

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## GENESIS 7-10

This morning I'll start with a Top Ten list. Here are the Top Ten statements uttered by Noah aboard the Ark:

10) Strange, we haven't seen another boat for weeks... 9) If only I had brought more rhino litter... 8) For the rest of my life I never want to sleep on a waterbed again... 7) Does anyone have more Dramamine?... 6) Fish for supper, again?... 5) What? You can't find your phone to take a photo of this rainbow?... 4) Honey, would you stop saying, "Into each life a little rain must fall..." 3) How can I fish with just two worms?... 2) God, are you sure I don't need to keep the termites in a tin can?... 1) As Noah exited the Ark, he slapped his neck and mumbled, "I should've killed those lousy mosquitoes while I had the chance!"

In the first six chapters of Genesis God goes *from good to grieved*. After His creation "God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." But by Chapter 6, the world was so wicked God was grieved He had made man - and the only way to save humanity was to destroy the earth and start over.

A deliverer was needed and God said, "I Noah guy." Genesis 6:8 tells us, Noah "found grace in the eyes of the Lord." God told Noah to build a box, an Ark; then gather his wife, his three sons, their wives, and two of every kind of animal on the earth. And Noah obeyed.

Which is where we pick up the story this morning, 7:1, "Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation." What a scene... When it's time to board the Ark, God doesn't tell Noah to *go onto the ark*, but to "come into the ark."

Implied is that God is already onboard waiting for Noah and his family to join Him. We call this *Noah's Ark*, but never doubt God is the captain of this vessel!

Actually, we refer to the ark as a boat, but technically it was a barge - *a large barge*. It had no onboard navigation. Noah didn't steer the Ark. It was up to God to guide it, and dock the Ark at its proper resting place.

*And the next time you feel you've lost control of your life, and can't navigate the storm you're in... remember Who's on board. Trust Captain Jesus to steer the ship!*

In verse 2 God continues His instructions to Noah, "You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; also seven each of birds of the air, male and female,

to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.” Throughout Genesis there’s a **six plus one pattern**. God creates the world in six days and rests Day Seven. When it came to clean animals three pairs were taken to mate, and one was to be sacrificed to God; thus Noah takes six plus one - **three pairs and a spare**. Of the unclean variety, there was just one pair - a male and a female.

The distinctions - *clean* and *unclean* - will later be spelled out and codified in the Law of Moses, but apparently they were also known at the time of Noah.

Verse 4, “**For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.**” A week elapsed from the time Noah boarded, to the time it started to rain. We don’t know how long it took to build the Ark. God’s countdown in 6:3 was 120 years, but as Noah was building he was also preaching. 2 Peter 2:5 calls him “**a preacher of righteousness**” - and yet no one had believed. *Imagine, the ridicule now hurled at Noah from outside the Ark.*

One of my favorite Bible expositors, Alexander Maclaren, writes, “**For 120 years the wits laughed, and the ‘common-sense’ people wondered, and the patient saint went on hammering and pitching at his ark. But one day it began to rain; and by degrees, somehow, Noah did not seem quite such a fool. The jests would look different when the water was up to the knees of the jesters; and their sarcasms would stick in their throats as they drowned. So it is always. So it will be at the last great day... (when people) awake too late to the conviction that they are outside the ark of safety.**”

“**Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.**”

Remember Noah’s Ark measured 450 feet long, by 75 feet wide, by 45 feet high. Its three floors provided 101,250 square feet of floor space - or 1,518,750 cubic feet. To illustrate its capacity... you’re looking at the equivalent payload of a train pulling 522 boxcars - each packed with 240 sheep - *or a total of 125,280 sheep.*

Ryrie’s Study Bible estimates there’re approximately 17,600 species of animals on the earth today. *And understand, Noah didn’t have to take 17,600 species. He could’ve simply taken “kinds” and interbreeding would eventually produce the variety that exists today.*

But let’s say he did take 17,600 species. Given that some animals are larger than sheep - and other animals smaller - we could use a sheep as an average size animal. Thus, two of every unclean, and seven of the clean, would equal about 40,000 sheep.

That's not a *baaad* estimate... Since the Ark could hold 125,280 sheep - 40,000 would take up just 28% of its capacity, leaving plenty of room for food, supplies, and Noah.

Verse 10, "And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights." Here the Bible gives us a great description of flood mechanics...

Verse 11, "*the windows of heaven were opened*" - literally, "*the sluice gates were unleashed.*" This was not just 40 days of simple rain, but a gushing collapse of a suspended ocean. The vapor canopy shrouding the Earth burst... In addition, "*the fountains of the great deep were broken up.*" Volcanic explosions released pockets of underground water - subterranean springs and oceans. *Water came from above and from below.*

Some scholars believe God initiated the flood with a comet or meteorite that penetrated the vapor canopy surrounding our planet. The cosmic collision caused its collapse. Such an impact also caused *the earth's axis to tilt - the single global land-mass to split into multiple continents - and it caused massive mountains to rise.*

In other words, the flood altered the whole geology of the earth. As 2 Peter 3:6 put it, "*the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.*" So that when Noah and his family eventually exit the ark they walk out into a whole new physical environment.

And let me suggest a global flood is a far better explanation for the earth's geology than is evolution. Evolutionists suggest the planet's topography and strata were formed by natural processes over long periods of time. I'm sorry, but I've been to the Grand Canyon, and I've seen all its varied geological formations. I just can't believe it was cut out by a little trickle called the Colorado River. To say the canyon started as a small gully... *Well, I'm not that gully-able!*

Creation scientists have done research on Mount St. Helens, and have documented how many geological structures thought to have formed over millions of years occurred instantly in the 1981 volcanic eruption.

*And think about fossils...* Our earth is a giant burial ground: yet what makes a fossil? *Natural processes? No.* When a fish dies on the ocean floor it doesn't turn into a fossil, it's eaten by scavengers or just deteriorates. It takes pressure, compaction, and instant burial for a fossil to form - *conditions present in a flood.*

Even the placement of the fossils in the Earth's strata are better explained by their ability to survive in the surge of floodwaters. The animal's body-type - its mobility - its density - its habitat... all explain how high the animal could propel itself upwards in the flooding, before it was overcome and compacted in sediment.

Verse 13, "On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark - they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in." Notice, the Lord Himself closes the door of the Ark, and shuts the passengers in. God oversees their safety.

"Now the flood was on the earth forty days." For in the Scriptures "40" is the number of God's judgment.

"The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered."

Obviously, this was a global flood - "***all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.***" *If it was a regional flood, why build an Ark? Just move to higher ground!...* Hey, it's not just the Bible, but numerous ancient histories attest to a worldwide flood. Over 200 cultures have a story similar to Noah - 88% mention a favored family - in 70% the family survives in a boat.

Verse 20 tells us, "The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered." The water level was 15 cubits (22½ feet) above the tallest peak.

It could be that prior to the flood, the earth's surface was fairly level, except for a few "***high hills.***" Mountain ranges formed as a result of the torrential run-offs, and massive erosion that occurred post-flood. The receding waters reshaped the earth's geology and topography.

"And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died." Fish didn't die since water is their habitat.

"So (God) destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. And the waters prevailed

on the earth 150 days.” It didn’t matter how good of a swimmer you were - every Olympic swimmer died in the flood! Human effort and ingenuity saved no one.

The only people saved were those who trusted God’s provision. The same is true of salvation today. Depend on your own merit and you’ll drown. Only folks who humble themselves and trust in Jesus are saved.

Actually, **the Ark is a beautiful picture of Jesus!**

It was a trinity - three decks, but one Ark... God was in the Ark, and He was also in Jesus... Both Noah and Jesus were carpenters, who built a judgment-proof salvation... When Noah entered the Ark he left behind his old life, and received a new life. The same occurs for those who put their faith in Jesus... And there was only one ark, just as there is only one salvation today...

Genesis 6:16 tells us the Ark had a single door - the door was in its side. And it was out of that door Noah came to repopulate the earth. Likewise, it’s from Jesus’ side that His life-giving blood populates heaven...

And lastly, the Ark landed on Mount Ararat on the Hebrew date, Nisan 17, which is no coincidence. That’s the exact day of the year Jesus rose from the dead. Both events marked new beginnings for mankind.

Chapter 8 begins, “Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the 150 days the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.” The Ark drifted for five months; then rested on Mount Ararat. Today, Ararat is a 16,254 foot peak in northeast Turkey, near the border of Turkey, Iran, and Armenia.

The November 1, 2023 edition of Popular Mechanics magazine featured an article entitled, “[Archaeologists Believe They Might Have Found The Real Noah’s Ark.](#)”

Sadly, **they did not.** They found evidence of human activity at the location, and around the time, the Ark landed, *but no Ark...* It seems whenever a heat wave melts the snow and ice on Ararat search parties set out to find the Ark. Over the centuries, there’ve been many contested claims of sightings and wood samples, *but no Ark.* Either God is preserving the Ark for a testimony in the last days - or its became firewood and shelters.

Verse 5, “And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.” Two-and-a-

half months after the Ark grounded on Ararat the water level receded to reveal the surrounding summits.

“So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.” **What a relief!** Fresh air for a stuffy, stinky Ark.

“Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.” A raven is a scavenger. If it finds a drifting carcass it’ll feed off its flesh and never return. But a dove lands on dry ground. The habits of these two birds were Noah’s means of checking how far the waters had receded on the earth.

Verse 9, “But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.”

Every seven days Noah releases a dove. I think this was a ritual, a part of his worship. Each Sabbath he’d sent out the dove as an act of faith. He trusted the waters were receding and the earth would begin anew.

And notice, how Noah moves forward in all this, it’s a good model for us. He gains all the information he can; *while he waits on God to give the final word to exit*. He combines both *common sense* and *divine revelation*...

Verse 13, “And it came to pass in the 601st year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.” Imagine, Noah’s first inspection of a post-flood world. The vapor canopy protecting us from the Sun is gone. As a result men no longer live 900 years. Life-spans are quickly reduced to today’s ages... Rather than pre-flood tropics, Earth is colder. It’ll soon plunge into an ice age.

After eleven months in isolation, Noah walks onto the deck of the Ark to survey a very, very different world.

A month later, “In the second month, on the 27th day of the month, the earth was dried. Then God spoke to Noah, saying, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you.”

The God who said, “Come in,” now says, “Go out.” And this is the case with us. God calls us to *come to Christ*, our Ark. We come in, but after we’ve grown and matured, He instructs us to *go out* and be fruitful.

It’s interesting that Noah entered the Ark on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month. He exited on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the same month, one year later. Noah was in the Ark for 377 days (over a year), and 60% of the time was spent sitting in the same place, waiting for the waters to recede. *Noah had to learn patience. He waited on God.*

The great puritan pastor, Philips Brooks, was pacing back and forth in his living room when a friend came to visit. He asked Brooks why he was so restless. Philips replied, “Because I am in a hurry, and God is not.” We too need to learn to rest in God’s promises. To allow God to bring them to pass in *His time* and in *His way*. Remember, the name “Noah” - it means “rest”!

Verse 17, “Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” Noah’s first act when he steps off the Ark onto dry ground is to build an altar, offer a sacrifice, and worship His God. *It was man’s sin that destroyed God’s world, but the flood didn’t destroy sin.* Noah’s first step is to offer a sacrifice for His sin.

“And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma.” God was pleased with Noah’s sacrifice. “Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.” Natural rhythms and seasons will not be interrupted. Even though “*the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth*” God won’t judge again - until the end of the age. He’ll judge one last time, but not with flood, with fire.

In Chapter 9 God makes a covenant with Noah suited for a post-flood world. “So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.” So prior to the flood humans were vegetarians, but afterward God

added meat to man's diet. He blessed us with Big Macs, barbecue, bacon. Evidently, post-flood people needed an extra source of protein.

And now that animals become that source, God instills within the animal kingdom an instinctual fear of human beings. Verse 2 calls it a "fear" or a "dread."

This was God's way of evening the score, and protecting the animals. Imagine, a hunter calling little Bambi out of the woods, feeding him a few sugar cubes; then opening fire... If God hadn't put hostility between the animals and humans it would've been an unfair advantage for *the humans, now hungry for meat*.

God continues this covenant, verse 5, "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man." In other words, if a pit bull mauls a young child the dog should be put down... But capital punishment also applies to man. "From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man." Notice, God's rationale for capital punishment isn't deterrence. That's not an issue. Even though it does deter the criminal who dies.

God prescribes capital punishment because humans were made in His image, Thus, to murder my fellow man is an attack on God, and is deserving of death.

The institution of capital punishment was in essence God's establishment of human government. His arm to defend and protect human life. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus told His followers to turn the other cheek, but He spoke in terms of personal relationships. Jesus' instructions to individual Christians doesn't change the responsibility God places on government.

In verse 7 God instructs Noah and his descendants to reproduce, "And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it."

"Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

I recall this promise whenever we encounter weeks of unrelenting rain. *It will pass!* There can be local flooding, but there'll never be another global deluge.

*Here are a few more lessons we learn from Noah...*

Don't miss the boat... Don't forget we're all in the same boat... Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark... Stay in shape. When you're 600 years old, you might get assigned a really big job... Don't listen to your critics just get on with what

has to be done... Build your future on high ground... For safety's sake, travel in pairs... Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs... When you're stressed, float a while.... The Ark was built by amateurs. The Titanic was built by professionals... The woodpeckers inside are a greater threat than the storm outside... And no matter the storm, when God is with you, there's a rainbow waiting.

And we find that rainbow in verse 12. "And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God hangs up His bow in the clouds!

Of course, a rainbow is an optical phenomenon where droplets of water refract the light, and create a prism effect. Water reveals the colors of the spectrum.

There were rainbows before the flood, perhaps in the mist in the Garden of Eden. But since the flood was the first time it had actually rained, no human prior to Noah, had ever seen a rainbow hanging in the clouds.

The Hebrew term translated "*rainbow*" refers to a "*bow and arrow*." When God hung a rainbow in the sky it was as if He were hanging up His bow of judgment. The flood was now over. It would never be repeated. Whenever Noah heard a clap of thunder, or saw a bolt of lightning piercing the sky, he would look up and see God's bow in the clouds. And it was pointed upwards, not downwards. It remind Noah and all men that God's judgment had ceased. The rainbow was a reminder to all humanity that God's agenda from here on - until the end of the age - is *salvation*, not *condemnation*.

Verse 17, "And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth." Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated." Verse 18 lists *your* great, great, great grandpa! For every human has descended from Noah and his wife. *And if they had no other kids*; then you also came from either **Shem, Ham,** or **Japheth**.

A 2009 Washington Post article titled, "**Among Many Peoples, Little Genomic Variety**," discusses how today's scientists believe all human populations fall into just

three genetic groupings: **African, Eurasian, East Asian**. Since Noah had three sons it makes sense.

Also in April 2015 "[The Journal Of Creation](#)" printed an article by Carter and Hardy, that takes current population trends, and extrapolates them back 4,500 years - *it's amazing, but they end up with a total world population of eight - the exact number exiting the Ark.*

The last ten verses of Genesis 9 tell a sad story. Noah was a man of faith and obedience. After walking with God for 600 years, *one night* he drops his guard. And sadly, one event mars an otherwise stellar record.

Noah figures, *a little wine won't hurt*. But instead of a glass, he gets drunk. **Noah takes a drink, the drink takes a drink, and the drink takes Noah**. Here's the first mention of wine, or alcohol, in the Bible, and it leads a person to nudity and sin. *Not a good first impression!*

Verse 20 tells us, **"And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent."**

And this still happens. Alcohol topples inhibitions and modesty. This is why 75% of sexual assaults on campus involve alcohol. *And it gets Noah in trouble...*

**"And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him."** At the very least, Ham was guilty of disrespect. He'd mocked and insulted his drunk dad.

But there're scholars who believe Ham was guilty of a sin far more sinister... Noah wakes up and knows what his son **did** to him, not just **said** about him. Ham must've performed a physical act. Some scholars say he molested Noah, sodomized him. The Jewish Talmud records Ham castrated Noah. All this is speculation, but Ham definitely *kicked his dad when he was down*.

Whatever the crime, here is Noah's sentence, **"Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."** Interestingly, Ham's son is cursed, *not Ham*. And we really don't know why?

It's probable Canaan somehow participated in the act with Ham... Ham's curse is fulfilled in the future of his son. The Canaanites did eventually become slaves. When Joshua led the children of Shem or the Hebrews into Canaan he subdued its residents - the Canaanites. The Canaanites became servants to the Hebrews.

One thing is certain, any attempt by white racists to apply the curse of Ham to black Africans, and justify slavery, is a terrible misuse of Scripture. Some of Ham's descendants did settle in Africa, but the curse was on one son, Canaan - not all his descendants... And his son, Canaan, didn't even have black skin.

Noah also said in verse 26, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem (Shem will be the father of Abraham and the Jews), and may Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem (One day the Gentiles will seek refuge in the blessings of Israel); and may Canaan be his servant."

"And Noah lived after the flood 350 years. So all the days of Noah were 950 years; and he died."

Chapter 10, "Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood." What comes next we call "The Table of Nations." And there is nothing else like it in antiquity. There's no parallel. It's the clearest cultural map of the ancient world. It shows the distribution of Noah's descendants throughout the post-flood Earth...

"The sons of Japheth were Gomer (or the Germanic people), Magog (or Russia), Madai, Javan (or Greece), Tubal, Meshech (perhaps, Moscow), and Tiras (or the Italians). The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations." Chapter 10 charts the migration after the events of Chapter 11.

And "The sons of Ham were Cush (or Ethiopia), Mizraim (or Egypt), Put (a part of ancient Egypt, which is today, Somalia), and Canaan. The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan." Who were Arab inhabitants on the Arabian peninsula.

Verse 8 is a parenthesis in Ham's genealogy, "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." The name "Nimrod" means "to rebel," and that's exactly what he did. After the flood God hung up His bow for all to see. God wanted to make peace with man, but Nimrod became "the mighty hunter before the Lord." One interpretation puts it, "mighty hunter against the Lord" - the idea was that Nimrod went hunting to draw people away from God, and after himself.

No doubt Nimrod was a skilled hunter of animals, and think of the prestige this gave him in the post-flood world where humans and animals had gone from *pals* to

*predators*. Noah spent a year with the lions and tigers inside the Ark. But now every time the bushes rustle it sends a scare through Noah's descendants.

Man's former, furry friends could be stalking him for dinner. A mighty hunter would be a hero, a protector of mankind. He could make very appealing promises.

Tradition tells us that Nimrod was also the first human to domesticate horses, and bring the animal kingdom under man's dominion. Folks saw Nimrod as a savior. And in Genesis 11 this man becomes the first "*antichrist*." He'll offer a false and phony salvation.

Back to the nations, "From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city). Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim (Egypt)). Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon (on the Lebanese coast) as you go toward Gerar, (southward) as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom (east to the Dead Sea), Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations." *Land later given by God to Israel.*

Verse 21, "And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber (probably short for the word "*Hebrews*"), the brother of Japheth the elder.

The sons of Shem (the lineage of Messiah) were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. The sons of Aram were Uz (Job was from the land of Uz), Hul, Gether, and Mash. Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber. And this is interesting, "To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg (which means "*division*"), for in his days the earth was divided."

Today, geologists talk about a former super-continent they call "*Pangea*." They believe the Earth was once a single connected land mass, that eventually broke apart into seven subcontinents. A quick look at a globe, and the shape of the continents, make it easy to imagine all seven fitting together like a puzzle. In the aftermath of the flood the earth broke apart and drifted on the oceans. This is how the kangaroos made it from Ararat to Australia, or how the Indians reached the new world. People and animals traveled across huge land bridges that existed up until the days of "*Peleg*."

Peleg's "*brother's name was Joktan. Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, Obal, Abimael, Sheba, Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab.*" (or Job... *the man who learned God is worthy to be praised, even if He doesn't tell us why.*)

“All these were the sons of Joktan. And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east. These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations. These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.”

And you'd think that men after the flood would learn to honor and obey God. *Not so.* **Chapter 11** displays mankind's spiritual bankruptcy. It brings us the first worldwide coup d'etat, or uprising against God's rule. Next week read Genesis 11-14. It's transition time.