

TABLE OF NATIONS

Genesis 10

Since all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for us (2 Tim 3:16-17), even a list of names like we find in Genesis 10 can be a tool for our edification.

What Genesis 10 produces

Genesis 10 serves as genealogical proof that God was faithful to the promise he made to Noah and his sons (Gen 8:20 - 9:7).

Genesis 10 contains many of Israel's enemies, such as:

Shem	Ham	Japheth
Aram (Syrians)	Canaan	Javen (Greeks & Romans)
Asshur (Assyrians)	Mizraim (Egypt)	
Elam (Persia)	Caphtor (Philistines)	

The nation of Israel wasn't above the table of nations, but was located right in the middle of it (Deut 7:6-8).

Just like the nation of Israel, there was nothing desirable in us (1 Cor 1:26-29). Therefore, our response should be grateful humility.

Why we resist it

Rather than boasting (finding their confidence to face the day) in the Lord, the nation of Israel boasted in other things, such as their spiritual performance and tribal identity (Phil 3:4-6).

Israel's, and our, boasting is typically based on self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is looking to ourselves to put us "in the right" or make us acceptable.

We can diagnose our self-righteousness by looking at how we respond to hurting, broken people, and how we respond to criticism.

How Jesus changes everything

1 Peter 2:4-10 reveals that our change of status (v.9-10) came about because we received Jesus' status (v.4-5).

On the cross, Jesus embraced the full extent of our shame (Heb 12:2) so that we might never be put to shame (1 Pet 2:6).

Jesus is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. The only thing we have to boast in is the Lord (1 Cor 1:30-31).

Key Point: Our only boast is God's faithful grace to the undeserving.

Small Group Application Questions:

Where do we tend to look for the confidence we need to face the day?

Israel's self-righteousness prevented it from being a light to the nations. How does self-righteousness quietly affect relationships at home, church, or work?

What would it look like for you to boast in Jesus this week? How can you declare his excellencies in your sphere of influence?