

# Genesis 11

## Universal Language, Babel, Confusion

<sup>1</sup> Now the **whole earth** used the **same language** and **the same words**.<sup>2</sup> It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.<sup>3</sup> They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.<sup>4</sup> They said, “Come, **let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.**”

**Note** that at this point everyone (the entire human race) spoke the same language. There was also no race discrepancy. Everyone on the earth from this point forward is a descendent of Noah and one of his three sons (Shem, Hem or Japheth). This would mean that every nation on the earth today is a decedent of Noah and hence the entire human race is related in some way through Noah’s blood line.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.<sup>6</sup> The LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.”<sup>7</sup> Come, **let Us go down** and there **confuse their language**, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”<sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.<sup>9</sup> Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

Why did the LORD come down? (*vs. 5*)

What does vs. 6 illustrate? (*Man has the ability to do amazing things when working on one accord*)

What was the purpose of confusing the languages? (*To make man’s communication difficult and to spread them over the earth in disunity*)

## Descendants of Shem

<sup>10</sup> These are *the records of* the generations of **Shem**. Shem was one hundred years old, and became the father of Arpachshad two years after the flood;<sup>11</sup> and Shem lived five hundred years after he became the father of Arpachshad, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

<sup>12</sup> Arpachshad lived thirty-five years, and became the father of Shelah;<sup>13</sup> and Arpachshad lived four hundred and three years after he became the father of Shelah, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

<sup>14</sup> Shelah lived thirty years, and became the father of Eber;<sup>15</sup> and Shelah lived four hundred and three years after he became the father of Eber, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

<sup>16</sup> Eber lived thirty-four years, and became the father of Peleg; <sup>17</sup> and Eber lived four hundred and thirty years after he became the father of Peleg, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

<sup>18</sup> Peleg lived thirty years, and became the father of Reu; <sup>19</sup> and Peleg lived two hundred and nine years after he became the father of Reu, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

<sup>20</sup> Reu lived thirty-two years, and became the father of Serug; <sup>21</sup> and Reu lived two hundred and seven years after he became the father of Serug, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

<sup>22</sup> Serug lived thirty years, and became the father of Nahor; <sup>23</sup> and Serug lived two hundred years after he became the father of Nahor, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

<sup>24</sup> Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and became the father of Terah; <sup>25</sup> and Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years after he became the father of Terah, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

<sup>26</sup> Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.

<sup>27</sup> Now these are *the records of* the generations of **Terah**. **Terah** became the father of **Abram**, **Nahor** and **Haran**; and Haran became the father of Lot. <sup>28</sup> Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in **Ur of the Chaldeans**. <sup>29</sup> Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. <sup>30</sup> Sarai was barren; she had no child.

<sup>31</sup> **Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife;** and they went out together from **Ur of the Chaldeans** in order to enter the land of **Canaan**; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there. <sup>32</sup> The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

**Note: Terah, Abram's father took him to Canaan.**

# Genesis 12

## Abram Journeys to Egypt

<sup>1</sup> *Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country,  
And from your relatives*

*And from your father's house,  
To the land which I will show you;*

<sup>2</sup> *And I will make you a great nation,  
And I will bless you, And make your name great;  
And so you shall be a blessing;*

<sup>3</sup> *And I will bless those who bless you,  
And the one who curses you I will curse.*

*And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."*

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the **Canaanite** was then in the land. <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "**To your descendants I will give this land.**" So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

**Who were the Canaanites? *The Canaanites were the descendents of Ham the son of Noah who was cursed by God (Gen. 9:22, 25-27: 10:14-18).***

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. <sup>11</sup> It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; <sup>12</sup> and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. <sup>13</sup> Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you." <sup>14</sup> It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. <sup>15</sup> Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. <sup>16</sup> Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels.

<sup>17</sup> But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. <sup>18</sup> Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? <sup>19</sup> Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go." <sup>20</sup> Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.