

Bible Stories for Adults

The Flood and the Tower of Babel

Genesis 5 - 11

Opening

- Gathering: Give an example of how God's judgment and grace have been evident to you.
- Today's Focus: To recognize that while God is just and must punish sin, He is also merciful and freely offers His undeserved grace.
- Key Verses: *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.* Romans 3:23
- Without faith it is impossible to please God. ... By faith Noah ... condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.* Hebrews 11:6-7

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Generations (*Genesis 5; 11:10-32*)

What was the typical lifespan during the first 1656 years of human history?

Genesis 5

How and why was this changed?

Genesis 6:1-4

Sons of God/daughters of men

What was the typical lifespan between Noah and Abraham and beyond?

Genesis 11:10-32

How many generations were born by Adam's death?

Genesis 5

What is significant about the description of the birth of the second generation?

Genesis 5:3

How did Enoch die, and why?

Genesis 5:24

Lamech, 7th from Adam through Cain was condemned as evil (*Genesis 4:19-24*)

Enoch, 7th from Adam through Seth was commended as pleasing God (*Heb 11:5; Jude 14*)

How did Methuselah die?

Genesis 5:25-29, 7:11

NOTE: *Methuselah* means "when he is dead, it shall come"

World-Wide Wickedness (*Genesis 6:5-13*)

How had the disharmony of sin affected God's creation?

Genesis 6:5

What did God decide to do as His judgment?

Genesis 6:6-7

How did God follow this judgment with His grace?

Genesis 6:17-18

Why did God save Noah?

Genesis 6:8-9 (also 7:1)

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Preparations (*Genesis 6:14-21*)

What preparations did God tell Noah to make?

Genesis 6:14-16, 19-21

Wood - Hebrew says to make ark of *etz-gopher*, *etz* means wood, *gopher* is unknown word

Literal translations (KJV, RSV) just say gopher wood

If a typo (*scribo?*), could be *etz-kaphar* or resinous wood (Living Bible)

Since unknown, NIV uses cypress

Pitch - Hebrew is *kaphar*, same as word for atonement (*kippur*)

One door to enter the ark for salvation – Jesus is the only door for salvation (John 10:9; 14:6)

Noah's Response (*Genesis 6: 22*)

What did Noah do in response to God's instructions?

Genesis 6:22

Why did Noah build this huge boat on dry land?

Hebrews 11:7

Entering the Ark (*Genesis 7:1-16*)

How old was Noah when the flood began?

Genesis 7:6-7

At his age, how did Noah gather all of the animals?

Genesis 7:15

How did Noah close the door of the ark?

Genesis 7:16

The Flood (*Genesis 7:17-24*)

Where did the floodwaters come from?

Genesis 7:11

How long did the floodwaters come?

Genesis 7:17, 24

What is the importance of verse 20?

Genesis 7:20 (18-23)

The Waters Subside (*Genesis 8:1-14*)

How did God end the flood?

Genesis 8:1

When was dry land first visible?

Genesis 8:3-5

Why did Noah send out birds?

Genesis 8:6-9

Ravens have great endurance over distance

What did Noah learn from the dove's next two trips?

Genesis 8:10-12

How long had Noah and his family lived on the ark?

Genesis 8:13-14

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Back on Dry Ground (*Genesis 8:15-20*)

- How did Noah know when to get out of the ark?
Genesis 8:15-17
- What was the first thing Noah did after leaving the ark?
Genesis 8:18-20
- Wouldn't Noah eliminate species by sacrificing clean animals?
Genesis 7:2-3

God's Response (*Genesis 8:21-9:7*)

- How did God respond to Noah's worshipful sacrifice?
Genesis 8:21
- What else did God commit to sustain?
Genesis 8:22
- How did man's relation to animals change?
Genesis 9:2-3; 1:29
- Since man could now kill, what did God command against and why?
Genesis 9:5-6
- What did God command to restore his creation?
Genesis 9:7 (see 1:28)

God's Covenant (*Genesis 9:8-17*)

- With whom did God make a covenant?
Genesis 9:8-10
- What was God's promise under the covenant?
Genesis 9:11
- What sign or signature guaranteed this covenant?
Genesis 9:12-17
- What other covenant did God make that was symbolized by Noah's ark?
1 Peter 3:18-21

Family Ties (*Genesis 10*)

- What humans were left after the flood to rebuild civilization?
Genesis 8:18-19
- With all humanity descending from this small group, what is described after the flood story?
Genesis 10:32 (1-32)

The Ziggurat of Shinar (*Genesis 11:1-4*)

- When does the Tower of Babel story take place?
Genesis 11:1
- Where did this story take place?
Genesis 11:2
- What did they decide to build?
Genesis 11:4
- What were the building materials?
Genesis 11:3

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Sin Number One (*Genesis 11:4*)

What is the first reason that the people decided to build this ziggurat?

Genesis 11:4

What sin were the people guilty of?

Proverbs 29:23

When is pride okay?

Galatians 6:14

Sin Number Two (*Genesis 11:4*)

What was the second purpose of building the ziggurat?

Genesis 11:4

How did this oppose the command God had given Noah?

Genesis 9:1

The Judgment (*Genesis 11:5-8*)

How effectively were the people able to build *a tower that reaches to the heavens*?

Genesis 11:5

How did God respond when He saw what the people were doing?

Genesis 11:6

What was the danger of a unified humanity at this time?

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

What did God do in judgment of this sin?

Genesis 11:7-8

God's Place and Time (*Genesis 11:9*)

Why is the Ziggurat of Shinar called the Tower of Babel?

Genesis 11:9

Babilu - Akkadian for

balal - Hebrew for

When did all of this happen?

Genesis 10:25

How random was this scattering?

Acts 17:26-27

The Grace (*Genesis 12:1-3*)

How did God respond in grace to this incident?

Genesis 12:1-3

When will this dispersion and separation be completely reversed?

Revelation 7:9-10

Have we experienced any of this reversal yet?

Colossians 3:11

When did this begin?

Acts 11:15-18

Closing Prayer

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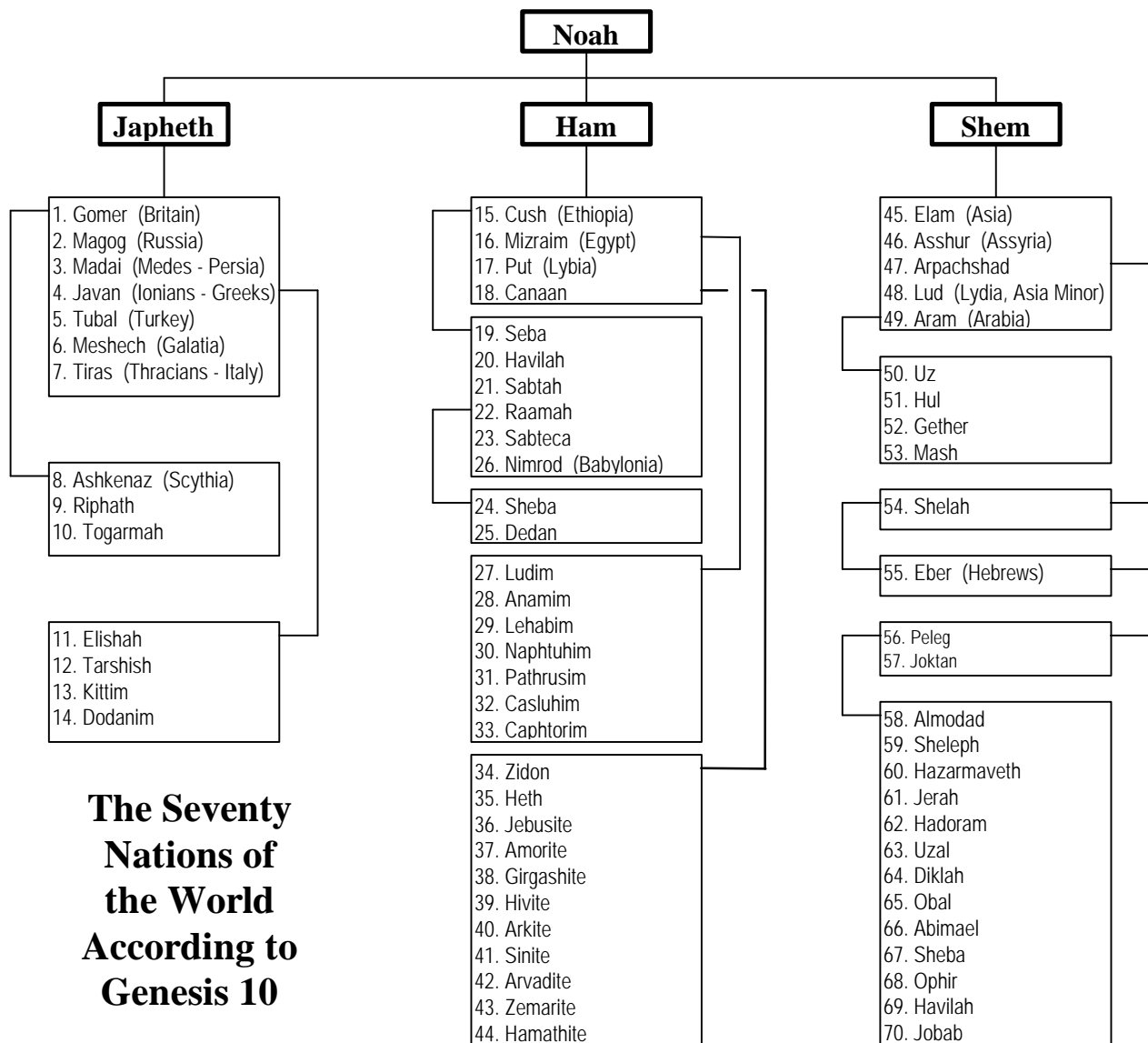
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Response

1. How does it feel to find favor in the eyes of the Lord?
(Genesis 5:24; 6:8; 19:19; 39:2-5; Exodus 33:12-23; Ruth 2:2; 2 Samuel 15:25-26; Luke 1:30)
2. What can I do to find favor in the eyes of the Lord? (Micah 6:8; Ephesians 5:8-10, 17; Colossians 1:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2; Hebrews 11:5-7; 13:20-21; 1 John 3:21-24)
3. When have I responded to God without concern for what others might think? (Genesis 6:14-16, 22; Job 2:7-10; Matthew 6:5, 16-18; Acts 4:18-20; 5:29; 1 Thess 2:4; Hebrews 11:35-40)
4. How has pride affected my relationship with God?
(Leviticus 26:19; Proverbs 3:34; 8:13; 11:2; 15:25; 16:5, 18; 21:4, 24; Romans 12:3; Galatians 6:3)
5. Which of God's commands to me have I directly and clearly disobeyed?
(Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:17-32; Galatians 3:10; James 2:10-11)

Next Week - God Calls Abram (Genesis 12 - 14)



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Jewish Timeline of Genesis

