

Background

The notes in this lesson provide a guide for studying the background that sets the stage for the book of Judges. There is some history between Israel and many of these nations that goes back to that earliest generation that lived on both sides of the flood: Noah's three sons. Apparently, all the sin that God wiped out in the flood didn't die out, but remained lodged in the hearts of men and resurfaced years later. The curse of Noah becomes the prophetic backdrop for the books of Joshua and Judges.

Genesis 9:18-29 – Noah's Curse on Ham's descendant (Canaan)

- This event (it is difficult to determine exactly what happened) displays something of the character of Ham, and the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree. Ultimately, Ham sought to dishonor his father while Shem and Japheth tried to honor him.
- This was recorded by Moses before the Israelites entered the Promised Land. Thus, we see that the fulfillment of the curse was coming into focus.

Genesis 10:1-20 – The Table of Nations

- Japheth is the father of what we recognize as the Baltic and European nations
- Three of Ham's sons and their descendants played significant (and negative) roles in Israel's history:
 - Mizraim
 - Egyptians (alternate name of Mizraim)
 - Philistines
 - Cush begat Nimrod who established:
 - Babel (eventually became Babylon)
 - Ninevah (capital city of Assyria)
 - Canaan
 - Sidon (Sidonians)
 - Heth (Hittites)
 - Jebus (Jebusites)
 - Amorite
 - Girgashite
 - Hivite

It was the descendants of Canaan that settled throughout the Promised Land, down toward Sodom and Gomorrah. They were they were the ones whose wickedness grew so great that God destroyed them
- Genesis 15:16 was more than the curse; it was prophetic of what would transpire because of their evil direction.
- See *Judges 3:1-6*. It was these nations, the descendants of Ham (predominantly Canaan) that the Lord left to test Israel.

Genesis 11:10-32 – Shem’s descendants (Semitic people)

- Aram (Syrians)
- Eber (Hebrews)
- Terah
 - Nahor
 - Lot
 - Ammon (Ammonites)
 - Moab (Moabites)
 - Abram
 - Ishmael (Ishmaelites)
 - Isaac
 - Esau (Edomites)
 - Jacob (Israelites)

Getting to Judges

- *Genesis 12:1-8* – God promises to give Abram a nation and a land and brings him to Canaan.
- Birth of descendants to the 12 sons of Israel
- *Genesis 46:1-4* – God tells Jacob to go to Egypt and that he will make him a great nation and bring him back up again.
- In Exodus at Sinai, God makes Israel a nation.
- *Exodus 33:12-16* – God promised to go up with the people.
- *Numbers 13:25-33* – An evil report of the land is given by the spies.
- God curses that generation to death in the wilderness, another would enter in.
The generation raised in the wilderness would perhaps be the godliest generation ever to live in Israel.
- *Joshua 5:13-15* – Joshua stands face to face with the Captain of the Lord’s army, who would lead Israel into battle and continue with them throughout their conquests of the land.
- *Judges 2:1-5* – The change in the involvement of the Angel of the Lord is a significant shift that creates the narrative of the Book of Judges.