**The Sons of Noah**

*God’s Separation and Placement of the Nations*

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[SN Part I](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-seven.php#SN%20Part%20I)

[SN Part II](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-seven.php#SN%20Part%20II)

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**Part I of II**

*“And the sons of Noah, that went forth out of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.*

*These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread”* ([Genesis 9:18-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.18-19&t=NKJV)).

Adam was the first man, and through Adam’s sin as the federal head of the human race, *death* (the result of *sin*) passed upon all of Adam’s descendants, upon all mankind ([Romans 5:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.12&t=NKJV)).

During Noah’s day, 1,656 years later, God, by means of the Flood (for revealed reasons), destroyed the entire human race descending from Adam, save eight individuals — Noah, his wife, Noah’s three sons, and their wives ([Genesis 6:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+6.1ff&t=NKJV)). And a new beginning with a new federal headship for the human race is then seen in Noah’s three sons ([Genesis 9:18-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.18-19&t=NKJV)).

Through the progeny of these three sons, the earth would be re-populated. And as *everyone* is a descendant of Adam, *everyone* is likewise a descendant of one of Noah’s three sons. One is either a descendant of Shem, or Ham, or Japheth.

And certain things stated about each of these three sons within Noah’s three prophecies ([Genesis 9:25-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.25-27&t=NKJV)) would mark each son, along with their descendants, *from the time that these prophecies were uttered to the end of Man’s Day* (*ref*. following [SN Part II](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-seven.php#SN%20Part%20II) ).

Within the prophecies concerning Noah’s three sons, God dealt with one son, one man, relative to the problem previously created by *one man’s disobedience*, more than sixteen centuries earlier — the problem of *sin*, resulting in *death*. And God dealt with this matter where federal headship in the human race was once again involved.

God singled out *Shem as the only son with a God*. And through the greater Son of Shem — through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — over 2,300 years later, God, *for the final time*, would again deal with the sin problem through one Man. The problem this time though would be dealt with and settled — through *the second Man, the last Adam, based on His finished work at Calvary.*

But dropping back to Noah’s day and the three prophecies concerning his sons, one can move forward from that point through the genealogies in chapter ten and see that which God brought to pass, over time, as Noah’s three sons and their progeny began to re-populate the earth. This chapter has to do with a placement of the nations descending from Noah’s three sons, God’s purpose for placing the nations in their particular location on earth, and how God brought the whole of the matter to pass.

**The Tower of Babel**

Events seen in the first part of [Genesis 11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11&t=NKJV) form additional commentary on events previously seen in [Genesis 10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10&t=NKJV). One of the ways God separated mankind in chapter ten was by different languages, and chapter eleven provides the origin of and reason for these different languages.

In chapter eleven, man, following the Flood, migrated *eastward* (*ref*. ASV, NASB, NIV) from the area where the ark had come to rest, settling in “a plain in the land of Shinar.” And those settling in this plain spoke only *one language* ([Genesis 11:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.1&t=NKJV)).

In this plain, Nimrod built four cities, forming a “kingdom.” And those in the plain, in one of these cities — Babel — sought to form *a centralized national existence through building a tower and making a name for themselves*, lest they be “scattered abroad upon the face of the earth” ([Genesis 10:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.10&t=NKJV); [11:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.2-4&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.9&t=NKJV)).

But the Lord came down to view the matter. And because of that which could result, the Lord “confounded their language” (gave them different languages) so that they couldn’t understand one another. Then the Lord “scattered them abroad…upon the face of all the earth” ([Genesis 11:5-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.5-8&t=NKJV)).

**God’s Separation of the Nations**

In chapter ten God provides genealogies of Noah’s three sons, with each genealogy going through a number of generations. And the names of the descendants of each son, through these generations, are given — names which today, from history, can be associated with people dwelling in a particular part of the earth.

At the time God dealt with man at Babel, in the land of Shinar, He separated individuals in a nationalistic sense through several means.

First, each group of individuals was given *a particular language*, unknown to any of the other groups. They were then driven out and given *a particular land* on the earth, a land of their own which was separate from the land of any of the others ([Genesis 10:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.5&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.20&t=NKJV), [32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.32&t=NKJV)).

Second, at some point after each group was separated from all the other groups and in their own land, *God divided the earth itself, separating one land mass from another land mass*. ([Genesis 10:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.25&t=NKJV)).

There are two different words in the Hebrew text translated “divide” in chapter ten. One word is used in verses five and thirty-two (having to do with a separation of mankind by languages, along with their being placed in different lands); and the other word is used in verse twenty-five, having to do with a separation or division of the earth itself.

How did God separate or divide the earth into segments? The evident answer is seen in [Job 38:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+38.25&t=NKJV), where the same word translated “divide” in [Genesis 10:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.25&t=NKJV) is used relative to *a separation by water*.

Once God had separated all the different nations and placed them in their own lands, He then “divided” *the earth*. He could only have separated land masses, forming separate land masses, separate continents, etc. And this separation can evidently be seen one place today by viewing a map of the east coast of South America and the west coast of Africa. The shape of each gives the appearance that at one time in the distant past they were one continent, then separated. And they give that appearance because this is evidently what occurred, not only here but worldwide.

How did natives on islands out in the Pacific Ocean get there? How did the American Indian get to the North American continent, the Aborigine to Australia, etc.? The answer is simple. And the answer is not in the book, *Kon Tiki*, or in a frozen Bering Strait. Rather, the answer is in the Bible. These individuals’ ancestors were already on these land masses when the earth was divided by oceans and seas during the days of Peleg, over one hundred years after the Flood.

The general separation of the sons of Noah, as determined by the names in the three lineages in Genesis chapter ten, was across three parts of the earth. The descendants of Japheth were spread across the northern parts of the earth, the descendants of Shem across the central parts, and the descendants of Ham across the southern parts. This separation, of course, is general. There are numerous exceptions.

**God’s Purpose for Separating the Nations**

Other than that stated in [Genesis 11:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.6&t=NKJV), what does Scripture have to say about *God’s purpose* for a separation of the nations, as seen in chapter ten?

God’s purpose, along with another way in which He divided the nations, is given elsewhere in Scripture.

Note [Deuteronomy 32:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+32.8&t=NKJV):

*“When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.”*

Then note [Acts 17:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+17.26-27&t=NKJV):

*“And hath made of one blood* [one man, Adam] *all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed and the bounds of their habitation;*

*That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.”*

One of the reasons God called Israel into existence was to be *His witness to the Gentile nations throughout the earth*, “that all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else” ([I Kings 8:59-60](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Kings+8.59-60&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 43:9-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+43.9-10&t=NKJV)).

God separated the nations and set their bounds within separate lands “according to the number of the children of Israel”; and God did this in order that those in these nations “should seek the Lord…and find him” ([Deuteronomy 32:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+32.8&t=NKJV); [Acts 17:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+17.27&t=NKJV)).

In short, *God separated the nations and placed them within certain boundaries; and God did this according to “the number” of individuals forming the one nation which He would later call into existence and commission to reach all of the Gentile nations with the message of the one true and living God* (note that Israel’s existence at this time lay hundreds of years in the future).

And any attempt by well-meaning man to change or alter God’s plans relative to Israel and the nations — *i.e.*, do away with national boundaries, unify the languages, bring the nations together as one nation again, etc. — is nothing less than an attempt *to bring back into existence, after some form or fashion, that which God destroyed in Genesis chapter eleven*. And within such a process, man, as well, would be *subverting God’s established evangelistic program for the nations* (*cf*. [Jonah 1:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jonah+1.1-3&t=NKJV); [2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jonah+2.9&t=NKJV); [3:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jonah+3.1-3&t=NKJV); [John 4:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+4.22&t=NKJV)).

Further, man subverting God’s established plan relative to Israel and the nations in this manner would only *help set the stage for the one-world system* which is rapidly coming into fruition today and will shortly come into full fruition under the last king of Babylon, Satan’s Messiah, the Antichrist.

Under the Antichrist, a form of that seen through man’s past feeble efforts at the unification of all mankind at the tower of Babel in Genesis chapter eleven *will exist once again.* And in that day, God, in the person of His Son, is going to come down to see this end-time tower of Babel; and God is not going to think any more of it in that future day than He thought of it in days following the Flood during Noah’s day.

*God destroyed it then, and He will destroy it yet future.*

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**Part II of II**

*“And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard.*

*And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.*

*And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw* [*lit*., ‘gazed with satisfaction upon’] *the nakedness of his father, and told* [*lit*., ‘told with delight’] *his two brethren without…*

*And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.*

*And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.*

*And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.*

*God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant”* ([Genesis 9:20-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.20-22&t=NKJV), [24-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.24-27&t=NKJV)).

Noah’s three prophecies concerning His sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth) in Genesis chapter nine are prophecies having to do *with the nations of the earth*. These prophecies, as evident by their contextual setting and content — dealing with *a new beginning in the human race, necessitating all-inclusiveness* — have to do with *federal headship and the prophetic destinies of races comprising nations, with the prophecies in this respect not limited to the three individuals in the prophecies but to their descendants as well* ([Genesis 9:18-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.18-19&t=NKJV); [10:1-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.1-32&t=NKJV)).

These are not prophecies which lend themselves after any fashion *to racism, to racist-type teachings*, as some attempt to deal with them. And because these prophecies have been used in a perverted manner to teach and foster racism, people often either shy away from them or make them to be something completely alien to that seen in the text.

The prophecy that is often singled out and made to be *a racist issue* rather than *a national issue* is the first of the three prophecies — having to do with Noah’s curse of Ham’s son (Canaan), who, since Noah cursed this son alone, was apparently *the only son* that Ham had at this time, a time shortly after the Flood ([Genesis 9:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.22&t=NKJV)). And Noah cursing Ham’s only son (cursing Ham’s seed) provided *the necessary headship and all-inclusiveness to the matter.*

(Sons shown in a list in Genesis chapters five through eleven are listed in *the reverse order of their birth* [*e.g.*, see [Genesis 5:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+5.32&t=NKJV); [11:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.26&t=NKJV), where this can be shown from other Scriptures (*cf*. [Genesis 5:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+5.32&t=NKJV); [7:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+7.11&t=NKJV); [10:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.21&t=NKJV); [11:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.10&t=NKJV), [26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.26&t=NKJV), [32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.32&t=NKJV); [12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.4&t=NKJV))]; Canaan is listed last among the four sons of Ham in [Genesis 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.6&t=NKJV), showing that he was *Ham’s firstborn*, probably born on the ark during the Flood [*cf*. [Genesis 9:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.18&t=NKJV), [22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.22&t=NKJV)].)

Beginning at the proper place with the introductory prophecy — which is the prophecy forming the problem area for many — the remaining two prophecies can be easily and naturally dealt with, for the first prophecy is referred to in each of the succeeding two prophecies, with all three forming *an inseparable unit.*

In the first prophecy, How long was the curse to last? Does the curse involve only one of Ham’s sons? Is the curse still in effect today? Questions of this nature are what people attempt to deal with (or, in many cases, attempt to avoid), often committing mayhem in Biblical interpretation in the process.

There is a solution though:

Simply *allow Scripture to address the issue* rather than follow the usually inserted humanistic reasoning.

Does Scripture really address the issue in this type completeness? Certainly it does! Do you think that God, through Noah, would pronounce a curse upon an individual where the federal headship and prophetic destinies of the nations are in view and not let man know the extent of and how long this curse would last, or not let man know the extent of and how long other things in the prophecies concerning Shem and Japheth would last?

Answers to questions pertaining to the matter are very simple to ascertain.

The curse is seen in verse twenty-five.

*“Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren”* ([Genesis 9:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.25&t=NKJV)).

The curse is then referenced in verse twenty-six in connection with something said about Shem, and it is referenced again in verse twenty-seven in connection with two things said about Japheth.

Now, some questions:

How long will that stated about Shem in the first part of verse twenty-six (which is immediately followed by a reference to the curse from v. 25) remain in effect?

*“Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant”* ([Genesis 9:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.26&t=NKJV)).

As well, how long will that stated about Japheth in the first part of verse twenty-seven (which is immediately followed by a reference to the curse from v. 25) remain in effect?

*“God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant”* ([Genesis 9:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.27&t=NKJV)).

The answers to both questions would be the same. If a person brings matters from the time that these prophecies were given down into modern times, he will see that both prophecies have remained in effect since Noah’s day, with God continuing to work matters out relative to these prophecies today.

The descendants of Shem (in the line later revealed to go through Abraham’s lineage through Isaac and Jacob) continue today *as the only nation with a God* (*e.g.*, [Exodus 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+3.6&t=NKJV); [Psalm 72:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+72.18&t=NKJV); [96:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+96.5&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 2:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.11-12&t=NKJV)).

Japheth is still being *enlarged*, with his descendants presently covering a large part of the globe. And the descendants of Japheth (and Ham as well) have had to *dwell in the tents of Shem* — *i.e.,* go to the descendants of the only son with a God — throughout this time if they were to receive spiritual blessings.

All of these things are *established, undeniable facts.*

Now, what about the length of the servitude of Ham’s descendants within Noah’s prophecies concerning all three sons? The Spirit of God, through Moses, was very careful to place a statement concerning the servitude of Ham’s progeny alongside both of Noah’s prophecies concerning his other two sons, Shem and Japheth, forming *an inseparable connection* between the things stated about all three of these sons.

The prophecies concerning both Shem and Japheth extend into modern times through their lineages. By what rule of Scriptural interpretation could something different be said about the prophecy pertaining to the lineage of Noah’s other son, Ham? *Seeing something different in this respect would be impossible.*

That stated about all three sons *must exist together and extend throughout the same time during Man’s Day*. A symmetrical connection between all three prophecies *must be recognized.*

If one part of the three prophecies is still being worked out, then *all things* within the three prophecies must be included, with *all things* still being worked out. Because of the manner in which the prophecies were given and are structured, *there is no way to get around this and say or think anything different.*

If *all of Ham’s seed* is not seen in the preceding continuing respect, then Scripture has three connected prophecies dealing with the federal headship and destinies of nations in the human race throughout Man’s Day in which any continuing reference to a part of the human race is absent. *That, as well, would be impossible.*

Then, to understand the all-inclusive nature of the curse pronounced upon Ham’s lineage, note that all three prophecies begin in an all-inclusive manner — *with Shem, Ham, Japheth, and their progenies*. And though the prophecy in Shem’s case was later revealed to narrow to only part of his seed (Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob), that is not seen within the lineages of Ham and Japheth.

These are prophecies pertaining to *the whole of mankind from the time that they were uttered throughout the remainder of Man’s Day.*

(Note also why Noah cursed Canaan instead of Ham, though Ham’s act had brought about the curse. Ham was among those whom God had previously blessed [[Genesis 9:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.1&t=NKJV)]. Thus, Noah couldn’t curse Ham. He did the only thing that he could have done — curse Ham’s son [Ham’s seed], where the curse would end up anyway.)

People are afraid to deal with this prophecy in the preceding respect though because they are afraid of being linked with racism. However, racism is not even remotely connected with issues emanating from any of these prophecies. This is something which man has brought over into the matter.

If an individual sees these prophecies for exactly what they are — *prophecies concerning federal headship and the prophetic destinies of the nations* — problems won’t exist. But if an individual begins misusing this section of Scripture, along with attempting to understand matters from the standpoint of humanistic reasoning, that individual will invariably fail to even begin to understand the prophecies, often causing major problems, along with leading others astray.

The thought that God would pronounce a curse through Noah on a segment of the human race which would last for millenniums is objectionable to the modern mind, mainly because of issues emanating out of man bringing *racism* into the matter, along with the associated *political correctness* of the day.

But are God’s previous curses in [Genesis 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3&t=NKJV) — resulting from Satan’s actions and Adam’s sin — objectionable? After all, they have been around much longer and are far more extensive. The entire human race, along with the earth and Satan, are involved in these curses; and these curses still exist today and are still presently being worked out.

As God is presently working out matters pertaining to the curses which He established in Genesis chapter three, He, as well, is presently working out matters pertaining to the curse which He established in Genesis chapter nine. And God needs no help from man in either instance.

*Simply leave the whole of the matter in His hands, and He will work out the whole of that which He has established in His way, in His time* (*cf*. [Zechariah 14:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+14.21&t=NKJV); [Acts 3:20-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+3.20-21&t=NKJV)).