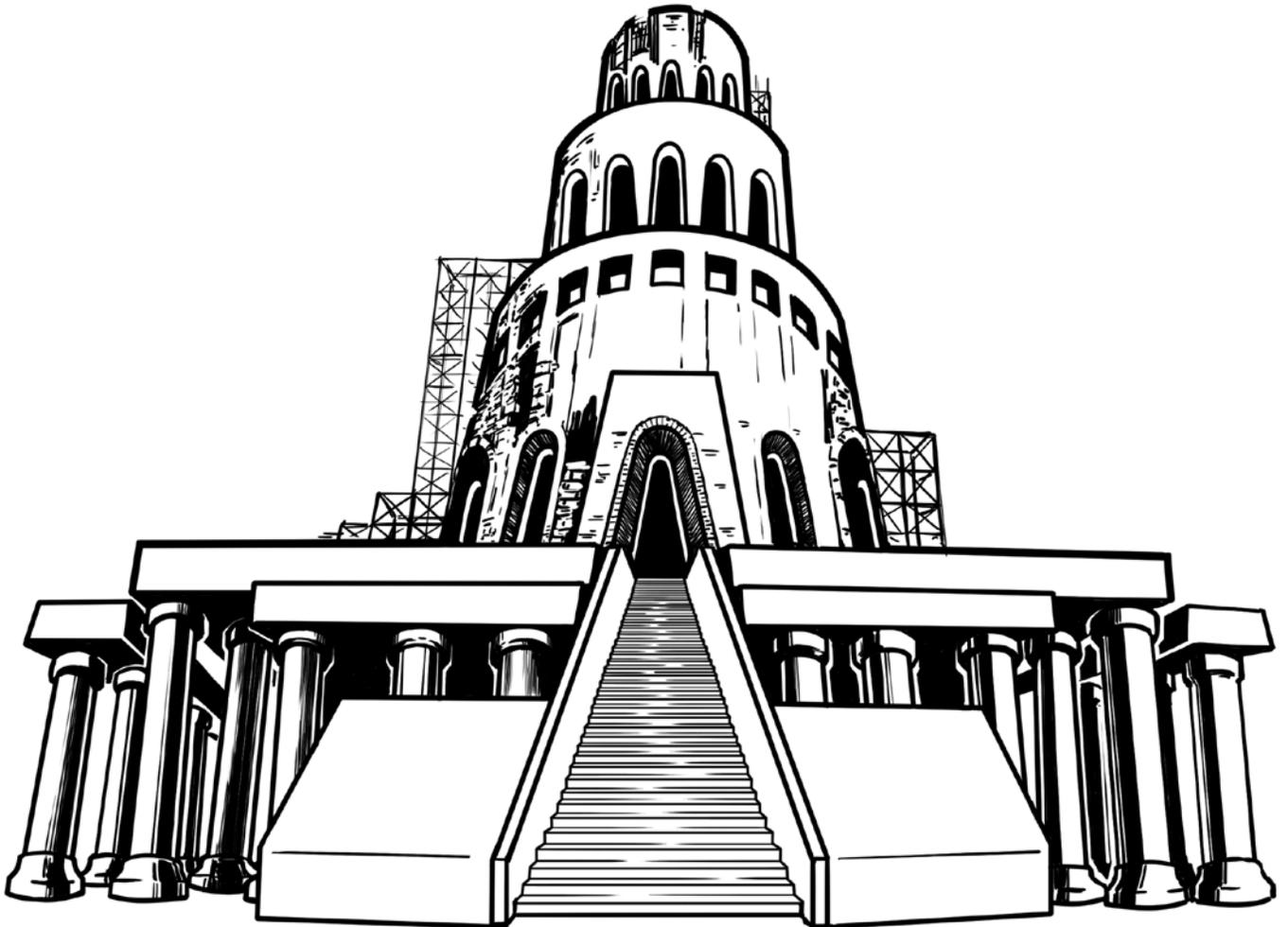




LEVEL 2  
2·3  
LESSON 3

# *Imperial Academy Bible Lessons*



**Tower of Babel**

# Tower of Babel

**A**fter Noah and his family left the ark, the human race had a fresh start. God had washed away the violent, evil society that lived before the Flood. Noah became a farmer and began to teach his family more about God.

Noah was born when people lived much longer than they do today, so he lived another 350 years after the Flood. Since he was already 600 years old when the Flood started, that means he lived until the great old age of 950 years!

As the years passed, Noah's three sons and their wives had many children. Everyone on Earth today came from Noah through the families of his three sons: Japheth, Ham and Shem.

## **THREE RACES OF PEOPLE**

Noah's eldest son, Japheth, had seven sons. The descendants of these sons became the olive-skinned people who eventually spread throughout Asia and the Americas (Genesis 10:2-5).

Noah's son Ham had four sons. Their descendants became the ancestors

of the dark-skinned people who eventually spread through Africa and Australasia (verses 6-20).

Noah's son Shem had five sons. Their descendants became the ancestors of the light-skinned people who eventually spread throughout Europe and the Middle East (verses 21-31).

From these three families, the three major races of mankind developed. The reason these three brothers fathered different races was because they each married a wife from a different race. Japheth married an Oriental woman, Ham married a black woman, and Shem married a white woman.

God commanded the descendants of Japheth, Ham and Shem to spread out across the Earth. As their families grew larger and larger, they each formed different nations (verse 5).

Hundreds of years later, the Prophet Moses reminded the people of Israel that it was God who "divided to the nations their inheritance" and who "separated the sons of Adam"

(Deuteronomy 32:7-8). By dividing the nations, God gave each group of people its own “promised land.”

## **TOWER OF BABEL**

Many of Noah’s great-grandchildren decided they did not want to obey God. Instead, they chose to live the same selfish way that Adam and Eve had chosen when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Noah’s descendants refused to spread out as God had told them. Instead, they moved to a land called Shinar in Mesopotamia and lived close together in cities (Genesis 11).

The people of Shinar were afraid of wild animals. Animals like snakes and other reptiles had been peaceful in the Garden of Eden, but now they were wild and dangerous. Animals such as lions attacked people. But one man was very good at killing these animals: His name was Nimrod.

Nimrod was the grandson of Ham. He rebelled against God. He became the king of Shinar and told people not to worship the God of Noah. Instead, he told them to worship the sun, stars and serpents. When the people turned away from God and worshiped other gods, they were actually worshiping Satan the devil, whether they knew it or not.

The people remembered the great Flood, but they did not believe God’s promise to never flood the Earth again. So they decided to build something that would save

them from another worldwide flood. They wanted to disobey God without fearing He could punish them with another flood. They decided to build a huge tower higher than they thought any flood could reach.

Nimrod organized the tower project. By staying in the cities of Shinar and working on this tower, the people did not spread out. They remained in one place—where Nimrod could control them.

God saw what the people were trying to do, and He knew how to stop them. God always keeps His



Family of Ham



Nimrod was a mighty hunter.

promises, so He did not flood the Earth. Instead, He changed the people's language. Suddenly, instead of all people speaking the same language, different family groups spoke different languages. They could no longer understand each other!

The people's confusion turned into arguments and fights. They stopped working on the tower, and it was never finished. It became known as the tower of Babel, which means the "tower of confusion."

Since the people could no longer understand everyone else, they talked only to those who spoke the same language. Different families began to separate from each other. They left Shinar and spread out across the Earth—the way God intended!

## **FALSE RELIGION**

Nimrod's plan to rule the world was stopped. Yet the people were stubborn. Although they were forced to spread out over the Earth, they did not repent and turn to God. They continued to do what Nimrod had taught them. They worshiped other gods. They made idols of the sun, fire and snakes, just like Nimrod had taught them. They either thought these things were actually gods or they used them as symbols to worship false gods. But they certainly did not worship the one and only true God!

Since each family now spoke a different language, each family had

a different set of names for their false gods. As families set out across the Earth, they took their false gods with them, spreading false religion around the world.

Ancient Roman, Greek and Persian historians wrote that Nimrod (also called Ninus) married a very wicked woman named Semiramis and went to war with the nations around him. Nimrod eventually died.

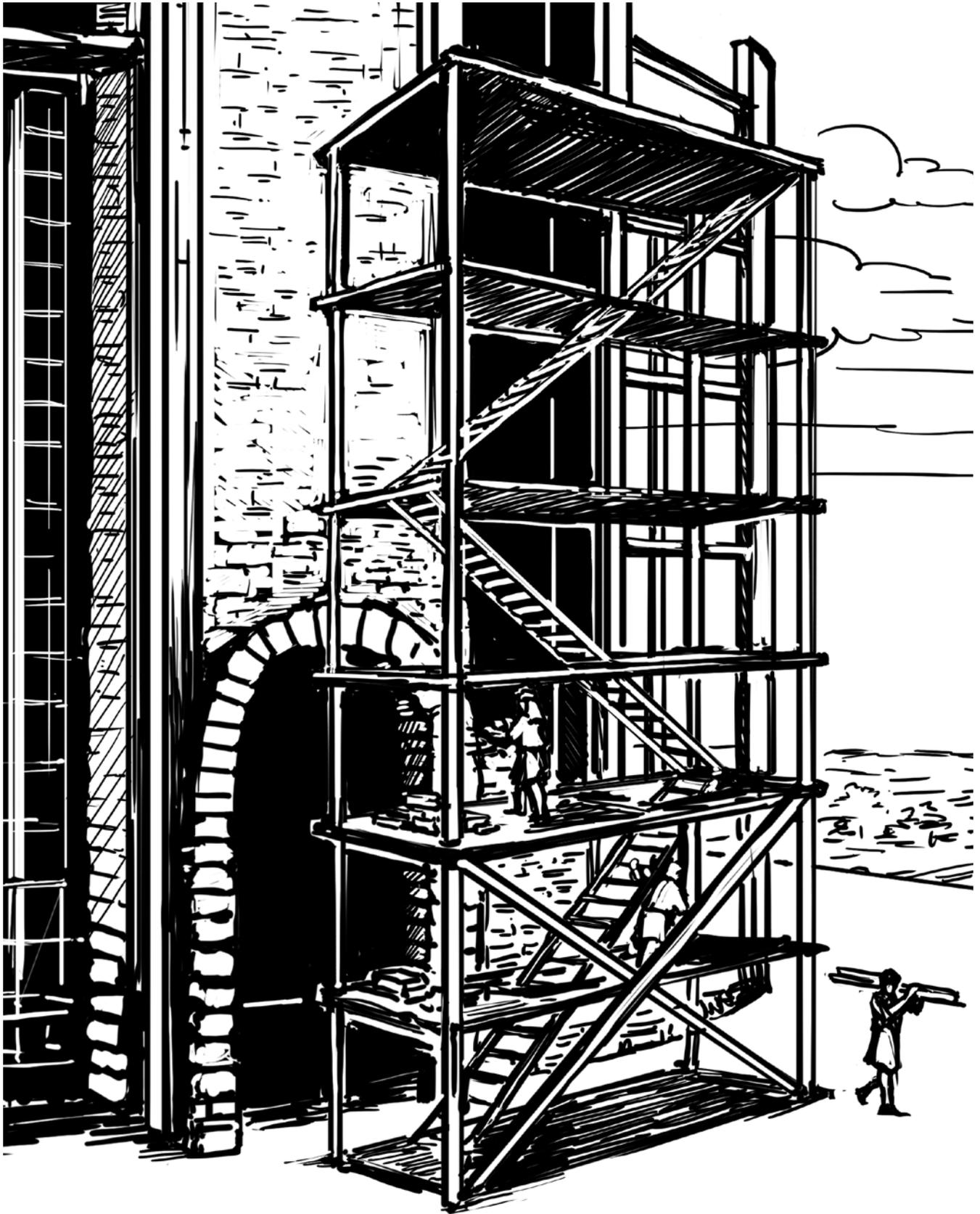
Even though Nimrod was just a human being, as she was, Semiramis taught people to worship Nimrod as if he were a god! Many different people worshiped him, in many different languages, calling him by the name of Tammuz, Baal, Zeus, Dumuzid and Osiris.

People also worshiped Semiramis as if she were also a god. They worshiped her as the "queen of heaven," calling her by different names: Ishtar, Anat, Astarte, Hera, Inanna and Isis.

But Nimrod and Semiramis were just human beings! They were *not* gods! Yet people continued to worship these false gods, as well as other gods. Today, the world has many types of false religions. And all of them trace back to the original false religion established by Nimrod and his wife Semiramis!



Nimrod institutes idol worship.



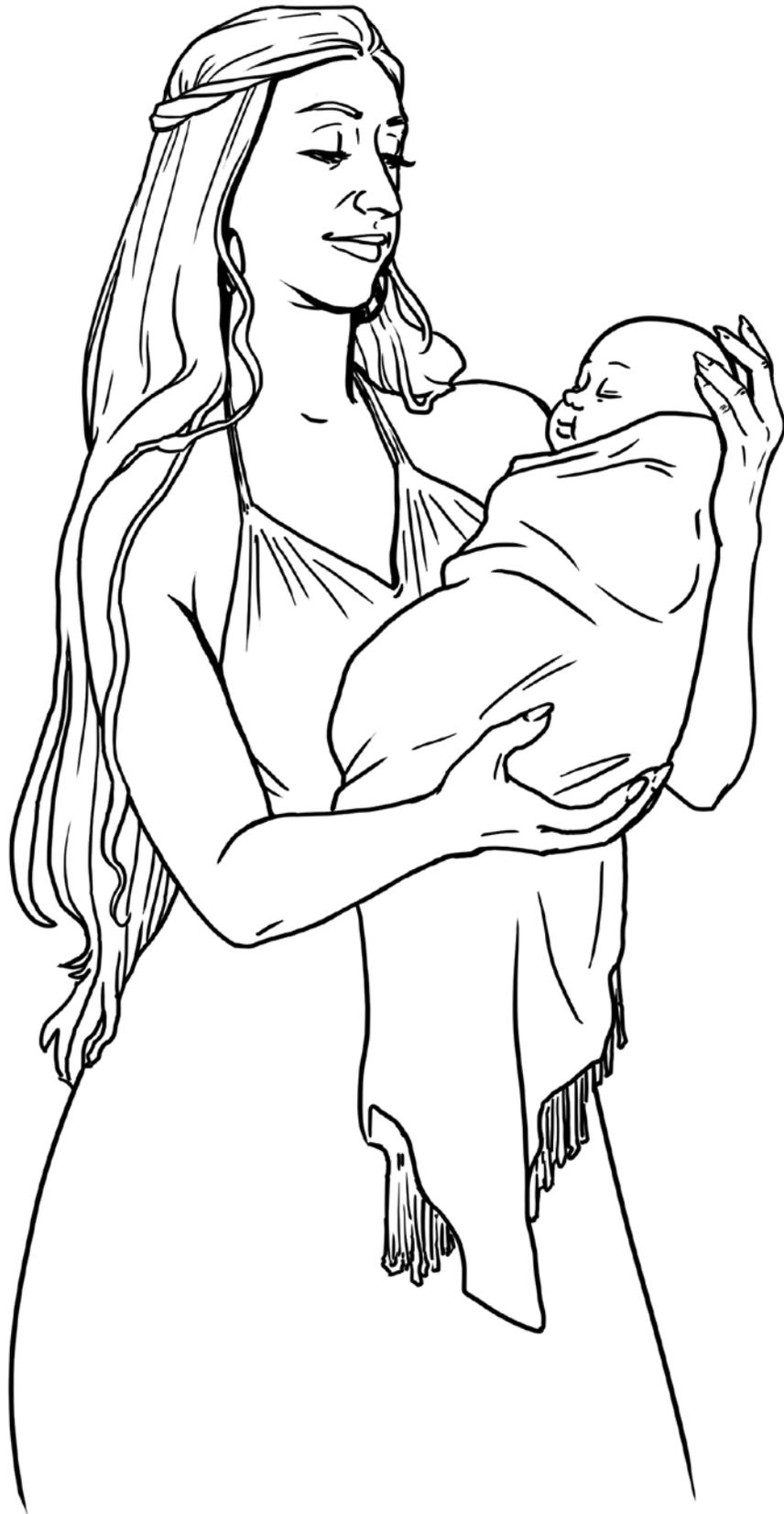
People build the tower of Babel.



When God confused the people's language,  
they could not understand each other.

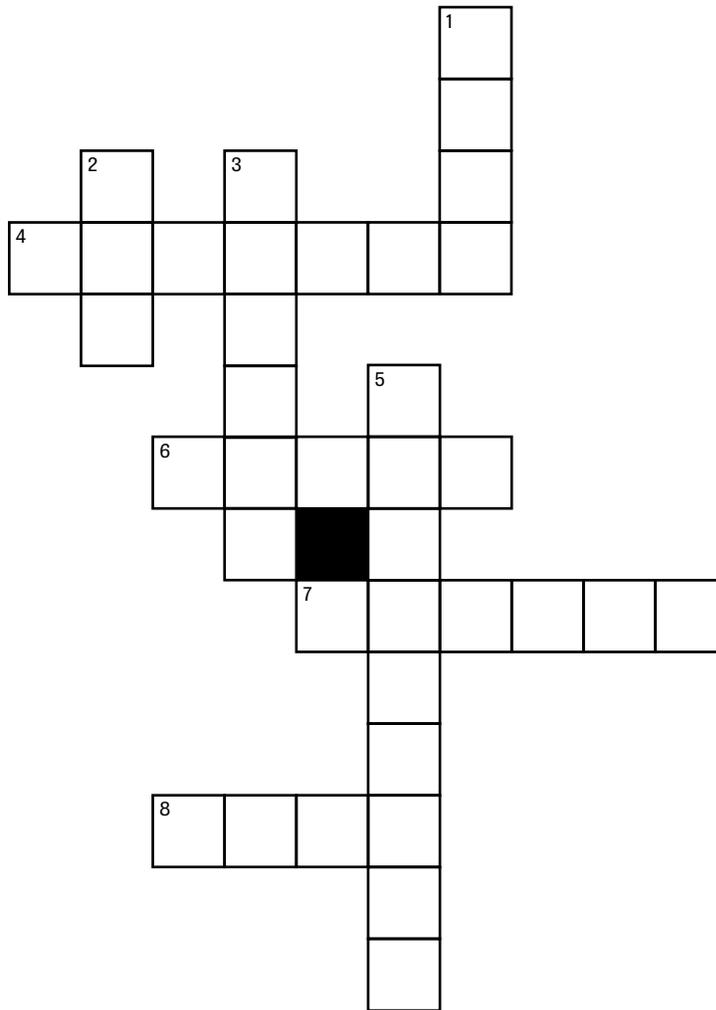


The people began leaving Babel in different directions.



Semiramis uses her new son Ninyas, or Tammuz, to institute the Babylonian mystery religion.

# Names and Places



## ACROSS

- 4. Noah's eldest son
- 6. Tower of \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. The mighty hunter
- 8. Had five sons

## DOWN

- 1. Lived to be 950 years old
- 2. Nimrod's grandfather
- 3. Where everyone went after the Flood
- 10. Nimrod's wife

# BIBLE MEMORY

First 27 books of the Old Testament

Genesis	2 Samuel	Psalms
Exodus	1 Kings	Proverbs
Leviticus	2 Kings	Ecclesiastes
Numbers	1 Chronicles	Song of Songs
Deuteronomy	2 Chronicles	Isaiah
Joshua	Ezra	Jeremiah
Judges	Nehemiah	Lamentations
Ruth	Esther	Ezekiel
1 Samuel	Job	Daniel

Published by the  
Philadelphia Church of God  
and produced in cooperation  
with Imperial Academy.

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Gerald Flurry

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## Fill in the Blanks

Use the word bank to fill the blanks on each sentence

Noah lived for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

He had \_\_\_\_\_ sons.

Their names were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Their descendants moved to the land of \_\_\_\_\_.

The hunter, \_\_\_\_\_, was a grandson of Ham.

He told the people not to worship the \_\_\_\_\_ of Noah.

Nimrod wanted to build a high \_\_\_\_\_.

God changed people's \_\_\_\_\_ so they couldn't build.

It became known as the tower of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ began to spread out on the Earth as God intended.

## Word Bank

Ham languages Nimrod Shinar 950  
Babel families tower God Shem 3 Japheth