

Genesis 10

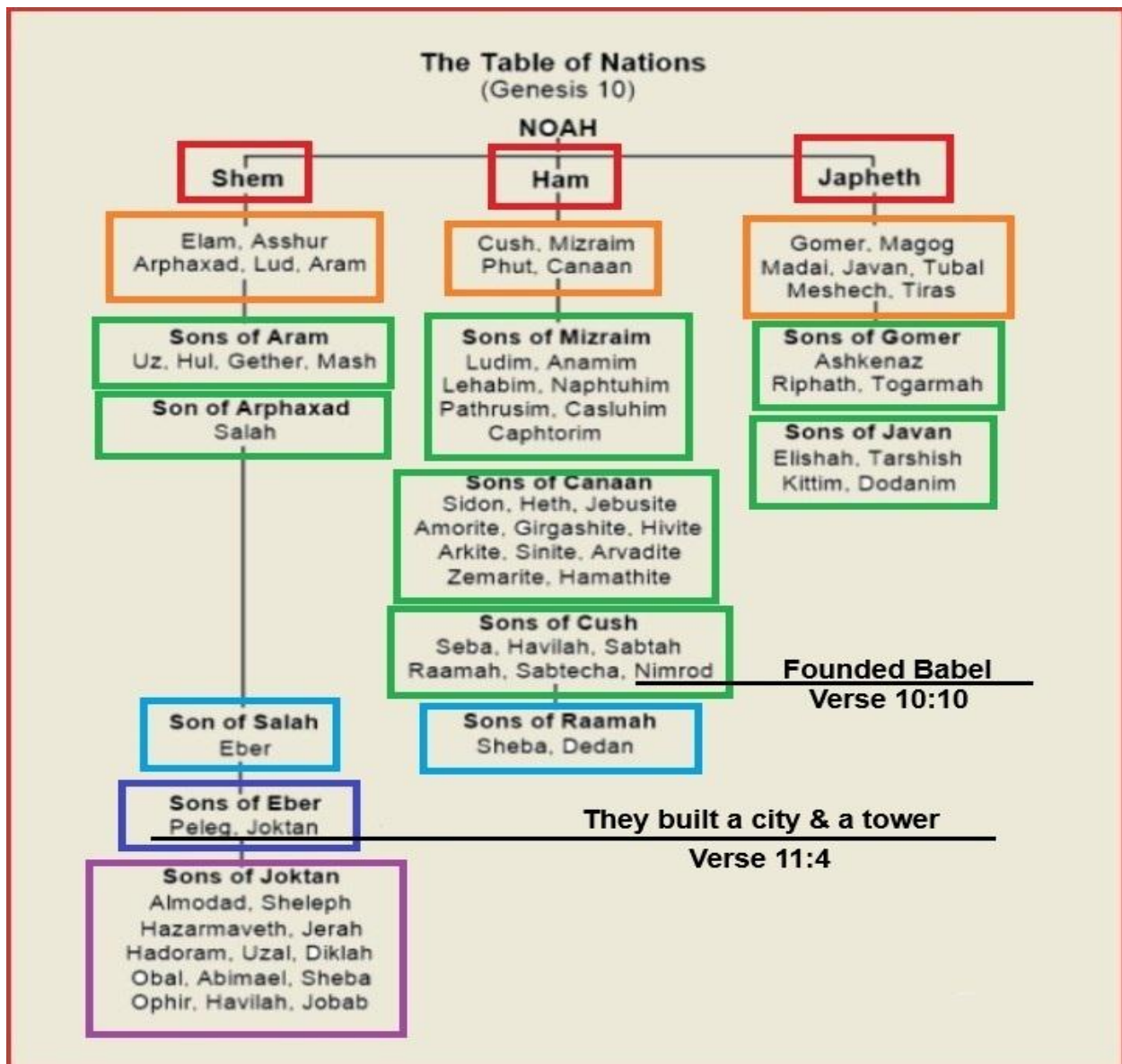
Verses 1

Now these are *the records of the generations* of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.

This is the 4th section in the Book of Genesis. The first 3 are in 2:4, 5:1 and 6:9.

This chapter lists the descendants of Noah's three sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

See Pic 1005



Verses 2 – 5

² The sons of **Japheth** were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. ³ The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. ⁴ The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. ⁵ From these *the people of the coastlands of the nations* were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

See Map 1010



The sons of Japheth went north into Asia Minor and Europe

Verses 6 – 14

⁶ The sons of **Ham** were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. ⁷ The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. ⁸ Now Cush fathered Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.” ¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria, and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, ¹² and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. ¹³ Mizraim fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, ¹⁴ Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines), and Caphtorim.

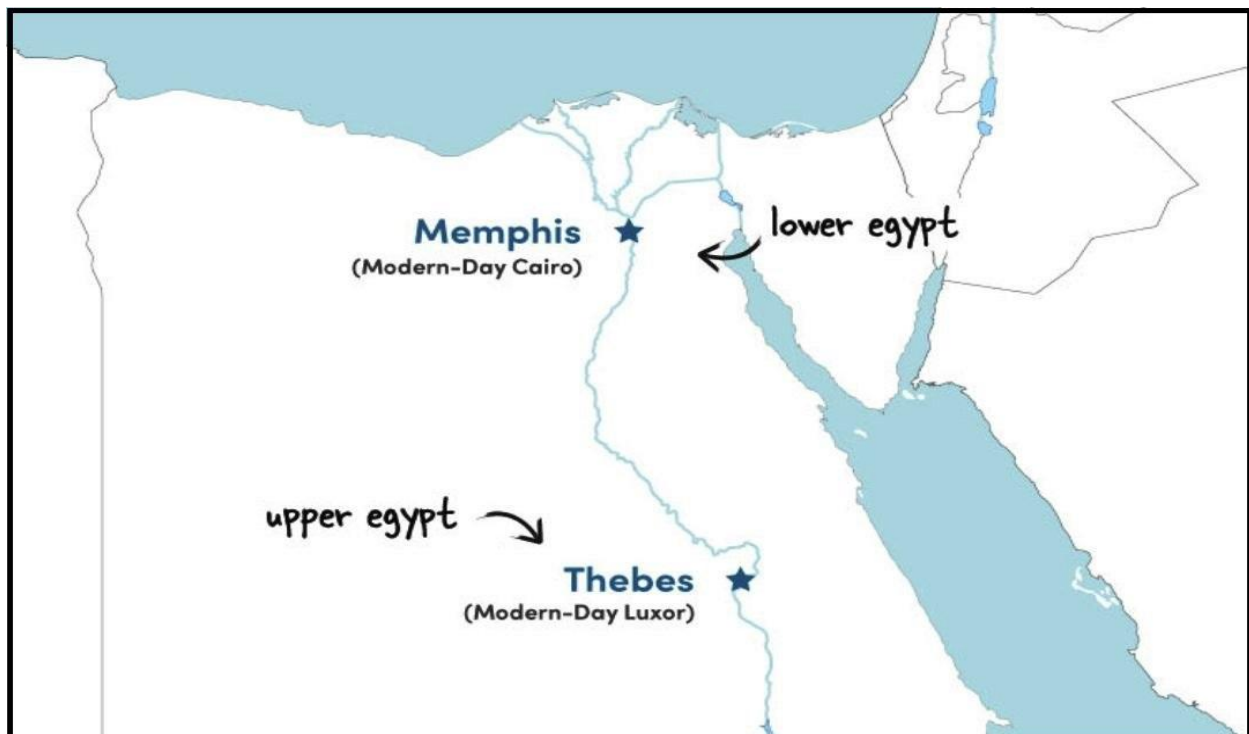
The sons of Ham went to Africa (Egypt being the most important to bible history), and southwest Arabia.

See Map 1010 above

⁶ The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

Mizraim is the Hebrew word for Egypt. It means the two Egypt's which includes Lower and Upper Egypt with their capitals in Memphis and Thebes.

See map 1012



⁸ Now Cush fathered Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.

Nimrod was the founder of Babylon and Nineveh. The name Nimrod means "We will revolt". Some scholars have translated Nimrod to mean "tyrant" or "despot." meaning a cruel and oppressive dictator.

¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Babel (aka Babylon) was in the land of Shinar where they will build the tower of Babel.

See Genesis 11:1- 4

Now all the earth used the same language and the same words. ² And it came about, as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks and fire *them* thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. ⁴ And they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let's make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of all the earth."

¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria, and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, ¹² and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

This passage explains the great size of the city of Nineveh. It was a complex of the four cities: Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, Resen, and Nineveh. In the book of Jonah it says that it was a "city of three days' journey.

¹³ Mizraim fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, ¹⁴ Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines), and Caphtorim.

The Philistines were descendants of Casluhim but they came from the land of Caphtor.

See Amos 9:11

**"Are you not as the sons of Ethiopia to Me,
You sons of Israel?" declares the Lord.**

**"Have I not brought up Israel from the land of Egypt,
And the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?**

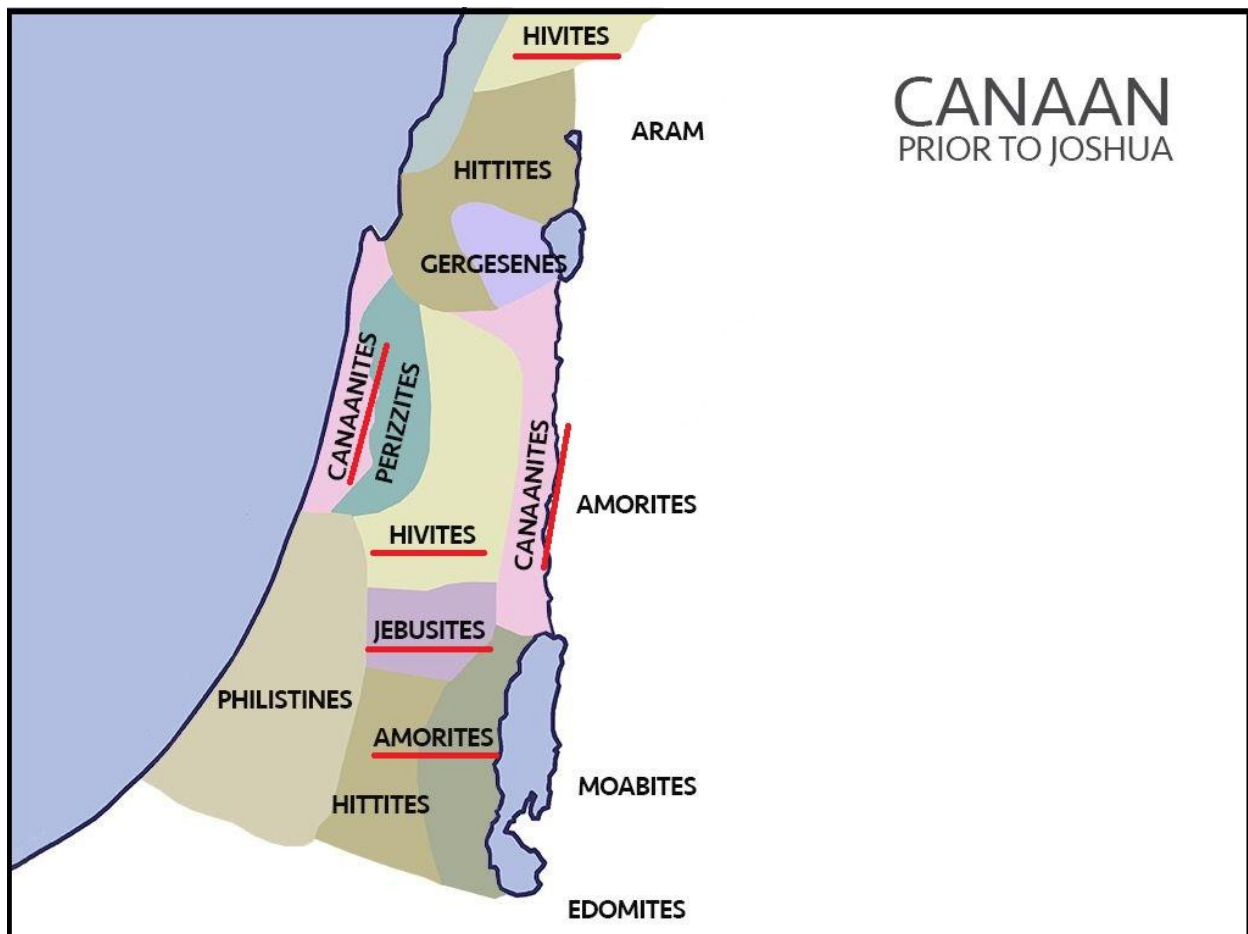
Verses 15-20

¹⁵ Canaan fathered Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth, ¹⁶ the Jebusite, the Amorite, the Girgashite, ¹⁷ the Hivite, the Arkite, the Sinite, ¹⁸ the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad. ¹⁹ The territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon going toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; *and* going toward Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. ²⁰ These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, *and* by their nations.

¹⁵ **Canaan** fathered Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth, ¹⁶ the Jebusite, the Amorite, the Girgashite, ¹⁷ the Hivite, the Arkite, the Sinite, ¹⁸ the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad.

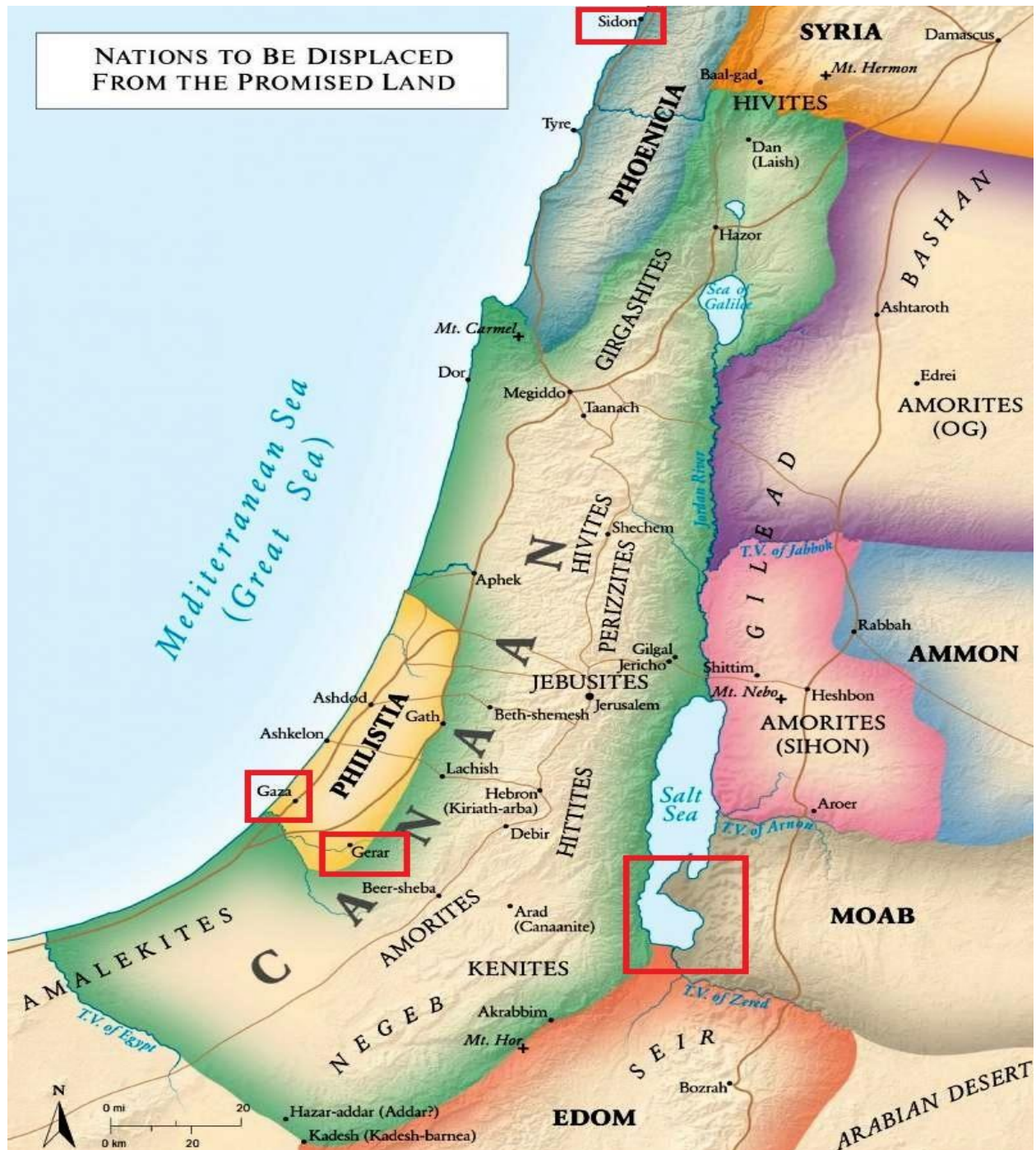
Canaan, the grandson of Noah that was cursed for his sin, fathered the Canaanites.

See pic 1013



¹⁹ The territory of the Canaanite extended from **Sidon** going toward **Gerar**, as far as **Gaza**; and going toward **Sodom and Gomorrah**, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

See map 1014



These towns were the northern and southern borders of Canaan.

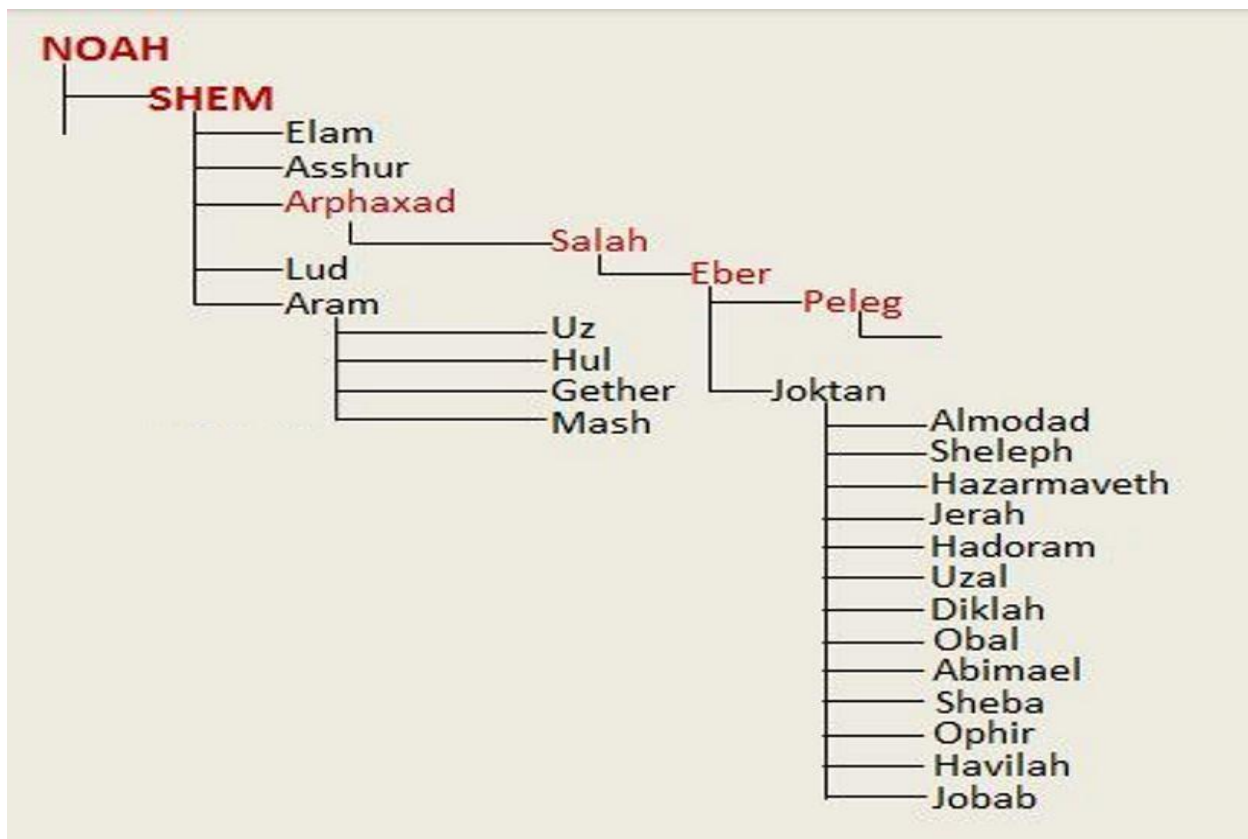
Verses 21 – 31

²¹ Also to **Shem**, the father of all the children of Eber, *and* the older brother of Japheth, *children* were born. ²² The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. ²³ The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. ²⁴ Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber. ²⁵ Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. ²⁶ Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all of these were the sons of Joktan. ³⁰ Now their settlement extended from Mesha going toward Sephar, the hill country of the east. ³¹ These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, *and* according to their nations.

²¹ Also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, *and* the older brother of Japheth, *children* were born.

The Hebrews got their name from Eber the great-grandson of Shem.

See chart 1015



In verse 21 the NASB and RSV say Shem is the older brother of Japheth.

NASB

²¹ **Also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, and the older brother of Japheth, children were born.**

RSV

²¹ **To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, children were born.**

In the KJV and the NIV it says Japheth is the older brother.

²¹ **Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder, even to him were children born.**

NIV

²¹ **Sons were also born to Shem, whose older brother was Japheth; Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber.**

So which translations have it right? Unfortunately, there is not a definitive answer to this question but the Septuagint has the following:

21 And to Sem himself also were children born, the father of all the sons of Heber, the brother of Japheth the elder.

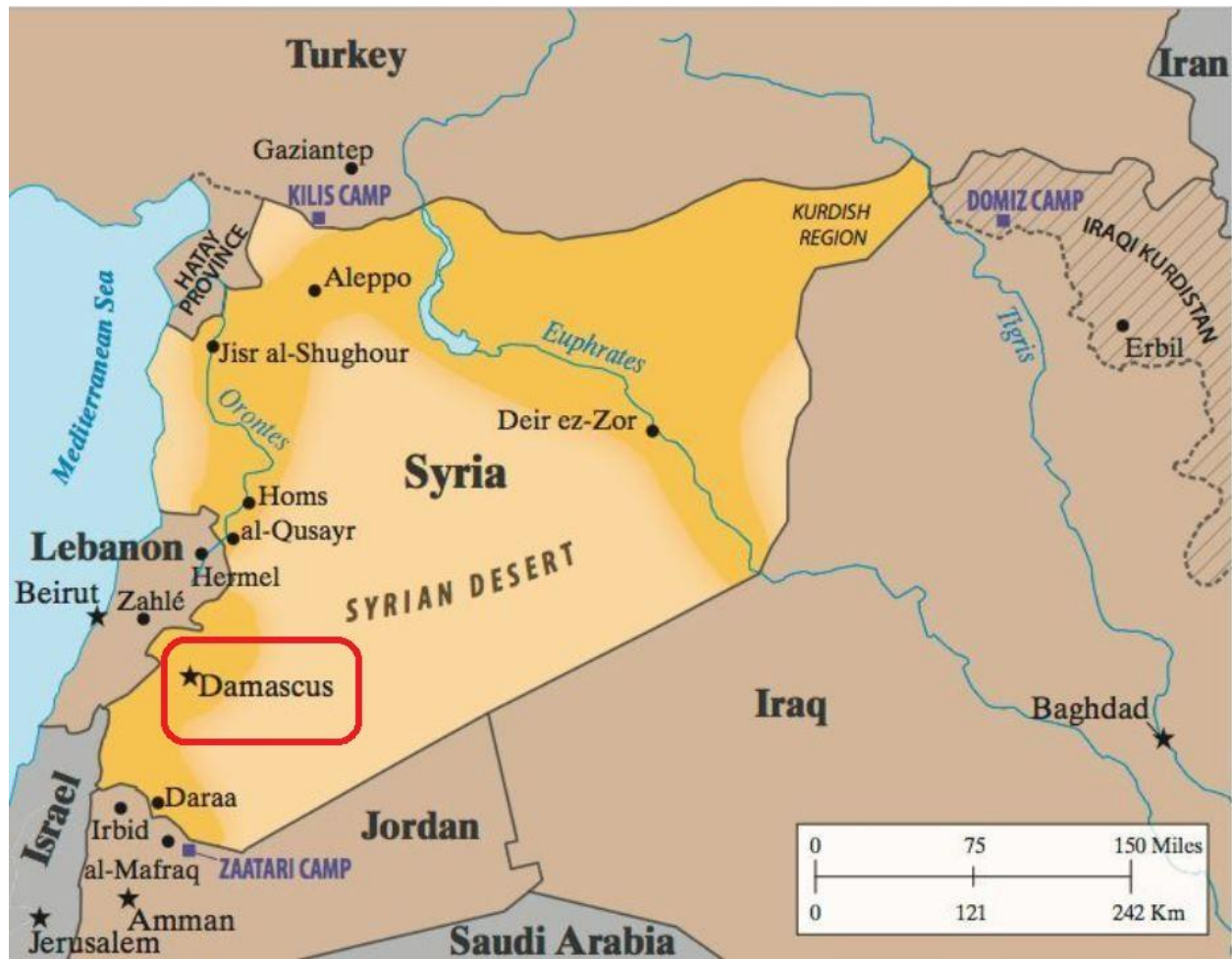
Before we leave this subject there is one additional fact that may have some validity.

The Hebrew tradition was that Shem was the youngest of Noah's sons. His name usually stands first in the mention of Noah's sons but this may reflect his importance as the head of the family. However, in this chapter, his descendants are given after those of Japheth and Ham.

²² **The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.**

Aram was the father of the Aramaeans who built the city of Damascus. In time, the Aramaic language, replaced the language of the Jews

See pic 1020



²⁵ Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

The earth being divided is a reference to what will take place at the Tower of Babel in the next chapter when God confuses the language of the people and they move to other parts of the world.

²⁶ Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all of these were the sons of Joktan.

Joktan, the brother of Eber, and his sons settled in the land of southern Saudi Arabia.

See pic 1025



The Queen of Sheba will visit Solomon many years from now and Solomon's navy will travel to Ophir to acquire gold for the temple.

See map 1025 above.

Verse 32

³² **These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their descendants, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.**

The time frame for chapter 10 was from the year that Noah and his family came out of the ark until the event that took at the Tower of Babel. This took place from 3097 BC to 2697 BC, a period of 400 years. Noah and his family became 70 nations during this time period.

Creationists that use the Masoretic text (Modern Bibles) have a huge problem here because their chronology for this time period is limited to 100 years or so.

See chart 1030

From the flood to Tower of babel

Masoretic text 1000 AD

	Father	born	son	died	age
9	LAMESH	3130	182	2353	777
10	NOAH	2948	502	1998	950
11	SHEM	2446	100	1846	600
	Flood begins	2348			
	Flood ends	2347			
12	ARPHAXAD	2346	35	1908	438
13	SHELAH	2311	30	1878	433
14	EBER	2281	34	1817	464
15	PELEG	2246	30	2008	239
16	REU	2217	32	1978	239
17	SERUG	2185	30	1955	230
18	NAHOR	2155	29	2007	148

2347 - 2246 = 101 years

Greek Septuagint 250 BC

	Father	born	son	died	age
9	LAMESH	3886	188	3133	753
10	NOAH	3698	502	2748	950
11	SHEM	3196	100	2596	600
	Flood begins	3098			
	Flood ends	3097			
12	ARPHAXAD	3096	135	2561	535
13	SHELAH	2961	130	2501	460
14	EBER	2831	134	2427	404
15	PELEG	2697	130	2358	339
16	REU	2567	132	2228	339
17	SERUG	2435	130	2105	330
18	NAHOR	2305	179	2001	304

3097 - 2697 = 400 years

A difference of 300 years

400 years is plenty of time for a family of 8 to become 70 nations even if Noah and his wife are excluded because of their age.

In 400 years the descendants of 6 people (three couples) could reach a population of 39 million people with a growth rate of just 4%. That kind of growth rate may sound high for the world today but people were still living very long lives at that time and they were having many more kids because of their long lives.

If the time frame was limited to 100 years the population would only be 300 people. This number of people could not build a huge tower that reached to the heavens. Also 300 people would not make one nation much less many nations. This is a strong argument for using the dates in the Septuagint.