



Traveling God's Word

A chronological study of the Bible

WEEK 3

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Read:

Genesis 6:9-
11:26

Our reading this week begins with the statement that Noah was a righteous man, the **only** blameless man living on earth! One of the first things that strikes me about this is how difficult it would be to be surrounded by those who were evil all the time. Whenever Noah had to deal with others in his town, it sounds quite likely that he would be sinned against. He would be cheated and maligned. His children would be treated cruelly, his wife would be harmed. But rather use their poor behavior to excuse his own sin, Noah chose to respond to the sin around him by walking with God.

Sometimes we too find ourselves in a world of wrong. A friend betrays us, a spouse has an affair, our children fall into a rebellious lifestyle, or a coworker falsely accuses us. God will not judge you and me by the weakness and failings of others, but by our own response to them. There is no wrong done by another that can justify a wrong done by me, or as my mother used to say, "two wrongs don't make a right". The only way to be righteous when we have been landed in a world of wrong is to keep walking closely with our Lord. That worked for Noah, and it will work for us!

What does it mean to "walk" with the Lord? _____

When do you find it most difficult to avoid falling into the evil around you? _____

What do we learn about Noah from these references to him?

Ezekiel 14:12-20 _____

Heb. 11:7 _____

2 Peter 2:5 _____

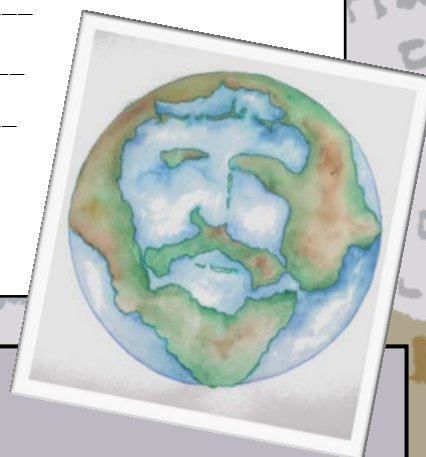
SPOTTING CHRIST

Noah seemed to have a lot of conversations with the Lord. The same Lord that would one day come instead of a great flood to redeem man from evil, much as Noah was sealed into the ark. Why do you think the time was not yet right for Christ to come instead of the flood?

When God sent a wind to dry the floodwaters, the Hebrew word for wind is ruah, as when the ruah (Spirit) of God hovered over the waters in Gen. 1:2. What are some of the other ways that the new beginning described in 8:1–9:3 parallels the beginning described in Genesis 1?

What comparison does 1 Peter 3:18-22 make? _____

What does the resurrected Christ say about the writings of Moses in Luke 24:25-27? _____



Grieving the Lost

Noah and his family must have suffered a tremendous amount of persecution and ridicule all of those years while the ark was being built. When the flood finally came, were Noah and his family all smiles as the storybook version illustrates? Were there some hours or days of gloating before the horror of the situation hit home? How did these few chosen ones feel about those who perished? Did they plead with God in their behalf, or smugly mutter “I told them they would come to some bad end!”

During World War II, my father served in the Coast Guard. On one rescue mission in the North Atlantic, they were only able to save part of the men from the freezing water before the rest perished. The faces of those that they hadn’t been able to save haunted him the rest of his life.

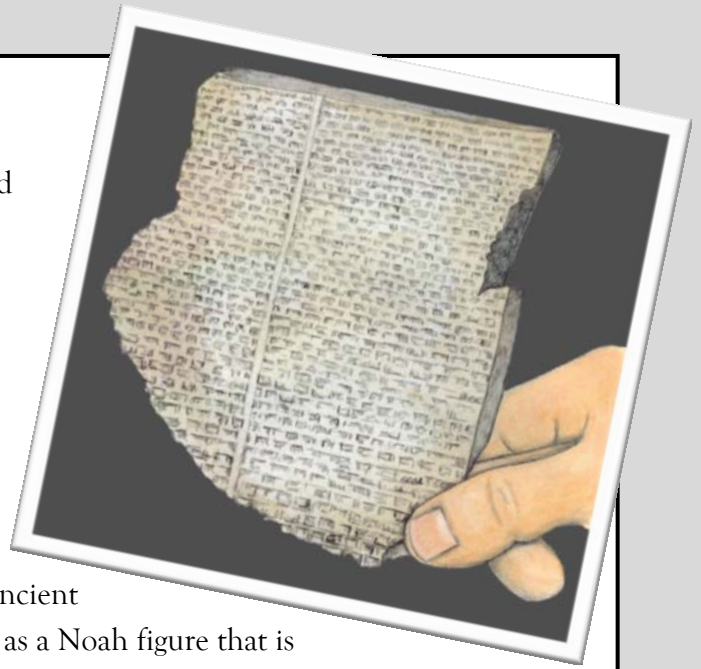
Is that the kind of grief that Noah had for those who did not listen to the warnings that he had preached for so long? The scene must have been horrific. Is that the kind of grief that we feel over those who have refused Jesus?

When Jesus referred to the flood in Matt. 24:36-42, did he focus on those in the ark, or those who perished? _____



Tales of a Flood

Something as large scale as the flood that is talked about in Gen. 6-9 is not going to go unnoticed or unmentioned whether you are interested in God's role in it or not. The ancient Near East has many myths of the great flood, all variations on the same event. The earliest known writings are around 5,000 years old. One of the best known of the many flood stories other than the Bible, is the Gilgamesh Epic, written on six inch clay tablets found in Nineveh in the 1800s. It is written in an ancient language called Akkadian and features Utnapishtim as a Noah figure that is warned by one of the gods of a flood which he and his wife escape by tearing down their house and building an ark, taking along specimens of every living thing. The ark was 175 feet square and caulked with bitumen and asphalt, and was completed in only seven days. Once the ark had run aground on Mt. Nisir, a dove, then a swallow, were released only to return when they found nowhere to rest. Finally a raven was released and did not return. (Matthews and Benjamin 21-29) The key differences between the various flood stories and the account in the Bible center around the number and nature of the gods involved. While the Biblical account describes the righteous actions of the one Creator God, the other stories involve multiple gods who behave in very humanlike and rather fallible ways, even disagreeing with each other about the course of action.



What does the existence of these parallel stories mean to you? _____

Flood Facts

A football field without the end zones is 300 feet. How long was the ark? _____

Here's a hint: The Hebrew cubit was 17.5 inches, but it is thought likely that Moses would have recorded the Egyptian measure of a cubit which is 20.6 inches. (Hodge)

What was the total of days that Noah and his family spent in the ark considering that they entered on the 17th day of the 2nd month of Noah's 600th year (7:11) and left the ark on the 27th day of the 2nd month of Noah's 601st year (8:13,14)? _____

To get an idea of the size of Noah's ark go to:

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YapDn8cxEb0&NR=1>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Izg6JIKO-yE&feature=related>

Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOrQQWpLS6I&feature=related>

Part 4: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulyDWzc5I4M&feature=related>

To learn about the possible discovery of the remains of Noah's ark go to:

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y5ORpMTebI>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SE7nN80dIw8&feature=related>

<http://www.satimagingcorp.com/gallery/quicktime-mt-ararat-low.html>

In Islam's Koran, Noah is referred to as Nuh. He makes up one of the five prophets of Islam alongside Adam, Moses, Abraham and Jesus.

The Nations after the Flood

The sons of Noah scattered and multiplied, fathering a diversity of nations. On each of the red place names on the map below, write a H for Ham, J for Japheth, or S for Shem. Use the genealogy in chapter 10 to help you.

From which of Noah's sons did the Israelites descend? _____

Do you think there were other peoples who may have worshipped God? _____

Which of these places do you expect to become enemies of the Israelites? _____



Matters of Menu

What change of menu did God make after the flood?

Why was there a distinction between clean and unclean animals before the flood?

How many clean animals did Noah take with him? _____

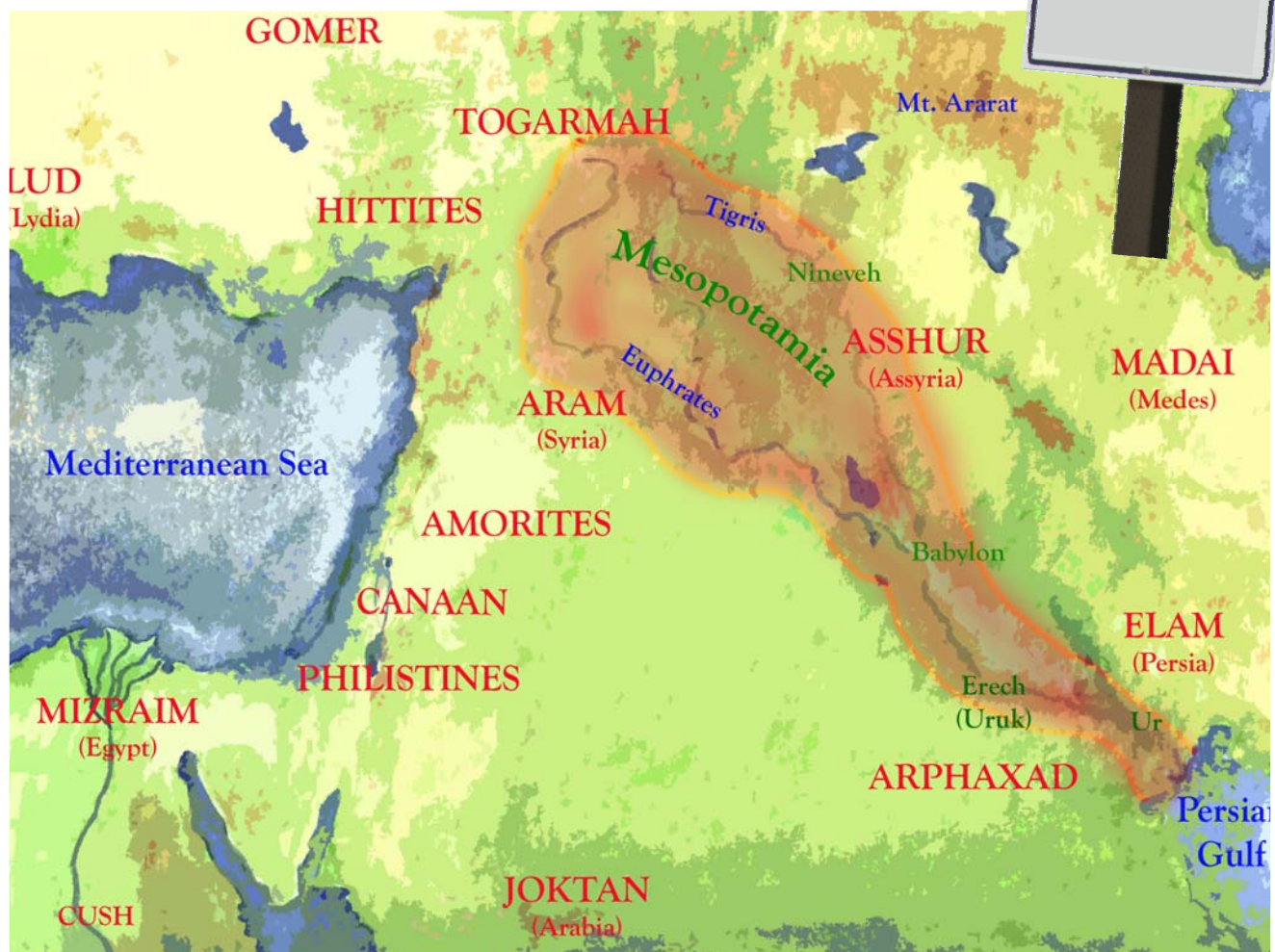
What is God's stand on blood in these verses? _____

Genesis 9:4

Leviticus 17:14

Acts. 15:29

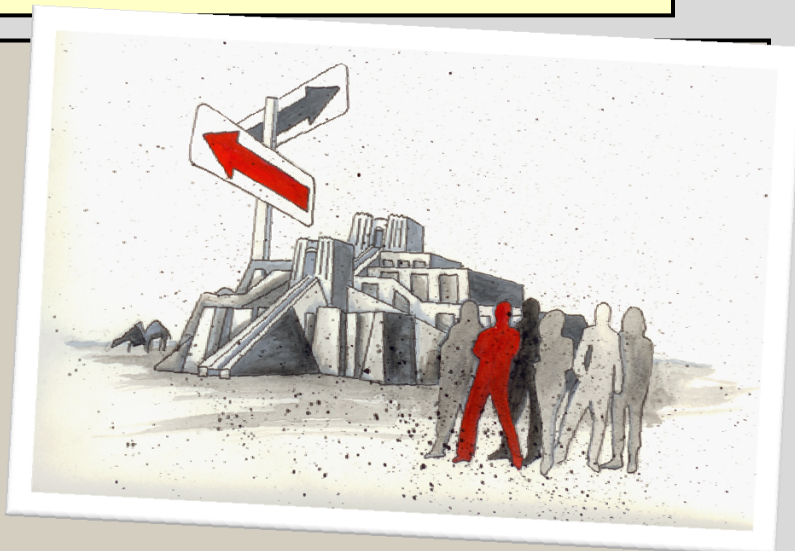
The Post
Flood
World



Curses on Canaan—Whatever it was that really happened between the drunken Noah and his son Ham, we do know that it resulted in Noah cursing his grandson, Ham's son, Canaan. What names of Israel's enemies do you recognize among Canaan's descendants in 10:15-19? _____

Tower of Babel

The Sumerians (Mesopotamia) not only created the world's first writing system, but are also credited with the invention of the wheel, a numbering system based on 60, and 100 foot tall ziggurats, the remains of which still stand today. These multistoried, pyramid shaped structures seem likely to be connected to the Tower of Babel of Genesis 11. What do you think was distinctive about that particular tower that caught God's disfavor? _____



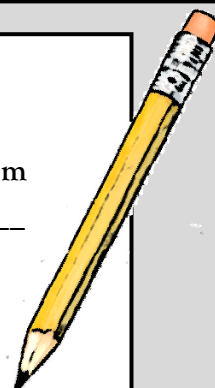
How did God disrupt their plans? _____

In light of this, what is significant about the work of God's Spirit in Acts 2:5-12? _____

What are some ways that we try to build our own significance today? _____

Worth writing home about..

What is the most valuable understanding that you gain from this week's passage of Scripture? _____



Puzzle Clues

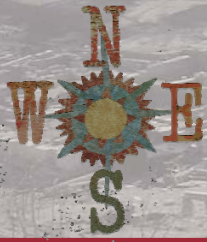
Across

- 1 Terah's son 11:26 (5)
- 3 number of pairs of clean animals on the ark 7:2 (5)
- 5 what Noah was told to make 6:14 (3)
- 8 the animals would do this to Noah and his sons 9:2 (4)
- 9 sign of the covenant between God and all living creatures 9:16 (7)
- 10 Noah's burnt offerings made a pleasing one 8:21 (5)
- 15 a mighty warrior descended from Ham 10:6-8 (6)
- 16 son of Shem and father of Uz 10:22-23 (4)
- 17 days of rain 7:4 (5)
- 18 returned with an olive leaf 8:11 (4)
- 19 Canaan would be one to Shem and Japheth 9:26,27 (5)
- 23 coated the ark 6:14 (5)
- 25 son of Ham and father of Nimrod 10:6-8 (4)
- 26 Terah's father 11:24 (5)
- 30 earth destroyed by this 6:17 (10)
- 31 God confused this and scattered the people 11:9 (8)
- 32 one of the first centers of Nimrod's kingdom 10:9-10 (7)
- 33 Abram descended from this son of Noah 11:10-26 (4)
- 34 what happened to everything not on the ark 7:21 (8)

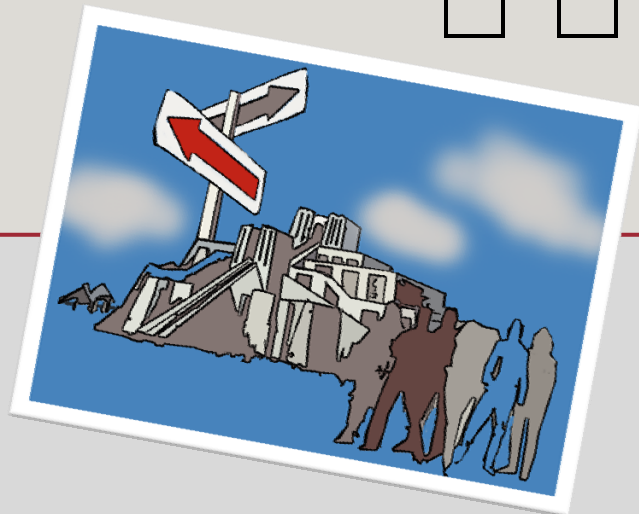
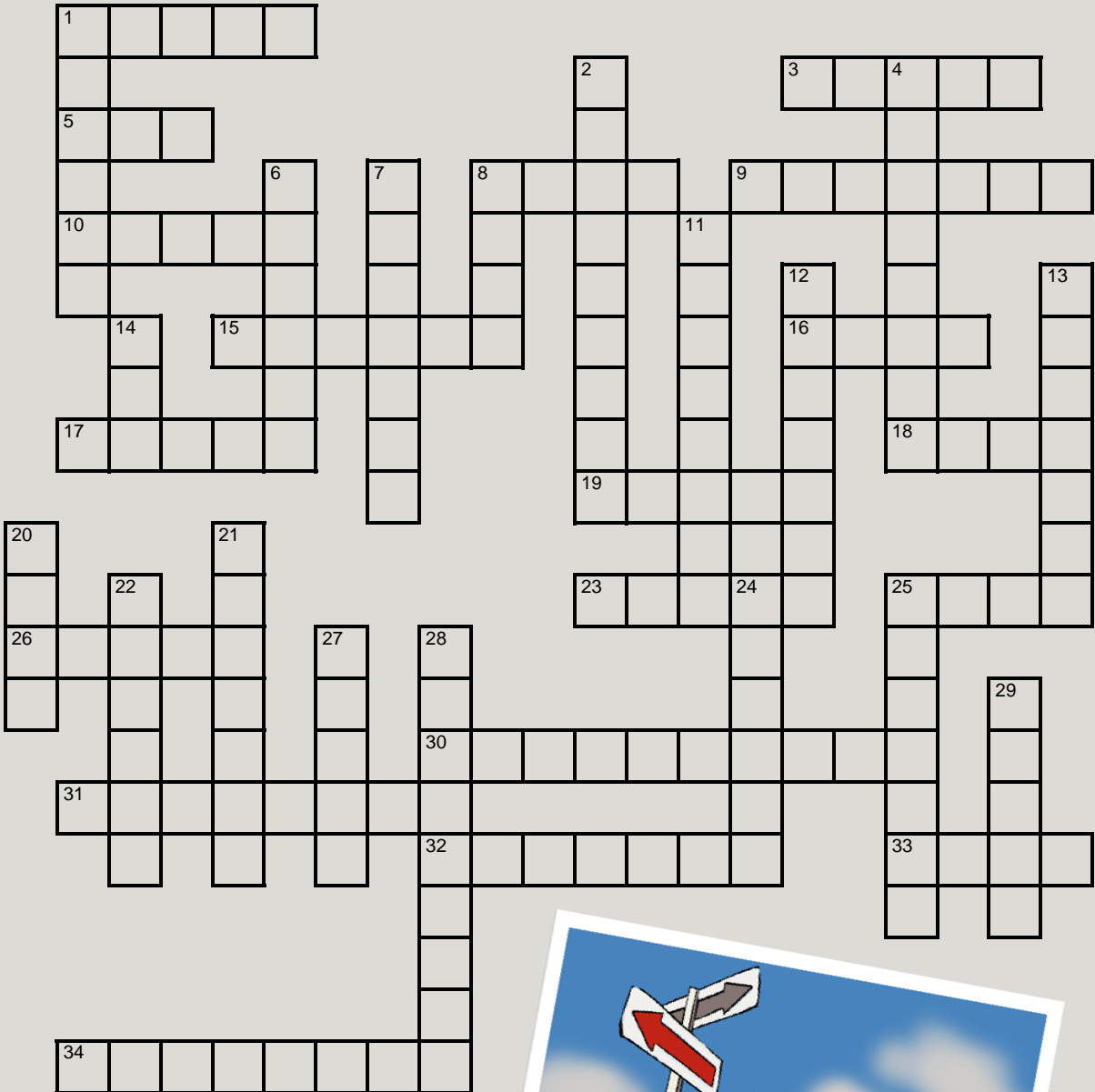
Down

- 1 mountains that the ark rested on 8:4 (6)
- 2 what Noah was 6:9 (9)
- 4 Noah planted one 9:20 (8)
- 6 Noah's joined him in the ark 7:1 (6)
- 7 condition of the earth in God's sight 6:11 (7)
- 8 everything that lives and moves would be this 9:3 (4)
- 11 God made one with Noah 6:18 (8)
- 12 maritime people descended from him 10:2-5 (7)
- 13 Nimrod built this city in Assyria 10:11 (7)
- 14 number of pairs of unclean animals on the ark 7:2 (3)
- 20 God sent one to recede the flood 8:1 (4)
- 21 added to the rain to make the flood 7:11 (7)
- 22 men settled in this plain and built the tower of Babel here 11:2-4 (6)
- 24 cursed by Noah 9:25 (6)
- 25 kind of wood the ark was made of 6:14 (7)
- 27 Noah built one to offer sacrifices to the Lord 8:20 (5)
- 28 meat with this in it must not be eaten 9:4 (9)
- 29 bird that Noah sent out first 8:7 (5)



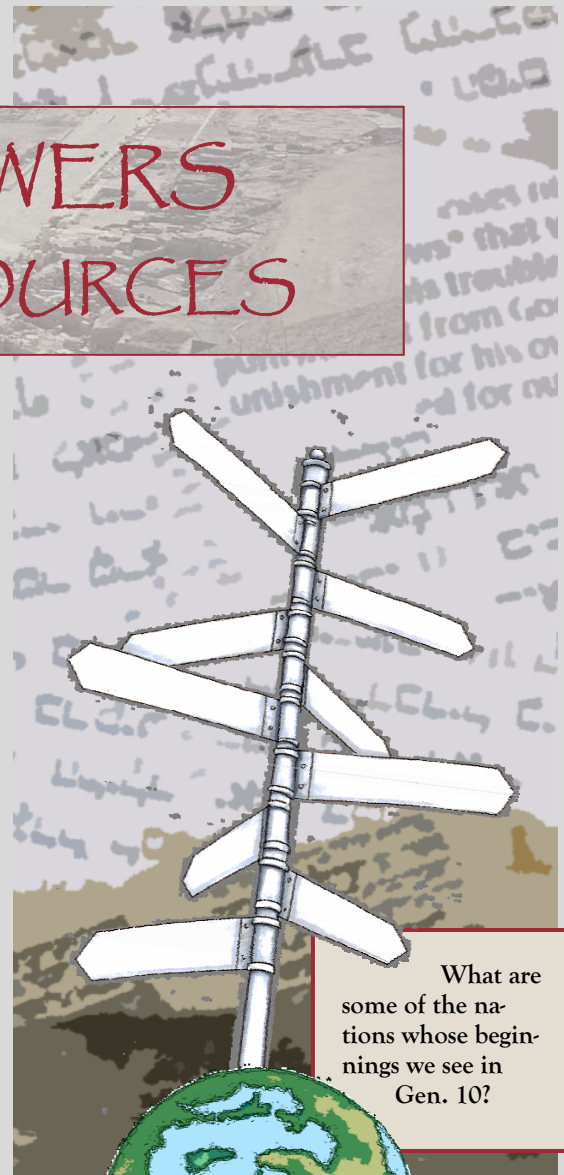
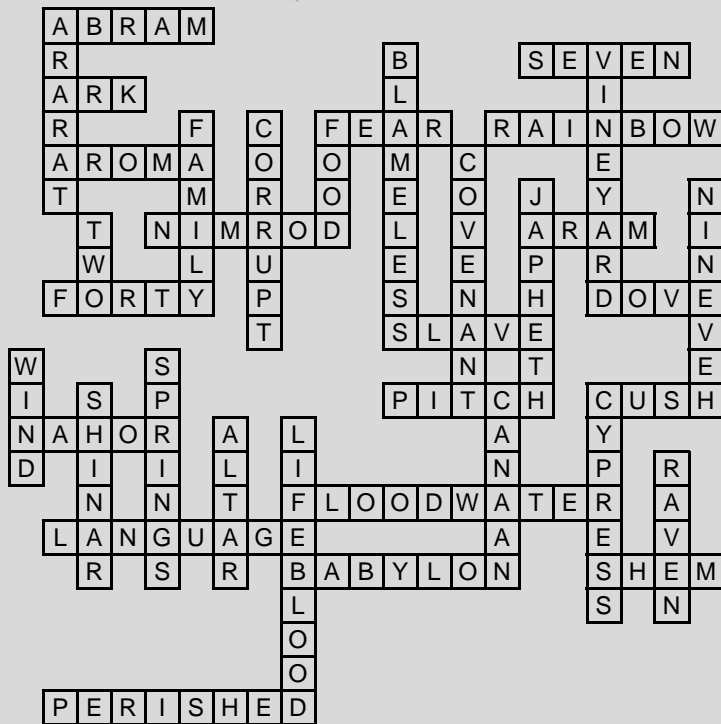


Puzzle Page





ANSWERS AND SOURCES



What are some of the nations whose beginnings we see in Gen. 10?

Sources

Tales of a Flood p.3

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The Post Flood World p. 4

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Tower of Babel p. 5

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You can find a reprint of this article at:

<http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a021.html>



For comments or questions, contact me at

victoryrd@hotmail.com

or for more studies visit

www.downvictoryrd.com