

The Book of Genesis

Lesson 11

Chapter 9

As chapter 8 ends, the ark is empty and Noah has presented a burnt offering to the LORD. From the day the LORD shut the doors of the ark and the rain began until the day of debarking was 365 days. Some may wonder how that number is derived from the Scripture. First, the counting of days and months presented in the Scripture does not refer to calendar months but to the months and days that had passed according to Noah's age on the day the rain began.



Map 3: Location of Mountains of Ararat Where the Ark Rested

The Scripture says that the rain began "**In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened,**" which made Noah 600 years, 2 months and 17 days old.³³ The Scripture says, "**Now it came about in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first of the month, the water was dried up from the earth,**" and that they debarked from the ark "**"in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ' Go out of the ark.**"³⁴ Thus Noah left the ark when he was 601 years, 2 months and 27 days old. How does this information render a count of 365 days on the ark?

Years were lunar years of 354 days counted by 12 lunar months; therefore, 600 years, 2 months, 17 days to 601 years, 2 months and 17 days equal 354 days. But Noah did not leave the ark until the 27th day, which added 11 days to the time on the ark. Therefore, 354 days plus 11 days equals 365 days or a full solar year.

Noah enters ark	354 Days	One Year	11 Days	Noah leaves ark
600 years		601 years		601 years
2 months		2 months		2 months
17 days		17 days		27 days

From Rain to Debarking 365 Days Based on Noah's Age

³³ Genesis 7:11

³⁴ Genesis 8:13-16

Be Fruitful and Multiply

Genesis 9:1 **And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."**

With the burnt offering completed, chapter 9 begins with the blessing of God upon Noah and the charge to “fill the earth” with offspring.

Human – Animal Relationship Changed

Genesis 9:2 **"And the fear of you and the terror of you shall be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given.**

Here, the LORD tells Noah that his *mora* and *chath* will be on all animals of the land, sky and sea. *Mora* is the Hebrew for the emotion of fear. *Chath* is the Hebrew for an awe-inspiring exhibition of power. The two Hebrew words paint a picture of how animals will respond to humans from that time forward. The animals will instinctively fear humans (*mora*) and once captive, the animals will submit to the presumed power of humans (*chath*). Thus, after the flood, the natural fearless relationship of the animals with man has changed. Since the flood, animals that run from humans and animals that attack humans do so for the same reason. Fear and terror!

Human Food

Genesis 9:3 **"Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant.** **4** **"Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood.**
5 **"And surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.** **6** **"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.**

The diet of humans changed after the flood. Before the flood, humans were strictly vegetarian; after the flood, humans were to eat the flesh of animals with two prohibitions. First, the blood of animals was not to be consumed. Second, humans were off limits as food; they were not to be eaten. Herein is the first seed of thought for the death penalty. Humans made in the image of God are so precious that the penalty for intentionally killing a person is death. How do we know that this deals with intentional murder? The context of this passage is the intentional killing for food. Humans are not to be killed for food. Does this extend to apply to a person who is intentionally killed for reasons other than food? Yes. Because man is made in the image of God, intentionally killing another requires the death penalty. Does this apply to war? No. As we will see in the life of Abram in the book of Genesis, the LORD’s rules of engagement are different in times of war and specifically in defending one’s family from evil.

Covenant with Noah – Bow in the Sky

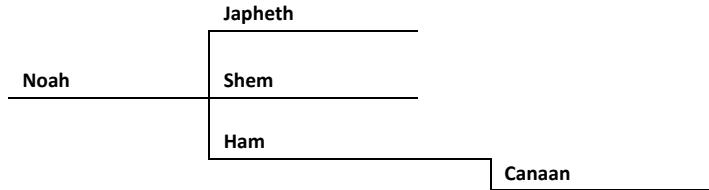
Genesis 9:7 "And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it." 8 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, 9 "Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. 11 "And I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; 13 I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. 14 "And it shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, 15 and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 "When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The LORD makes this wonderful covenant with Noah that has blessed all future generations, the rainbow in the sky! Have you ever noticed that the rainbow appears only on a rainy day, with the sun shining, on the side of the earth away from the rays of the sun, containing all the colors of the prism? Did the pre-deluge world ever see a rainbow? Probably not. Why? Before the flood, the LORD watered all the land with dew; after the flood, the LORD continued to allow rain to come from time to time to water the land. As the Scripture promises, the covenant is not just for Noah, but for all animals. We have to wonder if the birds of the sky and the beasts of the fields see the rainbow and understand its purpose and meaning.

Sons of Noah

Genesis 9:18 Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. 19 These three were the sons of Noah; and from these the whole earth was populated.

From the altar of sacrifice, Noah's three sons with their wives must set about to give birth to children who will repopulate the earth. Noah and his wife will not have any more children. The Scripture introduces and identifies Canaan at this point because he will be part of the next story about Noah.



Noah's Drunkenness

Genesis 9:20 Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. 21 And he drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. 23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness.

Much has been made of this event over the years; most of the assumptions are just that, assumptions! Simply, Noah became a farmer, planted a vineyard, crushed the grapes, made wine, drank the wine until he was drunk and undressed in a drunken stupor in his own tent. That is all we know about Noah's action. Ham entered the tent of his father and saw him naked and drunk and then *nagad* or confronted his brothers about the conspicuous state of their father. *Nagad* means to confront someone with that which draws attention. In other words, Ham complained that their father was visibly naked and drunk. He was deprived of his senses. Shem and Japheth did not want to look upon the state of their father so they carefully covered him without looking at him. Here is the seed of a doctrine of the LORD that will be spelled out in the Mosaic Law; parents are to be honored by their children, regardless of the parents' actions, even if their children must turn their eyes away from their parents' disgraceful actions. Furthermore, this passage plants the seed of the breach of family ethics that will also be expanded in the Mosaic Law which states that one family member should not look upon the nakedness of another family member.

Curse of Canaan

Genesis 9:24 When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. 25 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers."

Why does Noah curse Canaan instead of Ham? As we will see, Ham has three other boys; why does Noah curse only one son of Ham? In this passage, the LORD is speaking through Noah to foretell the general licentious and repulsive immoral nature of the descendants of Canaan as they will uncover the nakedness of others as reported in Leviticus 18:6-19. After the Tower of Babel incident, still to be studied in Genesis 11, the descendants of Canaan, called the Canaanites, move to the area that will be given to Abram and his descendants as the Promised Land beginning in Genesis chapter 12. Abram, with his nephew, Lot, will have to deal directly with

the Canaanite immoral natures specifically in Sodom and Gomorrah, Canaanite towns. Abram's descendants will have to live with the ungodly ways of their Canaanite cousins until they move to Egypt and then again when they enter the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua until the LORD commands him to destroy all the Canaanites. Joshua will fail to complete the task. During the first year in the wilderness, the LORD will instruct to Moses to teach the people how to live, dress and function as Israelites. The basis for all the instruction is the opposite of how the Canaanites lived. The Canaanites were ungodly; the Israelites were to be godly. The Canaanites were the perfect example of an ungodly nation.

How was Canaan the servant of his brothers? The LORD is looking past the command for Joshua to destroy all the Canaanites. The LORD knows that Joshua will fail which is part of His eternal plan. Therefore, the Canaanites will eternally be in servitude to the descendants of Shem and Japheth. This passage has nothing to do with race or racial issues. In Genesis 14, the Canaanites will be defeated by the eastern Shemite kings. Abram, a descendant of Shem, will keep the Canaanites in their proper place when they take Lot and carry him to Damascus in the same Genesis passage. Solomon will use the Canaanites to cut the timbers of Lebonon and stones from the quarry for the Temple he builds in Jerusalem. The Canaanites will help rebuild the Jerusalem Temple after the return from exile. These are just a few examples of hundreds that are recorded in the Scripture. It is not specifically a matter of servitude but rather a matter of the place of their service.

Blessing of Shem – Enlargement of Japheth

Genesis 9:26 He also said, " Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ " May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant."

Long before this event, the LORD had selected the descendants of Shem to be blessed by Him. The Scripture shows that the Savior will come from the line of Shem. The line of Canaan will serve the line of Shem and the Savior just as the Canaanite was enlisted by the Roman soldier to carry the LORD's cross to Calvary.

By far, the greatest line of Noah that embraced the eternal Savior is that of Japheth. Shem's line will reject the Savior; Japheth's will accept the Savior. Shem's line should dwell in the tents of the Savior but instead, Japheth's line will take their place. As such, the Canaanites will serve the heirs of Japheth who will dwell in the tents abandoned by the descendants of Shem.

Age of Noah

Genesis 9:28 And Noah lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood. ²⁹ So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died.

The Years of Noah's Life



The Scripture completes the information about Noah's life in order to introduce the rest of his heirs. Noah will live 350 years after the flood and see many generations born during that time.

Chapter 10

Descendants of Noah

Genesis 10:1 *Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.*

No children were born on the ark. All the following generations were born after they left the ark.

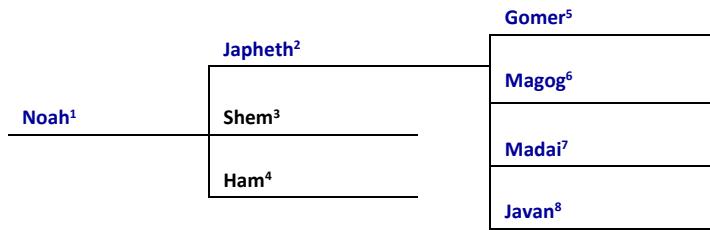
Chapter 10 includes the names of the heirs of each son of Noah as follows: three generations of Japheth, five generations of Ham, six generations of Shem. The story of the tower of Babel occurred in the year Peleg was born to the line of Shem. The record of the lines of Japheth and Ham comes to an end with the scattering of the families throughout the world after the LORD confuses the languages. The names of Shem's descendants continue to be recorded to the sixth generation because, although their languages are confused like those of Japheth and Ham, they populate land that was in close proximity to the tower in Babel from which they departed; therefore, their names are still known to the descendants of Shem.

The purpose of Chapter 10 and 11 is to fill in the important information that covers the time from Noah to Abram. In the process of charting the descendants of Noah, we will also count the males who were born between the flood and the tower of Babel. Look for the number by the name. (i.e. Noah¹, Japheth², etc.) In addition, these chapters tell the geographical locations that each family inhabited after the tower of Babel and are depicted in the maps.

Japheth

Genesis 10:2 *The sons of Japheth were Gomer and Magog and Madai and Javan and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras.*

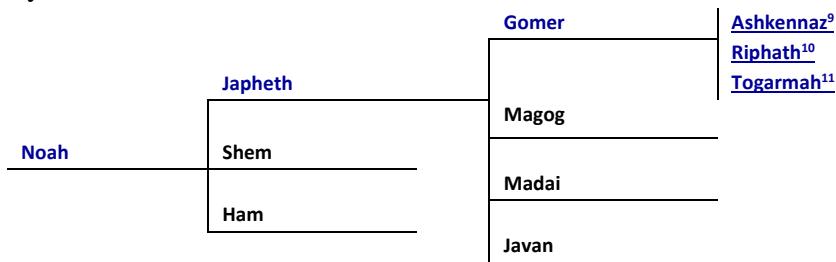
Japheth's name means "wide spreading." Shem's name means "name." Ham's name means "hot." Gomer's name means "burning coal." Magog's name means "Gog's reign." Madai's name means "middle." Javan's name means "clay."



Gomer

Genesis 10:3 *And the sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz and Riphath and Togarmah.*

Ashkenaz's name means "fire that spreads." Riphath's name means "spoken." Togarmah's name means "bony."

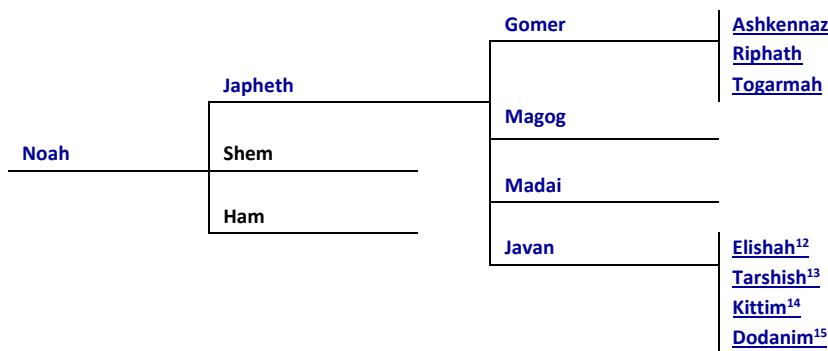


Javan

Genesis 10:4 *And the sons of Javan were Elishah and Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim.*

⁵ From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

Elishah's name means "god saves." Tarshish's name means "solid." Kittim's name means "bruisers." Dodanim's name means "leaders."



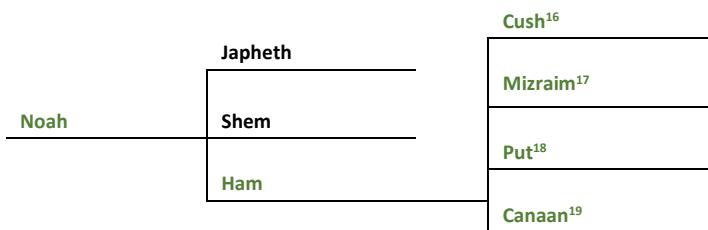


Map 4: Settlement of the Descendants of Japheth after the Tower of Babel – Three Generations
By size: Gen. 1 – **JAPHETH** Gen. 2 – **Gomer** Gen. 3 – **Ashkenaz**

Ham

Genesis 10:6 *And the sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan.*

Cush's name means "black." Mizraim's name means "mound." Put's name means "foreign bowman." Canaan's name means "low."



Cush

Genesis 10:7 *And the sons of Cush were Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.* ⁸ Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, ¹² and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

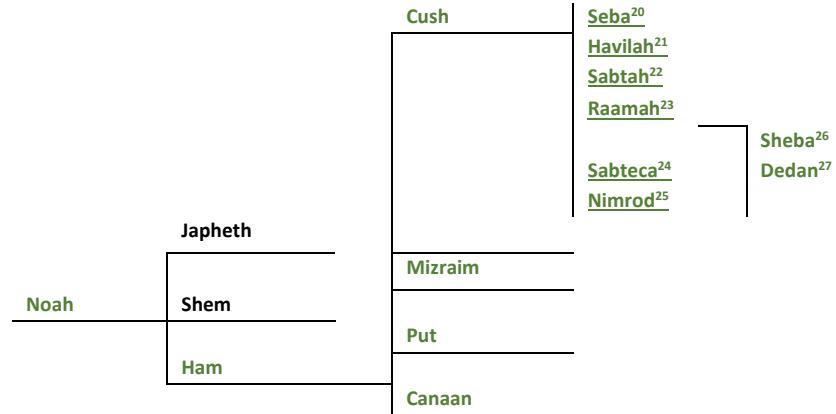
The true meaning of Seba's name is unknown. Havilah's name means "circle." Sabtah's name means "striking." Raamah's name means "shaking." Sheba's name means "oath." Dedan's name means "low." The meaning of Sabteca's name is uncertain. Nimrod's name means "brave hunter."

Even while Noah, Shem, Japheth and Ham were still alive,



Map 5: Cities Built by Nimrod

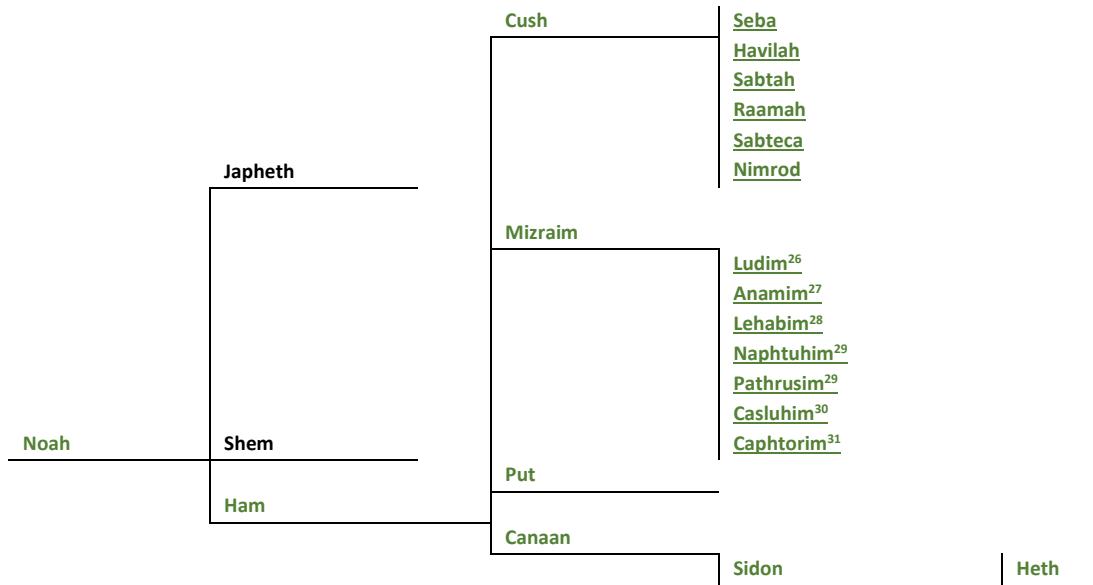
Nimrod became the official leader of the people. Under his leadership, the people began to build a tower in Babel that was used by the LORD to force the people to scatter throughout the earth as recorded in Genesis chapter 11.



Mizraim

Genesis 10:13 **And Mizraim became the father of Ludim and Anamim and Lehabim and Naphtuhim¹⁴ and Pathrusim and Casluhim (from which came the Philistines) and Capthorim.**

Ludim's name means "strife." The meaning of Anamin's name is unknown. Lehabim's name means "flame." The meanings of Naphtuhim's and Pathrusim's names are unknown. Casluhim's name means "fortified." The meaning of Capthorim's name is unknown.





Map 6: Settlement of the Descendants of Ham after the Tower of Babel – Three Generations

By size: Gen. 1 – HAM Gen. 2 – Cush Gen. 3 – Anamim

Canaan

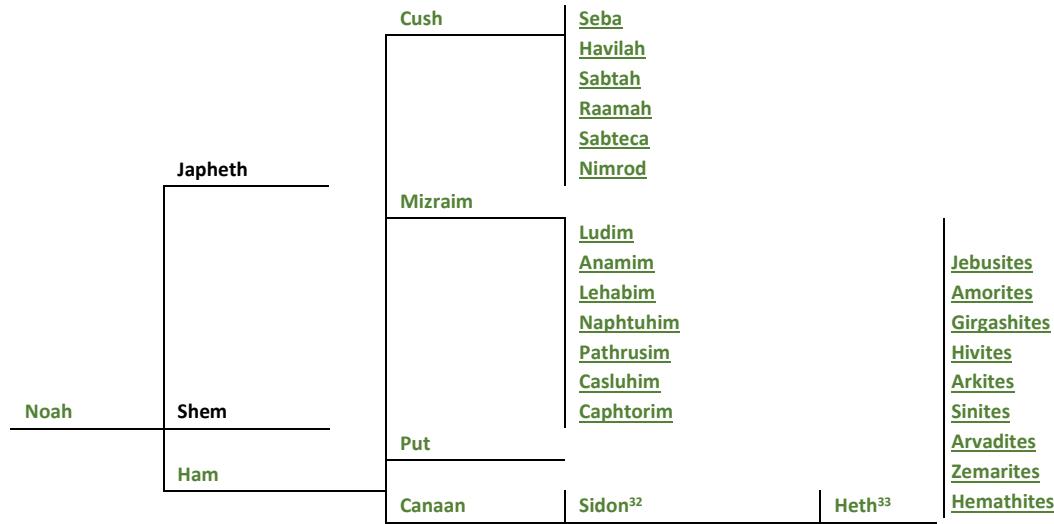
Genesis 10:15 **And Canaan became the father of Sidon, his first-born, and Heth¹⁶ and the Jebusite and the Amorite and the Gergashite¹⁷ and the Hivite and the Arkite and the Sinite¹⁸ and the Arvadite and the Zemarite and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad.¹⁹ And the territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; as you go toward Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.²⁰ These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, by their nations.**

Sidon's name means "fishing" and the name of his son, Heth, means "fear." At this point in the Scripture, the descendants' list turns from individuals to tribes. We can be reasonably certain that the male names of Heth's children were Jebu, Amor, Girga, Hiv, Ark, Sin, Arva, Zema and Hamath and that each of those boys established their own family tribes in the land of Canaan years after the tower of Babel event. Furthermore, this passage tells us that the land of Canaan extended from Sidon to Lasha.



Map 7: Tribes of Canaan's Descendants that Inhabited the Land of Canaan

Notice that the four towns of Sodom Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim are also mentioned in this list as Canaanite cities. These four cities are destroyed by the LORD for their paramount adherence to the sin of homosexuality as recorded in Genesis 14.



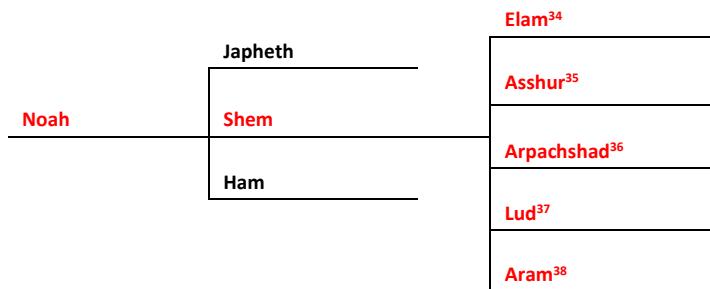
Shem and Japheth

Genesis 10:21 **And also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, and the older brother of Japheth, children were born.**

Finally, the line of Shem is given. Here we find a connection between Shem and Eber. Eber was Shem's great-grandson, not his son. One interesting fact in this passage is the name Eber; in Hebrew it is *Heber* from which the Hebrews take their name. Shem begat Arpachshad who begat Shelah whose begat Heber whose line continued through Abraham to the twelve tribes of Israel. Another interesting fact is that in this version the text reads "**And also to Shem, ... the older brother of Japheth.**" Shem was not the older brother of Japheth; a literal translation of the verse should say, "As to Shem, ... brother of Japheth the elder."³⁵

Shem

Genesis 10:22 **The sons of Shem were Elam and Asshur and Arpachshad and Lud and Aram.**



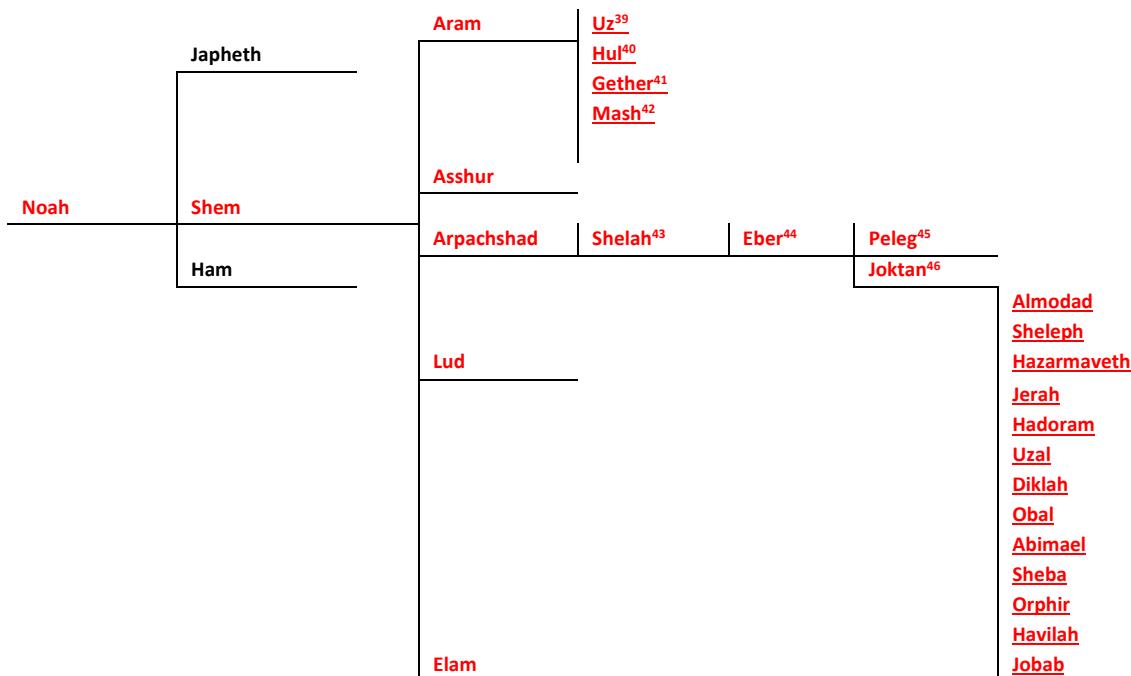
³⁵ See Young's Literal Translation for Genesis 10:21

Elam's name means "age." Asshur's name means "steps." Arpachshad's name means "Chaldean fortress." Lud's name means "strife" and is the short form of Ludim. Aram's name means "high."

Aram

Genesis 10:23 **And the sons of Aram were Uz and Hul and Gether and Mash.** ²⁴ **And Arpachshad became the father of Shelah; and Shelah became the father of Eber.** ²⁵ **And two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.** ²⁶ **And Joktan became the father of Almodad and Sheleph and Hazarmaveth and Jerah** ²⁷ **and Hadoram and Uzal and Diklah** ²⁸ **and Obal and Abimael and Sheba** ²⁹ **and Ophir and Havilah and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan.** ³⁰ **Now their settlement extended from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the hill country of the east.**

Uz's name means "fertile." Hul's name means "circle." Gether's name means "fear." Mash's name means "drawn out." Shelah's name means "prayer." Eber's name means "beyond." Peleg's name means "division." Joktan's name means "small." The rest of the names of Joktan's sons will be left undefined at this point; however, some of them will be important later in the Scripture. An important line in the Scripture says, "**the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided.**" With great assurance we can say that during the life of Peleg, the tower of Babel incident occurred and the families of heirs of Noah moved out to inhabit the world as they were instructed by the LORD on the day they left the ark. Chapter 11 will reveal the span of Peleg's life.





Map 8: Settlement of the Descendants of Shem after the Tower of Babel – Four Generations

By size: Gen. 1 – **SHEM** Gen. 2 – **Asshur** Gen. 3 – **Gether** Gen. 4 – **Eber**

Closing

Genesis 10:31 **These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their nations.** ³² **These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.**

Let us make one interesting note as we conclude chapter 10; even today, almost all of the tribes and cultures of the world in Europe, Asia, Africa and China have a tradition that links their beginning to one of the first 46 men in the list presented here. With the Scripture evidence supported by the traditions of the histories of the people in these lands, we can identify the initial locations of the scattered people after the tower of Babel by their languages as indicated in the maps presented in this lesson.