



The Beginning

Lesson 6: After The Flood

(Genesis 9:1-11:32)

After the flood ended, there were only eight people who were alive on this earth. These were: Noah, Noah's wife, Shem, Shem's wife, Ham, Ham's wife, Japheth, and Japheth's wife. From these eight people, the entire world would need to be repopulated. So, God commanded them to have children so that the earth could be filled. And, God said that man was over all of the animals on the earth. These were given to be food for man to eat.

Then, God made a covenant (agreement) with Noah and his sons. God promised that He would never again use a flood to destroy the earth. And, God gave them a sign as a reminder of this covenant. He said that whenever a rainbow appears in the sky, He would remember His covenant and will never again use a flood to destroy the whole earth.

Noah became a farmer after the flood. And, one day, he became drunk and was laying in his tent unclothed. Ham saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers, who were outside the tent. Then, Shem and Japheth took a piece of clothing upon their shoulders and went into Noah's tent backward to lay the clothing on their father, so that they would not see him without clothes on.

Whenever Noah recovered from his drunkenness and found out what Ham had done to him, Noah placed a curse on Ham's son, Canaan. Noah said that Canaan would be a "he will be the lowest of slaves" to his brethren (Genesis 9:25-27). This would come true whenever the descendants of Shem (the Israelites) would take the land that belonged to Canaan's descendants.

After the flood, Noah lived 350 years. Then, Noah died at the age of 950 years. From Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the entire world would be populated. In fact, all

people living on the earth today have come from these three sons of Noah. Specifically, the Bible story will focus on the descendants of Shem.

At this time when the earth was being repopulated, all the people only spoke one language. And, they were all living in one place – in a plain in the land of Shinar. “And they said, “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). So, using bricks that they made and asphalt, they worked to build a very tall tower.

But, God was not happy with what they were trying to do. He wanted the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth to repopulate the whole earth, not stay in one place. Rather than listen to God, these people tried to make a name for themselves.

Therefore, God confused their language by making them speak in different languages. When He did this, the people could not understand what the others were saying. Thus, the name of this place is called “Babel” – because God confused their language. And, because they could not understand each other, they were scattered over all the earth.

As the Bible tells us about the descendants of Noah’s three sons, Shem’s descendants are very important. And, out of all of the people who came from Shem, the Bible tells us a lot about the people who came from one family. This is the family of Terah.

Terah had three children, named Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Lot was Haran’s son. Sarai was Abram’s wife. Nahor’s wife was Milcah. Haran died before his father, Terah, in the land of Ur. Then, Terah took Abram, Lot, and Sarai to go to the land of Canaan, and lived in Haran. Terah was 250 years old when he died in Haran.

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Study Questions:

1) Who were the only people living on earth after the flood?

2) What promise did God make to Noah and his sons?

3) What was the sign of this promise?

4) Why was Canaan cursed?

5) How long did Noah live?

6) What did the people try to do in Shinar (Babel)?

7) What did God do to them?

8) Who were Terah's children?

Memory Verse:

“So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” (Genesis 9:1).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: