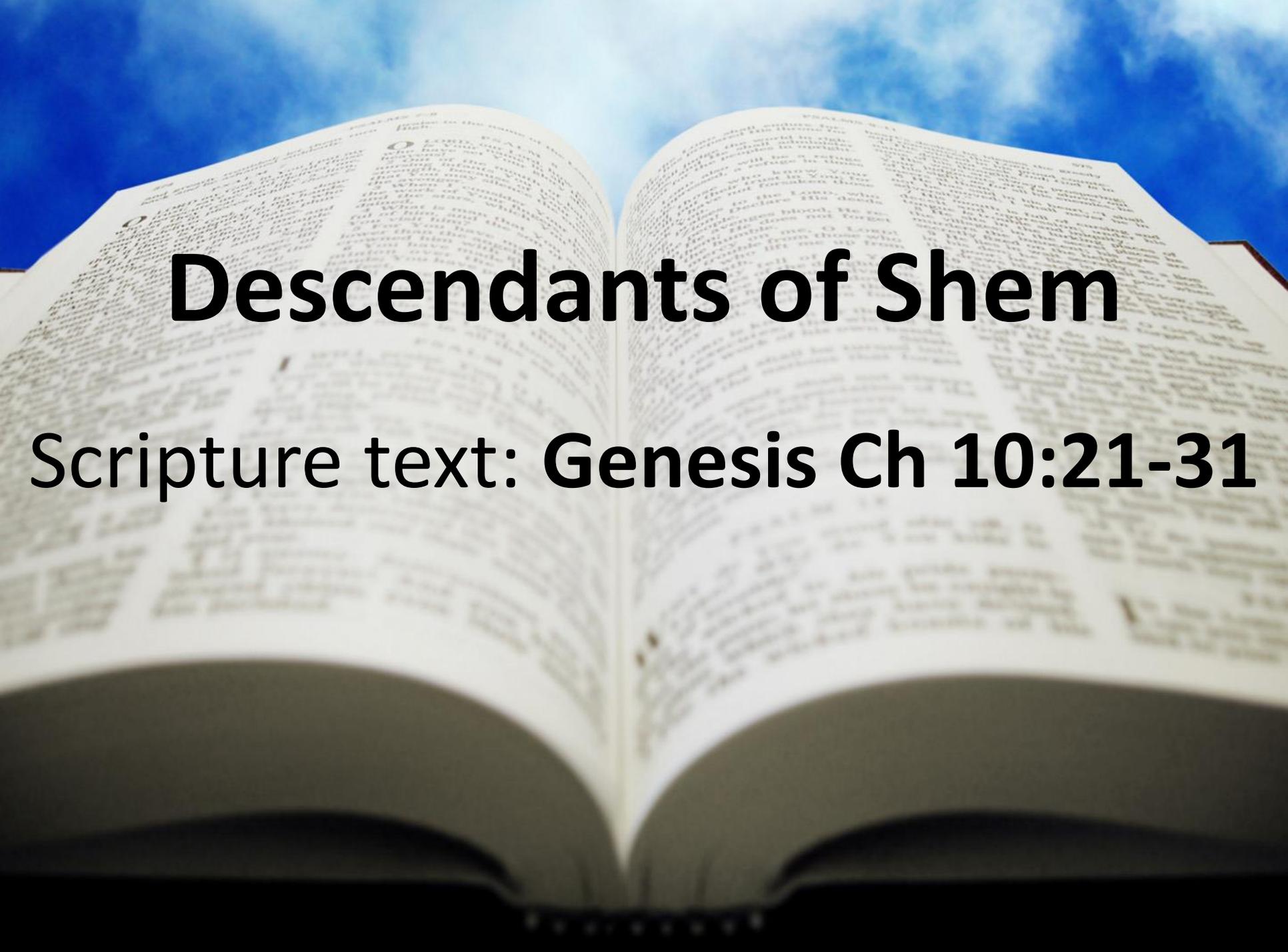


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Descendants of Shem

Scripture text: Genesis Ch 10:21-31

Genesis 10:21-24 To **Shem** also, the father of **all the children of Eber**, the elder brother of **Japheth**, children were born. The sons of Shem: **Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram**. The sons of Aram: **Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash**. Arpachshad fathered **Shelah**; and Shelah fathered **Eber**.

Abraham's ancestor (Gn 10:21–25; 11:14–17; 1 Chr 1:18–25; Lk 3:35) **from whom the word “Hebrew” may be derived.**

Tyndale Bible dictionary.

Eber (e'-bur) = He who passed over; the region beyond. A passer over. A shoot. (root = to pass over a river; to go through a land; to pass by). Beyond: the other side (as having crossed over).

Elam (e'-lam) = Hidden time; eternity. Youth; high. Their heaps; suckling them; eternal.

Asshur (ash'-ur) = A step; going forward; (root = to go straight on; to be fortunate). Lifted up; exalted. Level plain.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

ARPACHSHAD* Alternate spelling for Arphaxad
ARPHAXAD Shem's son and Noah's grandson,
born two years after the Flood. Arphaxad's
descendants were probably the Chaldeans (Gn
10:22–24; 11:10–13; 1 Chr 1:17–18, 24; Lk
3:36). Arphaxad was born two years after the
Flood when his father was one hundred years
old (Gn 11:10) and **was the grandfather of Eber,**
whom some believe was **ancestor of the**
Hebrews (1 Chr 1:17–25; Lk 3:35–36).

(2001). *Tyndale Bible dictionary. Tyndale reference library*

Lud (lud) = Bending; strife. To the firebrands;
travailing.

Aram (a'-ram) = High; elevated; lifted up;
magnified; exalted.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Genesis 10:23 The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul,
Gether, and Mash.

Uz (uz) = Counselor; counsel; firmness; (root = to consult). Also, Fertile; fruitful in trees; (root = to impress; to immerse oneself; i.e., the foot in the sand).

Hul (hul) = Writhing; trembling; circle.

Gether (ghe'-ther) = Fear (of the enemy); vale of trial. A proud spy.

Mash (mash) = Drawn out. He departed; he felt (groped).

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Genesis 10:24 Arpachshad fathered Shelah;
and Shelah fathered Eber.

Shelah #1 (she'-lah) = Prayer; petition; peace;
(root = request petition).

Shelah #2 (she'-lah) = Sent; shooting forth; i.e.,
of waters; (root = a weapon; a missile; a sprout).
A son of Arphaxad, of the line of Shem. A
descendant.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Eber (e'-bur) = He who passed over; the region beyond. A passer over. A shoot. (root = to pass over a river; to go through a land; to pass by).
Beyond: the other side (as having crossed over).
The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Genesis 10:25 To Eber were born **two sons**: the name of the one was **Peleg**, for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was **Joktan**.

Peleg (pe'-leg) = Division. A channel (as a cleft, dividing).

PELEG - Son of Eber and father of Reu (Gn 10:25; 11:16–19; 1 Chr 1:19, 25; Lk 3:35).

During his lifetime, the earth was divided (Peleg means “division” or “watercourse”). Precisely what the division refers to is still debated.

Suggestions include the geographical and linguistic dispersion following the Tower of

Babel fiasco (Gn 11:1–9). *Tyndale Bible dictionary.*

It is interesting to note: That in Genesis Ch 10, Peleg descendant is not mentioned, it is not mentioned until later in Chapter 11.

Genesis 11:18-19 When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu. And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

Joktan (jok'-tan) = He will be small; little; small; dispute. Chaldean: Insignificant.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

JOKTAN Eber's son and younger brother of Peleg. A number of Arabian groups descended from him (Gn 10:25–29; 1 Chr 1:19–23).

Tyndale Bible dictionary.

Genesis 10:26-29 Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, Obal, Abimael, Sheba, Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan.

Almodad (al-mo'-dad) = Immeasurable; increasing without measure; extension. The agitator.

Sheleph (she'-lef) = Drawn out; i.e., selected; drawing out; (root = to draw out; to draw off). Peace-offering of Jehovah.

Hazarmaveth (ha-zar-ma'-veth) = The court of death; death town. The enclosure of death.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Jerah (je'-rah) = Moon; son of the moon. Lunar.

Hadoram (ha-do'-ram) = Noble generation or race. Their glory. Hadar is high.

Uzal (u'-zal) = Going to and fro; wanderer; (root = to gad about). I shall be flooded.

Diklah (dik'-lah) = A palm tree; palm grove. The beaten-small fainted.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Obal (o'-bal) = Stripped; bare of leaves; bare; inconvenience of old age. Hill. Heaping confusion.

Abimael (a-bim'-ah-el) = My father is God. My God is father.

Sheba #1 (she'-bah) = Main. He who is coming.

Sheba #2 (she'-bah) = An oath. Captive.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Ophir (o'-fur) = Abundance; precious; rich; fat.
Reduced to ashes.

Havilah (hav'-il-ah) = Bringing forth; trembling (with pain); circle; (root = pang; pain; sorrow; especially of a pregnant woman). To declare to her.

Jobab (jo'-bab) = Howling; trumpet call; crying out; i.e., a desert; (root = to cry out; to shout).
He will cause crying.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Genesis 10:30 The territory in which they lived extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country of the east. These are the sons of Shem, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations. These are the clans 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.

MESHA (Place) Place in southern Arabia defining the western boundary of the territory in which the descendants of Joktan settled (Gn 10:30). **Its location is unknown.** Some suggest that Mesha was a seaport town situated along **the eastern shores of the Red Sea in the vicinity of what is modern Yemen;** others place it along the Persian Gulf's northwestern banks near the region of Mesene.

SEPHAR Geographical landmark defining one of the boundaries of the territory settled by the sons of Joktan (Gn 10:30). **Undoubtedly located in southern Arabia**, Sephar is most often identified with one of two towns bearing the Arabic name Zafar: the seaport town in central Yemen's Hadhramaut province, or the site in **southern Yemen**, once the capital of the Himyarites.

The descendants from **Shem** are recorded last. Elamites, descendants of Shem's first son **Elam**, dwelt in the highlands east of Babylonia. **Asshur** was the name of the region and people of Assyria, where Nimrod, a Hamite, had founded several cities (v. 11). **Arphaxad** resided northeast of Nineveh. **Lud** was the Ludbu of the Assyrians. Perhaps Lud was a shortened form of Ludda, possibly another name for Lydia (in what is now western Turkey). **Aram** was an ancestor of the Aramean tribes in the steppes of Mesopotamia. His descendants (v. 23) are not well known.

The note on Eber's son Peleg—that in his time the earth was divided—**seems to pinpoint the Babel experience (11:1–9)**. The verb *pālaḡ* is used in the Old Testament to describe **division into languages**. So the Babel event occurred five generations after the Flood.

What happened, that in five generations they stopped obeying God?

Did they forget what happened in the Flood?

Truth for today.—In spite of the many difficulties of identification in Genesis 10, there is one fact that is evident: all races of men are descended from the three sons of Noah (v. 32). Therefore, we all belong to one family. **If this is true, we should be able to live together in peace.** The problem is how to move from where we are to where we ought to be. If we could see that our present hostile stances are unrealistic and irrational, then we would find a way to correct them. Genesis 10 must not be ignored by the Christian.

Deuteronomy 32:6-9 Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? **Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?** Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you. **When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.**

Acts 17:24-27 The **God who made the world and everything in it**, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And **he made from one man every nation of mankind** to live on all the face of the earth, having **determined allotted periods and the boundaries** of their dwelling place, **that they should seek God**, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. **Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,**

Setting the Stage for the Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-4 Now the whole earth had **one language** and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, **let us** make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, **let us build ourselves a city** and a tower with its top in the heavens, and **let us make a name** for ourselves, **lest we be dispersed** over the face of the whole earth."

Things to consider:

Action - They built a city ...

Purpose – In order not to be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.

Desire – Security

Action - They built a tower with it's top in the heavens ...

Purpose – In order to make a name for themselves.

Desire - Praise

Jasher 7:44-45 And Nimrod dwelt in Shinar, and he reigned securely, and he fought with his enemies and he subdued them, and he prospered in all his battles, and **his kingdom became very great.** And all nations and tongues heard of his fame, and they gathered themselves to him, and **they bowed down to the earth, and they brought him offerings, and he became their lord and king,** and they all dwelt with him in the city at Shinar, and Nimrod reigned in the earth **over all the sons of Noah,** and they were all under his power and counsel.

Jasher 7:46-47 And all the earth was of one tongue and words of union, but **Nimrod did not go in the ways of the Lord, and he was more wicked than all the men that were before him, from the days of the flood until those days.** And he made gods of wood and stone, and he bowed down to them, and he rebelled against the Lord, and taught all his subjects and the people of the earth **his wicked ways;** and **Mardon** his son was more wicked than his father.

Jasher 7:48 And every one that heard of the acts of Mardon the son of Nimrod would say, concerning him, From **the wicked goeth forth wickedness**; therefore it became a proverb in the whole earth, saying, From the wicked goeth forth wickedness, and it was current in the words of men from that time to this.

How long does it take for Almighty God to judge the wicked?

2 Peter 2:1-3 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, **who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.** And many will follow their sensuality, and **because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.** And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. **Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.**

Jude 1:5-7 Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, **who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.** And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day-- just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, **serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.**

Proverb 30:5-9 Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. **Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die:** Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.