

CONCERNING “RACIAL” DISTINCTIONS
(Genesis 10:1-32)

- I. What Does the Bible Teach about the “Races”
 - A. All HUMANS descended from NOAH’S FAMILY (Gen. 9:18-19)
 - B. All NATIONS (Lit, “ETHNIC groups”) descended from NOAH’S FAMILY (Gen. 10:32)
 - C. Therefore, MANKIND is only ONE RACE (Acts 17:26)

- II. How Did “Racial” Distinctions Develop?
 - A. Theory #1—“God CURSED Ham and turned him BLACK” (Gen. 9:25)
 1. ASSUMES Adam was WHITE
 2. Would only account for BLACKS and no other SKIN TONES
 3. The curse was on Ham’s YOUNGEST son, CANAAN
 - a. Fulfilled on the Canaanites (most were DESTROYED, some survived as SERVANTS) (Josh. 9:23)
 - b. Ham’s OLDEST son, Cush, apparently the father of the “negro” people, but not mentioned in any CURSE
 - B. Theory #2—“God changed skin colors at BABEL to scatter people” (Gen. 11:1-9)
 1. Unifying characteristic at Babel was LANGUAGE
 2. God explicitly CONFOUNDED LANGUAGE
 3. If you assume that future INTEGRATION was forbidden, you must delineate on the basis of LANGUAGE
 - C. Theory #3—“‘Racial’ distinctions developed NATURALLY over TIME”

1. The originally diverse and flawless genome developed VARIED dominant characteristics as the gene pool NARROWED after Babel
 - a. Every human's skin contains the pigment melanin, but in DIFFERING AMOUNTS
 - b. If original parents were MID-BROWN in color, a FULL RANGE of skin tones possible in a SINGLE GENERATION
2. SOCIAL issues would have some influence
3. ENVIRONMENTAL matters also a factor

III. What Does the Bible Say about "Racial" Intermarriage?

- A. Marriage FORBIDDEN only on the basis of lack of FAITH in YAHWEH/CHRIST (Deut. 7:1-4; Mal. 2:11-12; Josh. 23:8-12)
- B. Marriage PERMITTED only on the basis of FAITH in YAHWEH/CHRIST (Matt. 1:5; Gen. 41:45; 2 Cor. 6:14-16)
- C. Restriction made only in special cases for LEGAL purposes (Nu. 36:6)
- D. Only biblical example of CENSURE for "racial intermarriage" resulted in God's immediate WRATH (Nu. 12)
- E. NT restriction only that a person marry (or remarry, if widowed) another BELIEVER (1 Cor. 7:39)
- F. "Interracial" TENSION is expected to increase prior to the TRIBULATION, so one sign of man's REBELLION will be increasing SEGREGATION, not increasing INTEGRATION (Matt. 24:7)
- G. Therefore, God defines a mixed marriage as a BELIEVER with an UNBELIEVER; He makes no distinction concerning SKIN TONE, EYE SHAPE, HAIR COLOR, or LANGUAGE