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Hope for the Nations

Lesson 3 • Genesis 4–11

God's Heart for the Nations is Revealed in His Plan for Creation and His Promise of Redemption!

- ▶ **God's Plan for Creation:** His PRESENCE ruling with His PEOPLE over His PLACE! Genesis 1:26-28
- ▶ **God's Promise of Redemption:** The spiritual war will be won by a death BLOW to the Serpent's head that includes a death BITE to the heel of the woman's Seed! Genesis 3:15

*And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." Genesis 3:15*

*But If God's Missionary Heart for the Nations Begins in Genesis 1:26-28, Then What Do We Learn
About His Heart for the Nations After the Fall in Genesis 4 – 11?*

The Living God is a Missionary God Who Offers HOPE to the Rebellious Nations!

Genesis 4 – 11 Reminds Us that There Is Hope at the End of the Rainbow for the All the Rebellious Nations of the Earth!

Hope for the Nations Is Revealed in...

1. God's PURSUIT of His Rebel Creation in Spite of Their Depraved Hearts.

MANKIND'S SIN	GOD'S JUDGEMENT	GOD'S GRACE <small>(People Respond with Either an Obedient Faith or Not!)</small>
SIN'S ALIENATION BEARS FRUIT Genesis 4 – 5		
Cain murders his brother, Abel, in spite of God's gracious word of warning. (4:1-8) Cain builds a city to make name for his son and his line create a godless culture filled with profanity, immorality, and brutality.	God curses Cain separating him from fruitful ground and the face of His presence. (4:9-14) [God's judgment is delayed until the Flood.]	God shows mercy in not killing Cain or letting others kill him by giving him a mark. (4:15-16) God gives Eve another son to replace Abel and men begin to call on the Name of the LORD. (4:25-26)
Adam's line is born in his likeness as sinners by birth and by choice yet. (5:1-32)	God's curse of death upon His Image--bearers is passed on – "And he died" (8x)	God's raptures Enoch up into His presence so that Enoch who walked with Him does not have to face death. (5:22-24)
SIN'S CORRUPTION MULTIPLIES Genesis 6 – 9		
Demon-influenced tyrants seek to rule like gods and fill the earth with immorality, brutality, and idolatry. (6:1-4) Humanity is living out the depravity of their hearts and corrupting all of creation and filling it with violence. (6:11-13) Noah's three sons are fruitful and multiply but fill the earth with sinners like their father Noah and all the way back to Adam. (9:18-29)	God limits their lifespan to 120 years or more likely limits His mercy to 120 years until the flood. (6:3) God determines to bring a global flood to destroy all flesh from the face of the earth. (6:5-7, 11-13; 1-24) Noah curses the line of Canaan –this is NOT a curse upon Africans and to justify slavery. (9:18-29)	The Spirit is striving with sinners to convict them and their sinful rebellion will not last forever. (6:3) God's heart is broken over humanity's sin and He cares for His creation – all of it! (6:6) God gives grace to Noah and remembers him and His creation in the midst of judgment. (6:8; 8:1-3) God makes a covenant with Noah and all of creation to never again destroy all the earth by water. (8:15-9:17) Noah blesses the line of Shem –this IS the line of Abraham. (9:27)
SIN'S REVOLUTION FILLS THE EARTH Genesis 10 – 11		
Nimrod – like Cain and Lamech - becomes a city-builder , (Babylon & Ninevah), a mighty hunter , a kingdom ruler , and ultimately a tower builder with the rest of humanity in a world without God. (10:8-12) Humanity gathers together in one place to build a city with a tower up to the heavens to make a name for themselves and not be scattered throughout the whole earth. (11:1-4)	God comes down in judgment to confuse their language and scatter the nations over the whole earth. (11:5-9)	God comes down in mercy to see what His rebellious image-bearers are doing. (11:5-6) God confuses their language to restrain their rebellious cooperation. (11:7) God scatters the nations over the face of the whole earth to restrain their rebellion and progressively fulfill His creation plan and redemption promise through the line of Shem and the family of one man – ABRAHAM! (11:7-32)

2. God's PROVISION of a Covenant with Noah and All of Creation.

Genesis 6:17-18; 8:1-3, 8:15-9:17

A covenant is a promise between two parties that creates a special relationship that is confirmed by an oath, usually with a blood sacrifice and a sign to remember the binding commitment.

- ▶ God's creation purpose is now sealed with a covenant between the LORD and Noah as well as the entire creation!
 1. The LORD repeats His **BLESSING** on His creatures: *Be fruitful and multiply on the earth!* (Gen 8:17; 2:22)
 2. Noah **OFFERS** obedient worship: *He builds an altar to offer a whole burnt offering.* (Gen 8:20; 3:21; 4:4, 26)
 3. The LORD's **WRATH** is satisfied: *He is pleased with Noah's obedient worship and promises to Himself to preserve His creation in spite of mankind's sinful hearts.* (8:21-22)
 4. The LORD repeats His **BLESSING** on mankind through Noah again after the sacrifice. (9:1; 1:26-28)
 5. The LORD **MAKES CHANGES** in the stewardship/management of this age/stage/dispensation. (9:2-6)
 6. God **ESTABLISHES** a covenant. (9:8-17)

Five Characteristics of the Covenant with Noah

- 1) It's a **PROMISE**: *The LORD promises to never again destroy all of creation by a global flood.*
 - 2) It's an **UNCONDITIONAL/ETERNAL** Covenant: *The LORD alone (unilateral) will fulfill the conditions and keep this promise until His purposes for creation are fulfilled in the New Creation (eternal)!*
 - 3) It's an **UNIVERSAL** Covenant: *Noah is the chosen Mediator but the covenant is made with the entire creation!*
 - 4) It's a Covenant with a **SIGN**: *The rainbow is a sign for God to remember His covenant promise!*
 - 5) Noah is the **MEDIATOR**: *Noah represents all peoples and nations before God as his chosen image-bearer!*
7. Noah and his family are **SINNERS** saved by grace through faith. (9:18-29)

3. God's PURPOSE in the Table of Nations and Tower of Babel. **Genesis 10:1 – 11:9**

- ▶ What was God's purpose in recording the Table of Nations? *Genesis 10:1-32*
- ▶ What was God's purpose in confusing and scattering at the Tower of Babel? *Genesis 11:1-9*

God Is Gracious to Offer Hope for the Languages He Confused and the Nations He Scattered!

On the day the Church was born all three of these judgments were reversed in Christ! Acts 2:5-13, 37-42

- 1) Every **nation was represented** among the scattered Jews from all over the Roman Empire by the providential care of God the Father.
- 2) Each people group heard the gospel in **their own heart language** with a miracle of speaking/hearing by God the Spirit.
- 3) Each one who responded by faith were **gathered into one people** in God the Son.

Why Is Jesus Is the Refuge for All the Nations?

Because God's Hope for the Nations Will Ultimately Be Revealed in the Person Who Will Come Through the Line of Shem and Abraham and David to Jesus, the Promised Seed of the Woman! Genesis 11:10-32

Genesis 4 – 11 Reminds Us that There Is Hope at the End of the Rainbow for the All the Rebellious Nations of the Earth!

- Remember there is **only one race** with one problem: *Every person is a depraved sinner by birth and by choice.*
- Remember everyone deserves **only one thing** from God: *His judgment which is deserved and inescapable.*
- Remember there is **only one way of salvation** for all people: *By grace through faith in God's covenant promises.*
- Remember there is **only one hope** for the nations: *God's refuge for the nations is His Promised Seed – the God-Man Jesus Christ!*