

Lesson 15: God remembered Noah and All in the Ark; God scattered the Rebels at the Tower of Babel

In 1959, a Turkish army captain discovered an unusual shape while examining aerial photographs of his country. The smooth shape, larger than a football field, stood out from the rough and rocky terrain at an altitude of 6,300 feet near the Turkish border with Iran.

In 1977 Ron Wyatt visited the site. Obtaining official permission, Ron and others conducted more thorough research over a period of several years. They used metal detection surveys, subsurface radar scans, and chemical analysis -- real science -- and their findings were startling. The evidence was undeniable. This was the Ark of Noah.

Before we go any further, let's review Lesson 14.

Review Questions from Lesson 14:

1. What was the attitude of the majority of the people in the time when Noah lived? **They were obsessed with sex and pleasing themselves. They were selfish and violent. They were not interested in knowing or pleasing God.**
2. Do we see many similarities in the world today as compared with the time of Noah? Name some of the similarities. **Yes, there are many such as refusing to acknowledge God; thinking only of self and actively pursuing all kinds of evil--adultery, stealing, murder, etc.**
3. Who was speaking to the people's minds, telling them to change their attitude and come to God in faith? **God, the Holy Spirit.**
4. Who reminds people of God's Word and wants each one to seriously consider and believe what God has written in the bible? **God, the Holy Spirit.**
5. What did God say He was going to do because the people would not repent? **God said He would destroy all living things on the earth.**
6. Did Noah deserve to be delivered from everlasting punishment by God? **No. Noah was also a sinner. He deserved to be killed like all the other people.**
7. Why then did God decide to save Noah? **Because Noah agreed with God that he was a sinner and trusted God to save him through the coming Deliverer.**
8. What did God tell Noah to do? **God told him to build an ark.**

9. Did God allow Noah to build the ark however he wanted? **No. It had to be built exactly as God commanded Noah.**
10. What one important thing should we remember about the ark? **The ark had only ONE door. There was only ONE way to enter the ark and be saved from the judgment of God.**
11. Did Noah build the ark just as God said? **Yes.**
12. What else did Noah do while he was building the ark? **He was telling the people God's message and warning them that God was going to make it rain and the whole world would be destroyed by a flood.**
13. Had the people ever seen rain before? **No, it had never rained before this time.**
14. Did the people accept what Noah said and change their attitude? **No, they refused to believe and agree with God.**
15. How long did God wait for the people in Noah's time to agree with Him and to believe His word? **120 yrs.**
16. How did those saved from judgment get into the ark? **They all entered by the one and only door which God had told Noah to put in the side of the ark.**
17. Who shut the door? **God did.**
18. Why did God shut the door? **So that all those inside the ark would be safe and those outside the ark would not have the opportunity to enter and be saved.**
19. Can anyone escape God when He decides it is time to punish sin? **No.**
20. How did God cause the flood to cover all the high mountains and the earth? **God returned the earth to water--that He had placed above the sky when He was creating the earth, and He opened up the "springs of the great deep."**
21. Did anyone outside the ark escape death? **No, they all died.**

A. Introduction:

The Bible is an amazing book. It has the answers to the most important questions of life. And it also explains the history of mankind in depth that is unattainable by any other resource.

For instance, have you ever wondered why people around the world speak so many different languages? And how did people end up in India or China or Africa or South America?

Well the Bible has the answer and we'll look at that in just a bit...but first, we are going to complete the record of Noah and his family.

B. God remembered Noah and all those inside the ark.

Theme: God is faithful; He never changes

Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.

Genesis 8:1-17 (GW)

¹ God remembered Noah and all the wild and domestic animals with him in the ship. So God made a wind blow over the earth, and the water started to go down.

² The deep springs and the sky had been shut, and the rain had stopped pouring.

³ The water began to recede from the land. At the end of 150 days the water had decreased.

⁴ On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ship came to rest in the mountains of Ararat.

⁵ The water kept decreasing until the tenth month. On the first day of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

⁶ After 40 more days Noah opened the window he had made in the ship

⁷ and sent out a raven. It kept flying back and forth until the water on the land had dried up.

⁸ Next, he sent out a dove to see if the water was gone from the surface of the ground.

⁹ The dove couldn't find a place to land because the water was still all over the earth. So it came back to Noah in the ship. He reached out and brought the dove back into the ship.

¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent the dove out of the ship.

¹¹ The dove came to him in the evening, and in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf. Then Noah knew that the water was gone from the earth.

¹² He waited seven more days and sent out the dove again, but it never came back to him.

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water on the land had dried up. Noah opened the top of the ship, looked out, and saw the surface of the ground.

¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the land was dry.

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah,

¹⁶ "Come out of the ship with your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives.

¹⁷ Bring out every animal that's with you: birds, domestic animals, and every creature that crawls on the earth. Be fertile, increase in number, and spread over the earth."

Noah and his family and the animals in the ark were kept safe by God.

- Not one of them died.
- God remember them, and He stopped the rain.
- He sent a strong wind to dry up the water, and the dry land again appeared.

- God controls the rain and the wind.

God never changes. He never forgets.

- He didn't forget Noah and the others in the ark.
- He does what He says
- He said He would save them and He did.
- He said He would destroy all outside the ark, and He did.

(On Map 1, point to Mt. Ararat –located in what is now Turkey)

Consider:

Many scientists now see that the biblical record of the flood is the true scientific explanation for the great number of fossil remains of animals such as dinosaurs and other now-extinct animals.

The flood also accounts for many geological formations that were once thought of in terms of evolutionary processes. The more we learn about the Bible, the more we realize that God's Word is an amazing, accurate, scientific record of historical fact.

C. God gave His commands and promises to Noah.

Theme: God communicates with man.

Genesis 9:1-2 (GW)

¹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fertile, increase in number, and fill the earth.

² All the wild animals and all the birds will fear you and be terrified of you. Every creature that crawls on the ground and all the fish in the sea have been put under your control.

God gave Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, control over the animals, birds and fish just as He had given it to Adam in the beginning.

- The world and everything in it belongs to God.
- But He gave it to man to take care of for Him.

D. God gave the rainbow as His sign.

Theme: God is faithful; He never changes.

Genesis 9:8-15 (GW)

⁸ God also said to Noah and his sons,

⁹ "I am going to make my promise to you, your descendants,

¹⁰ and every living being that is with you—birds, domestic animals, and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ship—every living thing on earth.

¹¹ I am making my promise to you. Never again will all life be killed by floodwaters. Never again will there be a flood that destroys the earth."

¹² God said, "This is the sign of the promise I am giving to you and every living being that is with you for generations to come.

¹³ I will put my rainbow in the clouds to be a sign of my promise to the earth.

¹⁴ Whenever I form clouds over the earth, a rainbow will appear in the clouds.

¹⁵ Then I will remember my promise to you and every living animal. Never again will water become a flood to destroy all life.

The rainbow was given as God's sign to show that He would never again destroy the earth by a flood.

- **Psalm 104:6-9 (GW)**

⁶ You covered the earth with an ocean as though it were a robe. Water stood above the mountains

⁷ and fled because of your threat. Water ran away at the sound of your thunder.

⁸ The mountains rose and the valleys sank to the place you appointed for them.

⁹ Water cannot cross the boundary you set and cannot come back to cover the earth.

- Many thousands of years have passed since the flood and God has kept his word.
- When you see a rainbow, remember that God gave the rainbow as a sign that He will never again destroy the world by a flood.
- The point here is that God can be trusted.

E. God's record of the nations

Genesis 10 is often called the "Table of Nations", because it records the generations of the sons of Noah.

(POINT TO THE "TABLE OF NATIONS" ON THE CHRONOLOGICAL CHART).

Though we won't take time to study this chapter, it is truly an amazing document—a carefully composed, objective record made by the God who knows everything and every person.

God's record stands in sharp contrast to the often mythical writings of ancient men from ungodly civilizations. God's record is about real people who lived, worked and experienced many of the same feelings that you and I do. They actually existed—they're not mythical creations by some writer.

Just as all of us find our ancestry in Adam, so we also find out ancestry somewhere here in Genesis 10. If you go to Ancestry.com, it will enable you to trace your ancestral line, but sadly, it doesn't go back far enough. If it did, it would show you where you are in regards to the table of nations.

F. The rebellious, proud attitude of the people

Theme: *Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.*

Genesis 11:1-4 (GW)

¹ The whole world had one language with a common vocabulary.

² As people moved toward the east, they found a plain in Shinar [Babylonia] and settled there.

³ They said to one another, "Let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used bricks as stones and tar as mortar.

⁴ Then they said, "Let's build a city for ourselves and a tower with its top in the sky. Let's make a name for ourselves so that we won't become scattered all over the face of the earth."

Many years had passed since God saved Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives, from the great flood. Once again, many people lived on the earth.

(Show No. 12, chronological picture of the Tower of Babel)

The majority of the descendants of Noah soon forgot about God's terrible judgment on the earth by the flood. They deliberately ignored God.

- They refused to consider His will for them.
- They did not want to know and believe on the Lord like Abel, Seth, and Noah.

They were under Satan's control and like Satan in their thinking.

- They wanted to be great and exalt themselves.
- They were not interested in knowing, worshiping, or trusting God, and they certainly weren't interested in obeying His Word.

Among these people were our ancestors.

They had heard about the flood, and they knew that God was their Creator.

- Every day and every night, they would see His mighty power revealed through all the things He had made.
- God also continued to show His faithfulness to His promise never again to destroy the earth by a flood, and putting the rainbow in the sky to show His covenant promise to man.
- They didn't have any excuse for not believing God.
- But they would not give God the place of honor which He deserves, nor would they thank Him for life, health, sunshine, rain and food.
- They deliberately turned away from what they knew to be the truth about God, and their minds became more and more evil and foolish.
- They made images of people and worshiped them.
- They worshiped animals and birds.
- Finally, they worshiped snakes and other reptiles.

Theme: Satan fights against God and His will. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. He hates man.

Satan was leading our ancestors in rebellion against God and His will.

- Satan wants people to worship false gods.
- Many primitive societies still worship the sun, moon, stars, birds, or animals.

Consider:

How easy it is for us to look at the people who do these things and see their folly. But Satan is clever. He knows the weaknesses of each culture, and he knows what lies will be culturally “acceptable.”

Even though we may not think we see many people obviously involved in idol worship, we do find that the horoscope is printed in our daily paper! We do see people going more and more deeply into debt and sacrificing all their time and energy and even relationships in order to keep up with the incredible pressures of our materialistic culture. We do see people centering their thoughts, time, and energies on exalting self. So much of our time is spent in entertainment or amusement. To amusement one’s self means to “not think”—we find ourselves watching TV, movies, or playing video games where we don’t have to really think about our lives, our futures, or our eternal destiny, and we certainly don’t think about God. Now, where does God fit into all of this?

Worship has to do with the giving of our thoughts, our hearts, our resources—even our lives—to serve the object of our worship. Worship comes from the word “worth.” God, and God alone, is worthy of our adoration and worship.

Satan doesn’t care what we worship as long as we don’t worship the only true and living God.

Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.

Isaiah 42:8 (GW)

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name. I will not give my glory to anyone else or the praise I deserve to idols.

But the builders of Babel (also called Babylon) were not thinking about God.

Notice the red arrow pointing to Babel and Babylon (same thing). This is where the Tower of Babel was erected, and this area is now present day Iraq, between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary³ gives some interesting insights into the idolatrous, prideful thinking of the builders of this city:

“Written Babylonian accounts of the building of the city of Babylon refer to its construction in heaven by the gods as a celestial city, as an expression of pride....These accounts say it was made by the same process of brick-making described in verse 3 [Genesis 11], with every brick inscribed with the name of the Babylonian god Marduk. Also the ziggurat, the step-like tower believed to have been first erected in Babylon, was said to have its top in the heavens (cf. v. 4). This artificial mountain became the center of worship in the city, a miniature temple being at the top of the tower. The Babylonians took great pride in their building; they boasted of their city as not only impregnable, but also as the heavenly city, *babili* (‘the gate of God’).”

Marduk, by the way, is another name for Baal, one of the false gods the people set up to worship instead of the one true God. The practices associated with Baal worship were evil, sensual, and cruel.

Again take a look at the map here to see the area of the Tigris-Euphrates plain, there are

many visible remnants of later civilizations which still bear towers, or ziggurats, calling to mind the tower of Babel. Construction of these structures also reveals the burnt clay and bitumen (tar) mentioned in the Bible.

Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.

The people gathered to build the tower of Babel because they did not want to be scattered over all the earth.

Genesis 11:4 (GW)

⁴ Then they said, "Let's build a city for ourselves and a tower with its top in the sky. Let's make a name for ourselves so that we won't become scattered all over the face of the earth."

Who were they thinking about? Themselves! These men were full of pride!

They should have been interested in exalting God's name, not their own!

But look again at the last part of this verse. What else was wrong? Do you remember what command God gave to Adam and then repeated to Noah and his descendants?

Genesis 1:28 (GW)

²⁸ God blessed them and said, "Be fertile, increase in number, fill the earth, and be its master.

Genesis 9:1-2 (GW)

¹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fertile, increase in number, and fill the earth.

² All the wild animals and all the birds will fear you and be terrified of you. Every creature that crawls on the ground and all the fish in the sea have been put under your control.

God had told Adam and Noah that they were to multiply and to take control of all animals, birds, and fish in all parts of the world.

- ***God didn't want people to live together in one place, doing only as they pleased.***
- ***God knew that, if they all stayed together, they would quickly forget about God and His will.***
- **Man was created by God to do God's will on the earth.**

God is the Creator and owner of us all, no matter where we live, what color we are, or what language we speak. These people deliberately disobeyed the command given to Noah and Adam by God, their Creator.

- They did not want to be scattered into different parts of the world as God commanded.
- They congregated in one place, built a city, and began to erect a great, tall tower.

G. God saw them.

Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.

Was God interested in these rebellious people? Did God see them?

- Did He know their thoughts and what they were planning?
- Did He care about what they did? Of course He did.

Genesis 11:5 (GW)

⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the descendants of Adam were building.

Yes, the Lord cared about what they did. The Lord was interested in them even though they had forgotten Him. God sees all people everywhere.

Proverbs 15:3 (GW)

³ The eyes of the LORD are everywhere. They watch evil people and good people.

- He is interested in every person. He knows all about us, too.
- Neither you nor I can keep any secret from Him.
- He knows everything we have ever thought, said, or done.

He is our Creator. He owns every person. He even owns those who are separated from Him because of their sin.

H. God scattered them.

Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.

- When Satan was in Heaven, he tried to fight against God, but he lost.
- Can anyone fight against God and win? The other angels who followed Satan also lost in their fight against God.
- Adam and Eve, Cain, and the other people at the time when Noah lived, lost in their fight against God.
- What do you think happened this time? Did Satan and the people win?
- No one can fight against God and be the winner: He is greater than all.
- Now we're going to read about how the Lord took control of the situation.

Genesis 11:8-9 (GW)

⁸ So the LORD scattered them all over the face of the earth, and they stopped building the city.

⁹ This is why it was named Babel, because there the LORD turned the language of the whole earth into babble. From that place the LORD scattered them all over the face of the earth.

Note: Do you remember that God said in the beginning, "...Let us make man in our image..." (Genesis 1:26)?

Now again we see the Lord—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—discussing what He was about to do.

The Lord caused the people to speak different languages and because men could no longer understand one another, they separated into their various families and moved away to different parts of the country.

Over many years, they moved to other parts of the world on foot or by boats.

God's gentleness in judging the rebels at Babel is a lesson for us today. By changing one language into many, He separated nations more effectively than any Wall of China. God stepped in to prevent the human race from falling under the sway of a single, absolute tyrant over all the earth.

Consider:

Mark Pagel, who heads a team searching for an evolutionary explanation for our many languages asks this question: "Why do intellectually superior humans have around 7,000 distinct languages?"

The answer is found right here in what we've studied today. The biblical history of the dispersion from the tower of Babel indicates that diversity of language emerged from the area of "a plain in the land of Shinar."

We so often hear explanations of the history and development of nations and languages told only from the standpoint of man's limited understanding.

If we really want to know the true origin and history of man, we need to look closely at the Bible. We need to realize that God alone can give us many of the details of the past. When we believe His Word, we have a framework on which to place archeological discoveries and other historical evidences. Apart from the Bible, we cannot possibly construct an accurate history. God created everything and has recorded accurately for us those foundations that man needs to know.

This passage in Genesis tells us how the different nations and races began, including each of our particular ancestors. Our ancestors were at the tower of Babel. Your ancestors and my ancestors were there. This is the beginning of the history of your family as part of a distinct nationality or language group.

Our ancestors turned away from the truth of God which they knew and followed the ideas which Satan and his spirits gave to them. If you have studied ancient cultures, you know of the prevalence of idol worship and false gods. Both sophisticated and unsophisticated societies turned away from the true and living God to follow after human leaders, sinful desires, false gods, and idols.

There were a few people who continued to worship the true and living God, but the majority turned away from God.

I. Conclusion:

The Bible gives us insight into history, but much more than that—it shows us what God is like and how God deals with man.

You may already be noticing some patterns in these ancient stories that sound a lot like the pattern of today—men and women are still rebelling against God.

But God hasn't changed either. He cares about every individual.

He knows exactly what is happening in each life—in your life and mine, and He still judges sin, and He is still calling people to believe in Him.

Questions:

1. Why would God give Noah and his sons control over all the animals, birds, and fish? **Because the world and everything in it belongs to God.**
2. What sign did God give to show that He would never again destroy the earth by a flood? **The rainbow.**
3. Has God kept His promise? **Yes, God is true to His Word. He never lies, and He never changes.**
4. Did the generation following the flood know the truth about God? **Yes.**
5. How did they know?
 - a. **The truth about God the Creator and His judgment by the flood was told from one generation to the next.**
 - b. **They could see that there was an almighty Creator, by the things which God had made: the sun, moon, stars and all the things on the earth were proof that God was their Almighty Creator.**
6. Did the descendants of Noah all worship God? Did they agree with what He said and trust in His promise to send the Deliverer? **No, only a few believed and worshiped God.**
7. What did the majority of the people do?
 - a. **They deliberately turned away from what they knew was the truth and followed the lies of Satan.**
 - b. **They worshiped idols made like people, birds, animals, and reptiles. They also worshiped the sun, moon, and stars.**
8. Who were these people? **They were the descendants of Adam and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, so they were our ancestors.**
9. Why did they begin to build the tower of Babel?
 - a. **So that they would not be scattered all over the world as God had commanded.**
 - b. **So that they would be greatly exalted on the earth.**
10. Did God know what they were planning to do? **Yes.**
11. Does God know all the secrets which people have? **Yes, He knows them all.**
12. What did the Lord do? **He gave different languages to different families so that they could no longer understand one another.**
13. What was the result? **The various families separated from one another and moved to different places.**
14. Where did our earliest ancestors get their religious beliefs? **From Satan and also from their own ideas when they deliberately turned from the truth about God.**

Next Lesson: God Chose, Called, and Guided Abram; Lot chose the Fertile Plains of Sodom and Gomorrah