

# Genesis 10 – 12:8

## Day 1

Noah's Genealogy. Read Genesis 10

1. What family lines can be traced after the flood. 10:1 (See 10:32) What does this say about Noah having any other children after the flood?
2. What interesting detail is given about descendants of Noah's son Japheth? 10:5

**FYI: "The sons of Japheth:** He was the father of the Indo-European peoples, those stretching from India to the shores of Western Europe. **Gomer:** From this son of Japheth came the Germanic peoples, from whom came most of the original peoples of Western Europe. These include the original French, Spanish, and Celtic settlers. **Magog... Tubal, Meshech:** These settled in the far north of Europe and became the Russian peoples. **Madai:** From this son of Japheth came the ancient Medes and they populated what are now Iran and Iraq...**Javan:** From this son of Japheth came the ancient Greeks, whose sea-faring ways are described in [Genesis 10:5](#)." - David Guzik

"This is the fourth *toledoth* of the book of Genesis (previously noted at Genesis 2:4; 5:1; and 6:9), presumably marking the signatures of Shem, Ham and Japheth after completing their narrative of the Flood and the immediate post-Flood years. Shem's...family records, now known as the Table of Nations, constitute (according to premier archaeologist William P. Albright) an 'astonishingly accurate document.'" - The Defender's Study Bible

2. List what you learn about Ham's grandson Nimrod. 10:8-11 With what city and land was he associated? See Micah 5:6

**FYI: *Mighty*** Strong's OT:1368 *gibbowr*, powerful; by implication, warrior, tyrant

**10:9 *mighty hunter.*** "This phrase connotes a man mighty in wickedness...Nimrod...was given a name meaning 'Let us rebel!' and apparently trained by his father for this purpose." - The Defender's Study Bible

"**SHINAR** — the land of southern Mesopotamia, later known as Babylonia or Chaldea, through which the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers flow (Gen 10:10; 11:2). Secular historians usually refer to the area as SUMER. Nimrod's kingdom in Shinar consisted of the cities of Babel (Babylon), Erech (Uruk), Accad (Akkad or Agade), and Calneh (Gen 10:10). It was here that the Tower of Babel was situated (Gen 11:2)." - Nelson's Bible Dictionary

"**Nineveh** was the capital of the great Assyrian Empire for many years. Its fortunes rose and fell as Babylonia and Assyria struggled with each other for the dominant position in the ancient world...In 612 B.C. Nineveh was destroyed, as prophesied by the Hebrew prophets, especially Nahum. Many scholars questioned the existence of Nineveh until its discovery by A.H. Layard and H. Rassam in 1845-1854. The site has now been excavated thoroughly. Occupational levels on the site go back to prehistoric times, before 3100 B.C." - Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

3. Where did the Canaanites dwell? 10:15-19 (*What problem did Israel have with them? Deuteronomy 20:17,18 What hero of faith came through Canaan? Joshua 6:17; Hebrews 11:31, Matthew 1:5*)

### **Digging Deeper**

For conflicts the Israelites had with Philistines see: Judges 13:1; 14:1; 1 Samuel 4:1; 13:4; 17:23)

**FYI:** "According to Josephus...the children of Ham lived in the lands of Syria and Amanus. They also populated many parts of northern and eastern Africa...Canaan, Ham's fourth son, lived in the part of the Holy Land later known as Judea." - <https://www.biblestudy.org/maps/the-world-as-known-to-the-hebrews.html>

**10:15** "The family of **Sidon**, the son of Canaan, went north and is related to the Hittites and Lebanese. 10:17 **And the Sinite.** Many people believe the Oriental peoples descended from the **Sinites.**" - David Guzik

4. What special descendants of Shem are mentioned in 10:21? What do you learn about Shem and Japheth?

**FYI:** The name *Eber* is related to the word *Hebrew* – so that Eber is understood to be the ancestor of the Hebrew people." - R. Kent Hughes (158)

**10:21-30** "**Elam**, who was an ancestor of the Persian peoples; **Asshur**, who was the father of the Assyrians; **Lud** was father to the Lydians who lived for a time in Asia Minor; and **Aram** was father to the Arameans... **Arphaxad** was the ancestor of Abram and the Hebrews... **Uz:** Later, a region in Arabia was named after this son of Aram. Job came from the land of Uz (**Job 1:1**).. (24-30) ...The names after the son of **Joktan** (son of Eber, son of Salah, son of Arphaxad) are all associated with various Arabic peoples." - David Guzik

"The '**division**' (**10:25**) that took place was, most likely, the traumatic upheaval at Babel...The seventy nations from Noah's three sons are the progenitors of all other nations...These three streams of nations should not be interpreted as races, however. The concept of race is not found in the Bible and is purely an evolutionist concept with no basis in either Scripture or true science ... Where mankind is concerned, there are nations, tribes, tongues, peoples, and families, but these are not races." - The Defender's Study Bible

5. While the genealogy of Seth's line in 10:25,26 goes through Joktan, which son of Eber does 11:16-18 trace? To whom did that line lead? 11:26 *What promise is this following?* 3:15

**FYI: Shem** "The name *Semite* comes from Shem ...In the Greek and Latin versions of the Bible, Shem becomes Sem, since neither Greek nor Latin has any way of representing the initial sound of the Hebrew name." - <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/who-are-the-semites/>

To be *anti-Semitic* or *anti-shemitic* means to be against the people descended from Shem.

Article and video: "Racism" <https://answersingenesis.org/racism/>  
 "All humans are descended from Adam and Eve and so all are related and need the salvation offered by the Last Adam, Jesus. From a biblical perspective, there is one biological race. This is confirmed by scientific studies on the human genome. Biblically and scientifically there is no defense of racism..."



6. What happened to all of these families? 10:32 Cf. Acts 17:26 *Considering the thousands of years of migrations, invasions and intermarriages of people groups, people today probably consist of a mixture of DNA from all three sons.*

**Applying the Word:** What do you think God was trying to teach through the careful compilation of these lineages? Who in your family tree helped to turn your family toward the Lord?

## Day 2

## The Tower of Babel. Read Genesis 11:1-9



7. What characterized the world after the flood?

- Where did people settle? 11:1,2 Who occupied this area? 10:10

8. What two reasons did the people give for building the tower? 11:4b (Contrast 9:1)

**4FYI:** ""The impressive beauty and sacred purpose of the tower would, in the reasonings of the people, surely please God and more than compensate for the fact that the entire project was contrary to God's commandment and would glorify human achievement rather than recognize human frailty and divine salvation." - Henry Morris (270)

**"Are There Any Remains of the Tower of Babel?"** There really isn't much left of the Tower of Babel. Alexander the Great removed bricks and the outer coating, but he never rebuilt it. However, most researchers think they know where the foundation is located. Also, there was an archaeological artifact found called a 'tele.' - bna rock slab with pictures and inscriptions on it...The Tower of Babel stele has an image of Nebuchadnezzar next to the Tower of Babel. It shows its shape as a ziggurat..."

<https://answersingenesis.org/kids/bible/babel/any-remains-of-babel/>

"There are two great lines of the descendants of Shem that divide in the two sons of Eber (10:25) [*Joktan and Peleg*]. One ends in Babylon, the other in the Promised Land." - Expositor's Bible Commentary

9 Although there is nothing wrong in wanting security and significance, what part did God have in their plans? *How does their declaration of independence compare to Eve's temptation?* 3:5

- What direction might their focus have taken? Deuteronomy 4:19 (See also Romans 1:21-23)

**FYI: us...ourselves...we** "At Babel rebellious man undertook a united and godless effort to establish for himself, by a titanic human enterprise, a world renown by which he would dominate God's creation. If the whole human race remained united in the proud attempt to take its destiny into its own hands and, by its I-am-centered efforts, to seize the reins of history, there would be no limit to its unrestrained rebellion against God." - NIV Study Bible

"The establishment of a strongly centralized society which, with controls over resources and occupations, would soon be able to produce a self-sufficient civilization capable of similarly controlling the entire world." - Henry Morris

"Their first selfish motive was to 'make a name for ourselves' (11:4) While this may seem to be a natural motive, it actually IS, and is very anti-supernatural. That is, the first desire and morning prayer of a believer ought to be, 'Father, hallowed by your name. Let today not be about me, but let your name and reputation be magnified and lifted up before the world today.' Instead the people at Babel sought significance in themselves rather than in their relationship with God.

Their second problem was ignoring the command to scatter and fill the earth given in Genesis chapter 9. They sought to find security in their own community rather than in obedience to God's directives. Technically there is nothing wrong with the values of significance and security. God wants us to have both of them, but they must be found only in relation to him. Thus, Babel, becomes a symbol throughout the Bible for people who unite together in order to achieve the goals that God wants for mankind on the condition that God is left out!"

- Chris Miller, Ph.D Senior Professor of Biblical Studies. Cedarville University

10. What concern did the Lord have about the people? 11:6. (How does this compare to 3:22?)

- Where do you think a godless focus along with an unhindered, united accumulation of information and expertise was headed?

#### ***Digging Deeper***

See the following that describe where is our unity is to be found.: John 17:11,23; Romans 12:5; Philippians 1:27; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:13; Colossians 2:2

***FYI: "The Lord came down*** "This 'anthropomorphic expression' does not suggest that God was not always fully aware of what was going on, but only that He now was officially and judicially taking the situation under direct observation and consideration, it having become so flagrant that there was danger (as in the days of Noah) that the truth of God's revelation might be completely obliterated if it were allowed to continue." - Henry Morris

11. What did God do? 11:7-9 (Contrast Acts 2:3,4) What kind of animosity/distrust/fear do you imagine this confusion creating between the different language groups?

***FYI:*** "The focus...since the beginning chapters of the Book of Genesis has been both on God's plan to bless mankind by providing him with that which is 'good' and on man's failure to trust God and enjoy the 'good' God had provided. The characteristic mark of man's failure up to this point in the book has been his attempt to grasp the 'good' on his own rather than trust God to provide it for him." - The Expositor's Bible Commentary

"The forced separation of men from Babel was more God's mercy than His judgment. God, in dividing man both linguistically and geographically, put a check on the power of his fallen nature." - David Guzik

12. Various people groups separated from each other. Compared to the whole population, how much information would each group have been able to retain? *In what way might their skill sets have differed? What do you see happening to the genetic information of each people group?*

***FYI:*** "There were at least 78 families that came out of Babel with new languages because Genesis 10 gives a listing of most of these families...Now these language families gave rise to almost all of the languages we have today. German, English, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, and Austrian are all part of one language family. Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Romanian are all part of another language family. If you tally these language families up around the world, there are less than 100 language families in the world today. This is a good confirmation of what the Bible says about the origin of languages at the Tower of Babel!"

- <https://answersingenesis.org/kids/bible/babel/how-many-languages-babel/>

"Scientists at the National Institutes of Health recently announced that they had put together a draft of the entire sequence of the **human genome**, and the researchers had unanimously declared, **there is only one race-the human race**...Researchers say that those traits most commonly used to distinguish one race from another, like skin and eye color...are traits controlled by a relatively few number of genes, and thus have been able to change rapidly in response to extreme environmental pressures during the short course of Homo sapiens history.

And so equatorial populations evolved dark skin, presumably to protect against ultraviolet radiation, while people in northern latitudes evolved pale skin, the better to produce vitamin D from pale sunlight.

"If you ask what percentage of your genes is reflected in your external appearance, the basis by which we talk about race, the answer seems to be in the range of .01 percent," said Dr. Harold P. Freeman..."This is a very, very minimal reflection of your genetic makeup."

- Natalie Angier "Do Races Differ? Not really DNA shows"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2000/08/22/science/do-races-differ-not-really-genes-show.html>

13. How difficult would it be to meet the needs for food and shelter and other material goods? What rudimentary dwellings may some have lived in at first?

**FYI:** “Think what it was like for a family to leave the area of Babel and go out on their own. They must look for a suitable place to live, and once they found it, they must exist by hunting and gathering, living in crude dwellings or caves until they could support themselves by agriculture and taking advantage of the natural resources. Families would multiply rapidly, develop their own culture, and their own distinctive biological and physical characteristics influenced by their environment. In the small population, genetic characteristics change very quickly, and as the population of the group grew bigger, the changes stabilized and became more or less permanent.” - David Guzik

**Applying the Word:** *In what ways do you see the mentality “let us make a name for ourselves” manifested in today’s society? How much do you struggle with the desire to find significance in yourself rather than your relationship with God?*

*Do you see any dangers in our world today with the growth and world-wide coordination of information and communication?*

**Video:** “Only One Biological Race” with Ken Ham (9:06)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5ujsNj\\_S7g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5ujsNj_S7g)



### Day 3

Read Genesis 11:10 – 12:8

13. What is the significance of following Shem’s line to Abraham in 11:10-26? Matthew 1:1  
 What promise was God fulfilling? Genesis 3:15

14. From Genesis 11:10-26, finish filling in Shem’s family line.

Shem – 600 years

Arphaxad – 440 years

Shelah – 433 years

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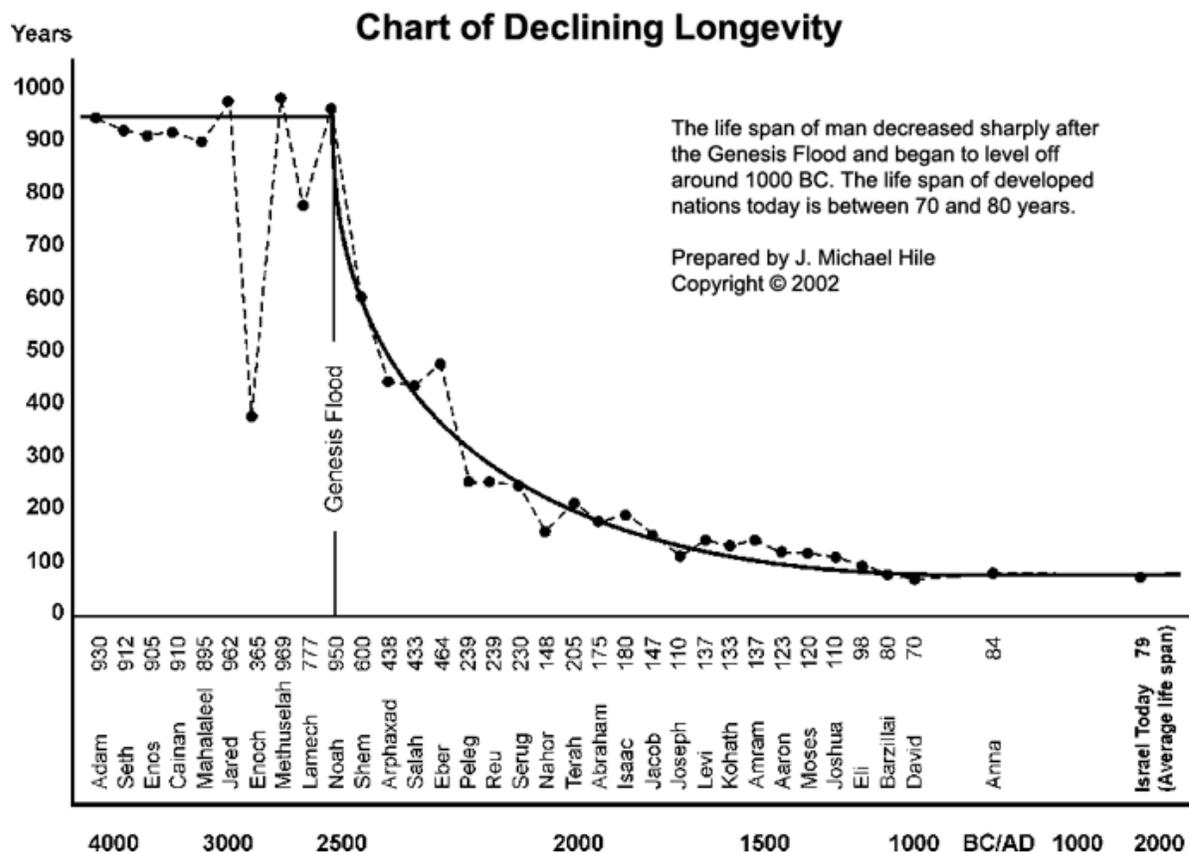
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15. Note the life span of mankind after the Flood. Considering the path of mankind, why might God have wanted them shortened?



**FYI:**

**Life Spans:**

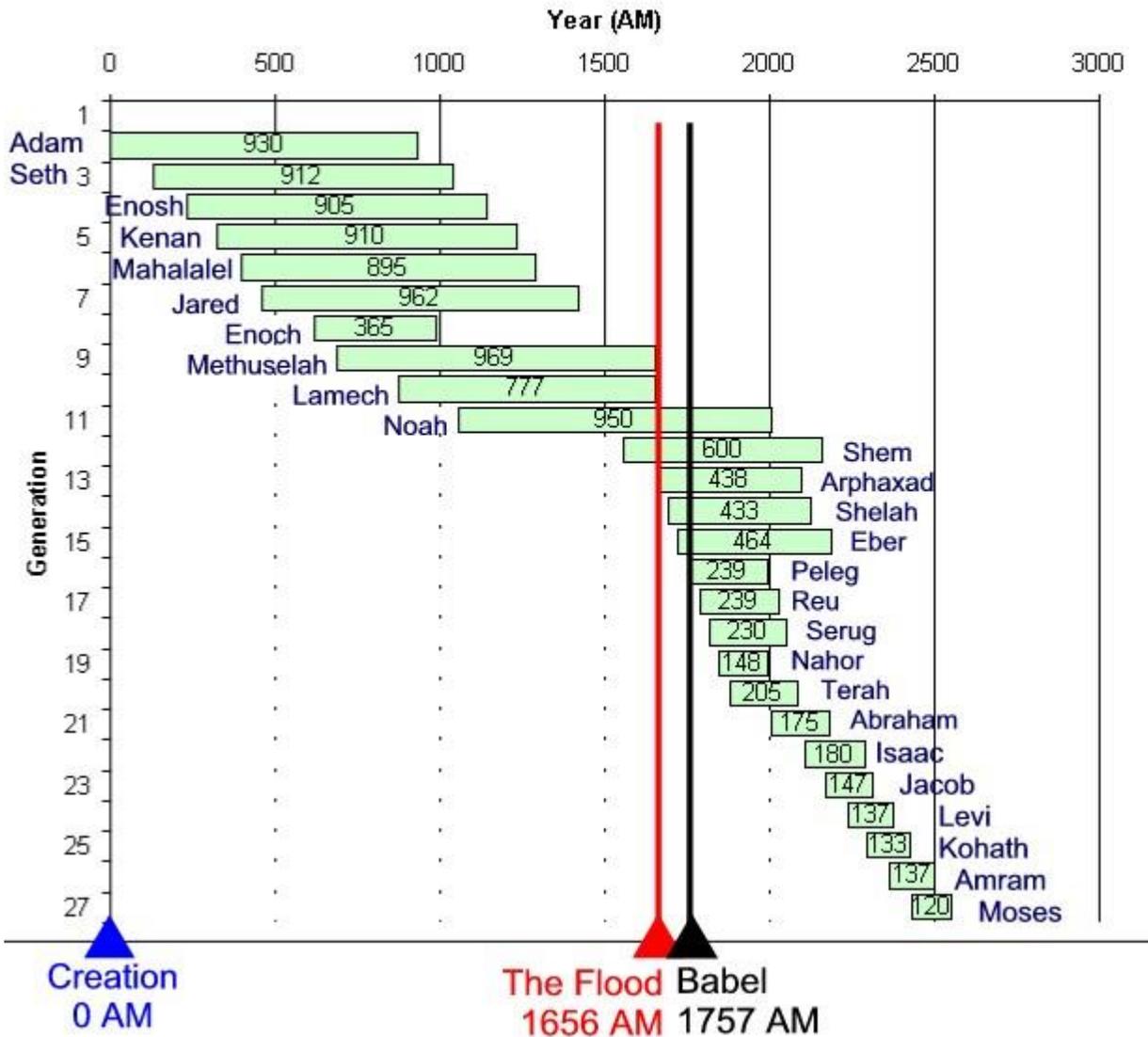
“Every time human DNA is reproduced, it is vulnerable to the law of disorder and decay via mutation [2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics]. It’s interesting that creationists recognize the devastating effect mutations have on the human population while evolutionists must embrace mutations as the driving force for the development of complex life. Evolutionists teach that these mutations will develop into flight, new optic nerves, a baby in the womb and music. Creationists teach that mutations lead to cancer and cataracts...

God reduced the entire human genetic pool to just five people, Noah, his wife and the three sons’ wives. Understand that Noah was the only male contributing DNA to all of humankind. If Noah had genetic predisposition for Alzheimer’s, leukemia, cataracts or any other ailment, the odds of his offspring manifesting those ailments went up dramatically. We would expect generations following the flood to be dramatically less healthy and have reduced lifespans based on observational science and what we understand about genetics. Combine the loss of technology with the need to regenerate all food sources and life was not easy...

(At Babel) the original language from Noah was gone...Different languages came into existence immediately, all with different grammar, syntax and subtle meanings. Any sense of community at the tower of Babel was gone in a flash...Then, just like today, people would associate with others that shared their common new language, organize new cultural groups and finally fill the earth as God commanded. This is another example that God will not be mocked. His plan is perfect and it will prevail. From the perspective of human history, this is the second disastrous concentration of the genetic code. Again, genetic problems that were present in the pre-Babel population may have been rendered harmless by healthy genes from the other parent. But, just like the time of Noah, the likelihood of matching up defective genes was much higher after Babel... **Notice how lifespans dropped another roughly 50% immediately after Babel.** When we combine accurate Bible history with what we know about genetics, the again diminished lifespans make perfect sense.”

- Jim Winebrenner

### Ages of Patriarchs (Masoretic)



**Consider:** Could Abraham have met Shem and heard a first-hand account of the Flood?

16. Why did Abram's family leave Ur? Genesis 12:1; Acts 7:2-4

- What do you learn about Terah from Joshua 24:2? What does this indicate about where man's relationship with God was heading?

17. What was God's plan for Abram? 12:2 (See Romans 3:8) What does this reveal about the unfolding of God's promise (3:15)?

18. Compare Abram’s call to Noah’s.

Noah	Abram
Then God said to Noah, “Come out of the ark... 8:16a	12:1
Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. 9:1	12:2 (See also Genesis 15:5)
So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. 8:18	12:4,5
“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 9:9	12:7 (see also Genesis 17:7)
Then Noah built an altar to the LORD... 8:20	12:8 Cf. 4:26b

**FYI:** “Both Noah and Abraham represent new beginnings in the course of events recorded in Genesis. Both are marked by God’s promise of blessing and His gift of the covenant.” – Expositor’s Bible Commentary

**12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you** “This promise – inherited by the covenant descendants of Abram, the Jewish people – remains true today and is a root reason for the decline and death of many empires.

‘When the Greeks overran Palestine and desecrated the altar in the Jewish temple, they were soon conquered by Rome. When Rome killed Paul and many others, and destroyed Jerusalem under Titus, Rome soon fell. Spain was reduced to a fifth-rate nation after the Inquisition against the Jews; Poland fell after the pogroms; Hitler’s Germany went down after its orgies of anti-Semitism; Britain lost her empire when she broke her faith with Israel’ (Barnhouse)”  
- David Guzik

19. What plan did the Lord have through Abraham? 12:3 To *whom* would this blessing be given? *Why do you think God choose at this time to work through one family?*

“The first 11 chapters of Genesis may look like a complete failure on the part of God’s program and this impression might be reinforced by the fact that in chapter 12 God seems to abandon the world in favor of working with just one family. The truth is, however, that the problems and judgment on Babel were all just a perfect setup for God’s strategy in choosing Abraham as the answer to the failures of chapters 3–11. ...Babel was indeed the low point of the first eleven chapters. God’s design for a worldwide community of worshippers who loved him and each other was now even further hindered by the regrettable fragmentation into nations. God didn’t want to divide the people but that was a better choice than allowing them to easily unite against him as they had at Babel. But God wastes no time in going on the offensive and in Abraham he promises to put ‘humpty dumpty’ [the unrepairable broken world] back together again.”  
- Chris Miller, Ph.D *Senior Professor of Biblical Studies. Cedarville University*

20. From Galatians 3:8, what God was actually “announcing” to Abraham?

- Through whom would this come? Galatians 3:18, (See also Romans 3:22)

21. What did the nation of Israel, that came through Abraham, become and on whose behalf?  
Exodus 19:5,6
22. Thinking back over the Genesis account, where do you see the covenant line of God's promise (3:15) almost destroyed?

**Applying the Word:** *What do you find most remarkable about God's patience and work with mankind from Adam to Abraham (~2000 years)?*

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## Day 4

- *In what ways did the study of Genesis 1-11 change your thinking about the history of origins?*
- *How did it impact your thinking about the authority of the Bible? How do these foundational truths effect how you view the rest of the Bible?*
- *What is the most interesting thing you learned from studying Genesis 1-11?*

## For Further Study

**Video:** “*Tower of Babel: Origin of Races*” Ken Ham (1:15:44)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= KM1ANWbrlY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KM1ANWbrlY)



**Video:** “*Creation vs. Evolution: Is Genesis Relevant?*” (1:07.02)

Dr. Terry Mortenson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-MfpPu38SU>

*“Dr. Mortenson presents some of the Biblical, moral, and scientific reasons for believing that Genesis is vitally relevant to what is taught and happening in our world. What is ultimately at stake is our view of morality, the meaning of life, the truth of the Gospel, and the trustworthiness and authority of the Bible.”*



**Article:** “*Are There Really Different Races?*”

by Ken Ham *The New Answers Book 1* Chapter 17

<https://answersingenesis.org/racism/are-there-really-different-races/>



**Article:** “*The Power of Alternate Histories of the Universe*”

Thomas Purifoy Jr.

<https://isgenesishistory.com/power-of-alternate-histories-of-universe/>

*Discusses the consequences and power of evolutionary history under Darwin and the power of Biblical history.*



**Article:** “*How Many Races Did God Create?*” by Dr. Tommy Mitchell

<https://answersingenesis.org/tower-of-babel/how-many-races-did-god-create/>

