

**"In the Beginning, God...."**  
**A Verse-by-Verse Study of the Book of Genesis**  
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## Genesis 10&11 - Answers

### Genesis 10 - The Descendants of Noah



(Map taken from [dovemediaworks.com/blog/?p=9](http://dovemediaworks.com/blog/?p=9))

(1-5) The clan of Japheth headed toward the north side of the Mediterranean Sea (Southern Eurasia and Russia)

(6-20) The clan of Ham - the south side of the Mediterranean Sea (northern Africa to Iraq) (Canaanites settled in present-day Israel)

(21-31) The clan of Shem headed toward north of the Persian Gulf (present day Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Iran) (Jews..beginning with Abraham.... descend from the clan of Shem)

Which son of Noah might you descend from?

## Genesis 11

### The Tower of Babel....The Descendants of Shem

(11:1-9) the Tower of Babel is something which happened as men began to move away from Mt. Ararat and the ark.

(illustration at the right is Athanasius Kircher's illustration of the Tower of Babel, taken from

[www.rereviewed.com/roguese\\_miotics/?p=686](http://www.rereviewed.com/roguese_miotics/?p=686)

1. (:1) What was true of men before this chapter?

All people used the same language. They were slowly migrating away from Mt. Ararat, but staying together as a group.

2. (:2) What part of the Noahic covenant did men break as they moved eastward?

Refer back to Genesis 9:7. God intended for men to populate the whole earth. To spread out and have children and fill the earth. What were they doing here? They were settling in, gathering their forces together, refusing to move on and populate the earth. They were rebelling against God's plan.

3. (:3 & 4) What was their purpose in building a city and a tower? They were making themselves powerful and strong....but refusing to trust God.

4. (:5) Why did God visit them at this time? Checking on them.



5. (:6) What conclusion did God come to? What did He know would happen if they continued on their course of action?

He had a reason for telling them to populate the earth. The earth needed to be managed - kept fruitful. And He didn't want them gathering their forces together in rebellion against Him....there was no telling what horrible things they might achieve...in rebellion against His ways. They were on a track to totally destroy themselves before the Savior of the World was set to arrive. He protected them by stopping their rebellion.

6. (:7 & 8) How effective was the LORD's course of action?

Most effective. The city was never finished. The unfinished tower was a monument to the power of God to make sure His will is accomplished. Look at Revelation 17:12-17 to see the wisdom of God in using whatever means He chooses to accomplish His purposes.

7. How do you suppose people reacted to this?

Fear, no doubt. Anger? Did they admit that God had done this? Did any of them choose faith in Him at this point?

8. Did God keep whole families together at this time, or break them apart?

The genealogies we see in Chapters 10 and 11 prove that God gave similar language to families, and kept them together.

9. What do we learn from this passage about God?

Well, one thing I know for sure - I can't rebel against God and get away with it. And I can't stop His purposes, no matter what I do.

10. How do differing languages affect us today?

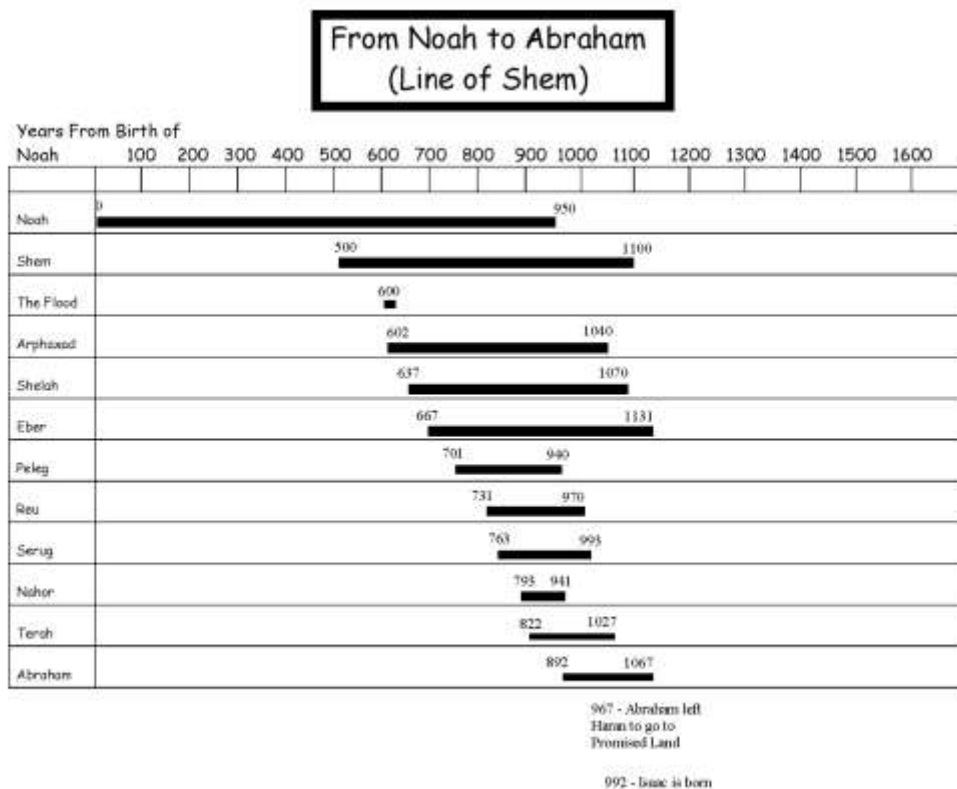
They make it very difficult to spread the Gospel. It slows us down, but it doesn't stop us from working at it. Wycliffe Bible Translators is a case in point. Sometimes it takes years to translate even a portion of the Bible into a previously unknown language. But they are doing it. Here is their Vision Statement from their website: [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org):

"Today about 200 million people do not have the Bible in their own language. Wycliffe's vision is to see the Bible accessible to all people in the language they understand best. "

(11:10-32) Look at the "Noah to Abraham Chart" (attached) and notice how long each man lived. We begin this chart with birth of Noah at year "0". (it was actually year 1056 when Noah was born, but we'll keep it simple by starting with "0")

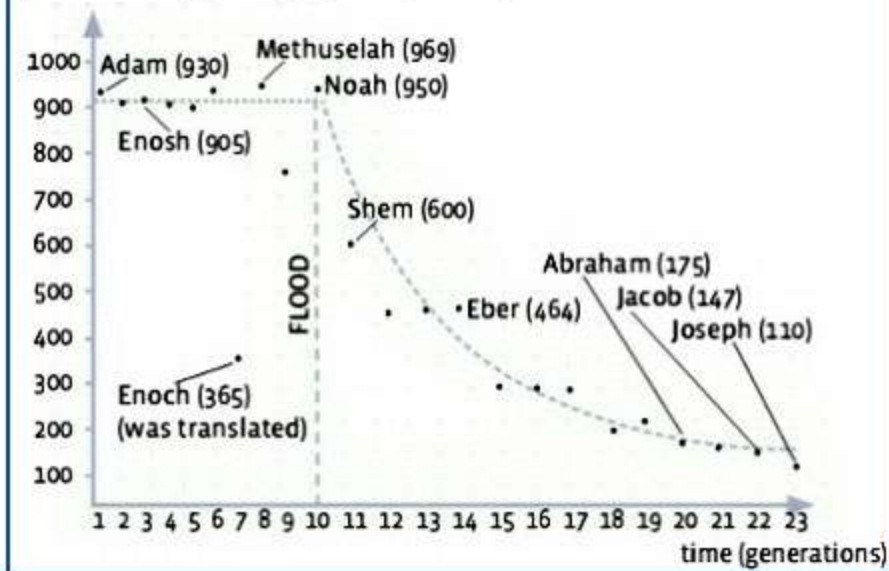
What conclusions do you come to as you look at the completed chart?

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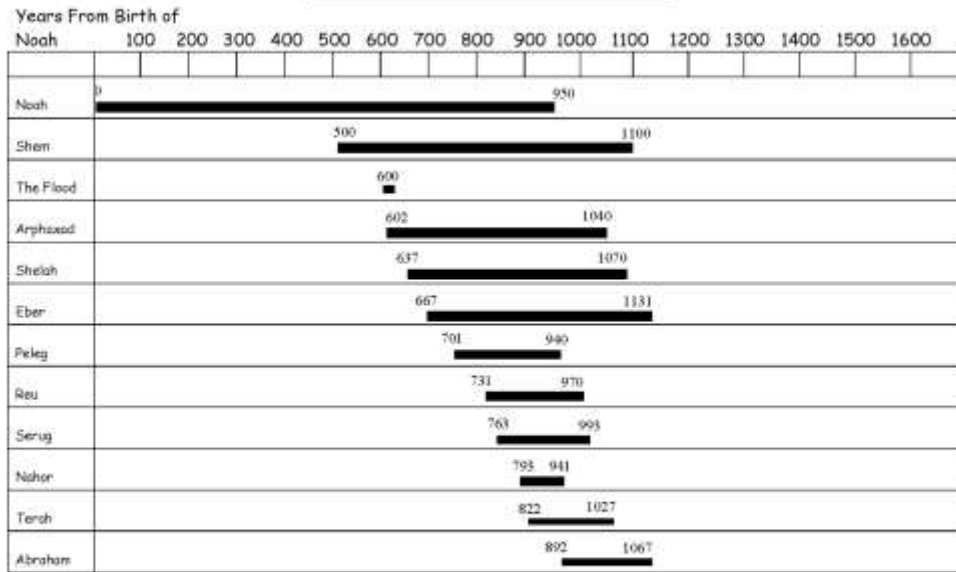
## Ages of the Patriarchs

In the genealogy of Gen. 5, the patriarchs who lived before the Flood had an average life span of about 900 years. This contrasts with the genealogy of Gen. 11:10–26 where the ages of the post-Flood patriarchs dropped rapidly and gradually leveled off.



(chart taken from <http://dovemediaworks.com/blog/>)

# From Noah to Abraham (Line of Shem)



967 - Abraham left  
Haran to go to  
Promised Land

992 - Isaac is born