**Genesis 10:6-20 6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. 7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. 8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.” 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city). 13 Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim). 15 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; 16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; 17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; 18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. 19 And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. 20 These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.**

We’re in Genesis again tonight. The flood waters have receded, the animals are multiplying and so are the people. We’re seeing the plan of God in action as the earth is again fruitful and alive.

I have to openly admit that one of my struggles in reading the Bible has always been the begats… It’s detail that, at one time, I skipped. I wasn’t sure why these mattered. My approach was God made Adam, Jesus descended from Adam, I am a follower of Jesus… the rest was filler. Most of you aren’t like that I’m sure… you read each word with a magnifying glass, but I’m sometimes lazy in my studies.

As I studied more and more, I realized that the begats mattered. The begats tell us why some people fight with others. The begats give us the feuds and the alliances. The begats tell us who will conquer whom. You see, I came to realize that there is no filler is God’s Word.

Tonight, we’re looking at Noah and his sons and who begot whom. Before we look at the scripture, I want to look at Genesis 9:24-27. The back story here is that Noah drank too much wine and, while sleeping it off, he kicked off his covers. Ham saw Noah and told his brothers. His brothers took a cover and, with their eyes averted, covered him. 24 So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. 25 Then he said: “Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.” 26 And he said: “Blessed be the Lord, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant. 27 May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.” Noah curses Canaan. We don’t know why Noah cursed Canaan instead of Ham and any attempt on my part to explain is speculation. Many theologians claim this or that, but the bottom line is - the Bible is silent on the why – it only tells us of the curse.

Genesis 10:6 says The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.Family matters! Here we see the sons of Ham listed. Ham is widely accepted to be the youngest son of Noah, though listed before Japheth. The curse of Noah on Ham’s family shows in the peoples that Ham’s sons founded. Tradition has it that Cush founded Ethiopia, Mizraim founded Egypt, and Put founded Libya. We all know that Canaan founded the land of Canaan.

Look at verses 7-10 7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. 8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.” 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. In verse 8, we see that Cush begot Nimrod. Nimrod founded Babel. We know the story of Babel and the way that the people pridefully built, seeking to make a name for themselves rather than worshipping God. Nimrod rebelled against God, even as God blessed him. Erech, Accad, and Calneh are all cities in the land of Shinar, also known as Babylon. Babylon became the enemy of Israel.

We know from verse 11 that, after Babel was scattered, Nimrod went on to found the country of Assyria and to build the city of Ninevah. We know from our many studies that Assyria became the enemy of Israel, as did Babylon.

Ham’s son Mizraim also begot enemies of Israel - verse 13 and 14 Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim). The Philistines are well known for their fighting with King David. Goliath fought for the Philistines.

Now comes Canaan. Verses 15-18 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; 16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; 17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; 18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed…. Looking at these names should be very familiar – throughout the Old Testament, we hear of these tribes. When we read the book of Joshua, we see these names as the tribes that the children of Israel are conquering to take the land. We see that God is giving the land of the Canaanites, descended from Canaan, to the children of Israel.

When Noah curses Ham, he says – Canaan will serve Shem. Let’s read Genesis 11:10-26 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. 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. We know that Abram became Abraham – Patriarch of the Children of Israel. As Joshua conquers the land of Canaan, he is fulfilling the promise made by God and the curse placed by Noah.

Family matters. Begats matter. Every word of God’s word is a piece of the puzzle that helps us to understand our Lord and Savior and also our place, as children grafted in, adopted sons and daughters of the King. For many years, I skipped the begats. I wished the begats be gone. Now I love the begats, because I know why they be there… each begat is a letter in the word, a word in the story, of the glory of God and His plan for this world. Family matters… begats matter… It all tells the story of how God planned to one day send the Begotten of the Father, so I might be covered in His blood and become a Child of the King.