

Bible Devotions: Lock Stock & Barrel
Devotional Reading for Outdoorsmen
(Old Testament)

Genesis 10:8-10

A Mighty Hunter

Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord." And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen...

Bible scholars do not entirely agree on Nimrod's place in history. He is associated with any number of historical figures from the ancient Near East and Egypt. Most were centered in ancient Babylonia and Assyria, as is appropriate with the Biblical record. He is also compared to several legendary figures.

He was a real man of significant power and leadership – a builder of kingdoms and cities, and conqueror of peoples and lands. His most notorious achievement was that of being a mighty hunter. He was so good of a hunter that he didn't escape the Lord's attention in the matter. I couldn't tell you which wild animals he might have hunted but without a doubt he was the predator's predator and the wild herds' worst nightmare. Without a gun, at that.

Biblically speaking, the adventures of Nimrod are just some of the scenes we see in the creative work of the God of Israel as it occurred in Mesopotamian culture (Butler, 1991). Today, the lingering success of his exploits has resulted in good nations of the world having to put up with the violence and terror that scurries out of modern-day Babylon like cockroaches from under a wet carpet.

One day that will change, according to the prophet Micah's words about the One who will be ruler of Israel: *And this One shall be peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land, and when he treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princely men. They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, when he comes into our land and when he treads within our borders* (Micah 5:5-6). These words serve to magnify the curse that was placed upon Nimrod's lineage by his great grandfather Noah (Genesis 9:20-27).

Nimrod's achievements should be properly acknowledged. There might be some question about his character but there is no question about his charisma. His accomplishments were extraordinary. His hunting skills were exceptional. And his legacy endured, for better or worse.

Every Christian is a spiritual hunter, like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. We are licensed to this task by the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Mark recorded it as, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).

Like Nimrod, we are to enter the land – the world – sure of the plan we preach and certain of its success. Like Nimrod, we are to capture every creature with the gospel. In Mark's context, this means every created person. And like Nimrod, we are to leave our legacy for all the world to see and know; that is, make our mark on the world with the gospel of Jesus. Not just making battle-tracks through today's Babylons, but making disciples in every likely and unlikely place in every corner of the globe.

God sees the complete Nimrod in everyone, from the great warrior who made the mighty hunter of old to the violent terrorists who make a mess of today. God sees us, the humble Christian conquering the land. May the old lands of Nimrod learn what it really means to be great in the sight of the Lord because we are the hunter that brings that news.

Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)

Genesis 10:8-10
A Mighty Hunter

HOOK

1. When you think of being a mighty hunter, what animal comes to mind?

2. Name two major issues that need to be considered when building a city or new government.

3. How has the war against terrorism impacted your outlook for peace? Your worldview?

LINE

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In your opinion, what classifies one as being mighty before the Lord, or great in the sight of the Lord?

What is your response to violence and terrorism? Now, compare your answer to what God expects. What changes will you make or what actions will you take?

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.
Key words: hunter peace ruler

