

The Table of 70 Nations

The assumption that there are seventy nations and languages in the world is based upon the ethnological table given in Genesis 10 & 11, where 70 grandsons of Noah are enumerated, each of whom became the ancestor of a nation. These are the primordial nations, sometimes referred to as the "seventy tongues," representing all humanity.

The Talmud teaches that the seventy bulls that were offered in the Holy Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles served as atonement for the seventy nations of the world. The rabbis observed, "if the nations of the world had only known how much they needed the Temple, they would have surrounded it with armed fortresses to protect it."

The souls that appeared from Noach to Israel became the roots of the seventy nations. They did not appear all at once, rather progressively.

The enumeration below follows the kabbalistic counting, based on the following rules:

Each time the verse names a child without further describing his progeny, that child was father of one of the seventy nations.

Starting with the children of Shem, the terms "sons and daughters" refers to progeny over and above what had been mentioned previously. This unnamed progeny also refers to one of the seventy nations.

Genesis 10

1	Magog	19	Dedan	37	The Chamathite
2	Madai	20	Ludim	38	'Elam
3	Tuval	21	Anamim	39	Asshur
4	Meshekh	22	Lehavim	40	Lud
5	Tiras	23	Naftuchim	41	Utz
6	Ashkenaz	24	Pathrusim	42	Chul
7	Rifath	25	The Philistines	43	Gether
8	Togarmah	26	Kaftorim	44	Mash
9	Elishah	27	Sidon	45	Almodad
10	Tarshis	28	Cheth	46	Shelef
11	Kittim	29	Yevusite	47	Chatzarmaveth
12	Dodanim	30	The Amorite	48	Yerach
13	Put	31	The Girkashite	49	Hadoram
14	Seva	32	The Chivite	50	Uzal
15	Chavila	33	The 'Arkite	51	Diqlah
16	Savtah	34	The Sinite	52	Oval
17	Savtekha	35	The Arvadite	53	Avimael
18	Sheva	36	The Tzemarite	54	Sheva

55	Ofir
56	Chavilah
57	Yovav

Genesis 11

58	Sons & Daughters of Arpakhshad
59	Sons & Daughters of Shelach
60	Sons & Daughters of Ever
61	Sons & Daughters of Peleg
62	Sons & Daughters of R'eu.
63	Sons & Daughters of Serug
64	Sons & Daughters of Nachor
65	Sons & Daughters of Terach
66	Nachor
67	Lot
68	Ishmael
69	Esau
70	Jacob (Israel)