

## 09. Genesis 10 Priestly list of the Nations



# The Empire of Israel in relation to other nations of the earth

## [Genesis 10]

These are the descendants of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japeth; children born to them after the flood.

The descendants of  
**Japeth** [7 names of peoples or countries]  
**Gomer**

**Magog**

**Madai**

see 5:32 [P] 'Noah fathered Shem, Ham and Japeth'.  
See 9:18 [J] 'The sons of Noah who went into the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japeth.'

Compare **Iapetos**, one of the Titans, born of Ouranos [heavens] and Gaia [Earth]  
Prometheus and Atlas are among his sons: (See Homer The Iliad 8.479, and Hesiod Theogony,507).

c.800BC

c.700BC

Ezekiel 38:6 = the **Cimmerians**, an Indo-European people who settled Cappadocia from the north coast of the Black Sea between the Don and the Danube. See Homer The Odyssey 11.14.

Also Ezekiel 38:2; 39:6; Apocalypse 20:8 = probably the **land of Gog** [Gugu, Gyges] = **Lydia** in western Anatolia, with its capital at Sardis, of which Gog was the first king. He was also the ancestor of the famous Croesus.

= the **Medes**. See Isaiah 13:17; 21:2; Jeremiah 25:25; 51:11,28; 2 Kings 17:6; 18:11. An Indo-European people, from northeastern Assyria closely associated in history with the Persians.



**Javan**

= the **Ionians** of western Anatolia (Ezekiel 27:13; Isaiah 66:19). After Alexander the Great 'Javan' referred to the **Greeks** generally (Joel 4:8; Zechariah 9:13; Daniel 8:21; 10:20; 11:2).

**Tubal and Meshech**

mentioned together in Ezekiel 27:13; 32:26; 38:2f; 39:1; Isaiah 66:19 in Septuagint = Peoples inhabiting **Cilicia and Phrygia**.

**Tiras**

= one of the Indo-European Sea Peoples who, along with the Philistines, attacked Egypt in the 13th Century BC. Probably the **Tyrrhenians** from the islands of the Aegean [related to the Etruscans? Thracians?].

**The sons of Gomer:**

**Ashkenaz**

Jeremiah 51:27 = **Scythians** who replaced the Cimmerians as rulers of the north Black Sea.

**Ripath**

Josephus claims these are the **Paphlygonians** from between the Black Sea and Bythinia.

**Togarmah**

Ezekiel 27:13f; 38:3-6 = same area, probably a city bordering Tubal (above).



**Javan**

**Tubal and Meshech**

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**Ashkenaz**

**Ripath**

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# The descendants of Javan

**Elishah**

Ezekiel 27:7 = **Cyprus**

**Tarshish**

Isaiah 66:19; Psalm 72:10; Jonah 1:3; 4:2; 1 Kings 10:22 =  
from the Aegean islands? perhaps the Phoenician colony at  
**Tartessos** in Spain?

**Kittim**

Numbers 24:24; Isaiah 23:1,12; Jeremiah 12:10; Ezekiel  
27:6; Daniel 11:30 = another name for **Cyprus**.

**Rhodanim**

1 Chronicles 1:7 = **Rhodes**

**From these the Sea  
Peoples spread. These are  
the descendants of Japeth,  
in their lands,  
each with its own language  
by their families,  
in their nations.**

= Refrain. See 10:20; 10:31

Note. The descendants of Japeth are from the **far-north**  
**and west** of Israel.



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# The descendants of Ham

Cush

Mizraim

Put

Canaan

## Descendants of Cush:

Seba

Havilah

Sabtah

Ragmah

Sabteca

## The sons of Ragmah

Sheba

Dedan

**P** = Peoples to the south of Israel and Canaan

- Isaiah 11:11; Jeremiah 13:23 = **Nubia** and **Ethiopia** : peoples to the south of Egypt.

- Genesis 12:10,20 = **Egypt**

- = **Lybia**

- **Canaan**

- Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 43:3; 45:14 = **Iritrea**

- = ‘sand-land’[?] = stretch of Arabia. See Genesis 2:11; 10:29; 25:18; 1 Samuel 15:7. [Contrast **J**, 10:29].

- = Commercial city of Arabia

- Ezekiel 27:22 = city of southern Arabia

- = Shabataca, the foundation of the Nubian Pharaoh.

- Genesis 25:3; Isaiah 60:6; Jeremiah 6:20; Ezekiel 27:22; 38:13 Job 1:5; Psalm 72:15 = Saba, the Sabaeans of south-west Arabia. [**J**, 10:28!].

- Genesis 25:3; Ezekiel 38:13 [with Sheba]; Isaiah 21:13; Jeremiah 25:23; 49:8; Ezekiel 25:13.

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## Descendants of Ham 10:6-7,20





## First J insertion (Genesis 10:8-19)

The descendants of Cush are located not in Arabia but in Mesopotamia

**Cush begot Nimrod.** [= the legendary founder of the eastern empires (Micah 5:5 = Assyria)

**He was the first man of might on earth.**

**He was a mighty hunter before Yahweh. And so it is said:**

**‘Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before Yahweh’.**

**The beginning of his kingdom was**

**Babel**

**Erech**

**Akkad**

**Kalneh in the land of Shinar**

**From this he went up to**

**Asshur**

**Nineveh**

**Rehoboth-Ir**

**Kalah**

**and Resen, between Kalah**

**and Nineveh, the great city.**

- Genesis 11:9; Isaiah 13:1= Babylon
- The city of Gilgamesh to southeast of Babylon
- North of Babylon, founded by Sargon I c. 2500BC.

Kalneh?. Shinar = Modern Southern Iraq

- Important city of the Assyrian Empire on the Tigris.
- Capital of Assyrian Empire. South of Asshur.  
(Jonah 1:2; 3:2,3; 4:11; Judith 1:1)
- A city near Nineveh
- The royal residence south of Niniveh



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**And Mizraim begot**

Egypt

**the Ludim**

Jeremiah 46:9; Ezekiel 30:5 = in region of Egypt

**the Anamim**

?

**the Lehabim**

= Lybians

**the Naphtuhim**

?

**the Pathrusim**

Isaiah 11:11; Jeremiah 44:1,15; Ezekiel 30:14;  
Psalm 68:31 = Patros in upper Egypt.

**the Casluhim**

?

**and Kaphtorim,  
from  
whom come the  
Philistines.**

Amos 9:7; Jeremiah 47:4 = Cretans



**And Canaan begot  
Sidon his firstborn  
Heth**

**the Jebusites  
the Amorites**

**the Girgashites**

**the Hivites**

**the Arkites**

**the Sinites**

**the Arvadites**

**the Zemarites**

**the Hamathites.**

**Afterwards the Canaanites spread abroad so that the territory of the  
of the Canaanites extended from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza and  
towards Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboim as far as Lasha.**

**These are the descendants of Ham, by their families,  
their languages, their lands, and their nations [= 10:5,31]**

- so older than Tyre = Phoenicia. Judges 18:7; 1 Kings 5:20; 16:31. Compare Homer Iliad 6.290f).
- = the Hittites, Genesis 15:20
- = inhabitants of Jerusalem and environs: Joshua 15:8; 18:28; Judges 1:21; 19:10; 2 Samuel 5:6-9; Ezekiel 16:3,45.
- = people of the mountain country in central Palestine. Deuteronomy 1:7,19,20,44; Numbers 13:29; Joshua 11:3
- Genesis 15:21; Deuteronomy 7:1; Joshua 3:10; 24:11; Nehemiah 9:8.
- Joshua 9:7; 11:19; Genesis 34:2.
- A city north of Tripoli
- Near Ugarit, 1Chronicles 1:15
  
- Ezekiel 27:8,11 = most northern of Phoenician cities
- A Phoenician city south of Arvad
- Amos 6:2, on the Orontes River.



**To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japeth, children were born.**

**The descendants of Shem:  
Elam**

- = East of Babylon, capital at Susa.  
In fact non-Semitic!

**Asshur**

- City of the middle Tigris

**Arpachshad**

- = Kasdim: another name for Babylon, Genesis 11:10-11  
= Lubdu in the Upper Tigris

**Lud**

**Aram**

= Syria. Amos 9:7 (language = Aramaic)

**The descendants of Aram:  
Uz, Hul, Gether, Mash**

Presumably regions of Syria.



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**Asshur**

**Arpachshad**

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**The descendants of Aram:**

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**Arpachshad begot Shelah,  
and Shelar begot Eber.**

Verses 24-25 are names of persons.

**And to Eber two sons were born: the name of one was Peleg,  
because in his days the earth divided [Palag] itself and the  
name of his brother was Joktan.**

Verses 26-30 refer to tribes, mostly from South Arabia, east of Yemen.

**Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph,  
Hazarmaveth, Jerah  
Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah  
Obal, Abimael, Sheba  
Ophir, Havilah, Jobab. All these  
are the sons of Joktan.**

- Hazarmaveth is modern Hadramaut on the southwest coast of Arabia.
- Sheba, Genesis 25:3
- Ophir - Famous for its gold. Often mentioned in the Bible (Psalm 45:10). Probably in Arabia.

**And their territory extends from Mesha towards Separ as far as the  
mountains in the east. These are the descendants of Shem, by their  
families, their languages, their lands, and their nations.**



**These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations; and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.**