

Genesis 9:18-29 NIV

[18] The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) [19] These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth. [20] Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. [21] When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. [22] Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. [23] But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked. [24] When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, [25] he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." [26] He also said, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. [27] May God extend Japheth's territory; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth." [28] After the flood Noah lived 350 years. [29] Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then he died.

Genesis 10 - The Table of Nations

Genesis 11:1-9 NIV

[1] Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. [2] As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. [3] They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. [4] Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." [5] But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. [6] The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. [7] Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." [8] So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. [9] That is why it was called Babel--- because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. What indications do we have with the sons of Noah in Genesis 9 and with other people in Genesis 11, that the problem of sin and rebellion was not resolved by the flood?
2. How did God begin to action His redemption plan (Genesis 12:1-3) and what was its eventual goal?
3. How did the purposes for building a tower to reach the heavens conflict with the purposes of God for mankind?

4. The Westminster Catechism states that "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." How does living out that purpose truly free us?
5. How was God able to effectively turn the city and tower "gathering" into a "scattering"? How does that still affect our world today?
6. How did the events of the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:2-5, 11) start the reversal of the worldly trend of division and scattering? Since the church is an institution where we assemble or gather to be united as one people, how should we behave in order to fulfill the purposes of God?