

A man in a dark, long-sleeved robe stands on a large rock in a river, looking towards a large, illuminated tent at sunset. The tent is the central focus, glowing with a warm, golden light. The scene is set in a tropical environment with palm trees and a hazy, golden sky. The man is holding a long staff or pole. The overall mood is one of contemplation and journey.

Genesis 10:21- 32

The line of Shem.

Where we are so far

- The chapter traces three lines:
- From **Japheth** → 14 nations
- From **Ham** → 30 nations
- From **Shem** → 26 nations
- Total = **70**
- This is not saying:
- there were only 70 people groups on earth
- It is saying:
- these are the foundational families that the nations came from

Hidden gem

- Why 70 matters
- In Scripture, 70 often represents completeness of the nations
- Examples:
 - 70 nations (Genesis 10)
 - 70 elders of Israel (Exodus 24)
 - 70 sent out (Luke 10)
- Pattern:
 - God structures things to reflect the whole

Strong insight

- If there are 70 nations:
- Abram is not called for himself
- He is called:
- “for all the nations”
- So the movement becomes:
- 70 nations formed
- 70 nations divided
- one man called
- one Seed promised
- blessing returns to all nations

Feels strange...

- That God would take 2 then take 8 then they become many just to regather in the end.
- The problem is not God's plan, but humans rebellion!
- And this all steams from Genesis, at the tree, man reaches for:
 - wisdom apart from God
 - autonomy apart from God
 - identity apart from God
 - rule apart from God
- That is the real beginning of the whole pattern.

God's plan

- God's plan is to restore what was lost, defeat what entered through the fall, and bring His people into an even fuller union with Him through Christ.
- But He chose to redeem this way because it most fully reveals:
 - His love
 - But not only that is also
 - His justice
 - His mercy
 - His holiness

Meaning...

- All of this is important because it tell us
- His story
- His plan
- And that is...
- In Christ you see:
- love → He gives Himself
- justice → sin is dealt with
- mercy → sinners are forgiven
- grace → it is unearned

The cross is not Plan B—

It is the clearest revelation of who God is

Shem's line

- We've just watched the nations spread through Ham's line—especially through Nimrod—where power, control, and centralized rebellion began to take shape. That line showed us how quickly humanity organizes itself apart from God when given strength and influence.
- Now the text shifts.
- Not to more power.
Not to more expansion.
But to something quieter—and far more important.
- It moves to **Shem's line**.

God's promise

- While the nations are spreading wide, God is moving **deep**—preserving a line, a seed, a people through whom the promise will come.
- And right in the middle of this genealogy, we get a signal: **Eber... Peleg... division.**
- So this section is not just listing names—it is showing us two realities happening at the same time:
 - Humanity spreading outward in strength and systems
 - God narrowing inward toward covenant and redemption
- That tension is still alive today.

Breakdown

- 10:21 — Shem identified as the line connected to Eber (Hebrew line begins)
- 10:22–23 — Early descendants of Shem (broad regional spread)
- 10:24–25 — Eber and the division in Peleg's days
- 10:26–30 — Joktan's line (Arabian region expansion)
- 10:31–32 — Summary: Nations divided by families, languages, lands

GENESIS 10:21

- The text is now narrowing down to a single line.
- Sure Shem had other son's but the focus narrows to one.
- And in fact Eber is a great grandson of Shem.
- Understand that this does not mean the other son are not important, they just are not focus.
- Eber is the theological focus,
- שֵׁם (Shem) — *Shem* [shame] → “name, reputation, renown”
- עֵבֶר (Eber) — *Ever* [EH-ver] → “to cross over, beyond” (root of “Hebrew”)

Small taste of Hebrew

- עֵבֶר **Eber** means:
 - “One who crosses over”
 - “Region beyond”
 - “The other side”
- This is where the term “**Hebrew**” (עִבְרִי — **Ivri**) comes from — literally: *one who has crossed over*.

Pictographic meaning

עֵבֶר

Eber in Ancient Hebrew



ר

Resh
Head



ב

Bet
House



ע

Ayin
Eye

עֵבֶר = "One who crosses over"

- ע(Ayin) → eye / see / watch
- ב(Bet) → house / family / dwelling
- ר(Resh) → head / chief / prince

  PRINCE Head Person Reysh <small>© 2018 Lighthouse Gospel Beacon Publishing www.lighthouse.pub</small>	  TENT Household Beyt God the Son <small>© 2018 Lighthouse Gospel Beacon Publishing www.lighthouse.pub</small>	  EYE See & Understand Ayin Nations <small>© 2018 Lighthouse Gospel Beacon Publishing www.lighthouse.pub</small>
200	2	70
Sufficiency of God Insufficiency of Man		

Eber = crossing over → identity shift

- The pictograph *illustration*:
 - “See the house of the Prince”
- Now connect it:
- The Hebrew is saying it is not just someone who crosses over geographically—
it is someone who **comes under a different head, a different house, a different authority.**

The pointing to...

- Genesis 11:10 begins to trace this directly into Abraham, and Luke 3 ties it all the way to Christ—this is not just genealogy, this is the preserved line of redemption moving forward.
- This tells us something about how God works: not everything that grows is part of what He's building.
- In real life, you can have a lot of activity, a lot of expansion, a lot of movement—but only some of it is actually tied to what God is doing.

Meaning

- Activity ≠ alignment
- Expansion ≠ obedience
- Movement ≠ calling
- You can have:
 - A growing business
 - A larger platform
 - More influence
 - More activity
- ...and still be:
 - Out of alignment with what God is actually doing
 - Because the real question is not:
 - “Is something happening?”
 - But:
 - “Who initiated it—and who is sustaining it?”

How to tell if something is of God

- **Does it agree with His Word?**
- God will not lead you into something that violates what He has already said.
- So the first question is not:
“Does this seem open?”
It is:
“Does this agree with Scripture?”
- If it requires compromise, dishonesty, pride, immorality, neglect of your real responsibilities, or disobedience, it is not from God.

Is it drawing you toward Christ or toward self?

- Something can look successful and still feed:
 - ego
 - image
 - control
 - self-importance
 - independence from God
- What is of God will ultimately move you toward:
 - obedience
 - humility
 - dependence
 - holiness
 - truth
- A simple test is:
“Does this make me need God more, or does it make me feel bigger?”

What kind of fruit is it producing?

- Jesus said a tree is known by its fruit.
- Not just visible fruit like numbers, growth, and excitement.
Look for deeper fruit:
- righteousness
- peace
- clarity
- conviction
- faithfulness
- purity
- endurance
- Bad fruit can hide under good results. Something may be “working” outwardly while producing inward confusion, pride, compromise, and spiritual dryness.

Is there peace with conviction, or just pressure and hype?

- God can lead strongly, but flesh often drives with urgency, fear, and inner chaos.
- There is a difference between:
 - holy conviction
 - anxious compulsion
- Sometimes what is not of God feels urgent because it is feeding fear of missing out, fear of man, or ambition.
- Ask:
“Am I being led, or am I being pushed?”

Are you forcing it, or is God confirming it?

- This does not mean everything from God is easy. Many things from God are costly.
But there is a difference between faithful effort and fleshly striving.
- Things to watch:
- Are you constantly having to manipulate outcomes?
- Are you ignoring warning signs?
- Are you inventing spiritual language to justify what you already want?
- Are you trying to make God bless your plan?
- A lot of people do not discern God's will. They baptize their own will.

Have you brought it into the light?

- What is of God does not fear examination.
- Bring it before:
 - Scripture
 - prayer
 - time
 - wise counsel
 - honest self-examination
- If something falls apart the moment it is tested, that tells you something.

Does it fit your actual calling and season?

- Not every good thing is your thing.
Not every open door is your assignment.
- A thing may be good in itself, but wrong for you in this season.
- So ask:
- Has God actually assigned this to me?
- Does this pull me away from what I already know He told me to do?
- Is this helping me be faithful, or just making me feel important?

GENESIS 10:22–23

- Next the list moves to Aram
- אַרָם(Aram) — *Aram* [ah-RAHM] → “highland, elevated”
- אַשּׁוּר(Asshur) — *Ashur* [ah-SHOOR] → associated with Assyria
- These descendants form major ancient civilizations—Assyria, Aram (Syria), and regions tied to Mesopotamia.
- So the sons of Aram are listed

GENESIS 10:24–25

- Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber.
- 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.”
- פֶּלֶג **Peleg** — *Peleg* [PEH-leg] → “division, split”
- יֹקָן **Joktan** — *Yoktan* [yok-TAHN] → “small, diminished”

Physical earth (continental division)

- What it says:
- The continents physically split (some connect this to plate tectonics)
- Why people argue this:
- “earth was divided” sounds physical
- ties into catastrophic earth changes after the Flood
- Problems:
- The text gives no direct geological language
- No supporting detail in the passage
- Requires reading modern science back into the text

What does the context actually support?

- Stay anchored to the text:
- **Genesis 10 emphasizes:**
- families
- languages
- nations
- lands

Peleg פֶּלֶג in pictographic thought

- The actual Hebrew root of Peleg means:
- to divide / split
- So the pictograph is not redefining the word
—it's giving a conceptual layer, not the dictionary meaning.
- “the mouth of the shepherd moves

Peleg

	<p>Peh, Pey, Pe פה - mouth</p>		<p>Mouth</p>	<p>Mouth, Open, Opening, Blow, words, ask, speak, Command scatter, edge, here, present</p>
	<p>Lamed למד - Teach</p>		<p>Shepherd Staff <i>*(Leadership or Guidance)</i></p>	<p>Voice of Authority, Staff, Goad, Teach, Leading Yoke, Bind, Control, Guide prefix to, forward</p>
	<p>Gimel, Gam גג - gather, assemblage</p>		<p>Foot <i>*(Traveling or Journeying)</i></p>	<p><i>The Holy Ghost</i> Gather, Walk, Travel Far, Journey, to lift up</p>

Joktan

- יֹקְטָן **Joktan** — *Yoktan* [yok-TAHN] → “small, diminished”
- This is where God’s story shows where the 2 sons are spilt or divided.
- 1 son tells His (God) story and the other son’s story is diminished.
- Why because The hidden piece here is protection—division was actually mercy.
- Looking ahead to the tower we see God divided the nations according to divine order—this was intentional restraint.
- Left alone, unified humanity drifts toward rebellion faster, not toward righteousness.

GENESIS 10:26–30

- Remember the Genesis 10 is an overview while chapter 11 will drill down and give more commentary to verse 25.
- Also keep in mind
- chapter 10 = the result
- chapter 11 = the cause
- chapter 10 shows the spread of the nations, and chapter 11 explains how that spread happened at Babel.
- Chapter 11 will tell the story of the tower of Babel and then drill down into the promised line of Abram.

The important thing about chapter 10

- **Eber**
- Eber is highlighted early in chapter 10 because he matters to the story that follows.
- Not because he comes next immediately, but because his line leads to Abram.
- So chapter 10 is already signaling:
 - “Pay attention to this line.”
- **Peleg**
- Peleg is named with the note:
 - “for in his days the earth was divided”
 - That is a narrative flag.
 - It prepares you for chapter 11.
 - So even before Babel is described, Moses drops a marker in chapter 10 that says:
 - “A major division happened here.”
 - Then chapter 11 explains that division.

The tension to close chapter 10

- Joktan's line spreads wide—trade routes, wealth regions like Sheba and Ophir, expansion into the east.
- On the surface, this looks like success. Growth, influence, prosperity.
- BUT this is not the line of promise.
- I cant stress this enough...
- The World today views God only through success

The contrast between **Joktan** and **Peleg**

- What looks like success is not always where God is working, and what God is doing does not always look like success—but God is not opposed to blessing; He is opposed to pride and self-built success.
- **Eber** → **The one who crosses over**
- Watch the house of the Prince
- **Peleg** → **division (movement forced by God)**
- The mouth of the Shephard moves / divides.
- **Abram** → **calling (movement initiated by God)**

GENESIS 10:31–32

- גוֹיִם **Goyim** — *Goyim* [GO-yeem] → “nations, peoples”
- Goyim is neutral in the beginning
- In Book of Genesis:
- It does **not** mean “pagan” or “evil”
- It simply means **people groups / nations**
- That means:
- The nations are not the problem—rebellion is the problem

The promise

- **גוי** = nation / people group
גוים = nations (plural)
- God tells Abram:
- “I will make you a great *goy* (*nation*) ” (Gen 12:2)
- God will use this later goyim (Israel) to reach the other goyim the world.

As we close

- So why does God narrow His focus to one line while the world is expanding outward?
- Because God is not building through expansion—He is building through alignment.
- Genesis 10 shows you something most people miss: the world is growing, spreading, organizing, building systems, gaining influence... but God is not in all of it.
- While humanity is moving wide, God is moving narrow.

And here's the reality

- God has always worked this way.
- He calls people to cross over.
- To leave one system...
To come under a different authority...
To step into a different house.
- You can be part of what's growing...
You can be part of what's spreading...
You can be part of what looks successful...
- ...and still not be aligned with what God is actually doing.

Listen to what God is calling us to do

- **Eber** → **The one who crosses over**
- Watch the house of the Prince

- **Peleg** → **division (movement forced by God)**
- The mouth of the Shephard moves / divides.

- **Abram** → **calling (movement initiated by God)**
- I will make you a great nation and **bless the families** of the Earth

- Abram is the covenant head of the house that will ultimately bring the true Head to the nations. (Jesus)
- Cross over.
- Hear the voice of God
- Not just in belief—but in alignment.
- And to join the goyim (nation) of Abram.

A man in a dark, long-sleeved robe stands on a large rock in a river, looking towards a large, illuminated tent at night. The tent is the central focus, glowing with a warm, golden light. The scene is set in a tropical environment with palm trees and a dark, rocky landscape. The man is holding a long staff or pole. The overall atmosphere is one of mystery and anticipation.

Genesis 10:21- 32

The line of Shem.