Genesis

## **Out into the world (10:1-12:1)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible.*

## **The Nations Begin (10:1-32)**

* It is in the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth we see the nations of the world begin.
* From these lines, we will see the continuation of the Seed through Shem
  + And the issues that will arise between the nations, that still cause problems today.
    - Nimrod is not as cool as he sounds
* Yet through them all, God’s Word still goes forth.

## **“If you want to act different…” (11:1-9)**

* One family, with one language.
  + But there was trouble in the curse of Canaan
  + Although one language, they did not act like one family
* The land of Shinar in the east
  + Near the land of Canaan.
  + Genesis 10:10
* Bricks for stone
  + Possibly a new construction method
  + The region had a lack of stones that would have been suitable for construction, but plentiful in clay.
  + Bitumen
    - The ‘Crazy Glue’ of the day
    - Exodus 2:3
* And since they have bricks…
  + Time to build “themselves” a city and a tower.
    - Why?
      * They did not want to be dispersed throughout the earth.
        + This was a bold disregard for God’s command.
        + Genesis 9:7
      * They did not fear God
    - Was the city and tower a problem?
      * A tower to withstand another flood?
      * A city for everybody to stay?
* God comes down
  + How far along was the city and the tower?
    - Would that matter?
  + Jeremiah 23:23-24
  + What the ungodly don’t want to happen… happens!
    - Psalm 10:11
  + Yet what the godly do want to happen!
    - Come, Lord Jesus!
  + “The Lord sees what the ungodly are doing. And now He is getting ready to descend, that those who laugh smugly at all the threats and mistakenly suppose that their power cannot be broken may become aware that their plans are not hidden from God.” – Luther
    - Psalm 2:4-5
    - The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)
  + V.6
    - “And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.”
      * Life with no law
  + V.7
    - “Let us”
      * Trinitarian
      * Not God and the angels
    - Psalm 2:4
    - What happens when we cannot understand one another?
      * What does God intend to unite us?
      * Acts 2:4-6!!
  + Man intended for evil, but God used it for good.
    - Now they have no option but to go and fill the earth and the Lord commanded.
      * Luke 1:51
    - Also shows the frustration of their hearts.
  + Note the repetition in v.9
    - A word of warning.

## **The Lineage of the Seed Continues (11:10-26)**

* What do you notice about these generations?
* Why are they important for us to know?

## **A New Chapter Begins (11:27-32)**

* A slight back-up and repetition
* Terah
  + Not as godly as we may imagine
    - Joshua 24:2
    - Does the lineage of the Seed need to be perfect?
* Terah fathers Abram, Nahor, and Haran
  + In this order?
  + The land of Ur
    - Located on the west bank of the Euphrates in southern Babylon
    - The Hebrew word denotes light or fire
    - Luther makes a connection to what would have been the brilliance of the sacrificial fires to the Lord…
      * But used in a worldly recognition rather than to the Lord
      * Would become the center of the cult of the Mesopotamian moon god, Sin. (Lutheran Study Bible)
    - This was not a godly place that Terah had brought his children to!
      * Possibly a city Nimrod had founded after Babel
  + Haran dies in his father’s presence
    - Leaving his son Lot without a father.
      * Hence we will see the connection he has with Abram later on.
    - There is a legend that Luther refers to where Abram and Haran fell into a fire. Haran died, but Abram endured the flames because of his righteousness.
      * Luther calls it out
  + Now moves the family north to the region Haran, which was a commercial center.
* With Haran dead, the focus shifts to Abram
  + Abram marries Sarai
    - And she is barren
      * As we have seen, these descendants are living fewer years and having children earlier.
      * To be barren was a belief of punishment from God.
        + The wicked prosper
        + The good prosper
        + Why Sarai?
  + Do not forget Lot.

## **A Call Is Given: An Introduction (12:1)**

* Why Abram?
  + Luther contends that Shem and his descendants lived in land of Canaan according to 14:18, connecting Shem to Melchizedek.
    - May be a bit of a stretch on Luther’s part.
    - So far, I have not found a connection.
    - Yet, why not take one of those who were still walking with the Lord?
      * Paul and Ephesians 3:8
  + Hope for those crushed by sin
    - The Lord God is the savior of sinners.
    - The Lord God has limitless kindness.
    - To block the road to pride
      * Abram can’t say “I deserve this from God!”
  + Romans 9:16
* How did Abram hear this call?
  + Directly from the Lord God?
  + Or through Shem or one of his descendants?
* “Get out of there!”
  + This is an imperative command.
    - Therefore this is spoken as a great warning.
    - There is a reason for Abram and his family to flee.
  + A recognition of the wickedness and idolatry that was taking place at the Haran.
* “To a land I will show you.”
  + Just go.
  + Don’t know where…
  + Just go.
* Don’t forget about Sarai.
  + 1 Peter 3:6
  + Sarai has to agree to this!
    - This is not just a faith thing for Abram.