

# Lesson 7: Fill The Earth

## Previously...

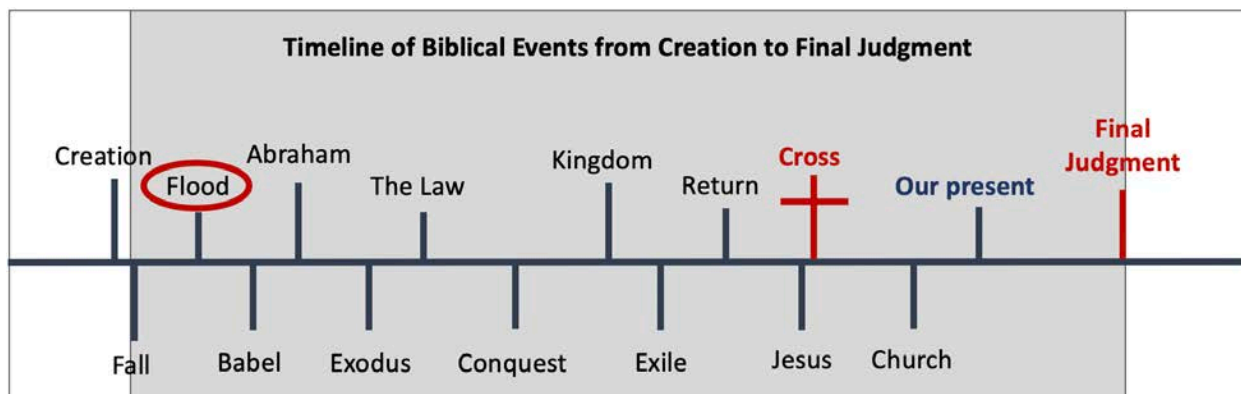
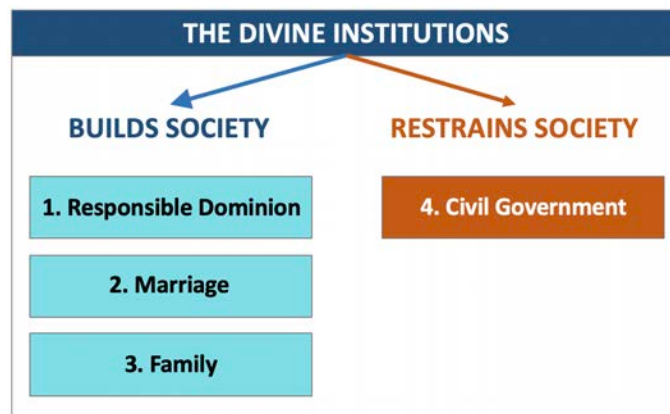
After the Fall, we saw that the world of men grew more evil. Yahweh finally sent a global judgment in the form of a worldwide flood. As a gracious God, He gave mankind a way of escape from the judgment. That one way was to trust Him and His rescue plan.

Noah and his family trusted God. They and the animals that God brought to them survived the global flood by getting into the ark designed by God.

After the flood subsided, Yahweh made a covenant, a contract, with mankind and nature. He promised never to send another global flood and He promised to maintain the stability of the earth. Those were the conditions He put on Himself and there were no obligations for man or nature. God signed the covenant using the rainbow, the symbol of His majesty, authority and glory.











Yahweh then reinstated the original three divine institutions and put in place a fourth: civil authority with the power of capital punishment. Civil authority's role was to limit the spread of evil.



# The Period After the Flood

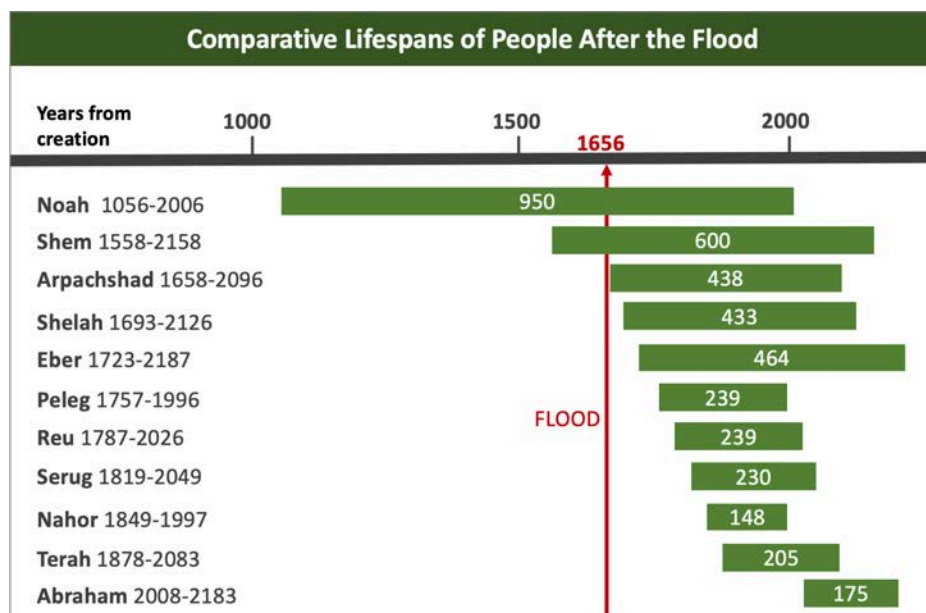
**Comparison of the Pre-Flood and Post-Flood World**

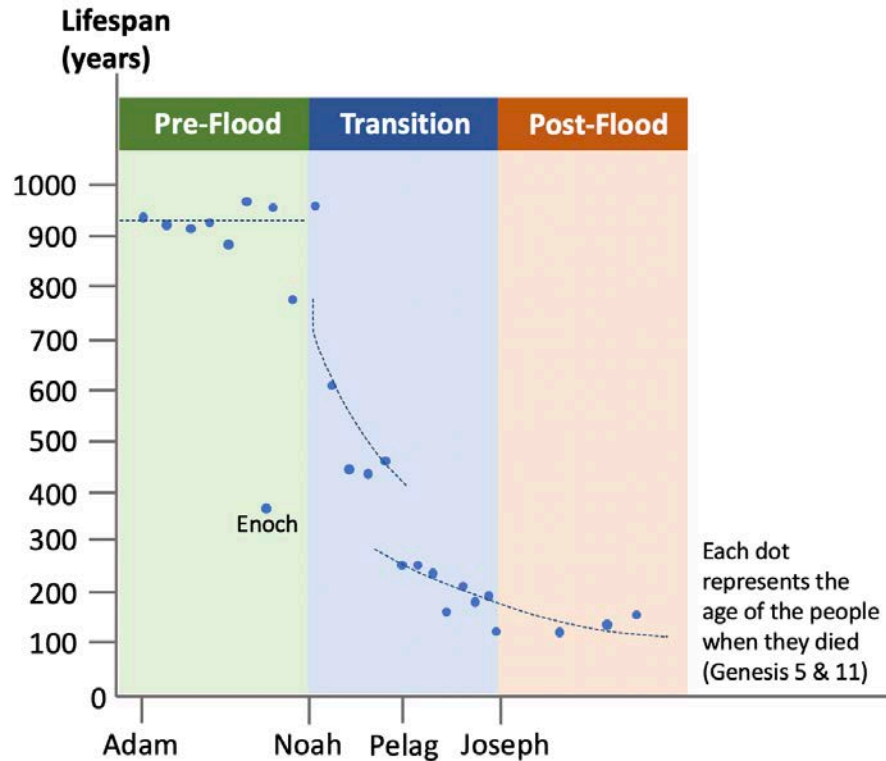
Changes in Nature	Pre-Flood	Post-Flood Transition
<b>Atmosphere</b>	Possible water canopy	 No water canopy
<b>Watering the earth</b>	Mist	 Rain and snow
<b>Mountains and valleys</b>	Mountains lower Valleys shallower	 Mountains higher Valleys deeper
<b>Volcanic activity</b>	No volcanic activity	 Great volcanic activity Volcanic ash covering the earth
<b>Oceans</b>	Warm	 Warmer
<b>Temperature</b>	Pleasant and mild	 There are extremes
<b>Glaciers</b>	Not mentioned	 Glaciation in many areas
<b>Land</b>	No specific information	 Changing surface. Land bridges

The period after the global Flood was very unstable. It was a time of great transition in man and nature.

## A. Lifespans

People before the Flood lived far longer lives compared to those born after. Even Shem, the last of the “pre-Flood” generation, was physically stronger and lived longer than his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.





Data from Genesis 5 and 11 shows that man's whole body changed after the Flood. The average lifespan before the Flood was 930 years. After the Flood, lifespans dropped dramatically.

In fact, plotting the lifespans gives us an "exponential decay curve" (represented by the dotted lines). These types of "curves" are typically seen in physics, chemistry and electronics when there is a change from one stable state to another. In this case, the huge change was from the pre-Flood environment to the post-Flood environment (2 Peter 3:6).

Shem was the last of the pre-Flood generation. Studying the chart (on page 2), we see that Shem outlived almost everyone up to Abraham's time.

To give some perspective, Shem lived longer than:




- the first 12 dynasties of Egypt and
- 24 out of 25 dynasties of the Sumerian Kings (the kingdom of Sumer was in ancient southern Iraq).

Shem's generation and their long lives must have made them seem like "gods" and "goddesses" to their descendants who were clearly weaker, less healthy and lived far shorter lives.

## Did humans descend from the gods?

Many cultures in the world today have myths and legends about “gods” and “goddesses” or about “immortals”. Some believe that humans are descended from gods.

Following what the Bible tells us about history, it is entirely possible that these myths stemmed from the people living immediately after Noah. Because of Noah and his family’s long lives, health, strength and ability to survive, later generations of people may have looked upon them as gods. And so the idea of immortal gods could have developed in this way. But they were not gods and goddesses at all. The Bible tells us they were human.

OBSERVATION 	
<b>Shem is SO OLD!</b>	
For perspective, if Shem died in 2018, he would have been born in 1418!	
CONCLUSIONS	
 <b>Believers in Yahweh Say</b>	 <b>Unbelievers Say</b>
<p>They are human. The Bible records that God changed human lifespan after the Flood.</p>	<p>They must be gods! It follows what we believe!</p> <div style="background-color: #d9d9d9; padding: 5px;"> <p>Continuity of Being (A scale) gods ——— man ——— nature</p> </div>

## B. Advanced Civilisation

Some people have been taught to believe that early man was unintelligent and that modern man is superior in many ways. But is this what the Bible teaches?

### Was ancient man really primitive?

Secular scientists and historians today insist on a narrative that says that once an ape-like ancestor evolved into man, primitive man still took many thousands of years to develop culture, technology, writing, government and civilisation.



But reading the Bible’s account of history, we can see that man developed civilisation rapidly.

**Genesis 4:17–22**

<sup>17</sup> Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son. <sup>18</sup> Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech.

<sup>19</sup> Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah.

<sup>20</sup> Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents. <sup>21</sup> His brother's name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute.

<sup>22</sup> Lamech's other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah.

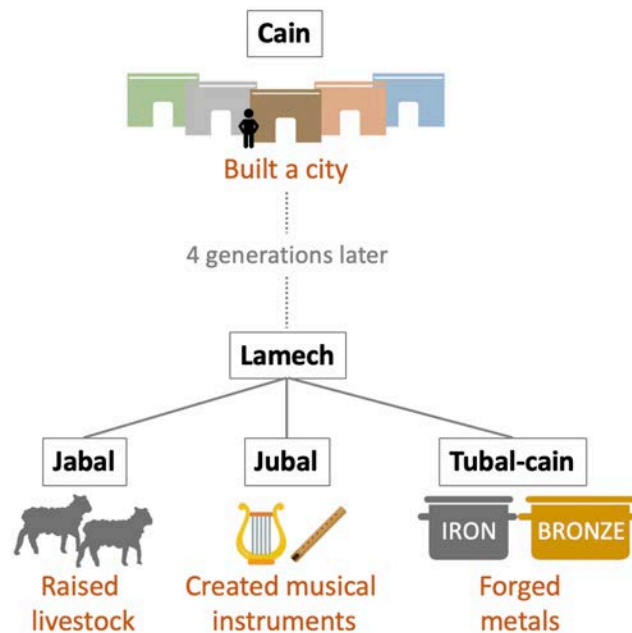
From Adam to Jabal and Jubal is just seven generations.

In that time, man:

- had founded a city,
- was raising livestock, had created string and wind instruments to make music, and
- was forging metal tools from bronze (an alloy of copper and another metal) and iron!

Just think about the complexities involved in finding the right materials to make and tune musical instruments, and the knowledge and skills needed to find ore, smelt it, mix it to create an alloy, and then forge tools.

And though the Bible doesn't go into the details, think of the complexities involved in building a city. There is infrastructure to consider: roads, housing, water and food supply, and sanitation just to name a few things. A city requires advanced thinking and technology. These developments are not primitive at all!



In the post-Flood world, what do we know about Noah and his immediate descendants? Were they just as smart? Yes. Noah and his children were highly intelligent and they had high technology as they colonised the world during the Ice Age.

How do we know this?

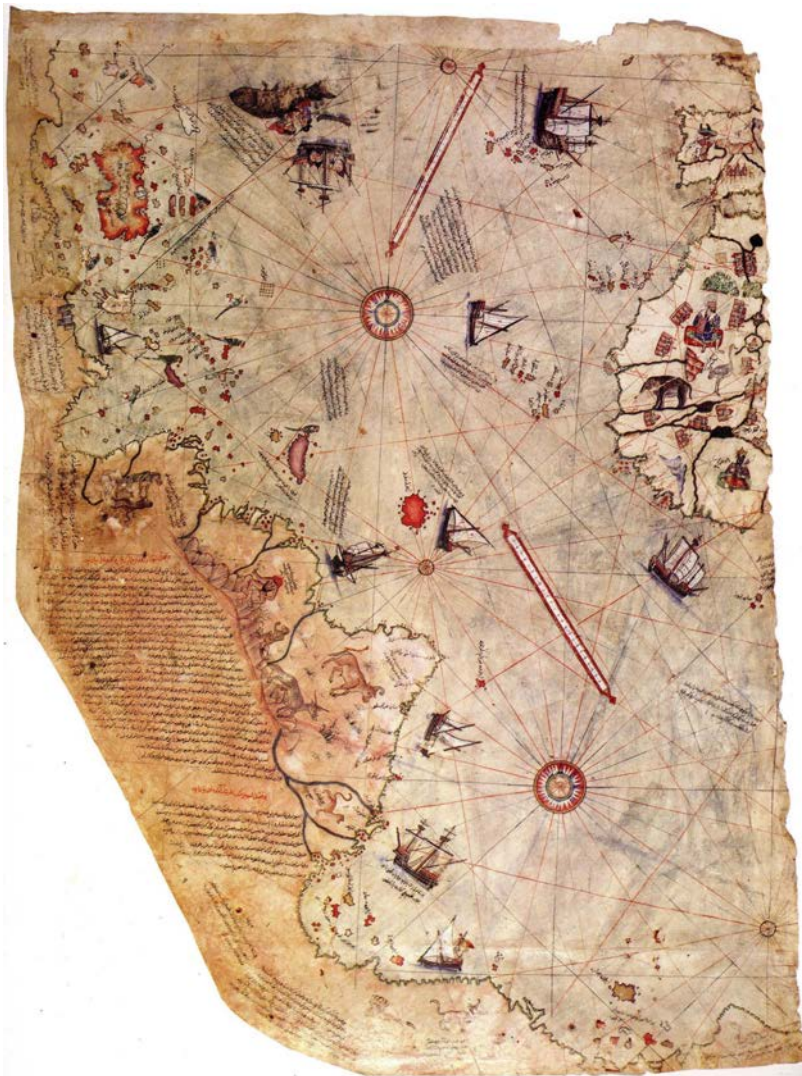


We have Ice Age world maps.

A geography professor specialising in world maps studied ancient maps and found there were full world maps from ancient days, before the Antarctic froze over!

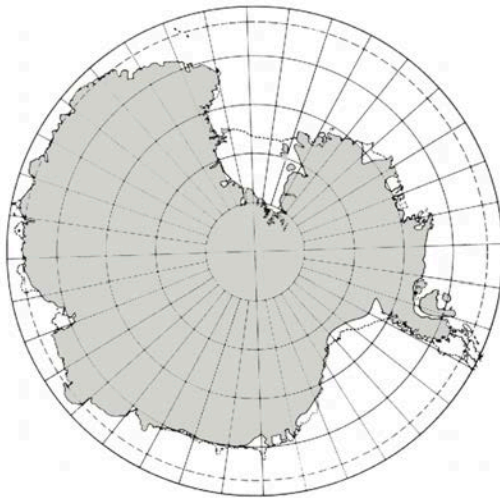
Here are three examples of ancient maps that depict accurate details of land masses and coastlines, including Antarctica when it was not yet frozen. What is especially intriguing is that these maps were accurately drawn without so-called modern instruments and knowledge like longitudinal lines!

### Example 1: Piri Re'is Map 1513

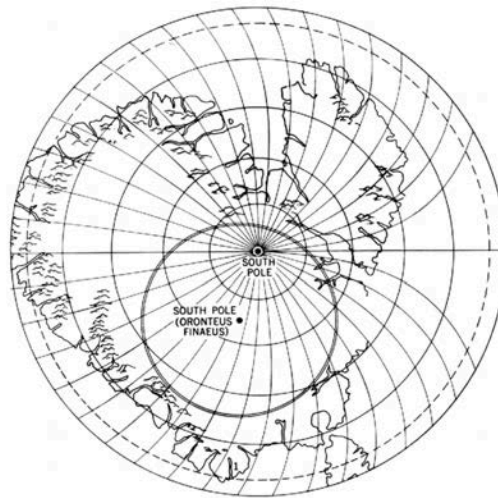


This map fragment is drawn by Turkish Admiral Piri Ibn Haji Memmed. Known as the Piri Re'is map (Re'is is the title of Admiral), it depicts accurately the coastline of South America (bottom left of the map). It is bent because of the shape of the parchment. Intriguingly, the map has the coastline of an unfrozen Antarctica on the right. Admiral Piri said he constructed his map based on 20 older source maps.

## Example 2: Oronteus Fineaus Map 1531



Modern map of Antarctica



Oronteus Fineaus Map

The map on the left shows modern-day Antarctica from the viewpoint of looking down at the South Pole. On the right is the Oronteus Fineaus map. It was compiled from older source maps. It shows Antarctica's coastline in great detail, including where rivers flowed to the sea. This strongly suggests that the map was drawn when Antarctica was not frozen yet.

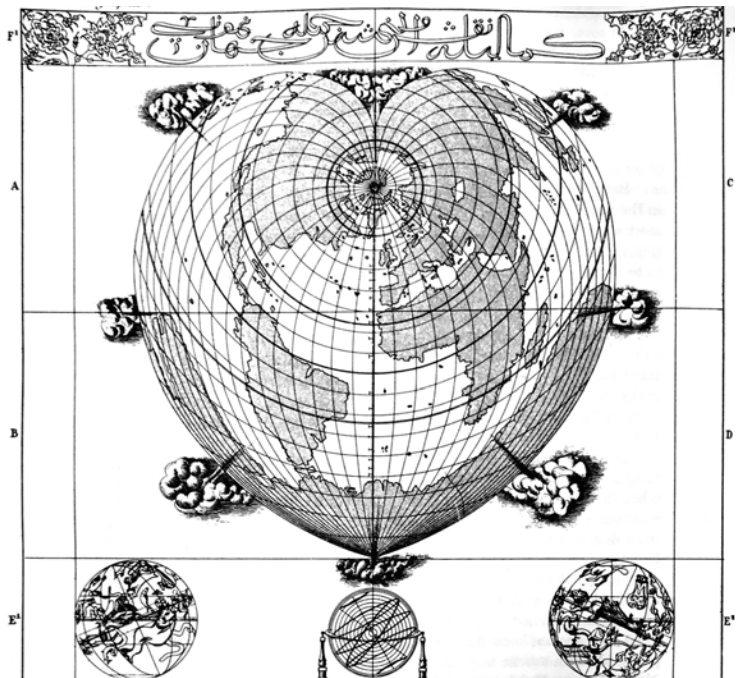
Note also that the rivers on it are shown flowing from mountain ranges near the coast. No rivers are shown in the deep interior. This would suggest that when the source maps were made, the interior was already covered by the ice cap. In that case, the ice cap was an advancing continental glacier that had not yet covered the mountain ranges near the coast.

## Example 3: Hadji Ahmed Map 1559

Built from older source maps, this map shows the earth in a globe form. The continents are the dark areas.

While the continents are drawn with great accuracy, it has been noted that near the north pole, there is more land and land bridges than today (note the top middle of the map), suggesting that the sea levels were lower at the time the source maps were made.

Also, the outline of Antarctica in the south is clearly seen, though it appears distorted because of the curved perspective.



These and other ancient maps show that the mapmakers:

- i. knew the circumference of the earth
- ii. had great details on local regions on every continent
- iii. had detailed information about the shorelines of the Antarctic which is now buried in ice
- iv. understood and used spherical trigonometry, and
- v. had records of the remaining glaciers in Britain, Sweden and Germany.

All this was not done by unintelligent people. In fact, these maps show that the people back then were very advanced in astronomy, nautical science, mapmaking, timekeeping and also shipbuilding. Mapping at such a large scale suggests they were very well organised and had money and resources. This would indicate to us that Noah and his family had to very quickly discover the natural resources in the new world that they were responsible for.



**Astronomy**



**Nautical Science**



**Trigonometry**



**Mapmaking**



**Timekeeping**



**Shipbuilding**

This is not all that we know about their intelligence. For example:

- People back then had complex architecture: pyramids were built in Egypt and Mexico.
- They had advanced medicine like the drilling of teeth in Egypt.
- They had gears, levers, wheels and they knew how to breed animals.

In Genesis 9:20–28, we learnt how Noah grew a vineyard and became drunk with the wine. This also is evidence that Noah himself was not unintelligent. For example, even today, viticulture, the science of growing grapes for wine is not easy.



- Grapes need to have enough water but good drainage. Their roots will die if they are kept wet.
- They need full strong sunlight, so the vines need to be planted in a certain direction to take full advantage of the sunlight.
- Grapes with more skin and less juice are better for making wines.
- Growing them in nutrient-poor soil will stress the vines and produce the small grapes that are needed. Good rich soil would be bad for wine-making grapes.

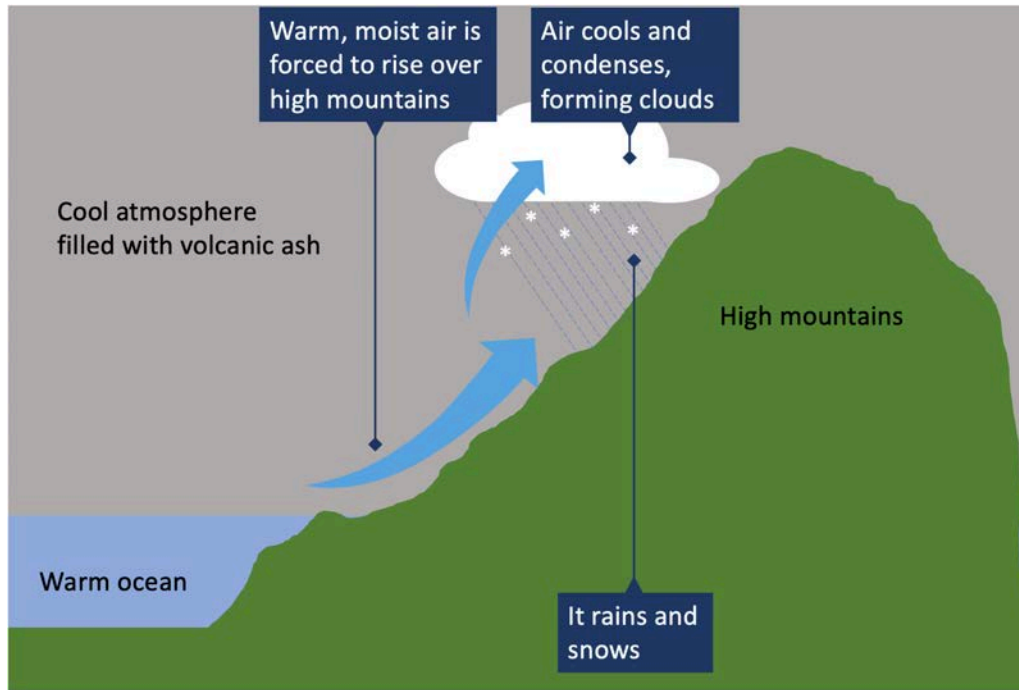
Where did Noah learn all this from? How did he learn to produce wine?

We need to understand that Noah and his family were an advanced and intelligent people, perhaps even more so than the modern man. They had to discover the resources available in each area of land and learn how to produce what they needed for living. Because they lived for hundreds and hundreds of years, they developed great knowledge and skill in many areas from architecture, engineering, farming, politics and more. In a relatively short time, they built many great kingdoms all over the earth.



## C. Migration

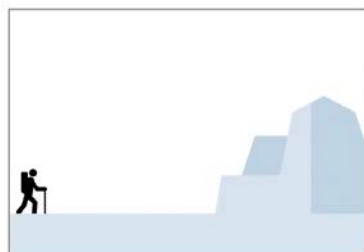
Christian scientists estimate that immediately after the Flood up till around 700 years after that, the climate and the earth were still going through a great transition and settling down period.



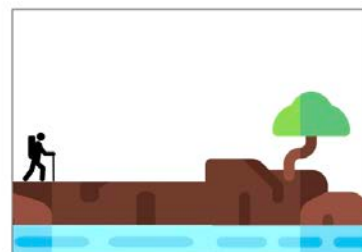
The conditions during those years which included (i) continental uplift, (ii) cooler atmosphere and (iii) uniformly warm oceans were ideal conditions for an ice age.

The warm ocean waters kept getting converted into snow and ice, and the packed ice formed glaciers.

As these glaciers grew, people could migrate across the earth, following where the glaciers expanded. And as more of the oceans became snow and ice, the sea levels dropped. As the levels dropped, "land bridges" were revealed. This also allowed man to travel to other parts of the world.



Growing glaciers created "roads" for migration.



Lower sea levels exposed land bridges for migration.

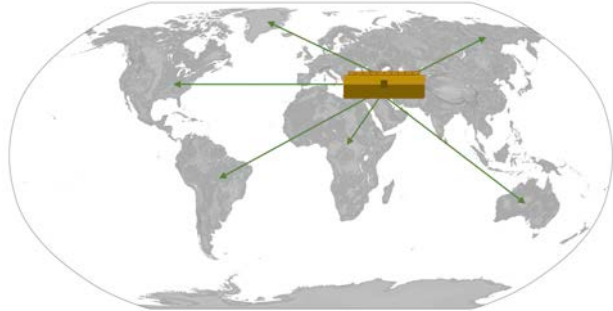
The boundaries of the land were constantly changing during this period. In the following passage, the psalmist refers to the boundaries that God was creating.

**Psalm 74:17**

You set the boundaries of the earth,  
and you made both summer and winter.

From where the ark landed, Noah and his descendants would have used different migration routes depending on when they travelled and the routes that were exposed at that time.

So people and animals started migrating out from the Middle East, where the ark landed. The climate was very difficult to live in and the people and animals would have experienced a lot of physical challenges and stress in their travels. The farther people migrated from Ararat (the ark's landing area), the worse the living conditions were.



Interestingly, as scientists discovered the skulls and bones of the people from this period, they learnt that in the Ararat area, the bones of the people were “advanced”. However, the farther the discovery was from Ararat (for example, East Africa or South Africa), the worse the condition of the body.

In fact, these people would be named “cavemen” or primitive men, because of how different they looked compared with other humans.

### **Does the discovery of these “cavemen” prove that man evolved from an ape-like ancestor?**

Tracing what the Bible tells us about the early days, these early men lived for centuries. Starting off as healthy men, the farther they travelled from Ararat, the worse their living conditions became. Coming to the end of their migration journey they would have struggled with extreme climate conditions and a severe lack of food. Living under such harsh conditions would have taken a great toll on their bodies.

When they finally died after having lived far longer lives than people today, their bodies would bear evidence of great deterioration. These “primitive” fossil finds would seem to show not stages of evolution, but degrees of stress along the migration routes.

Job describes these “cavemen”.

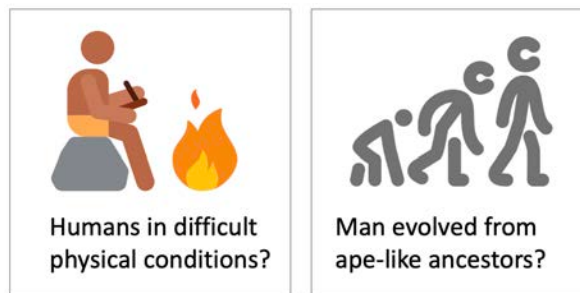
**Job 30:3–8**

- <sup>3</sup> They are gaunt from poverty and hunger.  
They claw the dry ground in desolate wastelands.  
<sup>4</sup> They pluck wild greens from among the bushes  
and eat from the roots of broom trees.

- <sup>5</sup> They are driven from human society,  
and people shout at them as if they were thieves.
- <sup>6</sup> So now they live in frightening ravines,  
in caves and among the rocks.
- <sup>7</sup> They sound like animals howling among the bushes,  
huddled together beneath the nettles.
- <sup>8</sup> They are nameless fools,  
outcasts from society.

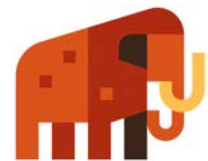
Job seems to be describing these humans who were living in harsh and difficult conditions.

While we do not know for sure, the main point is this: the Bible does have an alternate narrative for the history of the world. This contrasts sharply with the secular worldview which denies the existence of Yahweh, the Creator-God. The pagan worldview promotes world history narratives that exclude God entirely.



Like humans, animals leaving the ark would have experienced similar environmental stress. Assuming these pre-Flood animals (like pre-Flood man) had long lives, they would have multiplied very quickly. Just as it was for man, where and when they migrated would have been affected by the landscape as well.

The earliest animals to migrate would have gone into relatively warm regions. However, as the Ice Age and glaciers took over and the climate cooled, many of the animal populations would have been trapped and wiped out. For example, carcasses of the famous extinct woolly mammoth were found frozen, with fresh food still in their bodies.



As man left the Ararat area, they would also have taken animals with them, some for breeding and food, and some as reminders of their former places of living. So, animals also spread out as man brought them to different places by land and sea. For example, marsupials such as kangaroos, koalas, wombats and wallabies are all found only in Australia today. They were probably brought there by men leaving the Ararat area. These animals eat very little and grow little and are very suitable for long-distance travel.

Animals like the dinosaur probably survived after the Flood. In fact, different people groups across the world remember them in their art and stories. It would appear that God talked about them with Job as well. Although the Bible calls the animal Behemoth, the description would fit dinosaurs.



### **Job 40:15–24**

- <sup>15</sup> “Take a look at Behemoth,  
which I made, just as I made you.  
It eats grass like an ox.
- <sup>16</sup> See its powerful loins  
and the muscles of its belly.
- <sup>17</sup> Its tail is as strong as a cedar.  
The sinews of its thighs are knit tightly together.
- <sup>18</sup> Its bones are tubes of bronze.  
Its limbs are bars of iron.
- <sup>19</sup> It is a prime example of God’s handiwork,  
and only its Creator can threaten it.
- <sup>20</sup> The mountains offer it their best food,  
where all the wild animals play.
- <sup>21</sup> It lies under the lotus plants,  
hidden by the reeds in the marsh.
- <sup>22</sup> The lotus plants give it shade  
among the willows beside the stream.
- <sup>23</sup> It is not disturbed by the raging river,  
not concerned when the swelling Jordan rushes around it.
- <sup>24</sup> No one can catch it off guard  
or put a ring in its nose and lead it away.

Since the Flood, many animals have gone extinct, including the dodo, Tasmanian tiger, many species of dinosaurs, as well as other animals. Many of them became extinct because humans hunted them all, they lost their habitat due to climate change or farming, or they were a threat to man’s safety.

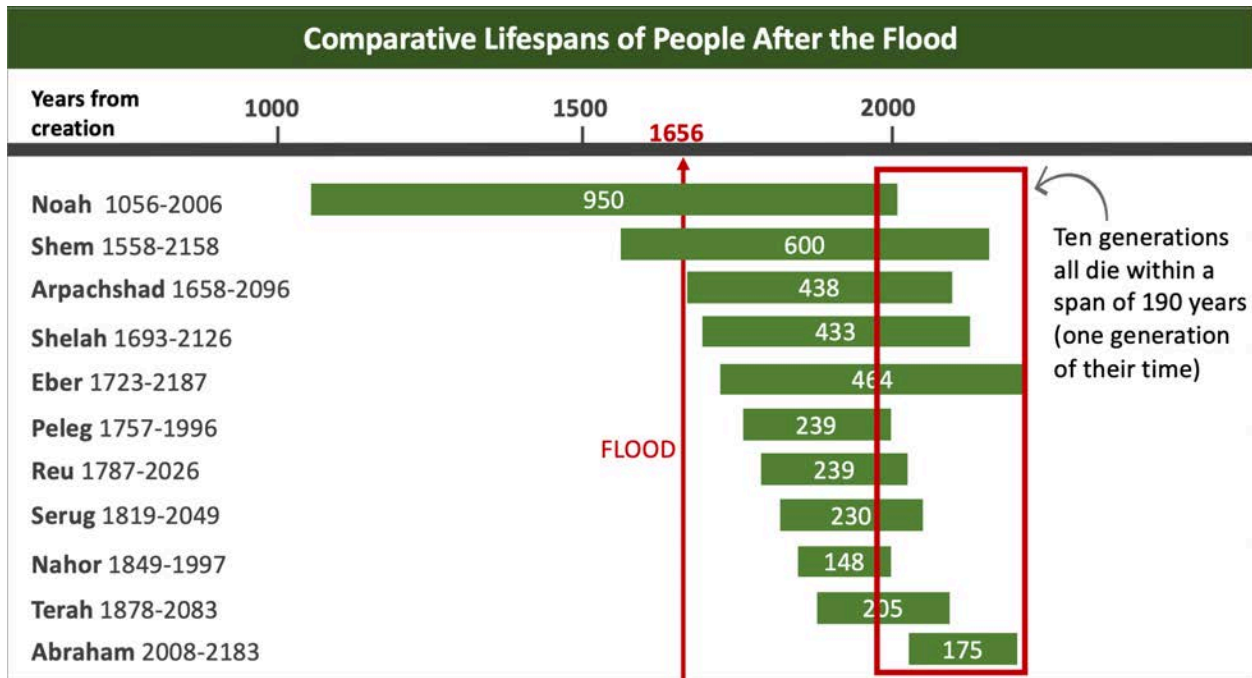
Between the time from Noah to Abraham, the world that man and animals lived in was totally unlike anything we could ever imagine. It was constantly transitioning or changing, settling down to a stable state. It is in this strange new world that civilisation arose and the population of the world grew.

## **D. Global Amnesia**

Because of the decline in lifespans after the Flood, this was a very unique time in history where ancestors outlived their descendants.

But then suddenly, something significant happened: 10 descendants of Noah died within two centuries of each other.





Why is this significant? This means that in a short span of time, the memory of the history of mankind was suddenly lost. At one time, people had knowledge of Noah, the Flood and perhaps even Adam and Eve, and there were people who could confirm this history.

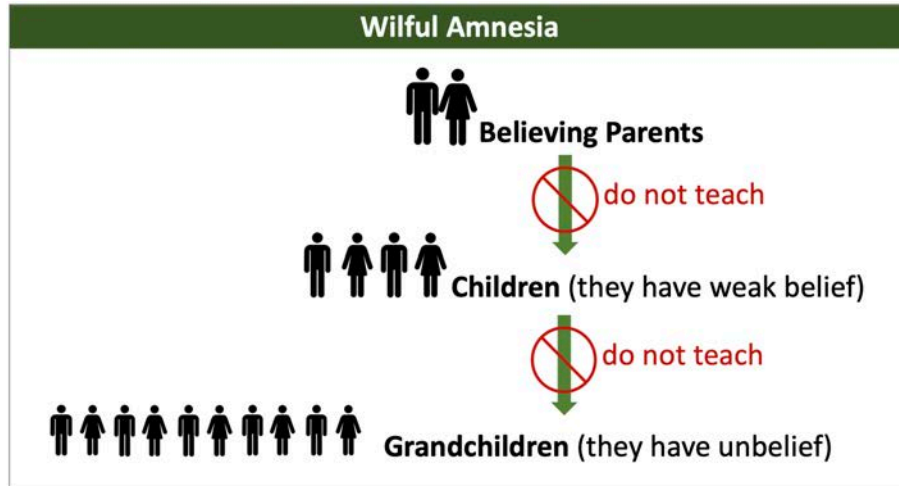
Suddenly people were left with no one who could verify this history. So people “forgot” God, “forgot” Adam and Eve, “forgot” the Flood, “forgot” Noah, “forgot” that the world was created and how it was created. The Bible is the only record that saved these memories and explains what happened then.



Not only did people forget about God because the pre-Flood generation died, many people chose to forget about God. They stopped thinking about Him, they ignored Him and His truth, and they did not pass on information about Him to their children and later generations. They rebelled against God’s truth by not remembering it for themselves and by not passing it on.



We see such behaviour even today where some who grow up with faithful believing parents, do not appreciate God’s truth for themselves. When they have their own families, they do nothing to pass on knowledge about God to their children. Their children’s understanding of God is weak or non-existent and by the time these children have their own children, this third generation will know absolutely nothing about God. This is wilful amnesia at work.



## The Task Given Again

After leaving the ark, Noah and his descendants found themselves in a new, re-shaped world, with a new climate, new physical geography and new lifespans. They had such great potential. Noah was the righteous man whom God saved from the great Flood and now he and his family had a chance to start over.

God told Noah the same thing that he told Adam and Eve.

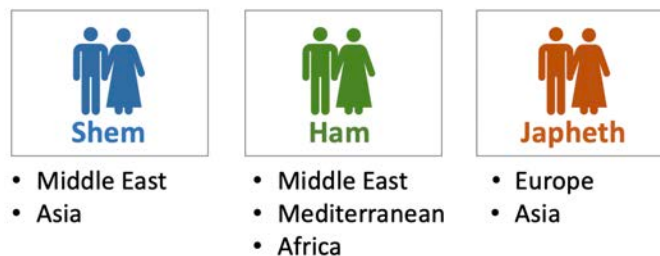
### Genesis 9:1

Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth.”

In Genesis 10, we learn that mankind did indeed fill the earth. We read that:

- Japheth’s family group migrated to faraway lands. They occupied parts of Europe and Asia.
- Ham’s family group migrated to the Middle East, Mediterranean and Africa.
- Shem’s family group filled areas of the Middle East and Asia.

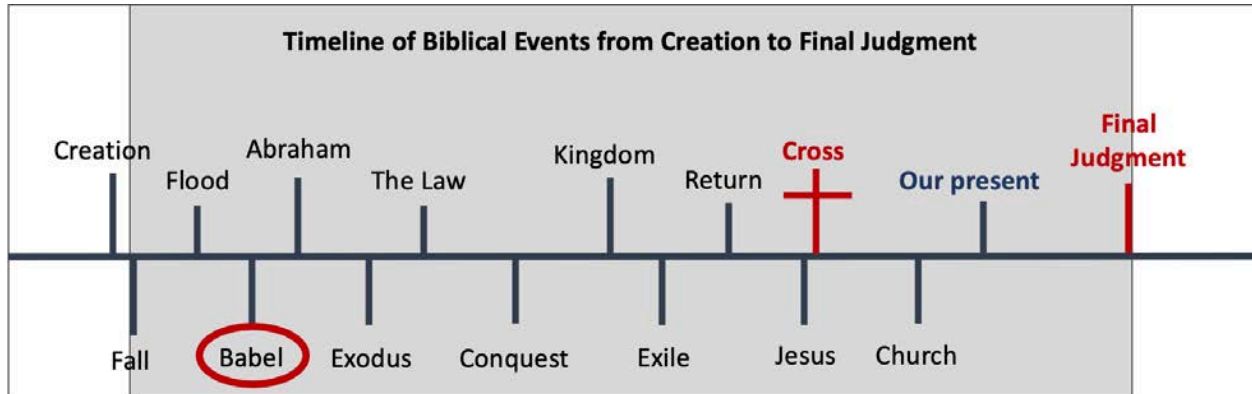
### Where did they migrate to?



But **how** did they fill the earth? The events that occurred at a place called Babel tell us how this happened.

## Babel

How they filled the earth was not a happy story. The people actually did not want to obey God's instructions. In fact, they decided to do the exact opposite of what God told them. They decided to settle in one place.



### Genesis 11:1–2

<sup>1</sup> At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. <sup>2</sup> As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

After the Flood, all evil was destroyed except for what remained in man's heart. With their evil hearts, the people chose rebellion against the Creator-God once again. They refused to follow Yahweh's command.



The people intentionally devised a plan in an attempt to thwart God and prevent themselves from being scattered over the whole world.



### Genesis 11:4

Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

God's first divine institution of responsible dominion meant that He wanted man to go out into the whole earth and take care of all of it. God had made the whole world for man to enjoy. But man had a choice. They could obey or rebel. They could take on God's worldview or the anti-God pagan worldview.

<b>2 Choices</b>	
 <b>Obey God</b>	<b>Rebel Against God</b> 
<b>Ultimate authority</b> <b>YAHWEH</b>	<b>Ultimate authority</b> <b>SELF</b>
<b>Purpose of life?</b> God defines what I do. God gives the rules. He gives my life meaning.	<b>Purpose of life?</b> I generate my own ethics. I do what is right in my own eyes. I give myself meaning.

- People with a biblical worldview know that God is their ultimate authority. God is the one who guides and directs their life. The Creator-God gives their life meaning and purpose.
- People with a pagan worldview live without God and are their own ultimate authority. They answer to no one. They make up their own rules of right and wrong. They decide what they want to do for themselves. Such people do not care about God or God’s Word.

The people of Babel rejected God. They decided that they would choose for themselves how to live. So, their plan was to:

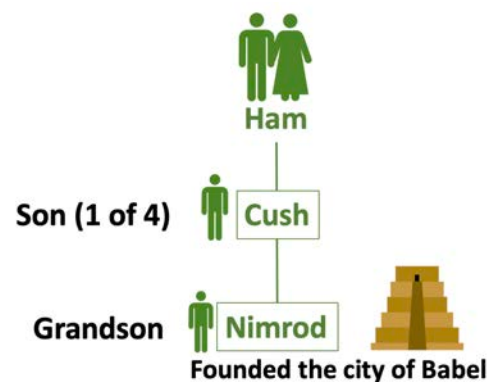
1. Build a city.
2. Build a tower that reached to heaven.

It is understandable why they wanted to build a city. This was so that everyone could stay together at the same place.

But why would they want to build a tower?

### Rebellion against Yahweh

The Bible tells us that a great man called Nimrod built Babel (Genesis 10:8–11). The famous Jewish historian, Josephus, who provided a lot of information about the history of the Jews, recorded that Nimrod wanted to take revenge on God for sending the Flood that destroyed the earth. So he wanted to build a tower so high that floodwaters would never overwhelm it. Though this fact is not specifically mentioned in the Bible, it gives us a hint as to Nimrod’s motive for building a tower in Babel.



Nimrod was careful to make sure the tower was built with waterproof material. Burnt brick cemented with tar or bitumen was waterproof and would not allow water in.



**Genesis 11:3**

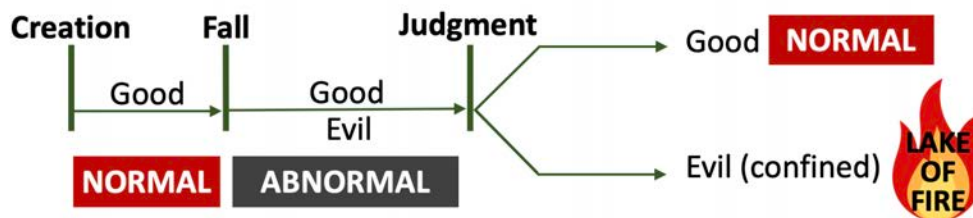
They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.)

Why would they need a waterproof tower? Perhaps Nimrod did not believe God's promise of never flooding the earth again. So he wanted to build a tower to protect himself against another flood. Perhaps he believed he could build a place of perfect protection from God's judgment.

**Quest for Fame**

Another reason why the people wanted to build the tower was to make a name for themselves. They wanted to be famous (Genesis 11:4). They were very smart and knew how to successfully build this huge and difficult engineering project. But they were also very proud. Instead of recognizing that everything they had comes from Yahweh and trusting and thanking Him for everything that He had done, they wanted to be important. They wanted to create a great name for themselves. They wanted to live life without God.

The problem is that people who live without God will die without God. They will end up in the lake of fire.



So what did God do?

**Genesis 11:5–7**

<sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! <sup>7</sup> Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."



Though the Babel builders thought they were building a great high tower, from the Creator-God's perspective, it was tiny! Being all-knowing, God knew exactly what they were doing and what was in their hearts. Nevertheless, acting like a human judge, God came down and made a very careful inspection before pronouncing His judgment. God is never random or careless. When He judges, He is very careful.



When God saw all the evil the people were plotting, He wanted to stop this. God knew that these evil choices would only lead them to the Second Death. So God destroyed their ability to understand each other. If the world had one language, whatever evil man could think of could be done on a worldwide scale.

**Genesis 11:8–9**

<sup>8</sup> In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

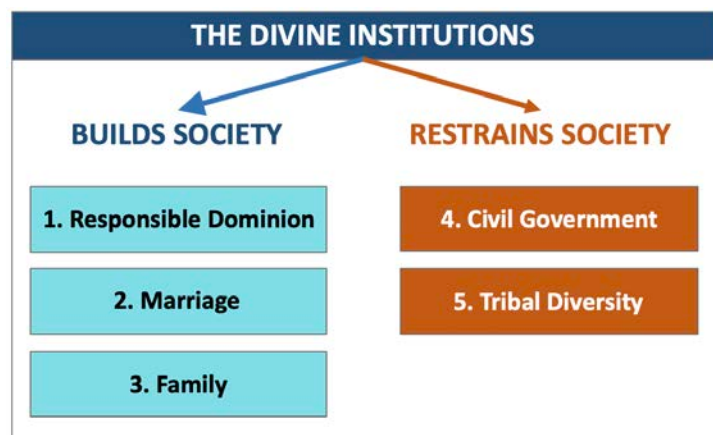
That was how man came to “fill the earth”. It was not that Noah’s descendants were obedient. Rather, because of their disobedience, God disrupted their plans and forced them to leave the city that they had built.

**The Fifth Divine Institution: Tribal Diversity**

To limit and slow down the spread of evil and the people’s rebellion, God, in His mercy, prevented them from being able to plot evil on such a large and rapid scale.

Just as God had given the fourth divine institution of civil government to limit evil, He now created the many different languages to slow down the spread of evil.

Specifically, God gave the divine institution of tribal diversity. What does this mean? God divided mankind into family groups, tribes and nations and placed them in different geographies and locations all over the world.



**Deuteronomy 32:8**

When the Most High assigned lands to the nations,  
 when he divided up the human race,  
 he established the boundaries of the peoples  
 according to the number in his heavenly court.

It is important to note that God did not divide the people by “race”. Rather, it was by language, location and shared national identity. Genesis 10 tells us how God caused mankind to be divided through scattering the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Genesis 10:5 (Sons of Japheth)	Genesis 10:20 (Sons of Ham)	Genesis 10:31 (Sons of Shem)
Their descendants became the seafaring peoples that spread out to various lands, each identified by its own <u>language</u> , <u>clan</u> , and <u>national identity</u> .	These were the descendants of Ham, identified by <u>clan</u> , <u>language</u> , <u>territory</u> , and <u>national identity</u> .	These were the descendants of Shem, identified by <u>clan</u> , <u>language</u> , <u>territory</u> , and <u>national identity</u> .

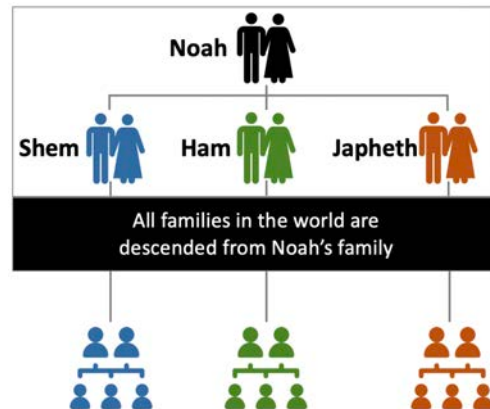
## If God did not separate the people by race, then where did racism come from?

The idea of race is not found in the Bible. The Bible says that all mankind today are descendants of Noah's three sons.

### Genesis 9:19

From these three sons of Noah came all the people who now populate the earth.

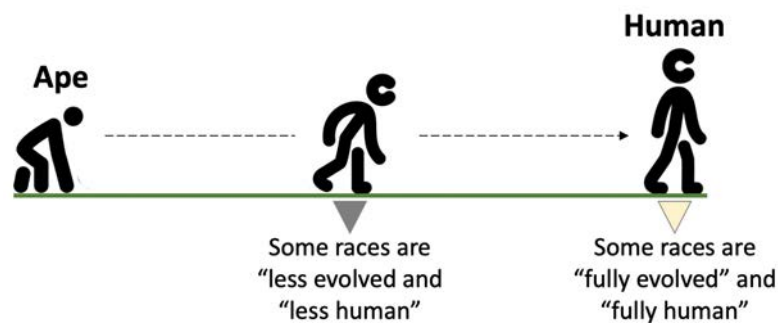
This means we all share the same bloodline. We are all of the same family. We are all humans made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26).



As people left Babel, different groups with different combinations of genes resulted in the descendants having some physical differences. However, whatever physical differences people might have are just surface differences (like skin colour which is due to the different levels of melanin in each person). These differences do not make a person more or less human or more or less in the image of God. All humans are in the image of God. All humans are valued by God.

However, since Babel, evil man would use these physical differences as a reason to abuse each other. Evil man came up with "racism".

In the 1800s, Charles Darwin made racism even more popular after the general worldwide acceptance of his theory of evolution. According to evolution, humans changed from molecules to ape-like animals to man over millions of years.



This implies that there is a continuum: certain "races" are more evolved and therefore more "human"; other "races" are less evolved and therefore less "human". How do people decide who is more or less evolved? Outward appearance: those who appear to look more like apes are less evolved.

By the 1900s, the question that was being asked was, "Who is human and who is not?" Different groups of people were judged by evil man to be not human, less human or less evolved. And this was good enough reason for evil man to practise racism, oppression and genocide.



But things did not stop there. Adolf Hitler was an evolutionist. He believed in the idea of a master race. His plan was not just to exterminate the inferior races (that is, the Jews), he also believed in getting rid of other white people whom he judged were less human (for example, the handicapped, disabled, elderly, etc.). Such an unbiblical and low view of humans made the 20<sup>th</sup> century the bloodiest in all human history. Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler and Mao Zedong were responsible for tens of millions of deaths. It can be shown that they did this because of the influence of the theories of Darwin and the ideas of there being a superior race.

Today, while racism continues, so does the question, “Who is human?” This question has led many to accept abortion because fetuses are judged by evil man to be “not yet fully human”.

Race is not God’s idea. Evil man came up with it. Man has no authority to judge “who is human” and who is not. But evil man continues to do so.

Will we live by the words of the Creator-God and value all people that He made in His image or will we live by the words of evil man and discriminate against others as we wish?

## Limiting Evil

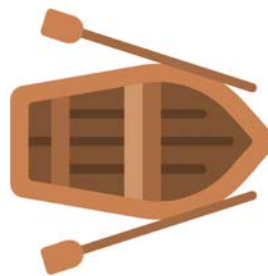
But how does dividing the people limit evil and put restraints on society?

Going back to what Nimrod was trying to do, he was attempting to unite everyone in Babel so they could all rebel against God more effectively.

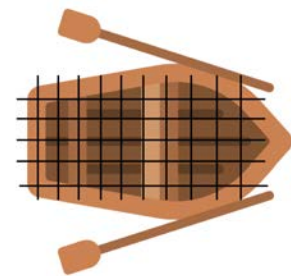
By dividing the people into nations and tribes, God took the power away from this one tyrant and shared it among the other nations. In other words, God created a balance of power among peoples. This would prevent any fame- and power-hungry madman from getting supreme power, ruling the world and driving it even faster into anti-God rebellion and mass destruction. In a sense, tribal diversity helps preserve mankind, so no segment of individuals can get enough power to destroy the rest of the mankind, and eventually themselves.

This idea can be illustrated using the hull of a boat.

- If a boat has just one hull and this hull is damaged by a hole, very quickly, the boat would fill itself with water and sink.
- However, if a boat were built in such a way that many different compartments make up the entire hull, then if a hole developed in one compartment, the other compartments would keep the boat afloat while attempts were made to patch the hole.



One hull



Multiple compartments



Similarly, by separating mankind into tribes and nations, if one tribe became totally corrupt, God could judge that tribe without needing to judge the entire world. He would also be able to use another tribe as an instrument of judgment against this corrupt tribe. This is one way God restrains evil after the Flood while awaiting the final judgment.

In fact, God had Noah prophesy about this even before the incident at Babel occurred. This is what Noah said to Ham after the embarrassing and shameful incident where Ham exposed his father for getting drunk and lying naked in the tent.

### Genesis 9:25–27

<sup>25</sup> Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham:

“May Canaan be cursed!

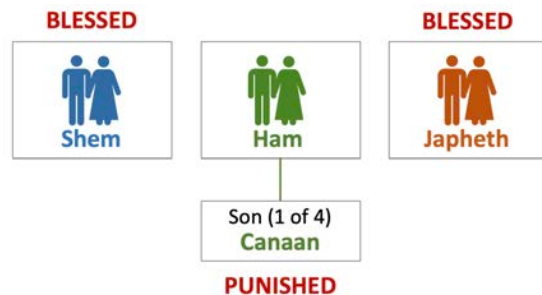
May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives.”

<sup>26</sup> Then Noah said,

“May the LORD, the God of Shem, be blessed,  
and may Canaan be his servant!”

<sup>27</sup> May God expand the territory of Japheth!  
May Japheth share the prosperity of Shem,  
and may Canaan be his servant.”

As tribes, both Shem’s and Japheth’s groups would be blessed but Canaan’s tribe would be punished by being a servant to Shem’s descendants. God punished the tribe of Canaan without punishing the tribes of Shem and Japheth.



Scripture tells us that God didn’t just form all the different nations, He intimately directs them. Yahweh decided:

- where they would exist (boundaries),
- when they would begin (rise) and
- when they would end (fall).

### Acts 17:26

From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

So God is in charge of all people groups globally. History is not random but is sovereignly directed by Him.

Why does God do this? Why does God control the nations?

### Acts 17:27

His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.

In scattering mankind all over the world, it was God's purpose and plan that people would look for Him and find Him and be saved.

But why does the verse say people must "feel their way" toward Him? Because people are spiritually blind. They do not see God. So God controls their times and boundaries to guide and encourage people to come to see and know Him.

Despite mankind's rejection of Him, in His love, Yahweh still wants reconciliation and is actively directing history to rescue people.

### 2 Samuel 14:14

All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God does not just sweep life away; instead, he devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from him.

Why does God need to be the one devising a way of reconciliation? People by their own effort cannot reach God. People destroyed their relationship with Him. The offended party, in this case, Yahweh, the Creator-God of all, needs to tell mankind how to be friends with Him again. It cannot be based on people's own ideas.



## What does Satan think about tribal diversity?

Satan does not like tribal diversity at all. It would be easier for him to control the whole world if there were fewer people groups he has to manipulate. He wants to prevent people everywhere from seeking and finding God. He does not want people to reconcile with God. The Bible calls Satan the "god of this world".

### 2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.



Satan wants to keep mankind blinded as much as possible.

- Satan's early attempt at worldwide domination with only one man to control was Nimrod at Babylon.
- History records many other attempts by a single man to rule the whole world (for example, Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek ruler who reigned from 175–164 BC).
- In the last days, during the time of the Tribulation, God will lift this restraint of tribal diversity to show how far and fast evil can spread. God will allow Satan to finally succeed at having one ruler and one world government. This will be the Antichrist.

**Revelation 13:7**

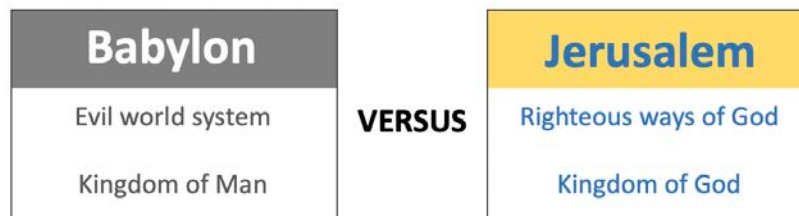
And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation.

The Antichrist will rally the whole world against God. He will seek to defeat God's plans and purposes. This terrible time will be marked by political deception, war, death, famine, and the killing of believers.

However, God has already told us way ahead of that time that this Tribulation period will end with His direct intervention and judgment on the world, just as He had done in the Flood.

## Babylon versus Jerusalem

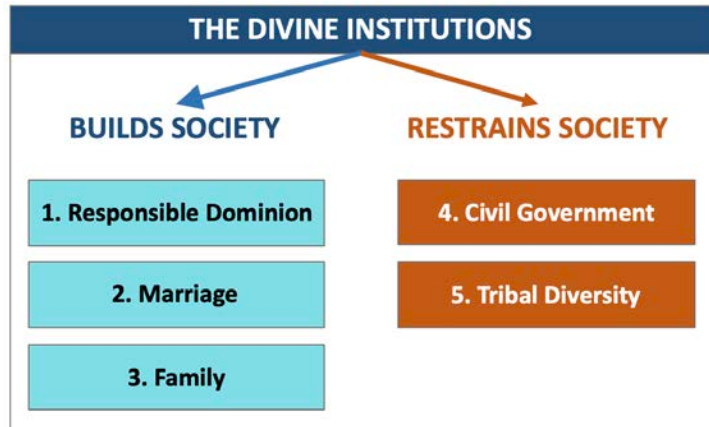
This evil collective plotting by man against God first happened at Babel, later known as Babylon (or Babylonia). The names Babel and Babylon appear over 200 times in the Bible. It is the second-most mentioned place in the Bible. Whenever we see the name Babylon, know that God is referring to the evil world system. In a sense, we can call Babylon the city of man or the Kingdom of Man and it refers to the evil world system of man.



In contrast, Jerusalem is known as the city of God or the Kingdom of God. Jerusalem is mentioned over 800 times in the Bible. Throughout Scripture, we will see that it is a battle between Babylon and Jerusalem, the Kingdom of Man vs the Kingdom of God, evil vs good.

## The Five Divine Institutions

In summary, these five institutions were created by God for all mankind, both believers and unbelievers. And they are from Him, the Creator-God of the world. The pre-Fall institutions of responsible dominion, marriage and family build society. The post-Fall and post-Flood institutions of civil government and tribal diversity restrain society: they are there to limit evil in a fallen, broken world.



## Summary of Man's Track Record

Man's track record or history up till this point has been terrible. He repeatedly fails to follow God's Word and instead continues to rebel against the Creator-God.

### First Couple: Innocent

God created Adam and Eve innocent. They had the best chance of remaining perfect forever. They only had one rule to obey: Do not eat the fruit. But they rebelled against God.

**RESULT: FAILED**



### First Family

The first family was given the divine institution of family and told to live harmoniously. What happened instead was Cain murdered his brother Abel.

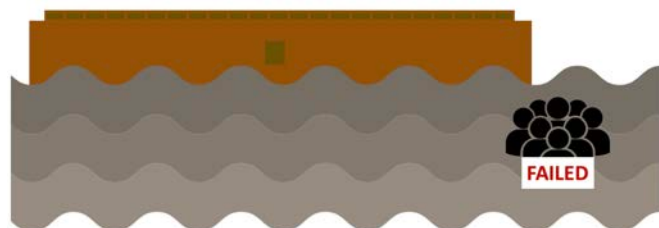
**RESULT: FAILED**



### First Generations

Instead of learning from Adam and Eve's mistake as well as Cain's, man continued to grow in evil until God brought judgment and wiped them from the face of the earth with the global Flood.

**RESULT: FAILED**





## New World People

God “re-started” the human race with righteous Noah and his family. All of them believed Him. Perhaps with Noah’s guidance, this family would trust God’s provision of salvation and be friends with Him. Unfortunately, there was still evil in man’s heart. Their descendants chose to rebel against Yahweh and reject His history and truth. They made up their own truth and chose to live a life without God. So Yahweh disrupted their plans, scattered them and introduced many new languages and tribal diversity to slow down the spread of evil.



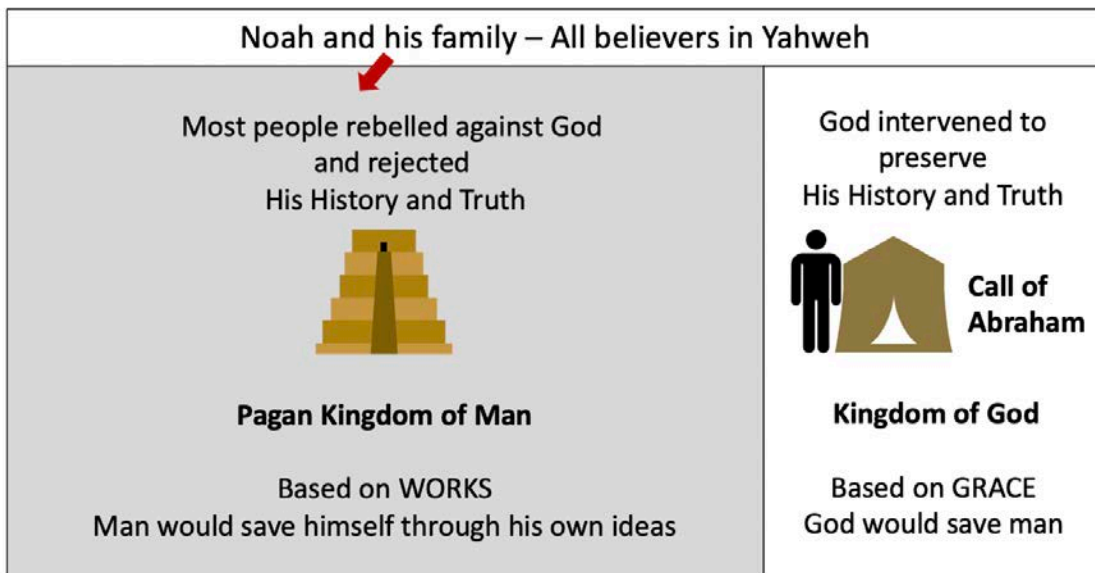
**RESULT: FAILED**

## The Solution: God Disrupted History

No amount of “resetting” or starting over will solve the problem of evil in man. People cannot get rid of the evil inside their own hearts. It will have to come from outside mankind. God Himself will have to solve man’s problem of sin and evil.

Some generations after the events at Babel, God would move ahead with His plan. He would again disrupt the flow of man’s history and in doing so, He would change its course. God’s disruption involved a man named Abraham. He was Noah’s great(x8) grandson. We will study Abraham in a later lesson.

### How Civilisation became Paganised and How God Intervened



Through Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth and their wives, every nation of the world knew about Yahweh. Every people group had stories that came from mankind's common history. Some people groups chose to distort this common history, to forget it, to make up their own stories or to twist the truth. Others chose to believe.

What is our response to God's history and truth?

God's purpose is to encourage all people to come to know Him. Let us continue to seek God and know Him well. His Word reveals our history and His purposes and helps us to trust Him for salvation and then live lives that are meaningful and pleasing to Him.

### If all people knew about Yahweh but the event of Babel scattered them into nations across the earth, then wouldn't an old civilisation like the Chinese know about the Creator-God of the Bible?

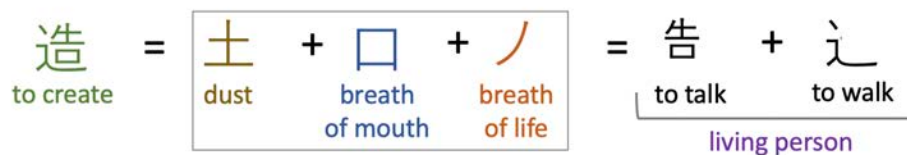
For about 4,000 years, China has had an unbroken civilisation. Interestingly, their written language is based on characters which are pictures resembling the intended idea or thing.

Examining the earliest forms of writing found in bronze ware and oracle bone inscriptions, it appears that the ancient Chinese knew about earth's beginnings and the Creator-God. Even the familiar Chinese characters of today seem to carry these memories of Genesis. Here are some examples.

**Example 1:** The Chinese character for "create" is made up of interesting component parts that seem to fit the description of how God created Adam.

#### Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God **formed** the man from the **dust** of the ground. He **breathed** the **breath of life** into the man's nostrils, and the man became a **living person**.



**Example 2:** The word for happiness or prosperity is made up of component parts which suggests that happiness means one man in a garden with God.



**Example 3:** The word for “come” is curious. It is made up of two people hiding in a tree. Perhaps this is the memory of when God told Adam and Eve to come out of hiding from behind a tree.

**Genesis 3:9–10**

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

來 = 人 + 人 + 木  
 come            one person    one person    tree

**Example 4:** The word for boat is made up of three different components that appear to point to the account of Noah’s ark where the ark was a vessel that held eight persons.

船 = 舟 + 八 + 口  
 boat            vessel            eight            mouth/person

**Example 5:** One of the more intriguing words is the one for “righteousness”. It is made up of a two other characters: a “lamb” placed over “me”. Why would that be? Is it because sinners can gain righteousness only after the lamb of God is sacrificed and given as a covering for me? How would the Chinese know about such a biblical concept?

義 = 羊 + 我  
 righteousness    lamb            me

If we believe the Bible’s account that all mankind who descended from Noah’s family knew God’s history and truth before perverting it, it is not too far-fetched to think that perhaps the ancient Chinese did capture their memories of God and Genesis in their written language.

## Discussion Questions

Discuss the following questions as a group or use them for personal reflection.

1. How does the secular or pagan view of history distort our understanding of the Bible? How should we handle this conflict?
2. The Bible records that Nimrod was responsible for the Tower of Babel. In our society, do we see other Nimrods at work? What are they trying to do? How about ourselves? Are we behaving in the manner of Nimrod?
3. Seeing the repeated failures of mankind in history, what can we learn about our human natures? How does being aware of the evil tendencies of our heart help us in our journey with God? How can we prevent ourselves from being added to the list of people found in “Man’s Failed Track Record”?



Pre-reading for Faith in Action I: Review lessons 1 to 7.

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## Endnotes

The Piri Re’is, Oronteus Fineaus and Hadji Ahmed maps are public domain illustrations. Referenced from:

**Hapgood, Charles H.** *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings: Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age.* Adventures Unlimited Press, 2014.