A Glimmer of Hope
Genesis 11.10-26

Gen. 11.10-26 is a seemingly insignificant *tôledôt* section; it has no historical narrative, just a list of Seth's descendants. But if we step back and look at the bigger picture, the redemptive heart of God for mankind comes into view. From utter despair, a glimmer of hope.

Genesis 1-11 In A Nutshell

God turns chaos into abundant blessing.

Man falls in sin; blessing turns into pain, conflict, and death.

God judges man, but provides hope and a covering for sin.

Man descends further into sin and death, until it fills the earth.

God judges the sinful world and begins with new hope.

Man pridefully rebels against God's command to fill the earth.

God divides and scatters mankind across earth; there is no hope.

Genesis 11.10-26

The blessed line of Shem leads to Abram.
In Abram, all families of the earth will be blessed (Gen. 12.3)
Man's hopelessness is no match for God's gracious plan!

Digging Deeper

The book of Genesis has ten *tôledôt* sections which together tell the story of the beginning of God's plan to bless mankind. Half of these sections are in the first eleven chapters: Genesis 11.10-26 is the fifth *tôledôt* section. This means that using the structural divisions in the book, we are now *half way through*.

Genesis 1-11 is a 'prologue' to everything that follows in chapters 12-50. These eleven chapters demonstrate in graphic narrative the inescapable curse of sin which imprisons the human race, and the need for God's blessing to save us.

In your own words, keeping in mind 'the rest of the story' which begins in Genesis 12, describe God as we are introduced to Him in Genesis 1-11. What is His 'heart'? How does He superintend the events of these chapters to prepare the way for His plan to bless the whole world?

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