

God's Funnel

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 10:1-32.

B. The contributions of Noah's sons.

1. Shem's sons, the Semites, were given spiritual responsibility.
2. Ham's sons are the technicians of mankind.
3. Japheth's sons were given intellectual enlargement.

II. Tracing the sons.

A. Japheth's descendents.

1. These are essentially Arian.
2. Just because people are different does not mean they are inferior or superior.
3. Indians and Europeans all trace their background to Japheth.
4. His sons.
 - a. Gomer—Celts.
 - b. Riphath—Europeans.
 - c. Torgarmah—Turks and Germans.
 - d. Madai—Medes.
 - e. Javan—Greeks.

B. Ham's descendents.

1. All the great civilizations came from Ham.
2. They were the most able to adapt themselves.
3. His sons.
 - a. Cush—Southern Arabia and Ethiopia.
 - b. Egypt—Egypt.

c. Put—Lydea.

d. Canaan—Southern Palestine.

4. Focus on Nimrod the great hunter.

a. He was a mighty man and a hunter before the Lord.

b. He brought about a line that was perverted.

c. It brought about Babylonianism—an attempt to gain earthly honor by means of religious authority.

d. This thought has pervaded all major religions.

5. Egypt is always a picture of the world.

6. The Philistines are always a picture of the religious flesh—Pharisaism.

7. The sons of Canaan.

a. They were morally degraded people.

b. They were this way because of demonic influence and possession among them.

1) Sidon.

2) Heth—China.

3) Sinites.

C. Shem's descendents.

1. He was the father of the children of Eber where the term Hebrew is derived from.

2. Peleg was a son of Eber and his presence in the text may explain continental divide.

III. God's funnel.

A. God is narrowing the funnel of families He is going to deal with to the family of Shem.

B. God does this because of the limitations of our mind and not His.

C. Israel has become the sample nation—the sample people—explaining our own story under God.

D. We, like Israel, cannot live or fulfill ourselves outside of God.

Application questions:

1. What stood out to you about the results of the different lines of people?

2. What is God's intent in His "funneled" focus on the line of Shem?

3. How were the Jews in the Old Testament an example for Christians today? Explain.
