

GENESIS –Lesson 27

Learn: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. II Timothy 3:15-17

Read: Genesis 11:10-32

For almost two centuries after the Dispersion at Babel, almost nothing is revealed about further history of mankind. The tribes were migrating and cultures developing, with knowledge of the true God receding further and further from man's consciousness. In the far north, a great ice sheet was advancing over the continent; in the south, regions that are now deserts (Sahara, Arabia, etc.) were enjoying abundant water resources able to support developing civilizations throughout the world.

Though these events were of great importance in world history, they are passed over in silence in the Scripture, since nothing of consequence was happening in revelational history. Most of mankind had again rebelled against God, but it was not yet time to prepare a special nation to receive and transmit His Word to the other nations.

Nevertheless, the line of the promised Seed was being preserved, the records of the patriarchs were being protected, and God's plan was on schedule. In this section of the pre-Abrahamic records of Scripture, the patriarchal genealogies and chronology from the Flood down to the call of Abraham are preserved. Therefore, this is a very important passage of Scripture.

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1. What is concluded in verse 10?
2. Going down to verse 27, who do we see continued the record keeping?
3. What was noted about Shem by the next record keeper? v 10
4. From this verse, what was the age of Shem when he went into the Flood?

5. Looking at the ages of the patriarchs in this section compared to the ages before the flood, what is clearly seen?

Adding up the numbers in these verses, the record indicates that Peleg was born 101 years after the Flood. This probably was the year of the Babel Dispersion.

Some may doubt that a single century would be a long enough period of time for the population to grow from eight survivors of the Flood to the substantial number of people that were involved in building Babel and its tower. However, there is no doubt that the population would have increased rapidly. Shem, Ham, and Japheth had a total of sixteen sons listed, there may have been other sons not listed, and also daughters that were not listed. A growth rate of only 8 percent annually would produce a population of nine thousand in only one hundred years.

But if there were not many people, these could well have constructed the great tower over a period of several years. Many large structures of antiquity (the pyramids, Stonehenge, the Mesopotamian ziggurats which apparently copied the original Tower of Babel, among others) indicate that ancient men possessed remarkable engineering and construction skills.

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6. Why do you think that men today do not want to believe that ancient men were extremely intelligent and capable of building structures in ways that we can't figure out?

Why would men invent ridiculous theories such as: extraterrestrials came to earth from other planets and built amazing ancient architectural structures that remain to this day?

7. What are the names listed in the chronology from Shem to Terah?

There is no reason to assume that there are any gaps of time in this genealogy. There are no actual, indisputable written records in Egypt, Sumeria, or any other ancient nations, which would force the insertion of gaps in these genealogies. Therefore, the Flood does not need to be dated any earlier than about 2350 BC, which is the traditional Ussher date.

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8. Who were the sons of Terah?

9. What happened in Terah's family before they left the land of Ur of the Chaldees?
vv 27- 29
10. Who did Nahor, the brother of Abram marry and what was her relationship to him?
v 29
11. What is specifically noted about Abram's wife Sarai? v 30
12. At this point what did Terah do according to God's direction? v 31
13. Though Terah recorded the genealogy and left Ur as God directed, what did he become in later life? Joshua 24:2
14. What other man in Scripture started well, but ended badly? I Kings 11:1-11
15. What is the lesson to each person who follows Jesus Christ when we look at Terah?
II Peter 3:17

I Corinthians 10:12
16. What should we remember to avoid the danger of following after false gods?
I Peter 5:8, 9

II Timothy 3:15-17

Ephesians 6:18

Ephesians 6:11-17

I Corinthians 9:24-27

17. What was the name of the place that Terah and his family left? v 31