

Genesis 11

Verses 1-2

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.

There are several things in this verse that are hard to harmonize with chapter 10. Consider the 3 anomalies that are listed below.

1. Verse 1 says “**all the earth used the same language and the same words**”.

However, in chapter 10 it states the following:

⁵ From these (**the sons of Japheth**) *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.*

²⁰ These are **the sons of Ham**, according to their families, **according to their languages**, by their lands, *and* by their nations.

³¹ These are **the sons of Shem**, according to their families, **according to their languages**, by their lands, *and* according to their nations.

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.

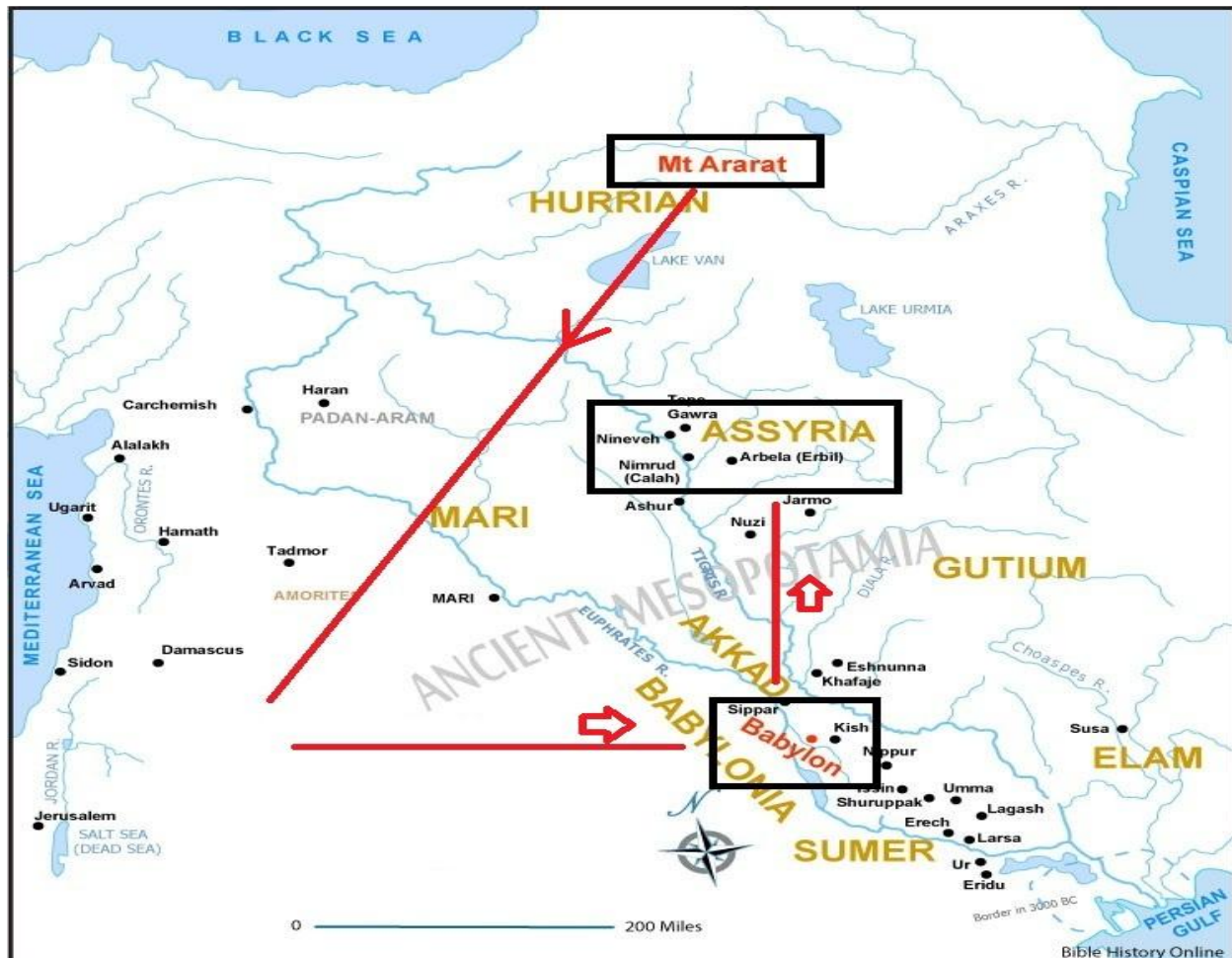
There were many languages among the people sometime after the flood but before the tower was built. There was a period of at least 400 years between these two events.

2. Verse 2 says “**as they journeyed east**”.

They seem to refer to “all the earth”.

The sons of Noah started out near Mount Ararat so how could they have traveled east and come to the land of Shinar which was directly south? They would have had to spread out toward the southwest and then in time journeyed east in order to come to the land of Shinar and built the tower of Babel. But that is not what the text indicates.

See map 1105 Mount Ararat and the land of Shinar



3. In chapter 10 we are told that Nimrod founded the city of Babel but here in Chapter 11 it says they (all the earth) found a plain in Shinar and built the city and the tower.

See Genesis 10:8-12

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.

So who discovered the land of Shinar and settled there? Was it Nimrod or “all the earth”.

Since all scripture is inspired, there must be a way to harmonize these differences but at this point in time a reasonable explanation has not yet come to light. ☹

Verse 3 – 4

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.”

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.

The making of bricks for the construction of buildings did not originate in Egypt.

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.”

The Babylonians called such a tower a ziggurat. It was an immense tower shaped like a pyramid rising in terraces and crowned with a temple.

See pics 1107 and 1108





God had commanded Noah to multiply and replenish the earth but Noah's ancestors wanted to stay in one area.

Verses 5 – 6

⁵ **Now the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the men had built.**

⁶ **And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they have started to do, and now nothing which they plan to do will be impossible for them.**

The time frame for the Tower of Babel is during the time of Peleg.

See chart 1110

	Father	born	son	died	age
10	NOAH	3698	502	2748	950
11	SHEM	3196	100	2596	600
	Flood	3098			
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
19	TERAH	2126	130	1921	205
20	ABRAM	1996	100	1821	175

We know the time frame because in Genesis 10:25 it says,

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 problem that God was dealing with here was that mankind was once again rebelling against His will by remaining in one area instead of spreading out to fill all the earth. If they remained in one area as they had decided, it would have become a real problem as the population grew. God knows what is best for mankind and acts accordingly. In this case it was for them to fill the whole earth.

Verses 7 – 9

Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech.”⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth; and they stopped building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was named Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

By confusing their speech, God insured their separation into various groups that spoke the same language. These groups then split up and went their separate ways and this is why people of the earth have different languages, skin tones, and customs.

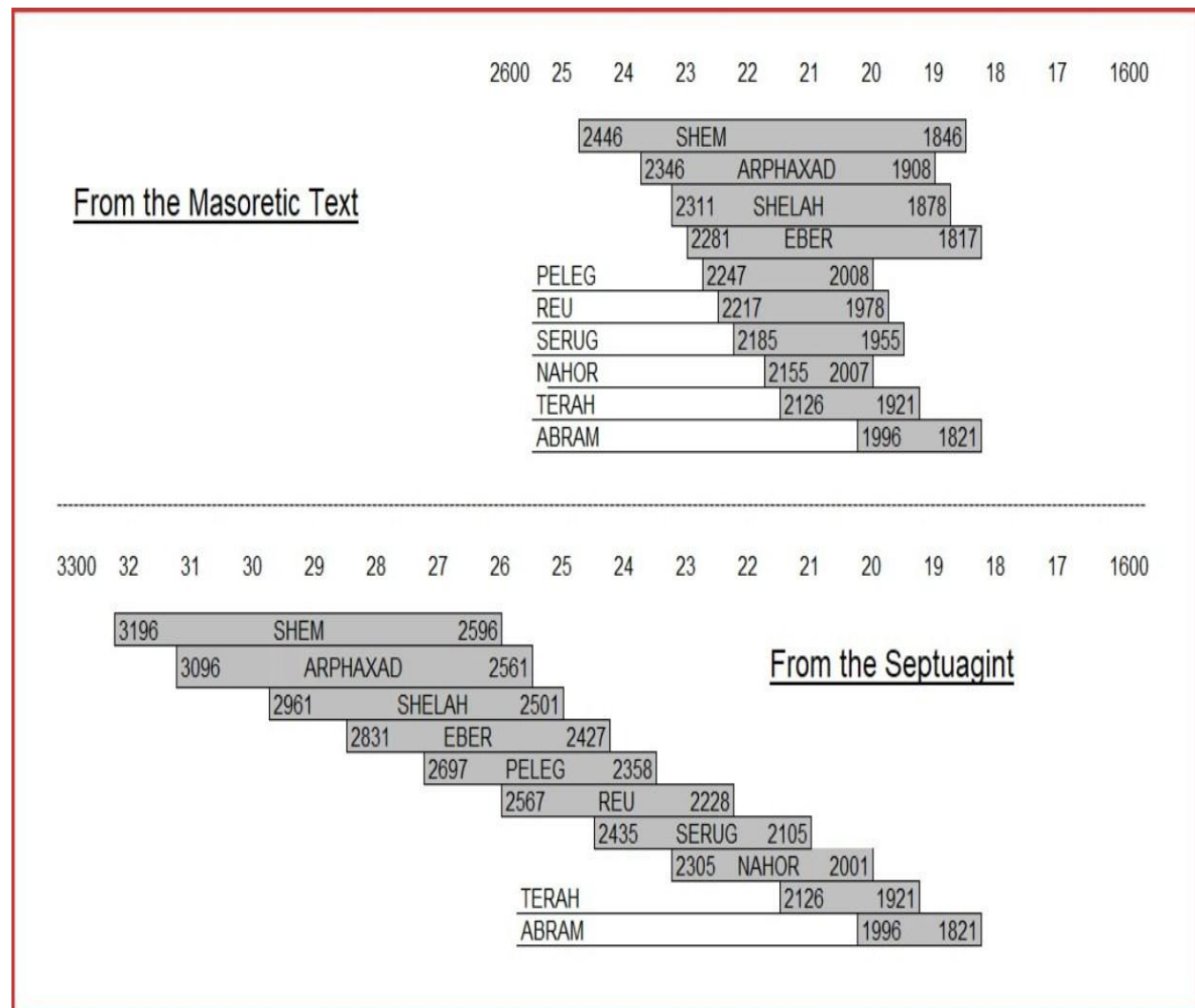
See video 1115 8.1 Tower of Babel

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.1.html>

Verses 10 – 26

Chapter 5 gave us the first 10 generations of man and here in chapter 11 we are given the next 10 generations.

See Chart 1120 Shem to Abraham



Verses 27- 30

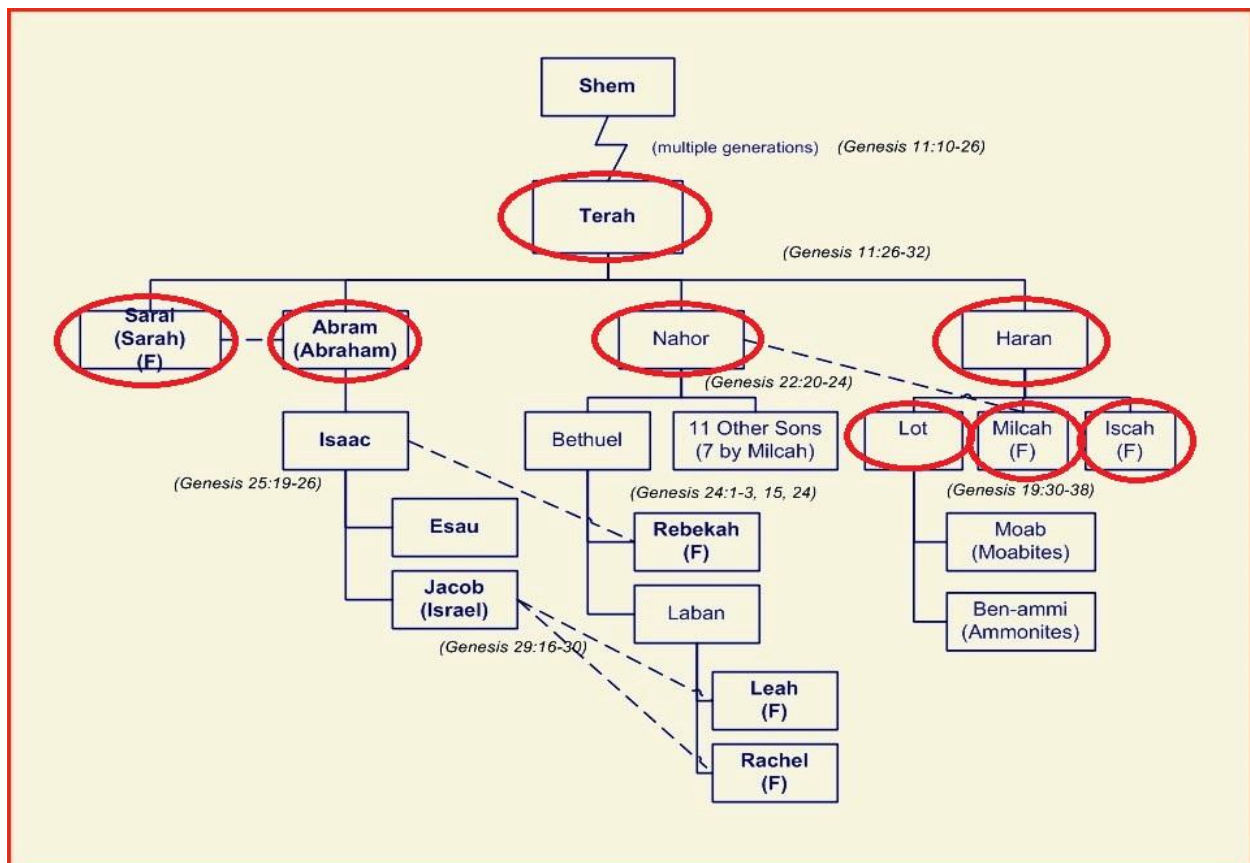
²⁷ Now these are *the records of the generations of Terah*. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died during the lifetime of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Sarai was unable to conceive; she did not have a child.

²⁷ Now these are *the records of the generations of Terah*. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot.

This is the 6th section of the Book of Genesis.

Terah fathered 3 sons and one of them, Haran, fathered Lot.

See Chart 1125



A lot of years have passed in this chapter. From the Tower of Babel to the time of Abraham was about 700 years.

²⁹ 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.

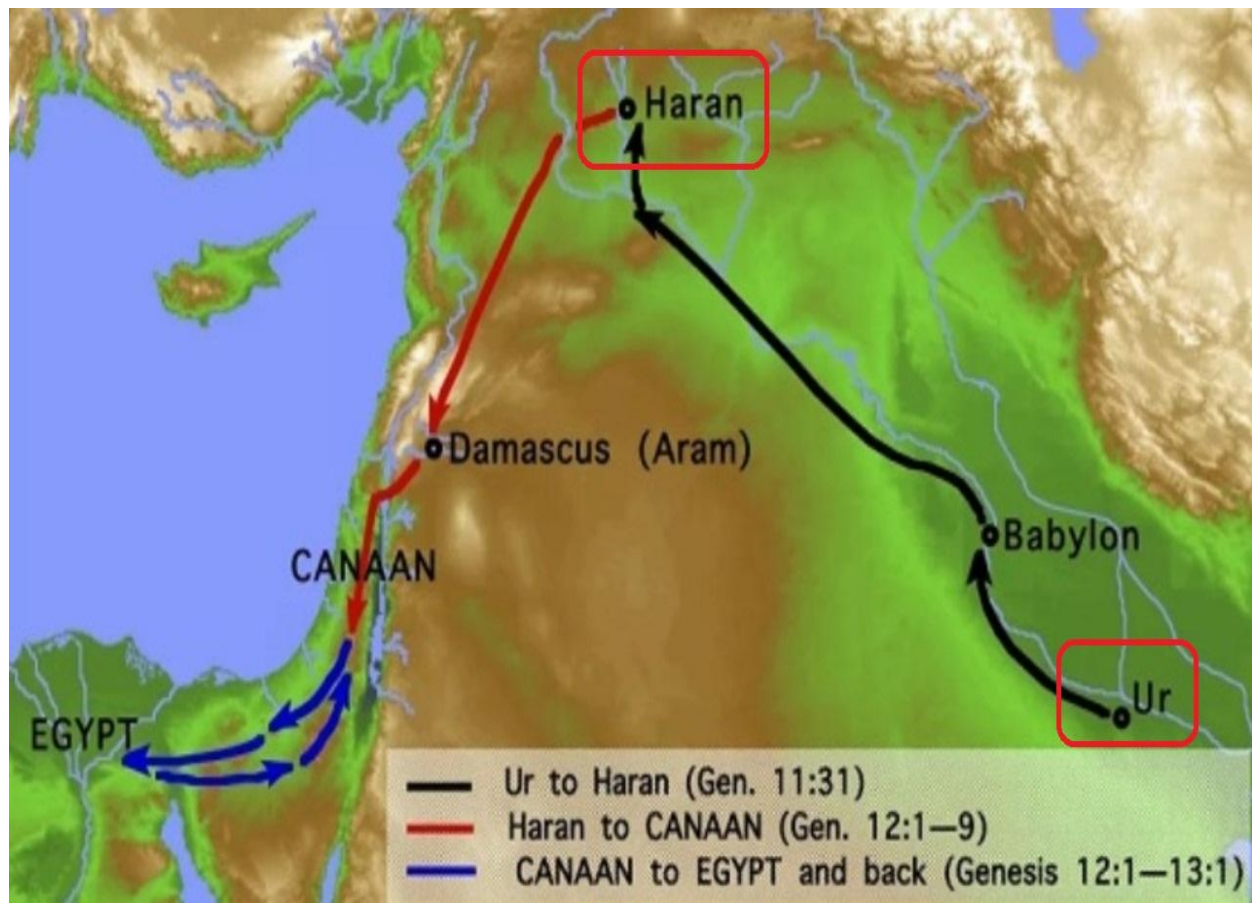
See chart 1125 above.

Verses 31 - 32

³¹ Now Terah took his son Abram, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they departed together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran and settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years; and Terah died in Haran.

Terah and his family took the established route from Ur to Canaan. They followed the Fertile Crescent to avoid the harsh trip through the desert.

See map 1130 below



³² **The days of Terah were 205 years; and Terah died in Haran.**

Terah died at the age of 205 and Abraham was 75 when he left Haran. So Terah was 130 years old when Abraham was born.

The first 11 chapters of Genesis have covered a period of 3,400 years.