

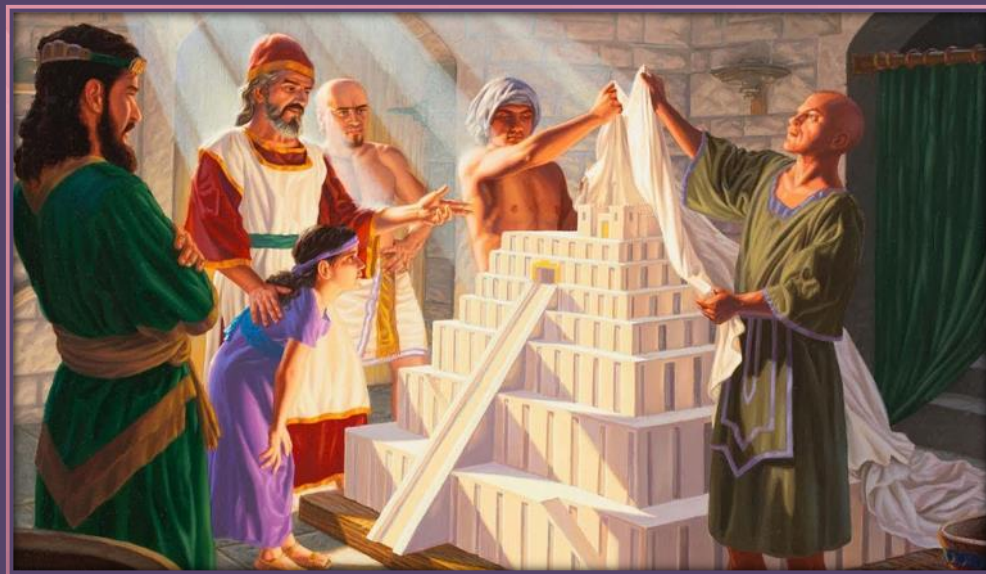
ALL NATIONS AND BABEL



The Flood gave humankind a second chance to follow God and serve Him.

However, issues soon arose. Drunkenness, not respecting their parents, seeking glory and power...

And eventually, open rebellion against God.



Noah's descendants:

- ➔ The curse of Canaan
- ➔ The history of the nations



The tower of Babel:

- ➔ The rebellion
- ➔ God came down
- ➔ The dispersion

THE CURSE OF CANAAN

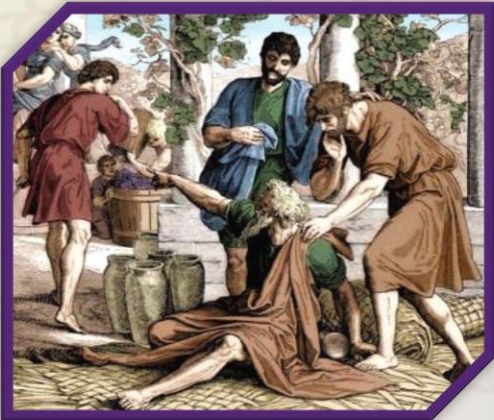
"Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren." (Genesis 9:25)

Drunkenness makes us lose self-control (Pr. 23:31-35). Noah got drunk and undressed in his tent.

Ham saw his father and made fun of him, thus dishonoring him, and breaking the fifth commandment. He also shared it with others. Ham's son Canaan might've been with him in that moment (Gn. 9:22).



Noah's nakedness was covered, like Adam's was. His two older sons covered him (Gn. 9:23).

The curse of Canaan condemned all the evil practices of his descendants. It also introduced Shem's seed as the redeemer of all nations (Gn. 9:25-27; 22:18).



A CLARIFICATION ON THE CURSE OF CANAAN

Genesis 9:25 often has been disastrously misapplied to Africans or those of African descent, and, thus, has been used as a religious justification for slavery. However, this bigoted interpretation does not hold, for two reasons:

-  **First, the curse does not concern Ham but his son Canaan. Neither does this curse concern Cush, the firstborn son of Ham, which immediately excludes the reference to those of African descent or Africans in particular.**
-  **The second reason that Genesis 9:25 does not apply to Africans or those of African descent is that the reference to Canaan is an allusion to the inheritance of the Promised Land, with all that this land symbolizes, concerning the promise of salvation for the world.**

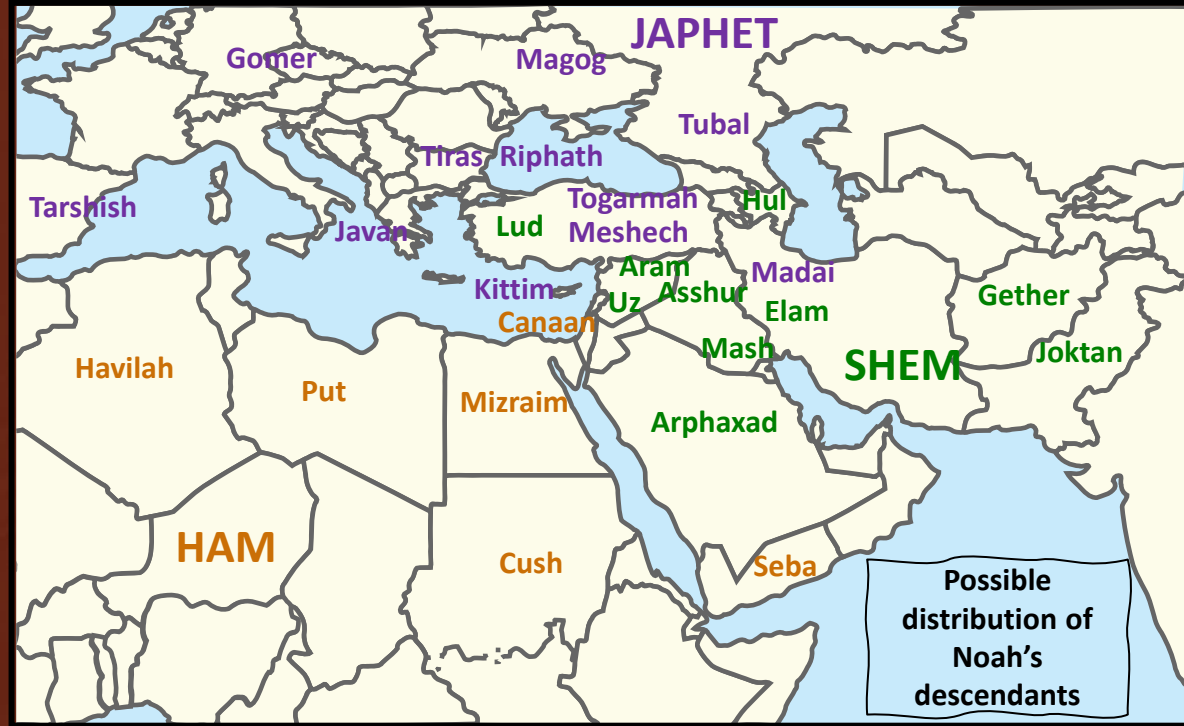


THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONS

Genesis mentions 70 of Noah's descendants. Each clan settled in different regions. This resulted in 70 different nations on Earth.

All knew about the story of sin and the promised redemption that Noah had shared with them. Adam had told the story to Lamech, and Lamech had shared it with his son Noah.

Unfortunately, few people remained faithful to God.



"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." (Genesis 10:32)

THE REBELLION

“Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” (Genesis 11:4)

The gathering at Babel was an open rebellion against God.

God



“There won’t be another Flood” (Gn. 9:15)



He has a perpetual and glorious name (Is. 63:12, 14)



“your descendants will live all over the earth” (Gn. 9:7 GNT)

Babel



The tower would save them from a second Flood



“let us make a name for ourselves” (Gn. 11:4)



They refused to fill the earth



Babylon represents every movement that tries to replace God, encouraged by Satan and his philosophy (Is. 14:14; Rev. 18:2).



GOD CAME DOWN

**"But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built."
(Genesis 11:5)**

God didn't wait for humankind to reach Him (something impossible, actually). He came down.

God came down before the rebellion went too far. He prevented humans from destroying themselves again (Gn. 7-8).

In the same manner, God came down "when the fullness of the time had come" (Gal 4:4) as Jesus to free us from destruction and to give us eternal life.

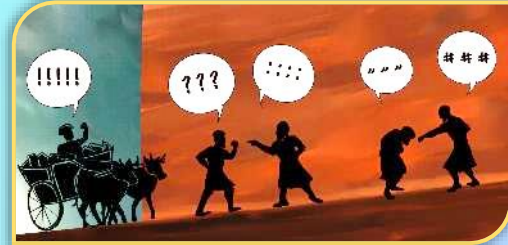
We cannot get to God by ourselves, so He comes down by His grace.

THE DISPERSION

“Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.” (Genesis 11:9)

Humans tried to build a gate to the throne of God to usurp it, but it became a place of confusion [“Babel” stands for “gate of God” in Akkadian, and it’s similar to the Hebrew verb “to confuse”].

When humans left the ark, they were ordered to fill the earth (Gn. 9:1), but they refused to do so. After Babel they were forced to fulfill the order.



This was a blow to their arrogance and pride. However, they didn't learn their lesson. Most of them still rejected God, worshipped idols, and became depraved.

However, a remnant remained faithful and kept worshipping God (Gn. 11:27). God also has a faithful remnant today.

“In mercy to the world He defeated the purpose of the tower builders and overthrew the memorial of their daring. In mercy He confounded their speech, thus putting a check on their purposes of rebellion.

God bears long with the perversity of men, giving them ample opportunity for repentance; but He marks all their devices to resist the authority of His just and holy law. From time to time the unseen hand that holds the scepter of government is stretched out to restrain iniquity.

Unmistakable evidence is given that the Creator of the universe, the One infinite in wisdom and love and truth, is the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, and that none can with impunity defy His power.”

E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 10, p. 123)