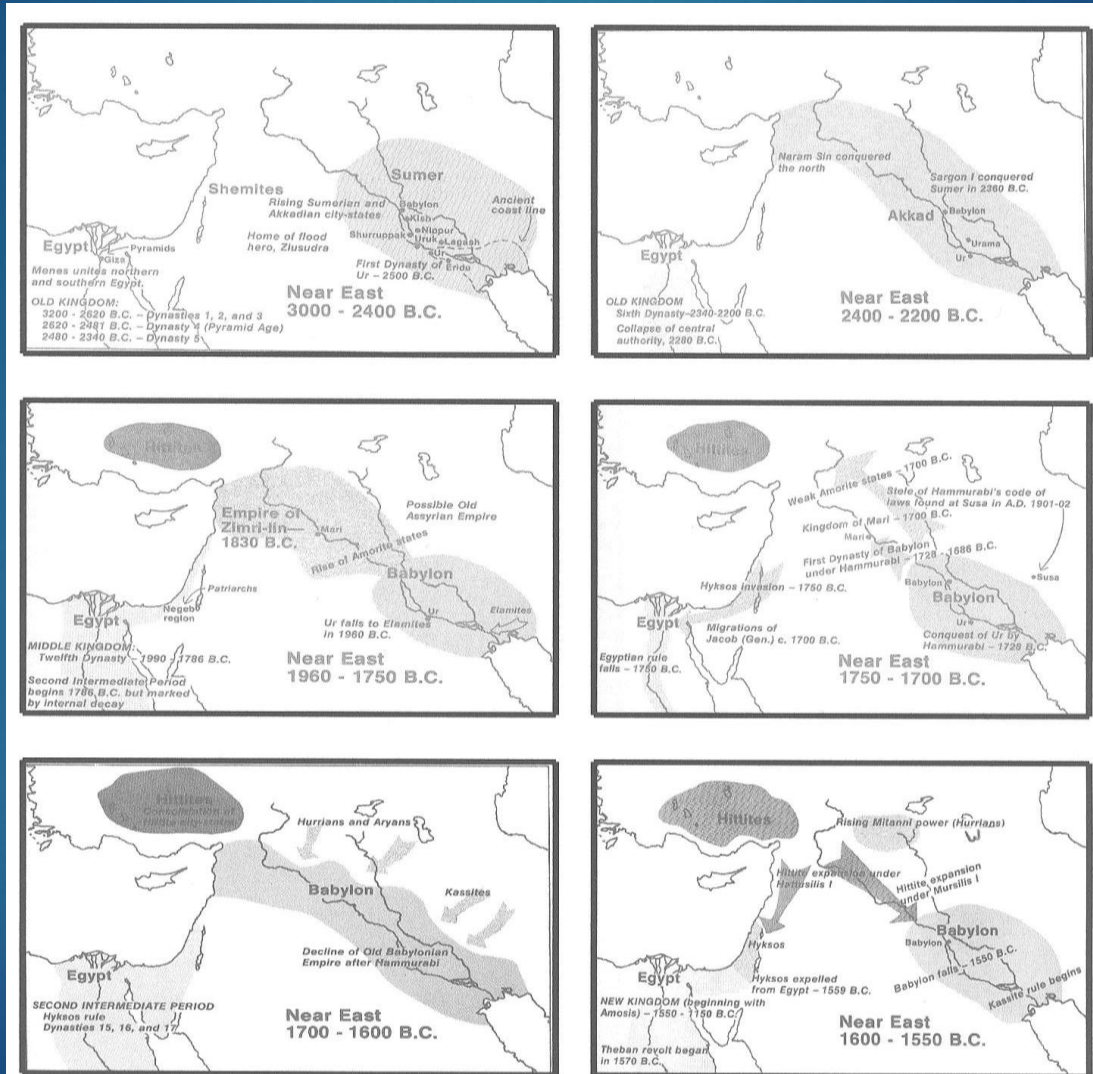
Our World



HISTORY BEGINS AT SUMER (Shinar)



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONS



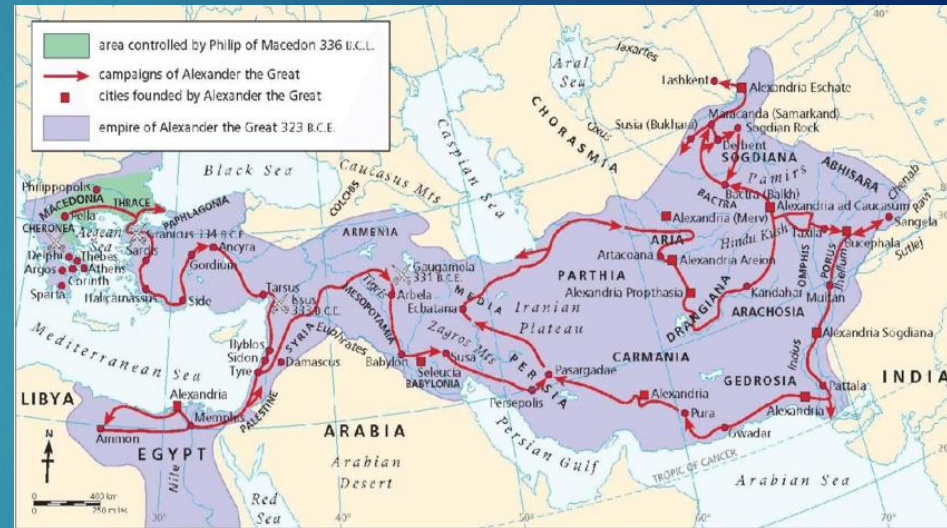
NEO-ASSYRIAN (745-701 BC--Left)

NEO-BABYLONIAN (597-586 BC--Right)



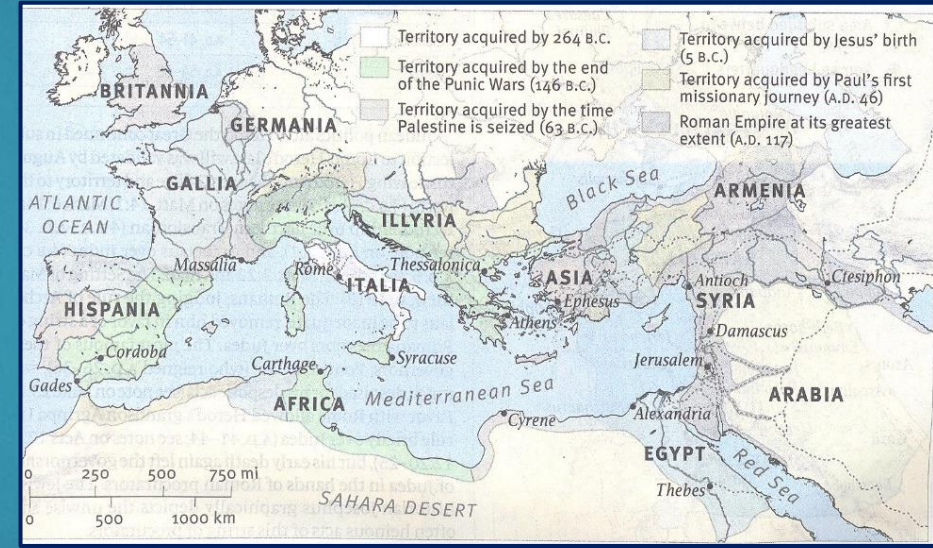
MEDES/PERSIANS (539-333 BC—Left)

GREECE/ALEXANDER (323-305—Right)



ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE SPLIT (323-305 BC-Left)

ROME (753 BC—AD 117; Annexed Israel in 63 BC)



OUR WORLD

(Israel's Near and Far Enemies)



MOSES' PROPHECIES

- ▶ **THE ABOVE ARE THE NATIONS ISRAEL IS TO BE SCATTERED AMONG**
 - ▶ Lev. 26:14-39, *32-33
 - ▶ Deut. 4:25-28
 - ▶ Deut. 28:47-52, 62-68
- ▶ **ISRAEL WILL BE REGATHERED AND EXALTED OVER THE NATIONS IN THE LATTER DAYS**
 - ▶ Exod. 15:16-18
 - ▶ 1 Sam. 2:10
 - ▶ Deut. 30:1-3
- ▶ **OBEDIENCE TO THE COVENANT IS THE KEY TO BLESSING OR CURSING FOR ISRAEL**
 - ▶ Deut. 11:18-28
 - ▶ Deut. 26:16-19
 - ▶ Deut. 28:1-2, 15