

Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Eleven: The Beginning of God's Work with Israel – Genesis 11:10-12:1

Read Genesis 11:10-12:1 carefully. From 11:10-27:

- 1) Compare the lifespan of the men in Shem's line following the Flood (see also Genesis 25:7) with the numbers given in chapter 5 and tell what change you find.

- 2) Use the following Biblical genealogies to answer "a" through "e" below: Genesis 5, Genesis 11:10-32, Ruth 4:18-22, and Luke 3:23-38.
 - a) Which name is included in Luke 3 but omitted from the list in Genesis 11?
 - b) If we include the extra name given in Luke 3, how many names would there be in the genealogy of Genesis 11:10-26? (Hint: Count the names of each *father*, omitting the three sons in verse 26.)
 - c) How many names are given in the genealogies in Genesis 5 (again, count the fathers and omit the three sons at the end of the list in verse 32) and Ruth 4:18-22 (count each name once)?
 - d) Compare Genesis 5:32 to Genesis 11:27. What triplicate reference is common to both?
 - e) Would your findings lead you to believe that every single generation was included in these genealogies or that they might only represent a select group? For further interest, count the number of names in each section of the genealogies given in Matthew 1.

- 3) Read Revelation 20:12. Regardless of whether the genealogies in the Bible are complete or selective, God sees, remembers, and records the details of every life. Name one specific way in which this comforts you today.

From Genesis 11:27-32:

- 4) Draw a family tree below to help you understand all the relationships given in Genesis 11:27-31. Include the additional information about Sarai in Genesis 20:2, 12.

- 5) Read Joshua 24:2-3.
- a) What information does Joshua 24:2 give about Terah?
 - b) Joshua 24:3 indicates God removed Abraham from this family practice. Who do you personally know that God has plucked from an ungodly family and called into a relationship with Himself?
- 6) Read Galatians 1:3-5. What has the Lord Jesus Christ rescued (delivered) you from? Be specific.

From Genesis 11:27-32:

- 7) What phrase in Genesis 11:31 finds a parallel in Genesis 11:2? Based on the repetition of this phrase and recalling what you learned in the previous lesson about the Tower of Babel incident, what inference can you make about the outcome of the group's journey in 11:31? See also 9:1, 7; 11:4, 8-9; Acts 7:2-4.
- 8) Did Terah accomplish his goal?
- 9) What is preventing you from reaching your potential in Christ? What have you "settled" for?

From Genesis 12:1:

- 10) Genesis 1-2 tells us that God began the human race with a single human being. In Genesis 12, God chose one man, Abram, to use for His divinely ordained purpose. What other evidence can you find in Genesis 1-11 that one man or woman can have a tremendous and lasting influence, for good or for evil?
- 11) God sent Abram from one location and life into another. Next to the following passages, indicate who else was sent by God:
- a) Exodus 3:10-11
 - b) 1 Kings 18:1-2
 - c) Isaiah 6:8
 - d) Jeremiah 1:4-7
 - e) Jonah 1:1-3
 - f) Mark 6:6-13
 - g) Acts 9:10-17
 - h) Acts 26:1, 13-18

12) Read Matthew 28:18-20. This commission of Jesus was intended for every believer. Considering your answers to both Questions 10 and 11, what are the implications for you of being “sent” at this time of your life? How will this knowledge cause you to pray differently?

From Genesis 12:1:

13) What three things did God ask Abram to leave behind?

14) Is there something you value that God has recently asked you to leave behind?

15) According to Genesis 12:1 and Hebrews 11:8:

- a) Where was Abram to go?
- b) Did he know where this was?
- c) What reason does the Hebrews verse give for Abraham’s departure? (Abram becomes Abraham later on in Genesis.)
- d) What comes first, faith or obedience? Explain how this works in your own life.