

# Genesis 10

## MY THREE SONS AND THE TABLE OF NATIONS

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(Break room conversation)

**Genesis 9:18-19 ( KJV )**

***<sup>18</sup>And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.***

***<sup>19</sup>These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.***

The Bible makes no bones about the entire world population coming from Noah's three sons. This shouldn't be hard to swallow if you believe that the entire pre-flood population came from just one couple. In evolutionary theory, there had to have been one couple of almost everything to have evolved at the same time, in the same place with all the reproductive hardware in working order for evolution to have taken place. That would have been a greater miracle than repopulating the earth from a gene pool of just eight people. Most of the dispersion of the population came later however.

**Genesis 9:20-21 ( KJV )**

***<sup>20</sup>And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard:***

***<sup>21</sup>And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.***

This is the first mention of wine in the bible. However, there is no reason to believe that it wasn't around before the flood. The high level of culture and technology would have almost guaranteed the use of wine. The evil of the people of Noah's day included "much eating and drinking" as characterized by Jesus in Matthew 24:38. Noah became a husbandman meaning he started a vineyard. Unfortunately he had a little too much to drink.

**Genesis 9:22-23 ( KJV )**

***<sup>22</sup>And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.***

***<sup>23</sup>And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their***

***shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.***

For the most part this come down to a lack of respect for Noah, Ham's father. The other two boys backed into the tent and covered their father up so as not to disrespect him. Apparently something about his father being in this situation appealed to Ham. This shows his nature and apparently the nature of some of Ham's offspring.

***Genesis 9:24-26 ( KJV )***

***<sup>24</sup>And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.***

***<sup>25</sup>And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.***

***<sup>26</sup>And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.***

Unfortunately these verses have been misconstrued in an attempt to support slavery and other "racial injustices" over the years. The biggest example of this is known as the doctrine of the "curse of Ham." If we look carefully at verse 25 we'll see that Ham wasn't cursed, his grandson Canaan was. Canaan was the father of the Canaanites, which for the most part inhabited the Promised Land when Israel entered it in the book of Exodus.

At this point we should ask ourselves, "Why such a curse over something like this?" It was a bad situation, but why curse generations for something one man did? It is most likely that Noah, knowing his sons, and their sons, spoke this because he knew of each one's tendencies. First of all he says that Canaan will be the servant of a servant. This phrase isn't a common one in the Old Testament. From the context of the surrounding verses it can be seen that all of the descendants of each of Noah's sons is being spoken of. If we don't take the utterance this way then Noah was wrong. For example: Canaan was to be a servant of servants unto his brethren. His brothers were Cush, Mizraim, and Phut. These three were the fathers of Ethiopia, Egypt, and Libya. As history bears out, the Canaanites were never slaves to the Ethiopians or Libyans. They were only briefly enslaved by the Egyptians therefore we have to look further for the answer.

The word servant here is often used to mean steward. All men were to be stewards over God's creation, but it appears that Canaan's lineage was to be more so than anyone else. Why was this? Well, context is the key. First of all Canaan was cursed but it was due to the actions of Ham. Each of the other boys of Noah were prophesied about, therefore we must look at Ham's complete line, not just Canaan's immediate circle as has already been said. Being a steward of what the rest of humanity was a steward of, the steward of a steward, pinpoints what exactly the Hamitic nations were stewards of. Historically speaking, the Hamitic nations have been the most apt to travel, explore, and conquer. They have also tended to have more of an agricultural bent. They have tended to prepare the way for the others. In this way Canaan was the servant of Shem.

**Genesis 9:26 ( NKJV )**

**<sup>26</sup>And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.**

The Canaanite nations surrounding Israel eventually became subservient to Israel. They were also used by God to subdue the land before Israel came into the Promised Land.

As for Shem, the Shemites, or Semitic peoples, which include the Hebrews, Arabs, Assyrians, Persians, and Syrians, as well as others have always had a tendency to be religiously motivated. All three of the world's largest religions come from these people. These would be Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. From this we see that Semitic tendencies have as a whole been towards spiritual matters. Noah could see this.

As for Japheth we see that he had a different bent (tendency).

**Genesis 9:27 ( NKJV )**

**<sup>27</sup> *May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.***

As we look at this verse we see that Japheth was to be enlarged. This isn't just geographically, for the Hamitic peoples of the world cover vast portions of the earth also.

Historically we see that the Japhetic peoples, would eventually become the Europeans, have always been the intellectual or scientific group. The Greeks, Roman, Persians and Europeans have been the ones leading the way technologically, as well as in the realm of philosophy. We also see that Japheth would dwell in the tents of Shem.

The Japhethites would eventually dwell in the spiritual houses, (tents) of Shem. These nations eventually became the ones that predominantly believed and spread the Gospel. After Jesus was rejected by the Jews, He told the disciples to go the gentiles. That is what Paul primarily did.

So, in a nutshell, Ham explored and conquered, due to more of a naturalistic bent. Shem was in charge of spiritual matters while the intellectual matters were left to Japheth. All three are necessary for things to get done. The recognition of these traits was what most likely drove Noah to speak the prophecies. We also see from this how cultures grow and form.

The chapter ends by telling us how long Noah lived after the flood and how long he lived overall.

***Genesis 9:28 ( NKJV )***

***<sup>28</sup>And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.***

***<sup>29</sup>So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.***

Men have been enamored with the quest to find out where and when men began to populate the earth. Anthropologists and archaeologists spend their lives searching for the answer to the riddle. Current theory on the subject has it that man first evolved in the Rift valley of Africa and fanned out from there. Geographically speaking that isn't far off, but chronologically and anthropologically they have missed the mark by a long shot.

Wouldn't it be great if we had an ancient document that told us just how and when men began to populate the earth? Wouldn't it be fascinating if this text told us where it all started and attached a timeline to it? Well, that document exists in what we call the Bible. Genesis chapter 10 holds that record preserved for posterity by eyewitness testimony. Many would say that it is only myth or legend. The evidence however, shows the contrary. If the Bible is true in Genesis, then there are certain things we should be able to observe.

First of all, if the history of man and earth is as the Bible claims, then we shouldn't see any signs of civilization over 4,500 years old. Guess what, we don't. We shouldn't see any trees older than that, and we don't. If the Bible is true then we should see population levels about where we see them now. After all, if man has been reproducing for millions of years the planet should be much more crowded

than it is. If the Bible is true then we should be able to trace man's existence back to one couple in one place at one specific place in time. That has been done. DNA testing has shown that all men come from the same parents. The Bible says the same. It is believed that all languages can be traced back to one root language. The Bible says the same. It is believed that all of mankind came from the same region. The Bible says the same.

If the Bible is true then we should be seeing exactly what we see. The great thing is that we can stop looking for answers to the questions that have already been answered. Some 4300 years ago a global flood occurred and when it was over 8 people got off of an ark along with a bunch of animals. This family began to repopulate the earth. Eventually this family grew into a settlement, a village and then into a community. From there it became a town and then a city. Large landowners began to rule over others and eventually became despots. The pattern has played out time and time again in history. And we have a record of it. Genesis 10 starts out with another *toledoth*, a word we've talked about many times. Once again, a *toledoth* is a signature, a point in the text where the record is handed over to the next in line in order for them to carry on the recording of the genealogy, or history. We see this signature in Genesis 10:1, in the phrase, *Now these are the generations of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth...*

***Genesis 10:1 ( KJV )***

***<sup>1</sup>Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood.***

As is stated, Noah had three sons which in turn all had children after the flood. These boys and their descendants can be traced through history. These names aren't made up by some ancient scribe writing a story. These names and the people ascribed to them can be traced historically and can even be recognized in many cases still today. The first son to have his family listed is the oldest boy Japheth.

***Genesis 10:2-6 ( KJV )***

***<sup>2</sup>The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras.***

***<sup>3</sup>And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah.***

***<sup>4</sup>And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.***

***<sup>5</sup>By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.***

From history we find that Gomer, Magog and Meshech would eventually settle the area of Asai Minor, or Turkey as we know it today as well as the surrounding areas that hug the Black and Caspian Seas. Javan would eventually become the Grecian people. These are the main players that we can relate to today. We also see that these brothers were divided by their tongues, after their families, in their nations. This shows us the natural progression that takes place when people groups speak different languages. Because they can't communicate, they separate and from there tend to become clannish or tribal. These tribes eventually grow into nations with their own cultures. The cultural differences serve to create further barriers between neighboring peoples. The sons of Japheth, for the most part were the forerunners of the European peoples.

Noah's youngest son (Gen. 9:24) Ham is next.

***Genesis 10:6-10 ( KJV )***

***<sup>6</sup>And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.***

***<sup>7</sup>And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtechah: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan.***

***<sup>8</sup>And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.***

***<sup>9</sup>He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.***

***<sup>10</sup>And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.***

*Nimrod* means “*let us rebel.*” He was the youngest and most famous of all Ham's grandsons. His name is still famous in the region and can still be seen in the names of different places. Apparently he was the first great charismatic leader of the period. He established a number of cities, four of which are listed in verse 10. This however was only the beginning of his kingdom. Historians tell us that he turned the adoration of the people away from God and toward himself. He convinced them that his government was the source of their prosperity and that God was to be feared and not worshipped. Verses 8-10 tie in with verses 1-7 of Genesis 11. We can also see the similarity of the tactics used by Satan in Genesis 3 and Nimrod. Nimrod convinced the people that God was hiding something from them just as Satan did Eve. It shouldn't surprise us that the tactics are similar. They have the same source. We should also take note that the tactics haven't changed in 6000 years of history.

Verses 11-20 give us the rest of Ham's posterity. We can recognize some of these today.

***Genesis 10:11-20 ( KJV )***

***<sup>11</sup>Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah,***

***<sup>12</sup>And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city.***

***<sup>13</sup>And Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim,***

***<sup>14</sup>And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (out of whom came Philistim,) and Caphtorim.***

***<sup>15</sup>And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth,***

***<sup>16</sup>And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgasite,***

***<sup>17</sup>And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite,***

***<sup>18</sup>And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad.***

***<sup>19</sup>And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha.***

***<sup>20</sup>These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations.***

In verse 11 we see the name Ashur. He was actually a son of Shem. Here we see that he founded a city but was run out of the region by Nimrod. Ashur went on to be the father of the Assyrian Empire. The attached map will give the original locations of these people groups. Some of the most notable are as follows:

- Cush – Sudan/ Nubian people; There are also people in the Northern parts of India known as Cushites
- Mizraim – Egypt
- Phut - Lybia
- Philistim – Philistines
- Sidon – Sidonians

- Heth – Hittites (some of which migrated to the far east to China)
- Jebusites - Jebus was the ancient name for Jerusalem
- Sinites – Chinese
- Canaanites – occupied the Promised Land but were also spread abroad; some are thought to have also spread to the far east

The Hamitic peoples also spread clinging to their own tribal groups as they went. They, for the most part settled Africa, the Sinai and Arabian peninsulas as well as the Far East and eventually the Americas.

Last but not least we have the sons of Shem, or the Semitic nations.

***Genesis 10:21-24 ( KJV )***

***<sup>21</sup>Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder, even to him were children born.***

***<sup>22</sup>The children of Shem; Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram.***

***<sup>23</sup>And the children of Aram; Uz, and Hul, and Gether, and Mash.***

***<sup>24</sup>And Arphaxad begat Salah; and Salah begat Eber.***

The word Hebrew comes from the name *Eber*, meaning to *cross over*. Some of the others are as follows:

- Lud – Lydians
- Aram – Arameans or Syrians
- Uz – the land Job called home

Verse 25 is important for chronological purposes.

***Genesis 10:25 ( KJV )***

***<sup>25</sup>And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.***



We can assign a relative date to this by looking at the pull out timeline provided in the book. In the generation of Peleg the earth was divided. The question we have to ask is what kind of division was it? Some scholars are quick to assign the division to breaking up of the super-continent Pangea. This however would have caused as much damage as the flood, and could not have taken place without causing God's rainbow covenant to be broken. There are 2 more possibilities. It can either speak of the division of languages spoken of in chapter 11 or it can also refer a division such as the drawing of boundaries, such as what surveyors do. Two different Hebrew words are used and they do have slightly different meanings. I believe both ideas are plausible and even work together for a more complete picture. I believe that those that followed God surveyed and set the boundaries as God wanted them set, but those that followed Nimrod wouldn't disperse. Therefore, God confusing the language was the catalyst for the dispersion that eventually caused the masses to move to the areas He had had surveyed for them in the first place. The rest of the chapter gives us the lineage of Shem.

***Genesis 10:26 - 32( KJV )***

***<sup>26</sup>And Joktan begat Almodad, and Sheleph, and Hazarmaveth, and Jerah,***

***<sup>27</sup>And Hadoram, and Uzal, and Diklah,***

***<sup>28</sup>And Obal, and Abimael, and Sheba,***

***<sup>29</sup>And Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab: all these were the sons of Joktan.***

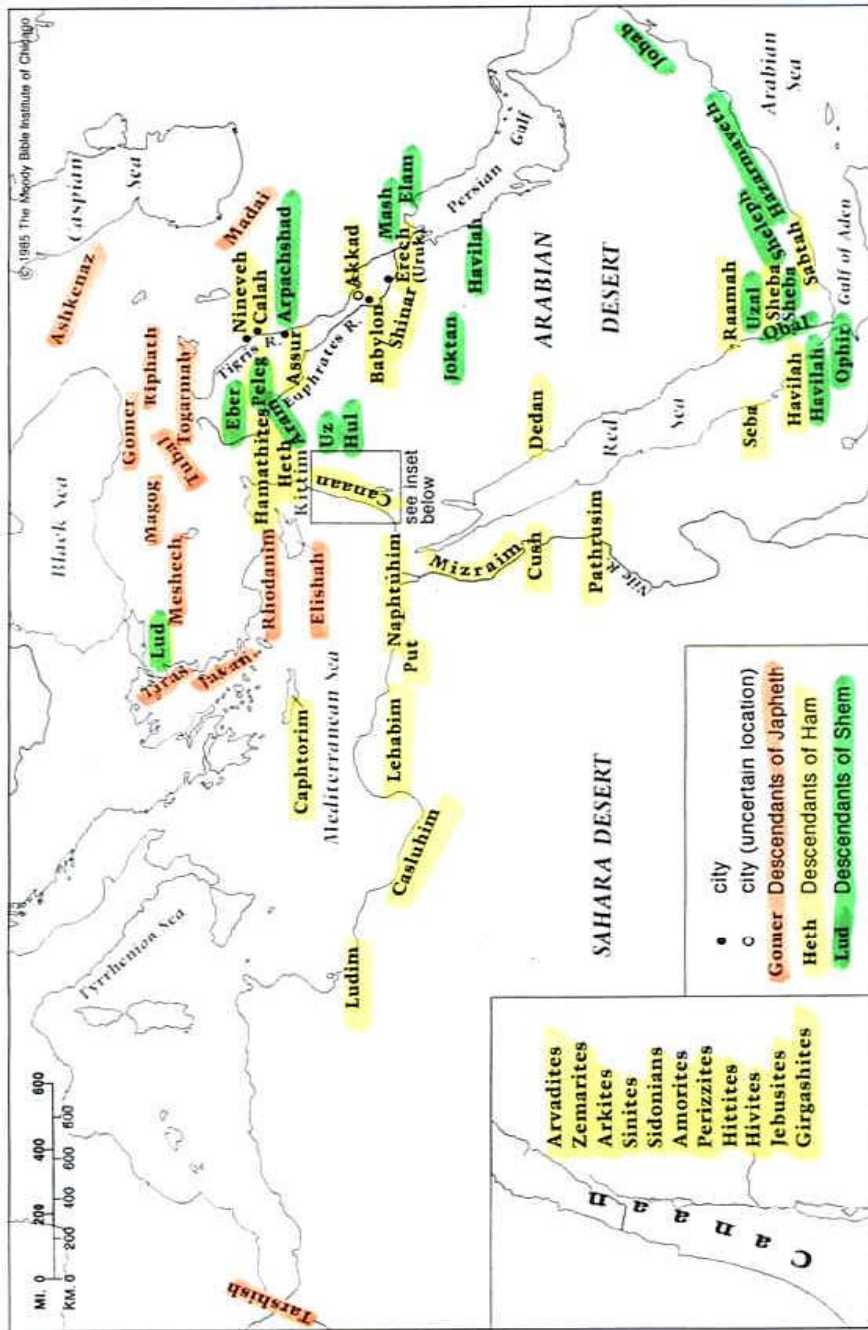
***<sup>30</sup>And their dwelling was from Mesha, as thou goest unto Sephar a mount of the east.***

***<sup>31</sup>These are the sons of Shem, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations.***

***<sup>32</sup>These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.***

The Semitic nations, for the most part stayed in the region. Verse 32 makes the same statement that verses 5 and 20 make which infers that as the nations were scattered along family trees. That is, the Japhetic peoples had a similar language. The Hamitic peoples had a similar language. And the Semitic groups had a similar language. From there different dialects and cultural anomalies would have naturally developed. The last point to make here is that chapter 10 is parenthetical. It actually accounts for the results of Genesis chapter 11. It is out of place

chronologically. As we move into chapter 11, all of these things we have read here will make more sense.



## Shem (2nd)

**Spiritual:** great religions

*'Blessed be the LORD God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.'*

## Ham (3rd)

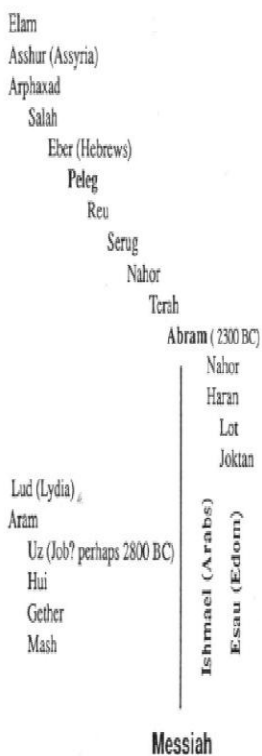
**Physical:** great artisans and builders

*'Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.'*

## Japheth (1st born)

**Intellectual:** scientific, philosophical\*

*'God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.'*



- Cush (Ethiopia)
- Seba (Meroe)
- Havilah (Arabia)
- Sabtah (Sabbeans)
- Raamah (Arabia)
- Sheba
- Dedan
- Sabtecha
- Nimrod (Babylon, Ninevah)
- Mizraim (Egypt, King Menes?)
- Lutim
- Ananim
- Lehahim
- Naphuhim
- Pathrusim (Pathros)
- Casuhim** (Philistines)
- Caphtorum (Crete)
- Phut (Libya)
- Canaan**
- Sidon
- Heth (Hittites, Cathay)
- Jebusites
- Amorites
- Girgashites
- Hivites
- Arkites (Phoenicians)
- Sinites (Sino, China)
- Arvadites
- Zemarites Hamathites

- Gomer (Germany, Crimea, Cambria, Celts)
- Ashkenaz (Germany, Saxons, Scandinavia)
- Riphath (Carpathians)
- Togarmah (Armenians)
- Magog (Georgia, Scythians)
- Madai (Medes, Aryans, Indians of India)
- Javan (Ionians, Greeks, the coastlands)
- Elishah (Hellas)
- Tarshish (Spain)
- Kittim (Cyprus)
- Dodanim (Rhodes)
- Tubal (Tobolsk)
- Meshech (Moscow)
- Tiras (Thrace, Teutons)

**Notes:**

Noah lived 350 years after the flood and Shem 500 years. Date for the flood is -3600 BC.

The confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel occurred not long after the flood, (-250 yrs). The world population at that time may only have been only 2000-10,000 persons (Henry Morris, *Genesis*). The nations then scattered from Babylon. Continents separated in the time of Peleg, about 530 yrs after the Flood. Ice age followed continental division.

\*See A. C. Custance, *Noah's Three Sons*, Doxway Papers, Zondervan, 1975

## Our Application:

- What I would like you to leave with today, is that Noah, as the father of these boys was responsible for their upbringing. He was responsible for structuring the culture of the home. Gentlemen, we as fathers and husbands are responsible for structuring the culture in our homes. God has given us a book that tells us how to be husbands and fathers.
- We also need to see how structuring the culture of our own house affects the culture of those on down the line.
- Noah was by all accounts a good father and a Godly man. He was an example to his family and those around him. He was able to see the tendencies in his sons however. Each of these boys set the stage for the succeeding generations.
- The prophecies show us how leadership in the home is crucial for the well-being of generations to come.
- So I ask you gentlemen, do you want the best for your children and grandchildren? If so, then lead your children. Be an example to them. Let them see you in church. Let them see you active in church. Let them see you reading your Bible. Let them see you being kind and loving to their mother.
- [Pro 22:6](#) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- So how we raise them has a great deal with how successful they will be both spiritually and in the secular world.

- Be a man, structure the culture of your house in a Godly manner. In this way you will be a blessing to your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.
- God has a plan and He will go to great lengths to make sure it is carried out. “Don’t make me come in there!” Well God says, “Don’t make me come down there!”
- Have we been rebellious in our own lives and hindered God’s plan? Are we so busy building our own little kingdom that we have ignored God’s mission for us?
- Language and communication are essential to carry out most of God’s commands. It is necessary that we engage others if we are to carry out God’s will for our lives. WE have to get out of our own little boxes to do this. We aren’t to stay huddled in our own little worlds. That is why God scattered the people in the first place.
- As the people scattered, they lived their lives. They were no different than anyone else. We sometimes have tendency to compartmentalize our lives. We have our regular/ secular lives and then we have our Christian/ Church lives. They shouldn’t be separate. They should be homogenized into one so that the course of our lives is directed by God’s plans for us. Now that is an adventure! As we go about our business we impact other people’s lives for the glory of God. That is what living the Christian life is about. So how do we go about living our lives? What are we supposed to do about our lives? We ask God to tell us. We pray about it and we are sensitive to the Holy Spirit. (Lane Burroughs)
- Ask God what He wants you to do, and then do it. As you go through your day ask God to put you in the right place at the right

time to minister to someone. Your life will change one day at a time.