

**The Noahic Covenant (2517 BC)**

Genesis 8:20–9:17

8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

22 “While the earth remains,  
Seedtime and harvest,  
And cold and heat,  
And summer and winter,  
And day and night  
Shall not cease.”

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

2 The fear of you and the terror of you will 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.

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 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.

7 “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 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 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 It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will 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.”

## Noah's Drunkenness and Canaan's Curse (c. 2500 BC)

Genesis 9:18–27

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.

20 Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard.

21 He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.

22 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.

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.”

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.”

## Toledot of Shem, Ham and Japheth (c. 2500 BC)

Genesis 10

### Introduction

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.

### Japheth's Descendants

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

3 The sons of Gomer *were* Ashkenaz and Riphath and Togarmah.

4 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.

### Ham's Descendants

6 The sons of Ham *were* Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan.

7 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 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.  
 13 Mizraim became the father of Ludim and Anamim and Lehabim and Naphtuhim  
 14 and Pathrusim and Casluhim (from which came the Philistines) and Caphtorim.  
 15 Canaan became the father of Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth  
 16 and the Jebusite and the Amorite and the Girgashite  
 17 and the Hivite and the Arkite and the Sinite  
 18 and the Arvadite and the Zemarite and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were  
 spread abroad.  
 19 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.

### Shem's Descendants

21 Also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, *and* the older brother of Japheth, children were born.  
 22 The sons of Shem *were* Elam and Asshur and Arpachshad and Lud and Aram.  
 23 The sons of Aram *were* Uz and Hul and Gether and Mash.  
 24 Arpachshad became the father of Shelah; and Shelah became the father of Eber.  
 25 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 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.  
 31 These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands,  
 according to their nations.

### Conclusion

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.

## Toledot of Shem – Part 1 (2516–2178 BC)

### Genesis 11:10–19

10 These are *the records of* the generations of Shem. Shem was one hundred years old, and became the  
 father of Arpachshad two years after the flood;  
 11 and Shem lived five hundred years after he became the father of Arpachshad, and he had *other* sons and  
 daughters.  
 12 Arpachshad lived thirty-five years, and became the father of Shelah;  
 13 and Arpachshad lived four hundred and three years after he became the father of Shelah, and he had  
*other* sons and daughters.  
 14 Shelah lived thirty years, and became the father of Eber;  
 15 and Shelah lived four hundred and three years after he became the father of Eber, and he had *other* sons  
 and daughters.  
 16 Eber lived thirty-four years, and became the father of Peleg;  
 17 and Eber lived four hundred and thirty years after he became the father of Peleg, and he had *other* sons  
 and daughters.

18 Peleg lived thirty years, and became the father of Reu;

19 and Peleg lived two hundred and nine years after he became the father of Reu, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

### The City of Babel (c. 2300 BC)

Genesis 11:1–9

1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

4 They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

5 The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

6 The LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

### Toledot of Shem – Part 2 (2355–2226 BC)

Genesis 11:20–26

20 Reu lived thirty-two years, and became the father of Serug;

21 and Reu lived two hundred and seven years after he became the father of Serug, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

22 Serug lived thirty years, and became the father of Nahor;

23 and Serug lived two hundred years after he became the father of Nahor, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

24 Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and became the father of Terah;

25 and Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years after he became the father of Terah, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

26 Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.

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### Chronological Notes

- 1) Genesis 10:25 (repeated by 1 Chronicles 1:19) states that in the days of Peleg “the earth was divided.” The traditional opinion has been to interpret this phrase as a reference to the city of Babel story. For this reason, I have placed Genesis 11:1–9 after Genesis 11:19. However, it should be noted that although the traditional view is likely, it cannot be dogmatically held since there is no clear allusion to 11:1–9 because “scattered” (*pus*) and “divided” (*niplega*) are different words.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kenneth A. Mathews, *Genesis 1–11:26*, New American Commentary (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), pp. 463–64.