**‘Focusing on One Family to Begin Anew’**

Noah was the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. His three sons became the seventy nations which are identified in Genesis 10. These seventy nations were handed over to other “gods” by God because of the Babel debacle.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1)

Having given over the nations to other “gods,” God was left with a dilemma. How was He going to fulfill the promise He’d made in Genesis 3 to crush the serpent’s head? His solution was astonishing. It was an act of profound love and grace for the nations who had disowned Him. God would zero in on one family out of those nations, and build a new nation. It would be the seventy-first nation. The nation He would build would belong to Him and be His portion from **all** of the nations. The genealogy, which is included in Genesis 11, charts the beginning of this new nation. We read:

**10 This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. 11 After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.**
**12 Arphaxad lived thirty-five years, and begot Salah. 13 After he begot Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.**
**14 Salah lived thirty years, and begot Eber. 15 After he begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.**
**16 Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot Peleg. 17 After he begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters.**

[At this point, Shem’s descendant Peleg, his son Reu, and Reu’s descendants become the focus of God’s plan. Reu becomes the branch out of Peleg’s line that God uses to begin anew.]

**18 Peleg lived thirty years, and begot Reu. 19 After he begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years, and begot sons and daughters.**
**20 Reu lived thirty-two years, and begot Serug. 21 After he begot Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters.**
**22 Serug lived thirty years, and begot Nahor. 23 After he begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.**
**24 Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and begot Terah. 25 After he begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters.**
**26 Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.**
**27 This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. 28 And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. 29 Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. 30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child.**
**31 And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. 32 So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.** Genesis 11:10-32

God had chosen a family from which He would make a new nation. Beginning in Genesis 12, God makes another choice, an unlikely one. He will come to Terah’s son, Abram. God will make some promises to Abram[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) that don’t make sense, because Sarai is barren. How will God build a new nation with a couple that’s barren?

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/#_ftnref1) Deuteronomy 32:8-9

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/#_ftnref1) The promises of the LORD to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3 are: 1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”