**Hope in Troubled Times**  
*Genesis 11:10-26*

**Main Thought**  
In the worst of times, God reveals hope through his **NATION**, his **CITY**, and his **GRACE**.

**God’s Nation – Israel**

- Following the (1) tragic **FLOOD**, the (2) disinheriting of the 70 nations by God by handing them over to the fallen **SONS OF GOD** (Deut. 32:8-9; demons – Deut. 32:17), and the (3) tower of babel, God gives hope through one remaining nation – Israel, the nation of God’s inheritance (Deut. 4:20).
- This is the line of Seth through Eber (HEBREW?), Peleg (not Joktan – 10:25-26), Terah, and most importantly Abraham.
- In this genealogy of hope, the phrase “and he died” (10x in Gen. 5) is absent.
- Man’s age grew even shorter after the flood – Nahor lived only 148 years.
- Through Abraham would come the **SEED** (3:15) to save the world (Matt. 1:1).

**God’s City – Jerusalem**

- Nimrod (and Cain – 4:12-14, 17) built many cities including Babylon to achieve significance and security independent of God (10:9-11). This reveals man’s love of self and hatred of God (Jam. 4:4).
- By contrast, Abraham was “a wandering Aramean” (Deut. 26:5) who tented as a stranger in a foreign country (PILGRIM). He and the patriarchs lived in tents (Heb. 11:8-9) like Jesus (John 1:14).
- He too was “looking forward to a city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God” (Heb. 10:10; 13:14).
- This all comes full circle at the end of the Bible (inclusio) when religious (Rev. 17) and commercial (Rev. 18) Babylon, the world system, is destroyed (Rev. 18:21).
- Even more significantly, God’s New Jerusalem is lowered down out of heaven – the eternal home of Abraham and the saints (Rev. 21:2).

**God’s Grace – Jesus Christ**

- **Rule**: In each story thus far (Adam, Cain, Noah, Babel) God has exerted his rule by direct command (do not eat) or common grace (conscience – 4:17).
- **Rebellion**: In each case, rebellion grows as men seek self-determination in their pride (Prov. 29:23).
- **Judgment**: Their evil brings alienation from God (Isa. 59:2) and each other (11:9).
- **Grace**: As evil increased, so did grace. The **SEED** of the woman (Jesus Christ – Gal. 3:16, 18) would one day crush the head of the serpent (3:15).
- Cain was given a mark by God allowing him to live on earth (4:15).
- Noah found **GRACE** in the eyes of the Lord (6:8).
- Through the line of Seth would come Abraham to whom was promised land, **SEED**, and blessing (12:1-3). The **SEED** was not only the nation of Israel but spiritually and specifically Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:16).
- The Bible begins (3:15) and ends with **GRACE** (Rev. 22:21).
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<tr>
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<th>Adam</th>
<th>Cain</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rule</strong></td>
<td>Eat of all the trees except the tree of</td>
<td>Common grace: right and wrong assumed in conscience (4:7)</td>
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<td>To spread out and fill the earth</td>
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<td><strong>Rebellion</strong></td>
<td>Choosing to eat of the forbidden tree;</td>
<td>Tokenism and fratricide</td>
<td>Every imagination of the heart only evil continually</td>
<td>Refusal to obey; relying on their unity</td>
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<td>and illicit reach for autonomy</td>
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<td>and self-determination for security</td>
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<td><strong>Judgment</strong></td>
<td>Spiritual death: loss of relationship</td>
<td>Cast off the land to become a nomad and a wanderer</td>
<td>Flood; earth destroyed</td>
<td>Confusion of language; beginning of</td>
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<td>with God and one another; cast from the</td>
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<td>tyrannical nations</td>
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<td><strong>Mitigation</strong></td>
<td>The promise of a seed that will bring</td>
<td>A mark upon Cain that protects him and allows him to live</td>
<td>Noah and creation in the ark as the hope of God and</td>
<td>The call of Abraham – one nation that</td>
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<td>salvation and conquer the Serpent</td>
<td>live out his years</td>
<td>humanity</td>
<td>will bring salvation to all the families</td>
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From GENESIS A COMMENTARY, by Bruce K. Walkthe, p. 191.