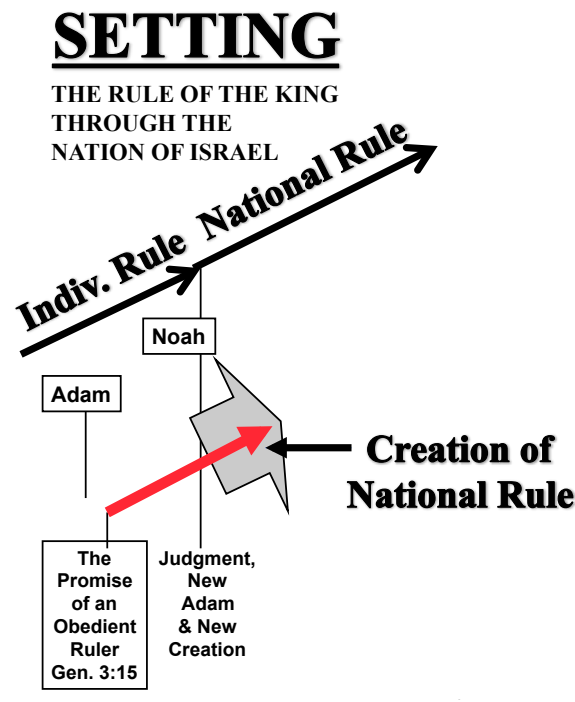


CHAPTER 9

THE NATIONAL RULE:

The Creation of the Nations

Now that God has established exactly how He is going to move His Messiah into place to bring forth a New Creation through One like Noah, God moves to create the nations and rule over them in His Messiah (“Seed of the Woman”). The nation, Israel, will be the nation through whom the whole world will be blessed with the message of Messiah.

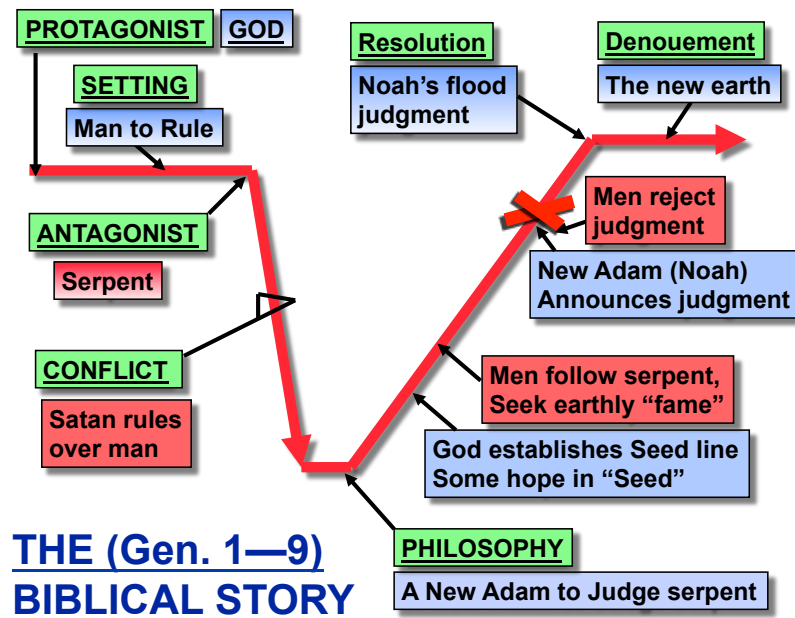


The Individual Rule as a Microcosm of the National Rule

The individual rule and the national rule are parallel to one another. The individual rule will be enveloped by the national rule with the Genesis 3:15 “Seed of the Woman” sitting on the throne of Israel.

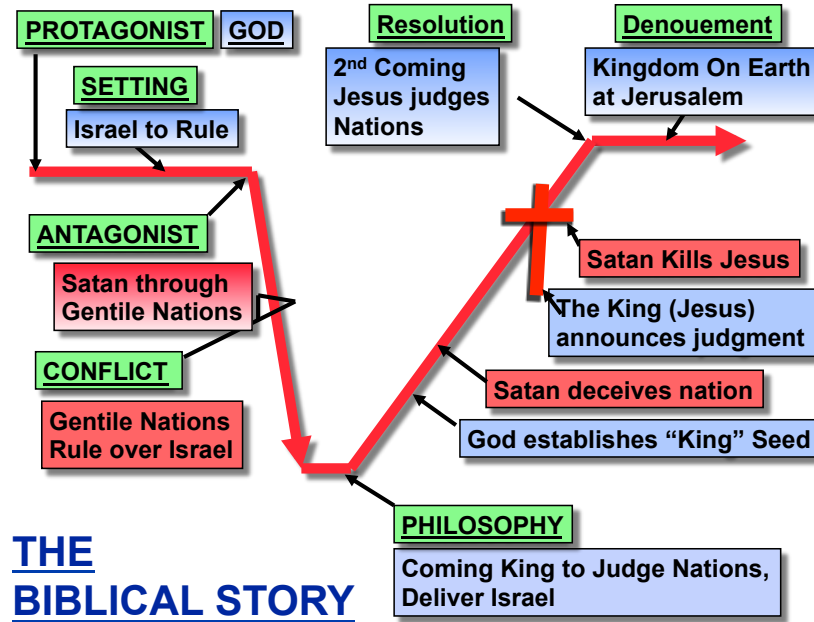
The Individual Rule: Setting, Conflict, Rising Action, Resolution

The creation of the individual rule of man had God creating man as ruler. Man fell, and God promised a new Adam. Adam received the curse of death and was exiled from the garden, his center from which he was to rule the world. After a time Noah, the Anointed one (a new Adam) appeared, announced the judgment and then following a delay, Noah administered the judgment and delivery of the righteous into a new earth.



The National Rule: Setting, Conflict, Rising Action, Resolution

Similarly, the creation of the national rule had God creating Israel as ruler, they would also fall, and would receive death by being exiled into Gentile lands (“Times of the Gentiles”). God would then promise that the National King would come and deliver the nation. After a time, Jesus would appear, announce the judgment and then, like Noah, following a delay, would administer the judgment on unbelieving nations and deliver Israel, and through them, the righteous Gentiles into a new earth.



Creation of Nations And the Promise of Seed in Shem

Of course, before Noah left the scene he announced that the Seed of the Woman would reside in the line of Shem. He, thus, would come from the nation Israel formed from Shem.

"May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant" (Genesis 9:27).

National Creation: God establishes the Nations to Represent Him

As the text moves from Noah's failure and the failure of Ham, the thing to remember is that God outlined very clearly the Individual Rule of the Christ to come and illustrated it in Genesis 3:15-24.

Now in Genesis 10 God moves to establish national rule. The nations are to turn to His Genesis 3:15 Seed (illustrated in Noah) to deliver them as has been the case since Genesis 3:15. It is the coming Seed that will reunite them with the God of the heavens.

In Genesis 10 God fills the earth from the three sons of Noah and divides them up into nations. These nations are to represent Him over the earth.

"Setting:" Creation of National Rule (the Nations)

From Noah comes the three sons who will found the nations that fill the world.

“Now these are the generations (*toledot*) of **Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah**; and sons were born to them after the flood.” (Genesis 10:1)

Japheth

The sons of **Japheth** were Gomer and Magog and Madai and Javan and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras. (Genesis 10:2)

“From these the coastlands of the **nations** were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their **nations**.” (Genesis 10:5)

Ham

“These are the sons of **Ham**, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, by their **nations**.” (Genesis 10:20)

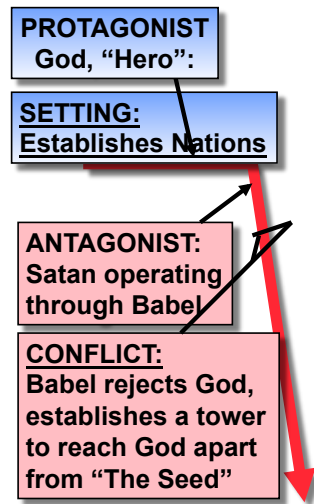
Shem

“These are the sons of **Shem**, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their **nations**.” (Genesis 10:31)

Summary

“These are the families of the **sons of Noah**, according to their genealogies, by their **nations**; and out of these the **nations** were separated on the earth after the flood.” (Genesis 10:32)

The Conflict: A Single Nation Babylon, attempts to be God’s representative through Physical Means (Human Reasoning)



THE BIBLICAL STORY

By now the astute contextual reader should automatically expect that Satan will enter ("human wisdom") into the reverie of God's re-establishment of His rule and attempt to interrupt God's plan (revelation of the "Seed"). Thus as the nations are now introduced, the question is whether they will follow the Seed of the Woman (revelation) or the serpent (human wisdom and self-elevation)? Will they follow satanically-sourced human wisdom and operate through their physical perception to try to approach God on their own terms? One should expect that the nations, just like Adam and Eve (and Cain), would follow the serpent's temptation to make themselves famous on the earth.

Babel: The Satanic City and Tower

The author then moves from the three sons, to focus on one son, Ham, and his progeny. The group that comes from Ham chooses to identify with a city founded by Nimrod¹ as their leader² (10:10). The group begins to build a city (a city-nation) and a tower "whose top will reach into heaven." The city, Babel (Babylon), is an attempt to be the means by which the world would be ruled on behalf of (the) god(s). As the garden was the place from which man would rule the world (and the later City of Jerusalem in Israel from which Israel would rule the world), so also this was a city-nation that was to

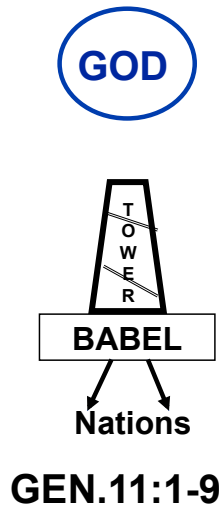
¹ Note that Nimrod is a "mighty hunter before the Lord." This, in context, means that God's assessment ("God saw") of Nimrod was that he was a mighty hunter. This would be earthly fame, again something that condemns Nimrod as fallen.

² Note the fame of a city and a man similar to Cain naming a city after his son in Genesis 4.

be the domain from which man ruled the world. The tower was the means by which they, as the city-nation, would reach God. The design was that the world would come to Babel and access the god(s) through the tower.

Babel's Physical Attempts to Reach God

Their concept of doing right was once again limited to their natural eyes. While God had prescribed the sacrifice (3:21), representing His coming One (3:15), as the means to reach Him, Babel determined that they could do it by themselves through human means.³ Of course, this recalls Cain who invented a god of his own and worshipped him through human reasoning (his sacrifice of vegetables). Now Babel invented a tower through which they felt they would reach their imagination-created god.



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Examining the statements of these people demonstrates that their desires to access god(s) was through human reasoning contrary to the well-established revelation of God.

- “... lest we be scattered”: A direct contrast to God’s command to fill the earth.
- “... come let us”: A demonstration of their human wisdom and prowess as an indication of their self-achievement through which they would access God.
- “... And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.” They even used man-made materials instead of natural materials so as to take human credit for the achievement of reaching God.

³ Again the reader must be very careful not to read this story as an isolated story. In context, these people are ignoring the revelation of God for their own self-attempts.

- “ . . . a city and a tower:” This was the nation (city-nation) as the capital of the world and the tower as the access to God (there was a place to meet the god at the top)
- “ . . . make for ourselves a name . . . ” A name was again the fame they sought through their own eyes, famous in the world’s eyes.

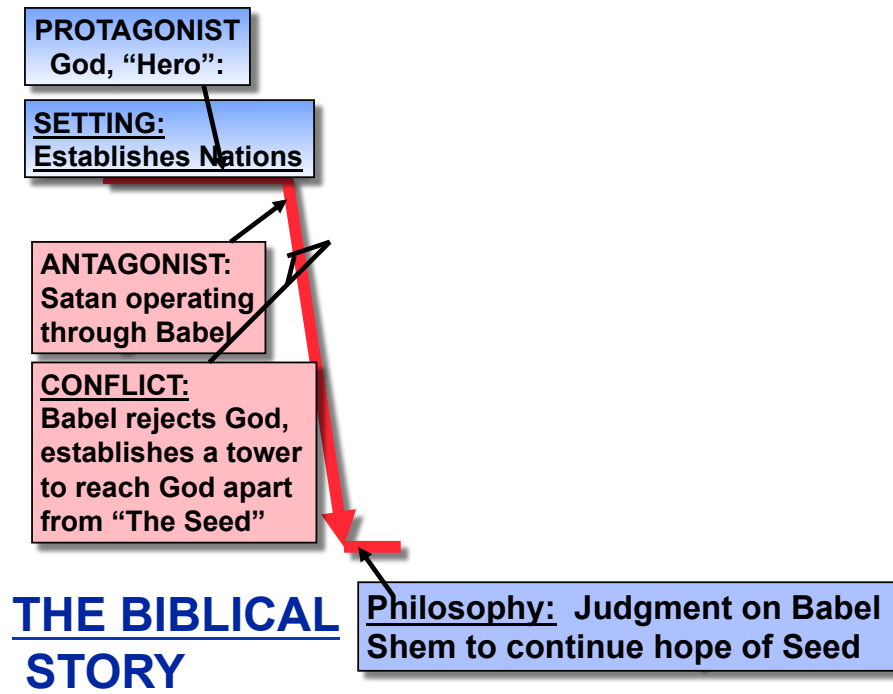
So now Babel rebelled against God and was representing Satan and their own greatness throughout the world based on the physical realm and human wisdom. God’s desire was interrupted once more by a nation that wanted to glorify itself through its own perception of how to approach the god of the heavens instead of God’s revealed desire, the “Seed of the Woman.”

The Rising Action: The Judgment on Babel, the Deliverance through Shem

The action by Babel was nothing short of what Eve had done, that is, become their own determiners of right and wrong, of access to God. It is also similar to Cain who had sacrificed according to his own wisdom. Now God begins to rectify the problem by first judging Babel so that it is prevented from its purpose⁴. Like Cain, they are not destroyed but are scattered, thus again demonstrating that this national seed of the serpent will be judged later (delay of judgment). In the meantime they will multiply others who, like themselves, will reject the promise of God and persecute the righteous.

Of course, knowing the rest of the Biblical Story reveals the fulfillment of this prophecy since Babel becomes Babylon who would destroy Israel and take them into captivity in 586 B.C (cf. 2 Kings 17). Even later in the eschaton, Babylon will rise again to make a final attempt to rule over the world and Israel, when they will be finally destroyed in Revelation 17—18.

⁴ This statement that “nothing they attempt will be impossible” (11:6) is similar to when God blocked the way of access to the Tree of Life, “lest they eat of the Tree of Life and live forever.” In other words, if they were not judged and scattered, they would continue on in a kingdom of evil and physical heroics contrary to God.



The Judgment on Babel as the Seed of the Serpent

- God scatters Babel who said they wanted to prevent being scattered.
- God says “Let Us . . .” and thus mocks Babel by repeating their desires when they said, “Let us . . .” and thus expresses His sovereign control and sole provision of deliverance.
- God mocks Babel as He states, “Let Us go down . . . “ indicating their desire to reach into heaven had not been accomplished.
- God destroys their attempt to bridge to Him through human efforts.
- God gave them a name – Babel (e.g., “gate of god”). Note that there appears to be a play on the word “lip” (“*balel*”) indicating the confusing of their tongues.

Babel’s great attempt to reach God through their own human reasoning and means (recall Adam’s attempt to cover himself, or Cain’s attempt to appease God through non-revelatory means) is destroyed by God as they are forced to be distributed across the face of the earth, which is what God intended for them in Genesis 10.⁵

⁵ God’s intent in the beginning of the story was that Israel would be the unique mediator from the Land of Canaan to the Gentile nations. Thus, these nations were to be scattered since that was their assignment; to rule for God throughout the earth. Now God will bring forth Israel, through whom He will rule them in the Seed of the Woman.

The Deliverance of God (Philosophy) Continues in the Seed of Shem

“These are the generations (*toledot*) of Shem . . . (11:10)

In those few words, the author narrows God’s continued purpose to establish in Shem the rule of the New Adam through a chosen nation. This now implements the pointed prophecy of Noah to establish Shem as the line of The Seed in 9:27.

²⁷ "May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant." (Genesis 9:27).

Now God, like He did with the line of Seth, which resulted in Noah, will bring forth the National Ruler from Shem. Abram will be chosen who will bring forth the nation, Israel, who will rule over all the Gentile nations. It will be accomplished through the Genesis 3:15 Seed of the Woman who will come from this National Woman.