

Genesis 10-11

Table of Nations and
Tower of Babel

Journey Through Genesis

In the beginning

Genesis 1:1 (narrative)

Toledot of Sky and Land

Genesis 2:4 (narrative)

Toledot of Adam

Genesis 5:1 (genealogy)

Toledot of Noah

Genesis 6:9 (narrative)

**Toledot of Shem, Ham,
and Japheth**

Genesis 10:1 (genealogy)

Toledot of Shem

Genesis 11:10 (genealogy)

Toledot of Terach

Genesis 11:27 (narrative)

Toledot of Ishmael

Genesis 25:12 (genealogy)

Toledot of Isaac

Genesis 25:19 (narrative)

Toledot of Esau

Genesis 36:1 and 36:9 (genealogy)

Toledot of Jacob

Genesis 37:2 (narrative)

Timeline Thus Far

Creation 1 (4162 BCE)

Flood+ 1656 (2456 BE)

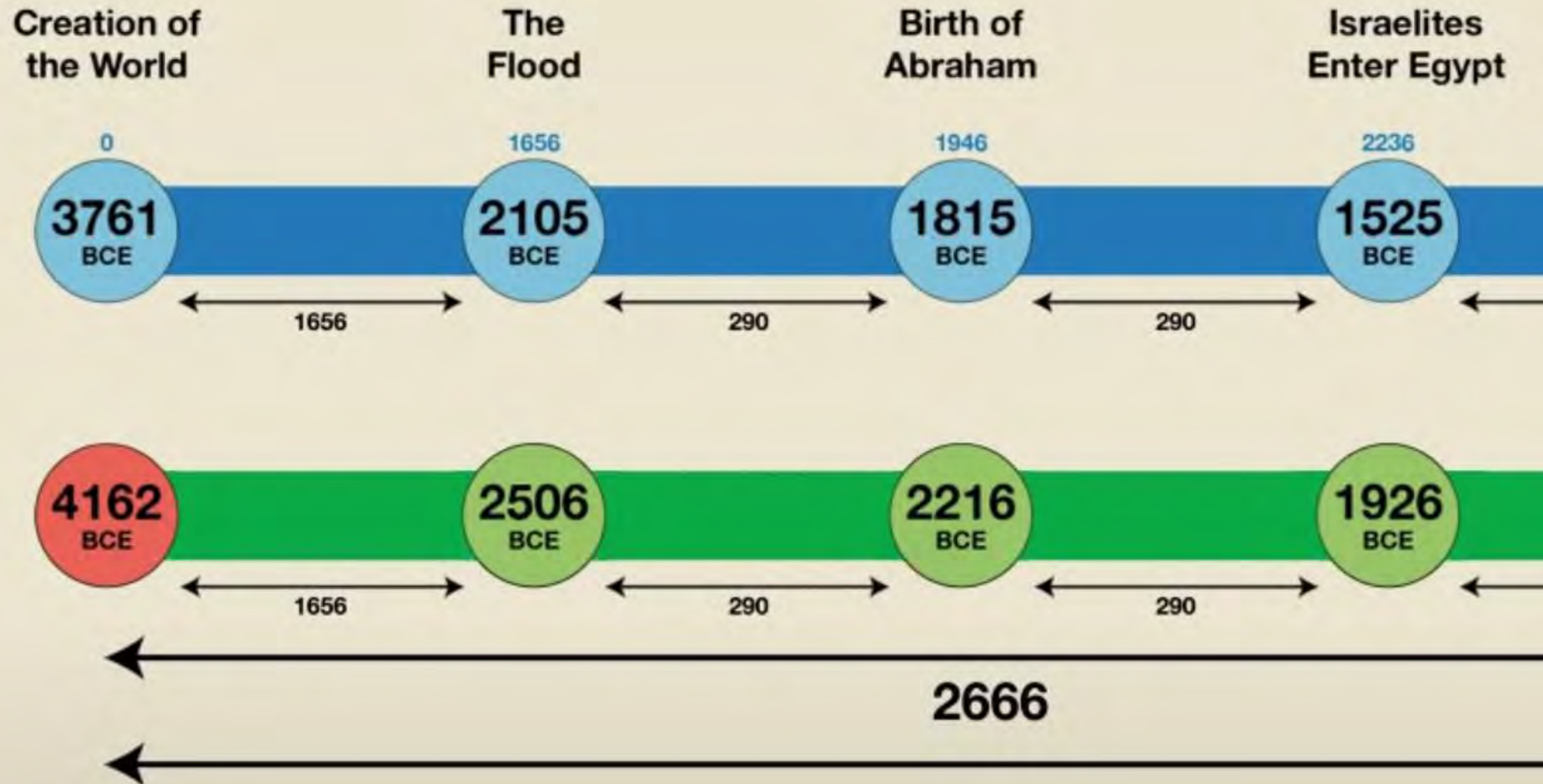
Abraham + 290 (2166 BCE)

Egypt + 290 (1876 BCE)

Exodus (2/3rd of the way there)

2nd Temple (4000)

Timeline Thus Far



Overview

Genesis 10 is the "Table of Nations"

Genesis 11 contains the "Tower of Babel" and sets up Abram/Abraham.

Explains different languages in the world AND connects humanity as being all one people.

**Genesis
10-11**

**Last of
Primeval
History**

10.1 And this is the lineage of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the Flood.

The sons of Japheth.....

The sons of Ham.....

Then sons of Shem.

10.31-32 These are the sons of Shem according to their clans and tongues, in their lands and their nations. These are the clans of the sons of Noah according to their lineage in their nations. And from these the nations branched out on the earth after the Flood.

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11.1-11 And all the earth was one language, one set of words. And it happened as they journeyed from the east that they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to each other, "Come, let us bake bricks and burn them hard." And the brick served them as stone, and bitumen served them as mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build us a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, that we may make us a name, lest we be scattered over all the earth."

And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the human creatures had built. And the LORD said, "As one people with one language for all, if this is what they have begun to do, nothing they plot will elude them. Come, let us go down and baffle their language there so that they will not understand each other's language." And the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth and they left off building the city. Therefore it is called Babel, for there the LORD made the language of all the earth babble. And from there the LORD scattered them over all the earth. This is the lineage of

Shem:

11.27-32 And this is the lineage of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran begot Lot. And Haran died in the lifetime of Terah his father in the land of his birth, Ur of the Chaldees. And Abram and Nahor took themselves wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. And Sarai was barren, she had no child. And Terah took Abram his son and Lot son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, the wife of his son Abram, and he set out with them from Ur of the Chaldees toward the land of Canaan, and they came to Haran and settled there. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

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And the sons of Noah who came out from the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth spread out. And Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. And he drank of the wine and became drunk, and exposed himself within his tent. And Ham the father of Canaan saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. And Shem and Japheth took a cloak and put it over both their shoulders and walked backward and covered their father's nakedness; their faces turned backward so they did not see their father's nakedness. And Noah woke from his wine and he knew what his youngest son had done to him. And he said, "Cursed be Canaan, the lowliest slave shall he be to his brothers." And he said, "Blessed be the LORD the God of Shem, unto them shall Canaan be slave. May God enlarge Japheth, may he dwell in the tents of Shem, unto them shall Canaan be slave." And Noah lived after the Flood three hundred and fifty years. And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years. Then he died.

What stands out to you?

Chapter 10 "Table of Nations"

Meta Narrative

- Generations of Shem, Ham and Japheth
- Chiastic Structure with Noah in Middle.
- Creation, Uncreation and Recreation.
- Starts new Chiasm or Parrel with number 70.

Mix of Priestly and Non-Priestly accounts
(written in three distinct stages: 10c BCE, 7c BCE,
and priestly revisions in 5c BCE)

Chapter 10 "Table of Nations"

Meta Narrative

- Generations of Shem, Ham and Japheth
- Chiastic Structure with Noah in Middle.
- Creation, Uncreation and Recreation.
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Mix of Priestly and Non-Priestly accounts
(written in three distinct stages: 10c BCE, 7c BCE,
and priestly revisions in 5c BCE)

What they call people. "Sons of" or "Begot" +



ATLANTIC OCEAN

E U R O P E

M A G O G

DESCENDANTS OF MAGOG

DESCENDANTS OF GOMER AND JAVAN

G O M E R

A S H K E N A Z

C A S P I A N S E A

T A R S H I S H

T I R A S

B L A C K S E A

M E S H E C H

P A R T H I A

E L I S H A H I

G R E E C E
J A V A N

R I P H A T H

T U B A L

A S H K E N A Z

M A D A I

A S I A

T H E G R E A T S E A
(Mediterranean Sea)

Descendants of Shem

C A P H T O R I M

K I T T I M

C A N A A N

P H I L I S T I A

L U D

H E T H

A R A M

A S S H U R

N I M R O D

E L A M

M A S H

A R P H A X A D

P E R S I A N G U L F

R A A M A H

DESCENDANTS OF HAM

L E H A B I M

D E D A N

D E D A N

S H E B A

P H U T

L I B Y A

L U D I M

A R A B I A

J O K T A N

A F R I C A

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P A T H R U S I M

NOT LICENSED

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- Descendants of Shem
- Descendants of Ham
- Descendants of Japheth



The Descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth

0 1000 Miles

R E D S E A

C U S H

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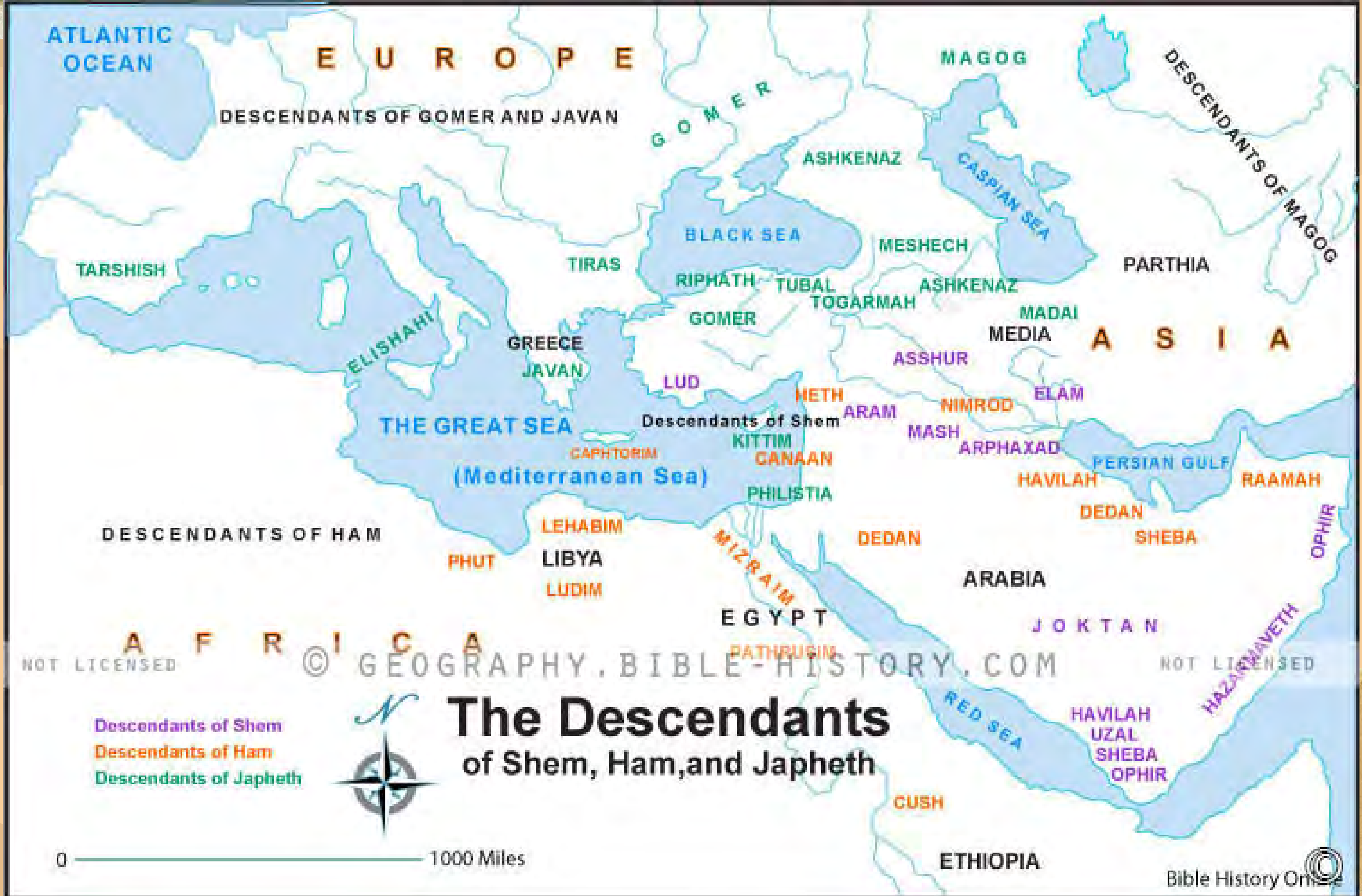


Bible History Online

Chapter 10 "Table of Nations"

What is special about the Table of Nations?

- Unique to Hebrews....no one else does this
- Significance of 70
 - Canninite Council of El
 - Family to Egypt, Elders at Sinai and Sanhedrin
- Redone in the book of Chronicles, the Book of Jubilees and in the LXX. Mentioned in 1 Peter
- Shows how "all humanity" is one.
- Special numbers.....mean poetic stuff



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Descendants of Shem
 Descendants of Ham
 Descendants of Japheth

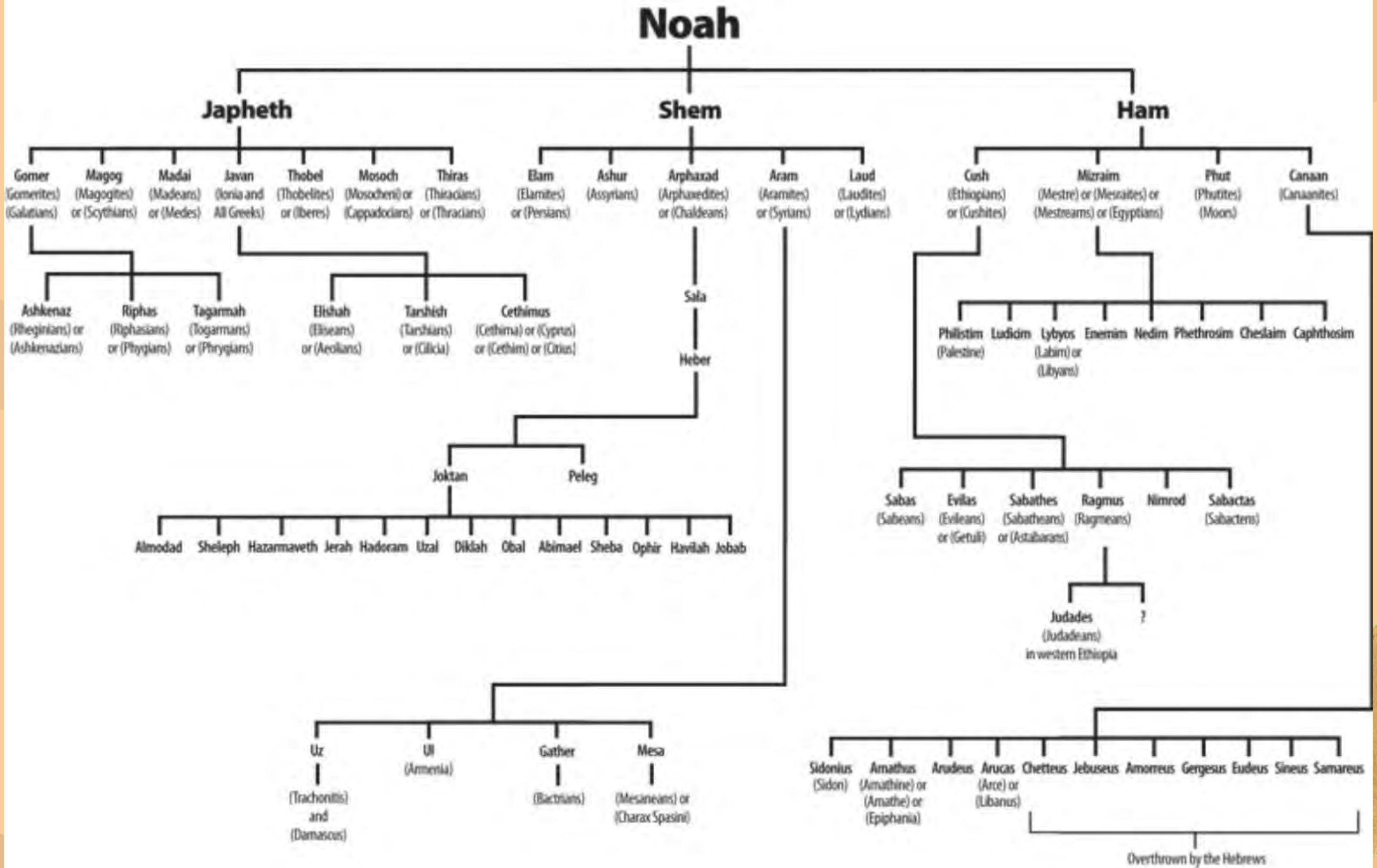


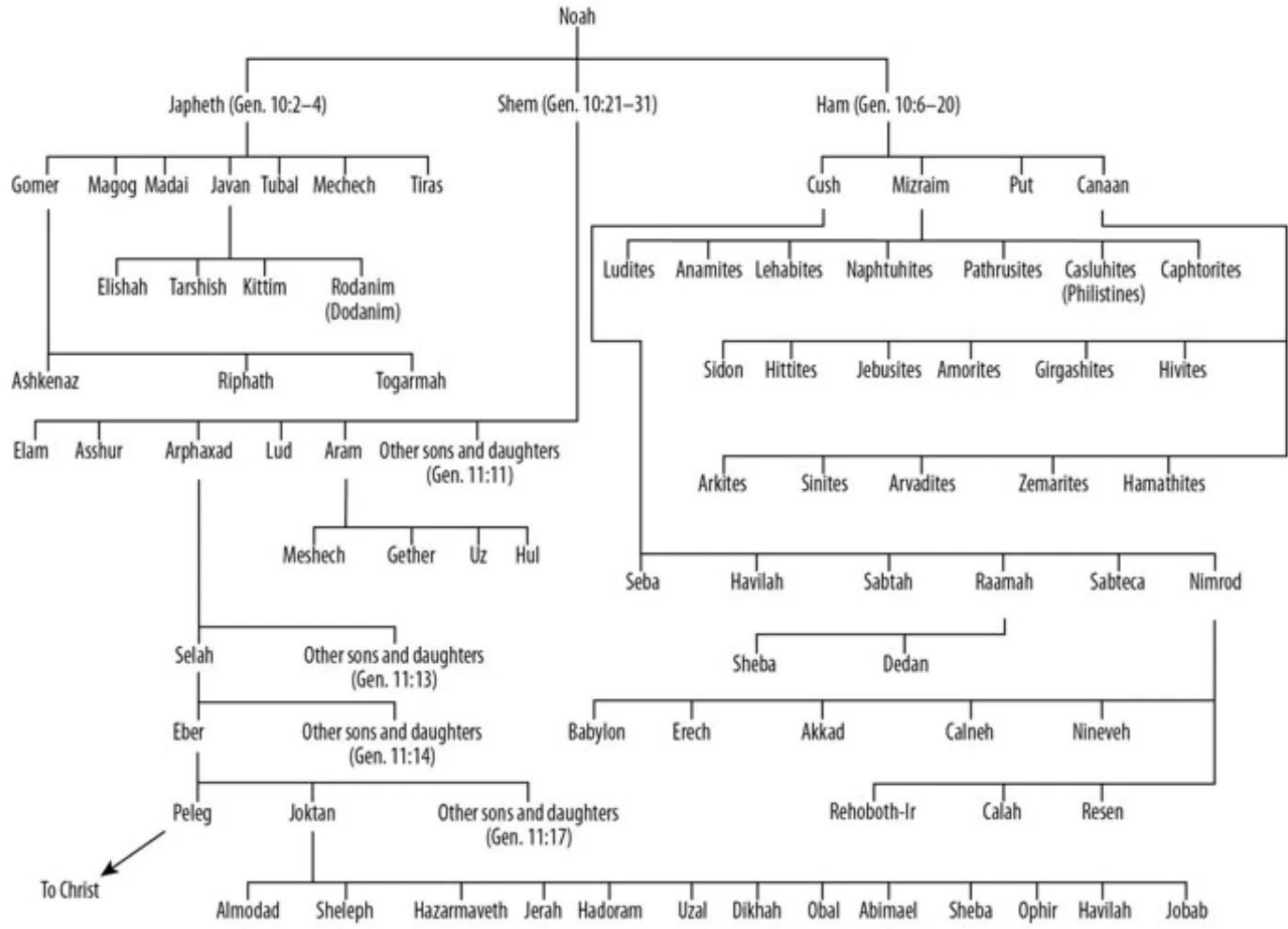
The Descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth

0 ————— 1000 Miles

Bible History Online

JOSEPHUS' TABLE OF NATIONS





Chapter 10: Nimrod? (Comparative Myth)

We don't know....

Chapter 10: Nimrod? (Comparative Myth)

6 The descendants of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. 7 The descendants of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The descendants of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. 8 **Cush became the father of Nimrod; he was the first on earth to become a mighty warrior.** 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, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh** in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went into Assyria and built **Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, Calah,** and 12 **Resen** between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. 13 Egypt became the father of Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14 Pathrusim, Casluhim, from whom the Philistines come, and Caphtorim.

Chapter 10: Nimrod? (Comparative Myth)

- The name MAY mean rebel.
- Is a hunter/warrior and King
- Starts GREAT Kingdoms
- Robert Alter says this in his commentary...

Chapter 10: Nimrod? (Comparative Myth)

The Hebrew, which says literally, “he began to be a mighty man,” uses the same idiom that is invoked for Noah’s planting a vineyard. The implication, then, is that Nimrod, too, was the founder of an archetypal human occupation. The next verse suggests that this occupation is that of hunter, with his founding of a great Mesopotamian empire then introduced in verses 10–12 as an ancillary fact. Perhaps his prowess as hunter is put forth as evidence of the martial prowess that enabled him to conquer kingdoms, since the two skills are often associated in the ruling classes of older civilizations. Numerous Neo-Assyrian bas-reliefs depict royal lion hunts or royal bull hunts.

Chapter 10: Nimrod? (Comparative Myth)

- The name MAY mean rebel.
- Is a hunter/warrior and King
- Starts GREAT Kingdoms
- Robert Alter says he is an archetype of a warring civilization
- Other commentary note that he is also an archetype for prevented religion and polytheism
- OR he could be a good guy. Or the worst of guys...Who knows? (name mean against or before God)

Chapter 10: Nimrod? (Comparative Myth)

- LOTS of stories (hundreds...I read about 20)
 - Sometimes he is the hero in most he is the villain
- Comparative myth could be.....
 - Gilgamesh!!!!!! :)
 - Sargon the Great
 - Nintura (Sumerian hunting god started as a planting god always had a bow and arrow)
 - MOST LIKELY. Compilation of Sumerian/Assyrian/Babylonian Kings

Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

Story that explains how people speak different languages

Mainly Yahwehist/Non-Priestly

NOT about humanity trying to get into God's realm...about humanity using the divine for their own purposes

"Make a name for ourselves"

Comical
story
making
fun of
Babylon

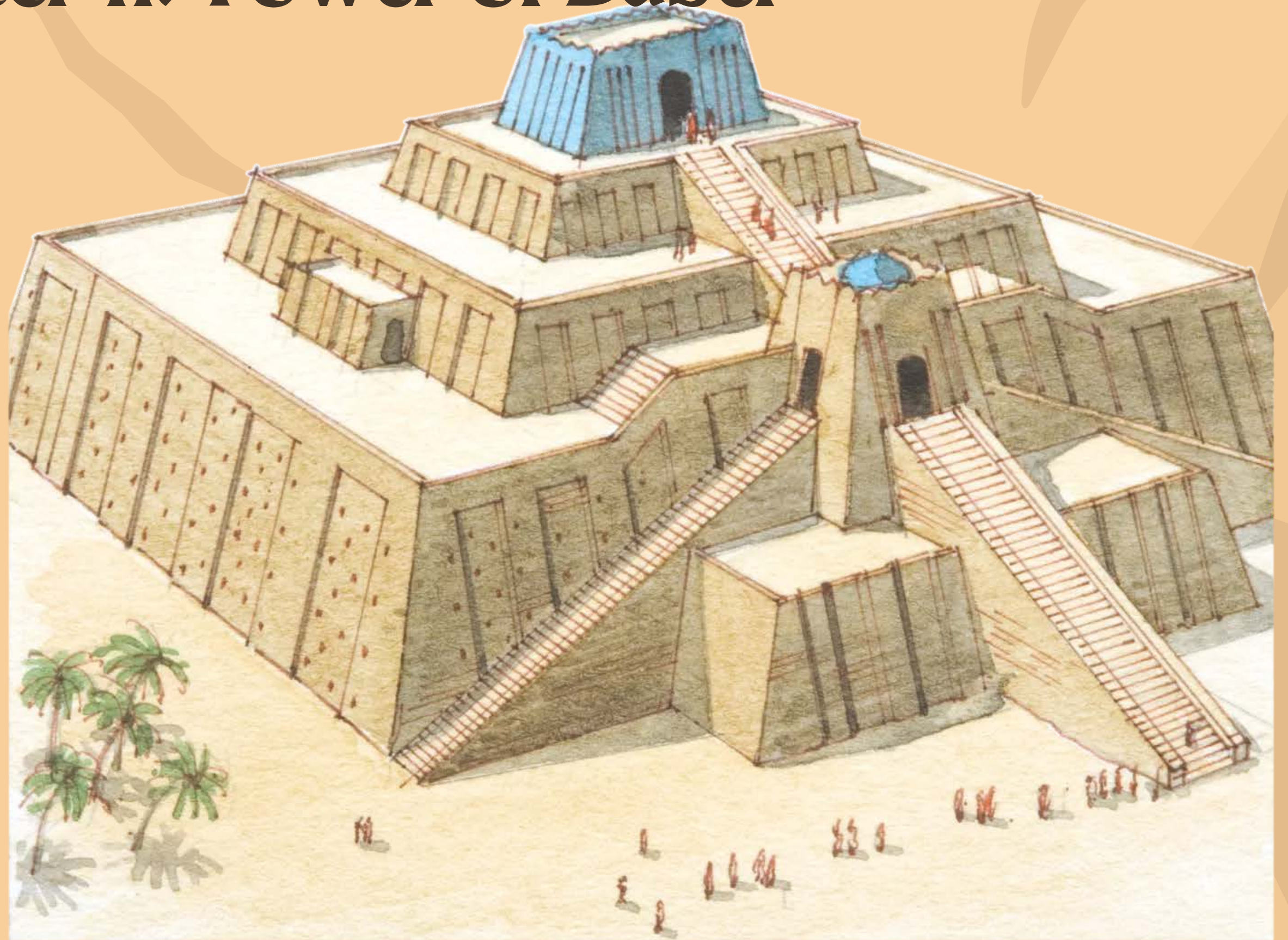
Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

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Ziggurat

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Found as you walked into Babylon



Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

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Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

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Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

Name meaning:

Babylon
Bâb-ilu

"Gate of the gods"

Babel
balal

- to mingle, mix, confuse,
confound.

It is a Ziggurat whose job was to be a
gate for God to come down (not man
go up)

Comical
story
making
fun of
Babylon

Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

Babylonian Ziggurat -
Etemenanki

(House of the Foundations
of Heaven and Earth)

Lars Ziggurat
(Temple that Links
Heaven and Earth)

Sippur Ziggurat
(Stairway to Pure Heaven)

Comical
story
making
fun of
Babylon

Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

Mesopotamian and other ancient Gods were severely like divine humans and had "needs". If you fulfilled the Gods needs, they would give you favor or blessings.

Needed Sleep, Needed Food, Had Sex, Could Become Intoxicated, Ignorant of Affairs Outside of their Immediate Experience and Had Other Needs.

Comical
story
making
fun of
Babylon

Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

Each Day for Anu/Marduk/Enlil/Zeus*

- 6 vessels of barley-beer
- 5 vessels of labku beer
- 1 vessel of nasu beer
- 1 vessel of beer from a jug
- 1 alabaster vase of milk
- 4 vessels of "pressed" wine
- Sacrifice (for each meal) a total of 21 sheep of first quality
- 25 sheep of lesser quality, not fed with grain
 - 2 fat-tailed oxen, and suckling calf

Comical
story
making
fun of
Babylon

Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

**Comical
story
making
fun of
Babylon**

The tower of Babel is about humanity building a Ziggurat so that God comes down and blesses their collective other others.

It is essentially making fun of Meso-Sumerian cultures who did that exact same thing.

Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

Comparative Myth

Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta (copied from Wikipedia)

There is a Sumerian myth similar to that of the Tower of Babel, called Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta, where Enmerkar of Uruk is building a massive ziggurat in Eridu and demands a tribute of precious materials from Aratta for its construction, at one point reciting an incantation imploring the god Enki to restore (or in Kramer's translation, to disrupt) the linguistic unity of the inhabited regions—named as Shubur, Hamazi, Sumer, Uri-ki (Akkad), and the Martu land, "the whole universe, the well-guarded people—may they all address Enlil together in a single language." In addition, a further Assyrian myth, dating from the 8th century BC during the Neo-Assyrian Empire (911–605 BC), bears a number of similarities to the later written biblical story.

Comical
story
making
fun of
Babylon

Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

In the Genesis story....

- God can't even see the tower because it is so small (joke)
- God doesn't use Babel to come down..God is ALL-powerful (joke)
- People are dispersed to protect Religion and Culture
- Against large civilisations and using God
- Vast moral and Christological meanings...namely Pentecost

Comical
story
making
fun of
Babylon

Looking Ahead Chapter 12 and beyond

Finished Primeval History moving to Ancestral History.

Moving AWAY from Meso-Sumerian and Babylonian/Assyrian Myths to interacting with Canaan and Egypt.

Abram/Abraham is on the scene.

Zooming in on what God is doing

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