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AFTER THE FLOOD

God's Dealings with Israel and the Nations In History and Prophecy (Type & Antitype)

By Arlen L. Chitwood

Genesis chapter ten and the first part of chapter eleven deal with two main things insofar as the overall type is concerned:

1) The destruction of Gentile world power — God's past and future dealings with the kingdom of Babylon (the first kingdom of Babylon in the type, the last kingdom of Babylon in the antitype).

2) God's subsequent dealings with the Gentile nations — the nations dealt with in relation to Shem and his descendants in the type and in relation to the nation of Israel in the antitype.

(The preceding is developed in the three sections which follow. These sections have to do with that which occurred in the historical account in Genesis, which foreshadows that which will occur yet future.

The first section deals with the destruction of Gentile world power following the Tribulation, allowing the nation in possession of the rights of the firstborn [Israel], which includes *regal* rights, to hold the sceptre.

Then, *the second and third sections* deal with that which will subsequently occur [following the destruction of Gentile world power] with respect to Israel and the nations.

God revealed the whole of the matter at the beginning, in His Word.

And if man would know that which the future holds for the Jews, the Gentiles, and

the Church of God, all he has to do is go back to that which God revealed through Moses almost 3,500 years ago.)

Destruction of Gentile World Power In History and Prophecy

From Gen. 8:4 (picturing the ark resting above the Ararat mountain range at the end of the one hundred fifty days, during which the waters came down from above and up from below) to the first part of chapter eleven, there is a chronological sequence of events which foreshadows that which will occur relative to Israel and the nations, beginning at the end of the Tribulation and leading into the Millennium.

("A mountain" in Scripture signifies a kingdom. Noah and his family, safe in the ark above the Ararat mountain range at the end of the Flood foreshadows an indestructible Israel restored to her rightful place at the head of [above] the Gentile nations at the end of the Tribulation.)

Events in chapters eight and nine foreshadow Israel's restoration to her rightful place among the nations, with Israel restored to the nation's land, in a position to enjoy millennial blessings.

Then chapter ten and the first part of chapter eleven foreshadow Christ's dealings with the nations following His return.

Christ's initial dealings with the nations at this time will be the destruction of what will already be a decimated Gentile world power (*ref.* typology of Gen. 8:4). And this Gentile world power, at the time of its destruction in chapter eleven, is seen centered in Babylon in the type, as it will be centered back in Babylon in the antitype.

The first mention of Babylon in Scripture is seen in Gen. 10:10. Nimrod, a grandson of Ham, built eight cities (vv. 10-12), with Babel (Babylon) seen as the main city, where a tower was built.

And this tower was for the purpose of uniting the people of the kingdom, keeping them together in this one general area (11:1ff). (Note that Gen. 11:1-9 [the building of Babel and the tower] provides commentary for that which occurred in Gen. 10:10-12 [the building of cities forming a kingdom centered in Babel/Babylon].)

Following the establishment of Nimrod's kingdom, the day eventually arrived when "the Lord came down to see the city [Babel] and the tower" (11:5). And He, at this time, put a stop to that which man was seeking to bring to pass, for purposes seen in verse six.

And the day is eventually going to arrive when the Lord will come down to see that typified in these two chapters in Genesis, the kingdom of the last king of Babylon. And the Lord is going to do exactly the same thing in that future day as He did over 4,000 years ago in Genesis. He is going to put a stop to that which man will be seeking to bring to pass (Micah 5:4-6).

(For a detailed discussion of the Lord coming down and the destruction of Gentile world power yet future, refer to Chapters XXXI, XXXII, "Christ's Return" and "The Great Supper of God" in the author's book, THE TIME OF THE END.)

Separation and Placement of the Nations In History and Prophecy

Then, following the destruction of Gentile world power in the Middle East under Antichrist, the Lord will continue and complete His dealings with the Gentiles worldwide, anticipating the place which Israel will occupy in relation to the Gentile nations during the Millennium.

In Genesis chapter ten God provides genealogies of Noah's three sons, with each genealogy going through a number of generations. And the names of the descendants of each son, through these generations, are given — names which today, from history, can be associated with people dwelling in particular parts of the earth.

At the time God dealt with man at Babel, in the land of Shinar, He separated individuals in a nationalistic sense through several means.

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First, each group of individuals was given *a particular language*, unknown to any of the other groups. They were then driven out and given *a particular land* on the earth, a land of their own which was separate from the land of any of the others (vv. 5, 20, 32).

Second, at some point after each group was separated from all the other groups and in their own land, *God divided the earth itself, separating one land mass from another land mass* (v. 25).

There are two different words in the Hebrew text translated "divide" in chapter ten. One word is used in verses five and thirty-two (having to do with *a separation of mankind by languages*, along with their being placed in different lands); and the other word is used in verse twenty-five, having to do with *a separation or division of the earth itself*.

How did God separate or divide the earth into segments? The evident answer is seen in Job 38:25, where the same word translated "divide" in Gen. 10:25 is used relative to *a separation by water*.

Once God had separated all the different nations and placed them in their own lands, He then "divided" *the earth.* He could only have separated land masses, forming separate land masses, separate continents, etc. And this separation can evidently be seen one place today by viewing a map of the east coast of South America and the west coast of Africa. The shape of each gives the appearance that at one time in the distant past they were one continent, then separated. And they give that appearance because this is evidently what occurred, not only here but worldwide.

How did natives on islands out in the Pacific Ocean get there? How did the American Indian get to the North American continent, the Aborigine to Australia, etc.?

The answer is simple. And the answer is not in the book, *Kon Tiki*, or in a frozen Bering Strait. Rather, the answer is in *the Bible*. These individuals' ancestors were already on these land masses when the earth was divided by oceans and seas during the days of Peleg, over one hundred years after the Flood.

The general separation of the sons of Noah, as determined by the names in the three lineages in Genesis chapter ten, was across three parts of the earth. The descendants of Japheth were spread across the northern parts of the earth, the descendants of Shem across the central parts, and the descendants of Ham across the southern parts. This separation, of course, is general. There are numerous exceptions.

(Refer to the next section for a projection of the whole of the matter out into the future.)

Reason for the Separation and Placement of the Nations In History and Prophecy

Other than that stated in Gen. 11:6, what does Scripture have to say about *God's purpose* for a separation of the nations, as seen in chapter ten?

God's purpose, along with another way in which He divided the nations, is given elsewhere in Scripture.

Note Deut. 32:8:

"When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel."

Then note Acts 17:26, 27:

"And hath made of one blood [one man, Adam] all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed and the bounds of their habitation;

That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us."

One of the reasons God called Israel into existence was to be *His witness to the Gentile nations throughout the earth,* "that all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else" (I Kings 8:59, 60; Isa. 43:9, 10).

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God separated the nations and set their bounds within separate lands "according to the number of the children of Israel"; and God did this in order that those in these nations "should seek the Lord...and find him" (Deut. 32:8; Acts 17:27).

And Scripture clearly states and reveals that a separation and placement of the nations was done after this fashion during Peleg's day (Gen. 10:5, 25, 32; 11:7-9), probably during the early years of Shem's life, hundreds of years before the nation of Israel even existed (note that Shem was still alive during Abraham's day, living to within twenty-five years of Abraham's death).

In short, God separated the nations and placed them within certain boundaries; and God did this according to the number of those whom He would one day call into existence and commission to reach the nations with the message of the one true and living God.

This is the way and the reason why God worked matters out after this manner in history. And, at the end of the Tribulation yet future, He will separate the nations once again, for the same reason. It will all be done once again in exact accord with Deut. 32:8 and Acts 17:26, 27, after the manner and for the reason given in these verses.

And all of this has to do with the Jewish people fulfilling their calling — *being God's witness to the nations of the earth* (Isa. 43:1-11).

The Jewish people, in that day, will go forth with the message seen in Isaiah chapter fifty-three. And they will carry this message to all the Gentile nations, which God will have previously separated and placed in particular geographical locations on the earth for purposes which will be carried out by Israel during the Millennium.

> The Lamp Broadcast, Inc. 225 S. Cottonwood Ranch Road Cottonwood, AZ 86326 www.lampbroadcast.org