

Gen. 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

After the flood, the peoples of the earth spoke one language and one speech. Their words, the way of saying them and all meanings were the same.

Gen. 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

Gen. 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

Gen. 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Observations:

- The land of Shinar has already been established as part of Nimrod's kingdom. He was the recognized leader of men at this time.
- "They said," but they were obviously following someone's lead.
- They already had the knowledge of how to make bricks and use mortar to hold them together. (See note on 9:20-21.)
- The command had been to be fruitful and replenish the earth—not to congregate in a big group in a city.
- Their desire was to reach the heavens and make a name for themselves (pride).
- Their purpose was to keep from being scattered. This was in direct disobedience to God's command.
- See notes on Nimrod above.

Gen. 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

This verse is interesting since it says "the Lord came down to see the city and the tower." Why? In what form? He is omnipresent and omniscient. He didn't have to leave heaven/His dwelling place. (This would also imply that heaven is UP.)

Gen. 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Gen. 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Gen. 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Gen. 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

There is an inference here that man can accomplish some pretty incredible things. (This is very apparent in our day and age. Isn't it interesting that the more we are able to communicate with one another, the less that language is a barrier, the more quickly "advances" in knowledge and creativity are made.) I think the more we are able to do "on our own," the less likely we are to see the need for a Savior. (So, I think it was another act of mercy that God confused the

languages.) Babel is where God confused the language of the whole world and scattered people over the face of the earth.

Gen. 11:10 These *are* the generations of Shem: Shem *was* an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood:

Gen. 11:11 And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen. 11:12 And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah:

Gen. 11:13 And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen. 11:14 And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber:

Gen. 11:15 And Salah lived after he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen. 11:16 And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg:

Gen. 11:17 And Eber lived after he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen. 11:18 And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu:

Gen. 11:19 And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen. 11:20 And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug:

Gen. 11:21 And Reu lived after he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen. 11:22 And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor:

Gen. 11:23 And Serug lived after he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen. 11:24 And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah:

Gen. 11:25 And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen. 11:26 And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Gen. 11:27 Now these *are* the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

Gen. 11:28 And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees.

Gen. 11:29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife *was* Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.

Gen. 11:30 But Sarai was barren; she *had* no child.

Gen. 11:31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

Gen. 11:32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

Now we are given a more detailed listing of the genealogy of Shem through Abraham. This is specific to the people to whom this history is being given. God is very careful throughout scripture to document the line of the Savior as well as the kingly and priestly lines of Israel.

Observations:

- Shem was 100 years old two years after the flood.
- Terah = Abram's father
- Nahor & Haran = Abram's brothers (Were they triplets?)
- Haran died while his father was still alive.
- Sarai = Abram's wife; she was barren (childless).
- Lot = Haran's son
- Terah took Abram, Sarai and Lot and left Ur of the Chaldees to head for Canaan.
- They stopped when they reached Haran.
- Terah died in Haran at age 205.
- No explanation is given of why Terah wanted to leave.
- Shem was still alive (age 390) when Abram was born.
- There is a significant drop in life expectancy from Shem (600) to Abram (175).

(11/05)

I like to use charts and decided to include the work chart I made as I looked at this chapter.

<u>Person</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>Father's age at son's birth</u>	<u>Total</u>
Shem	600	Arphaxad	100	
Arphaxad	438	Salah	35	135
Salah	433	Eber	30	165
Eber	464	Peleg	34	199
Peleg	239	Reu	30	229
Reu	239	Serug	32	261
Serug	230	Nahor	30	291
Nahor	148	Terah	29	320
Terah	205	Abram	70	390