



Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



The Present Evil World

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The Bible divides the history of man into three different ages. The first age is called “the world that then was” (2 Peter 3:6). It lasted from the creation of Adam until God caused the worldwide Flood during the time of Noah.

The second age of man’s history is called “this present evil world” (Galatians 1:4). This is the age you live in now. It started after the Flood and will last until Jesus Christ returns to Earth in the near future.

The third age of mankind’s existence is called “the world to come.” This age will begin when Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth. (Luke 18:30; Hebrews 2:5; 6:5).

In this lesson, you will learn about how God gave Noah’s family a fresh, new start after the Flood. You will also find out how Noah’s descendants turned away from God’s way of life, establishing their own pagan religions and laying the foundation of the evil society we live in today.

Before you continue, you will need to get your Bible and a pencil. Look up each scripture as you learn about the origins of the world you live in today!

THE DELUGE BEGINS

God had His servant Noah work on the ark and warn people to repent for more than 100 years. But they did not repent, and finally it was time for God’s punishment to begin. God miraculously caused seven pairs of every clean animal and one pair of every unclean animal to come to Noah. Noah put these animals into stables and cages on the ark where they could survive the Flood. Then Noah and his family boarded the ark, and God Himself sealed the door shut.

Turn to Genesis 7:10-12 and fill in the blanks below to see what happened next: “And it came to pass after seven days, that the _____ of the _____ were upon the _____. In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the _____ of the _____ _____ broken up, and the _____ of _____ were _____. And the _____ was upon the earth _____ and _____.”

In addition to the nonstop rain for 40 days and 40 nights, geysers and

fountains also gushed out water from beneath the ground. Rivers flooded their banks. Lakes grew bigger and bigger. Eventually, the rising waters lifted the ark off the ground. By the time the rain stopped, every hill and mountain was covered with water; and every person on Earth had drowned—except for Noah and his sons and their wives, who were safe inside the ark.

The waters which drowned these evil people who refused to repent also washed clean the Earth of the evil and violence that had covered it. Five months after the start of the Flood, God sent a dry wind to cause the waters to slowly recede (Genesis 8:1).

As the waters receded, the ark came to rest on top of Mount Ararat, which today is located in the nation of Turkey. Noah and his family remained in the ark and took care of all the animals for several more months as the waters drained away. As the water levels went down, Noah sent out birds in search of plant life. When a dove finally brought back an olive leaf, he knew there was dry land where his family and the animals could live.

One year and 10 days after Noah and his family entered the ark, God told Noah it was time to leave the ark for dry land. Noah and his family led all the animals out and sent them on their way to scatter and multiply over the Earth.

Noah was grateful to God for saving his family, so he took some of the clean animals and offered them as sacrifices to God. God accepted Noah's sacrifice and

promised that He would never flood the whole Earth again.

Use Genesis 9:8-9, 13-16 to fill in the blanks below about this covenant: "And God spoke unto _____, and to his _____ with him, saying, And I, behold, I establish my _____ with _____, and with your seed [or descendants] after you. ... I do set my _____ in the _____, and it shall be for a _____ of a _____ between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the _____ shall be seen in the _____: And I will remember my _____, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the _____ shall no more become a _____ to _____ all _____. And the _____ shall be in the _____; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the _____ between _____ and every _____ of all _____ that is upon the earth."

Whenever you see a rainbow in the sky, remember why God created it: to remind us of the great Flood that was brought about because of sin and God's promise never to flood the Earth again.

MEMORY TEST

Explain the three different ages of the Earth. _____

Where did the waters of the Flood come from? (Give two sources) _____

How long did Noah and his family live in the ark? _____



ILLUSTRATIONS: BROOKE LIVINGSTON

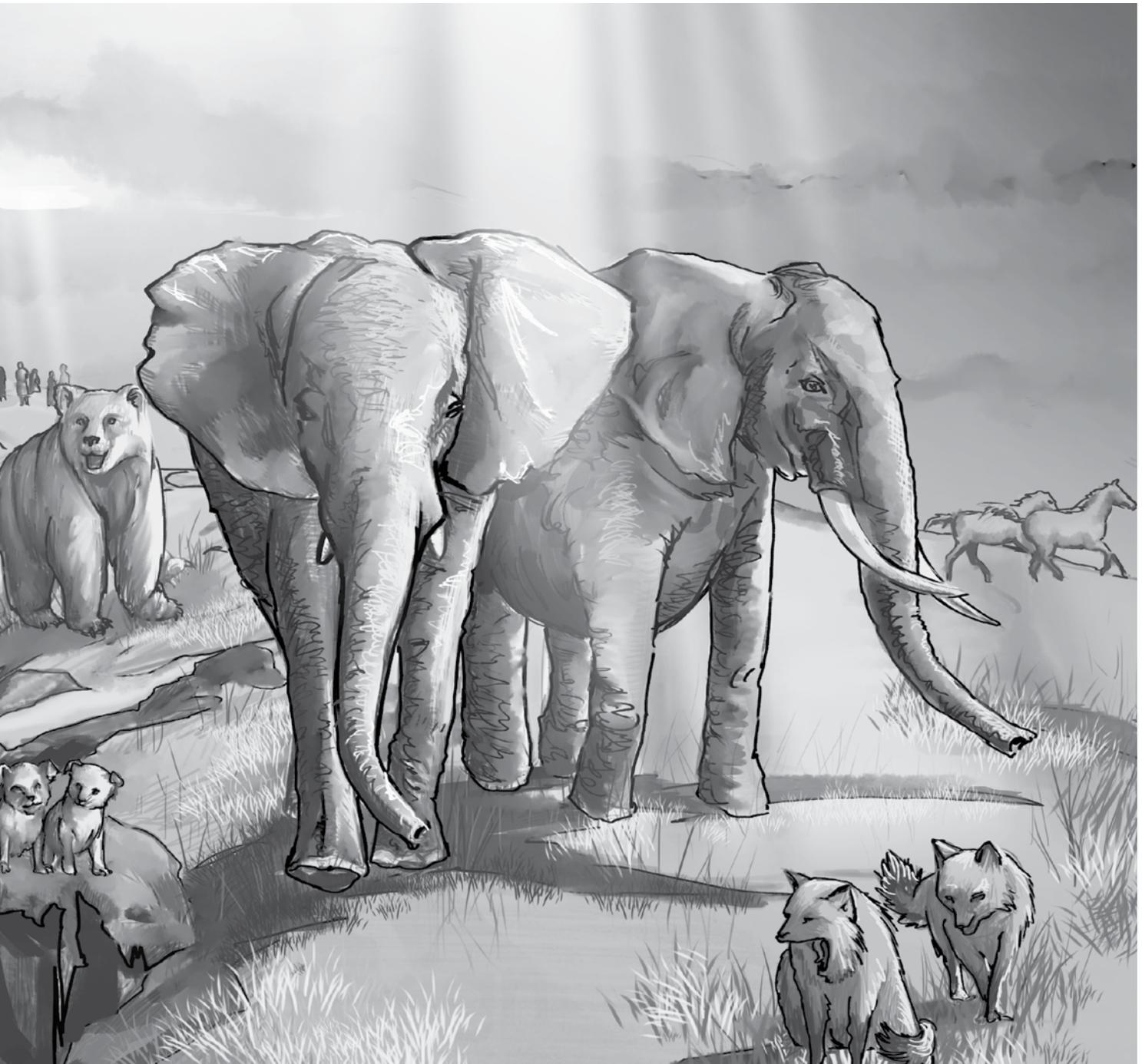
The animals leave the ark to repopulate the Earth.

SHEM, HAM AND JAPHETH

Noah lived another 350 years after he exited the ark. By the time he died, he was 950 years old!

As the years passed, Noah's three sons and their wives had many children. Japheth had married an Oriental woman,

Ham had married a black woman, and Shem had married a white woman. From these three families, the three major races of mankind developed. History shows that the descendants of Japheth eventually became the olive-skinned people who spread throughout Asia and



the Americas. The descendants of Ham became the dark-skinned people who spread through Africa and Australasia. The descendants of Shem became the light-skinned people who populated Europe and the Middle East.

Every human on Earth today is descended from Noah through the families of his three sons (Genesis 9:18-19).

Fill in the blanks using Genesis 9:1 to read the command God gave Noah and his three sons: “And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be _____, and _____, and _____ the _____.”

God wanted the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth to spread out across the whole Earth. Many hundreds of years later, the Prophet Moses reminded the people of Israel about God’s command.

Read Deuteronomy 32:7-8 and fill in the blanks to read Moses’s reminder: “Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you. When the most High _____ to the _____ their _____, when he _____ the _____ of _____, he set the _____ of the _____ according to the number of the children of Israel.”

God intended the nations that arose from Shem, Ham and Japheth to spread out over the Earth and to establish their own territory, separate from each other. To accomplish His purpose, God gave

each nation a special inheritance, their own promised land.

MEMORY TEST

What were the names of Noah’s three sons? Which race of people did each son father? _____

TOWER OF BABEL

During the time of Noah’s grandchildren, people began to rebel against the God of Noah. They refused to spread out. Instead, they traveled to the land between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers and lived close together in cities.

Read Genesis 11:1-4 to see why people settled in this region: “And the whole earth was of one _____, and of one _____. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a _____ in the land of _____; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a _____ and a _____, whose _____ may reach unto _____; and let us make us a name, lest we be _____ abroad upon the _____ of the whole _____.”

The descendants of Noah had rebelled against God’s command to spread over



Nimrod was a mighty hunter.

the Earth. They returned to the evil, selfish ways of Cain, the builder of the first city (Genesis 4:17).

The people did not learn the lesson of the Flood: Disobeying God leads to violence and misery that gets worse and worse until God has to destroy the disobedient and start over!

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote that Noah's great-grandson Nimrod began to lead the people and convinced

them to build an enormous high tower. Nimrod did not believe God's promise that He would not send another huge flood. He wanted to disobey God without suffering the consequences. Nimrod told people that if they built this tower, even the waters of a great flood could not reach the top of it—they could ignore God.

Fill in the blanks from Genesis 10:8-10 to see what the Bible has to say about Nimrod: "And _____ begat _____: he

began to be a _____ one in the earth. He was a _____ before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as _____ the _____ before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was _____, and _____, and _____, and _____, in the land of _____.”

At this time, wild animals were a major threat to people living in Shinar. But instead of spreading out like God said, the people put their trust in Nimrod, who was a great hunter and could kill the wild animals, like lions, before they killed people.

The Bible says Nimrod was a “mighty hunter *before* the LORD.” The word “before” is translated from the Hebrew word *paniyim*, which actually means “against.” So Nimrod was a “mighty hunter *against* the LORD.” Josephus recorded that Nimrod gradually became a tyrant king over the people in Shinar and turned them from the God of Noah.

Building the tower also kept everyone together in one place—where Nimrod could rule them. Month after month, the people remained in Shinar, continuing to rebel against God as they built the tower higher and higher.

Fill in the blanks from Genesis 11:5-7 to read what God did about Nimrod’s tower: “And the LORD came down to see the _____ and the _____, which the children of men built. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is _____, and they have all one _____; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained

from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there _____ their _____, that they may not _____ one another’s _____.”

God saw what the people were trying to do. He knew how to stop them. He did not send a flood, like Nimrod was expecting. God never breaks His word (Titus 1:2).

At the time, people everywhere spoke the same language. But God caused each family group to speak a different language. Suddenly people could not understand each other. They started to argue and fight. Because of all the confusion, the tower became known as the tower of Babel, which means *confusion*.

After God confused the languages, work on the tower stopped. It was never finished. Since the people could no longer understand most everyone else, they just talked to those who could speak the same language. Then they began to separate from people who spoke different languages, and they spread out across the Earth as God intended.

MEMORY TEST

Why did Nimrod want to build a tower?

How did God force mankind to spread out over the Earth? _____

PAGAN RELIGION

Even after God divided the people into different language groups, the majority of mankind continued to rebel against God’s law. Instead of worshiping the true God of Noah, they invented their own false gods to worship.

The Bible says that Shem’s son Asshur founded the city of Nineveh after he left Babel. The scripture strongly indicates that it was Nimrod who led Asshur to construct Nineveh (Genesis 10:11).

The Bible doesn’t mention Nimrod by name after the founding of Nineveh, but many historians say that he is the ancient Assyrian king Ninus. Ninus founded Nineveh as the City of Ninus. Velleius Paterculus, an ancient Roman historian, wrote that Ninus ruled the first world empire 2,000 years before the Roman Empire.

The ancient Greek historian Diodorus wrote that Ninus married a very wicked woman named Semiramis and conquered an empire stretching from Libya to the borders of India. Ancient authors also wrote that Ninus taught the Persians to worship

fire; and that after Ninus died, Semiramis taught people to worship him as a god!

Ninus was not a god; this was a false religion. But most of the people followed this religion. Since each nation spoke a different language after the events at the tower of Babel, each nation developed a different set of names for the false gods that Semiramis taught. As people spread across the Earth, they took their belief in these gods with them and spread the pagan religion around the Earth.

In the language of the people of Shinar, Semiramis was worshiped as the goddess Inanna, the queen of heaven. Other nations worshiped this same “queen of heaven” using the names Anat, Isis, Astarte, Hera and Asherah.

Turn to Jeremiah 7:17-18 to read the Prophet Jeremiah’s condemnation of the worship of this pagan queen: “See you not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The _____ gather _____, and the _____ kindle the _____, and the _____ knead their _____, to make _____ to the _____ of _____, and to pour out drink offerings unto _____, that they may _____ me to _____.”

Meanwhile, Nimrod was worshiped as Dumuzid, an early type of the Babylonian god Tammuz. According to Babylonian mythology, Tammuz was both the son and the husband of the queen of heaven.

Fill in the blanks from Ezekiel 8:13-14 to read what the Prophet Ezekiel says about worshipping Tammuz: “He [God] said also



Worshippers of the pagan sun god performed many rituals to gain favor.

unto me [Ezekiel], Turn you yet again, and you shall see greater _____ that they [the people of Judah] do. Then he brought me to the door of the _____ of the _____ which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat

women _____ for _____.”

Today we have many types of false religion. Yet all these false religions can be traced back to this original false religion established by Nimrod and his wife Semiramis!

THE FAMILY OF SHEM

Even though Shem's son Asshur followed after the way of Nimrod, history implies that Shem himself continued more or less in the way of God. But no man, except Noah, really *walked with God* until later, when God called a man named Abram.

Two years after the Flood, Shem had another son named Arphaxad (Genesis 11:10). Many Bible encyclopedias show that the Hebrew form of Arphaxad is *Arfa-chesed*, meaning *Arfa the Chaldean*. The Chaldeans who descended from Arphaxad became renowned throughout the ancient world as mathematicians and astronomers.

Many Chaldeans turned to idolatry, however, and used their skills in astronomy to help the rulers of Nineveh and Babel deceive people into believing that the sun, moon, stars and planets were controlled by pagan gods or actually were pagan gods themselves.

Turn to Genesis 10:24-25 to learn about a famous Chaldean who lived in Nimrod's time: "And _____ begat Salah; and Salah begat _____. And unto _____ were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the _____; and his brother's name was Joktan."

During the time of Eber's son Peleg, "the Earth divided," which is another reference to God dividing the languages.

Eber, who is sometimes called Heber, died when he was 464 years old. He outlived the next six generations of

people who were born after him. He is also listed as one of Abraham's ancestors. The fact that he lived so long may explain why the children of Abraham were often called Hebrews. They were the descendants of Heber, the last of the long-lived patriarchs.

Ten generations after the Flood, a baby was born to a Hebrew man living in the land of the Chaldeans. This baby was Abram. When Abram was 75 years old, God appeared to him in the city of Haran. By this time, all the nations on Earth had turned away from God's way of life. So God decided to start a new nation, beginning with Abram.

MEMORY TEST

Which ancient Assyrian king is really the biblical Nimrod? _____

Describe how Nimrod and Semiramis established the pagan religion of this present evil world. _____

Who was the last of the long-lived Old Testament patriarchs? _____

BIBLE MEMORY Books of the Old Testament

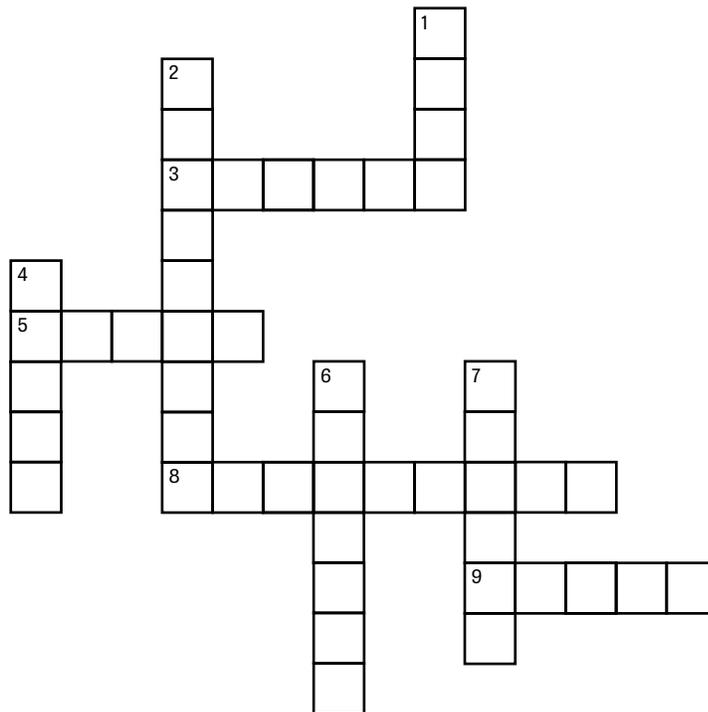
Genesis	1 Samuel	Esther	Lamentations	Micah
Exodus	2 Samuel	Job	Ezekiel	Nahum
Leviticus	1 Kings	Psalms	Daniel	Habakkuk
Numbers	2 Kings	Proverbs	Hosea	Zephaniah
Deuteronomy	1 Chronicles	Ecclesiastes	Joel	Haggai
Joshua	2 Chronicles	Song of Songs	Amos	Zechariah
Judges	Ezra	Isaiah	Obadiah	Malachi
Ruth	Nehemiah	Jeremiah	Jonah	

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Noah Crossword



ACROSS

3. Shem's son
5. Confusion
8. Wife of King Ninus
9. Dove brought back this leaf

DOWN

1. Abraham's ancestor, 464 years old
2. Ancient mathematicians and astronomers
4. He walked with God
6. Reminder of God's promise not to flood the Earth again
7. Mighty hunter before the Lord