

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Story of Peoples

Speaker:

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Date:

August 6, 2023

Scriptures:

Genesis 10:1-32

Theme: Receive your identity and joy from the Lord.

Introduction: The great story of our age is *expressive individualism*—the idea that you must look within to find your authentic identity and happiness. It is a story in opposition to Scripture, which teaches that your identity is as God's creation, in his image, and that your purpose and happiness are found in living for his glory. The Table of Nations in Genesis 10 is part of that story that points us to the Lord and his purposes for his people.

Genesis 10 contains 5 themes to instruct us:

1. Unity

All of mankind descends from Adam, through Noah. There is but one race, the human race, and we all belong to it.

We know, then, that everyone knows God in some respect, even if they are suppressing that knowledge (Rom 1). All people have dignity from the Lord and are accountable to him.

2. Division

The first division occurs among Noah's 3 sons, with the seed of the serpent being represented esp. by Ham, and the seed of the woman through Shem.

But people are also classified clans, languages, lands, and nations. The divisions among mankind are not necessarily sinful.

The Lord also calls us to prioritize certain relationships according to his providence. We are not designed to carry the burdens of the entire world; but we are called to particular roles and burdens for his glory.

3. Completion

There are 70 nations listed, symbolizing the fulness or completion of God's plan. He is filling the earth with his image-bearers and bringing his plan to completion.

As we know the Lord, we find peace and rest in his sovereign rule. Problems and troubles will come, and we can and must trust him at all times.

4. Might

Nimrod is the most noteworthy character in this chapter. He was mighty and accomplished. He made an impact; but the cities he founded were evil.

He shows the perils and promise of human might. It can be misused and abused; but God's people can exercise authority and dominion in faith.

5. Salvation

Throughout this chapter, the Lord is preserving the line of his people, preparing the way for the Messiah. We should lead our families to love and fear the Lord.

Questions:

1. Where are you looking for happiness and purpose in life?
2. Are you content in the roles and responsibilities the Lord has given you?
3. Are you anxious? How does the Lord's sovereignty apply to your anxiety?