

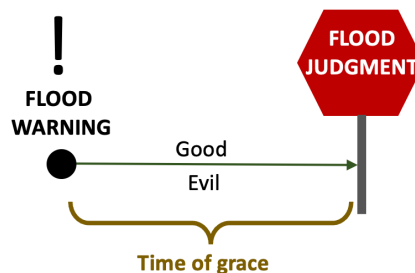
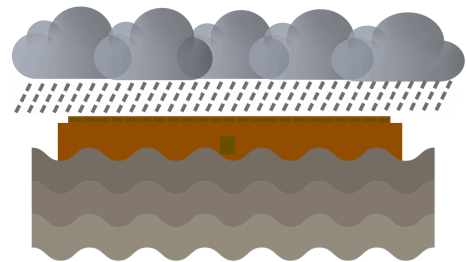
6. God Judged the Evil World — Part 2

Previously...

After the Fall of mankind, life outside the garden of Eden was a unique time in history. The people were intelligent, resourceful and lived very long lives. They could have chosen to learn from Adam and Eve's mistake. They could have chosen to believe Yahweh's promise about the "offspring of the woman" and have a personal relationship with Him. But instead, they chose to live wicked lives and have nothing to do with Him.

Their sin was so great that it exceeded the limit of God's tolerance. So Yahweh, as Creator-Owner-Ruler of the world, sent a global Flood judgment.

He did not send the judgment suddenly or without warning. He gave the people 120 years, a "grace period", patiently allowing people the opportunity to change their minds about the way they were living.

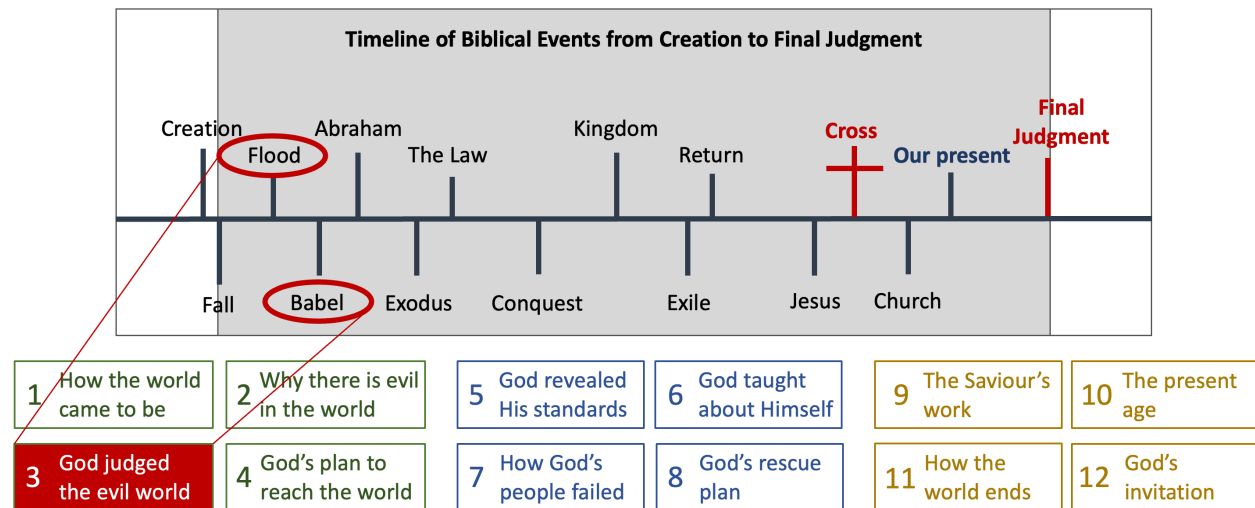


Unfortunately, the people used the 120 years poorly. No one changed their minds about how they were living. When God sent the Flood judgment, only Noah and his family survived.

Through learning about the Flood, we also learn more about Yahweh's character and how He judges and saves.

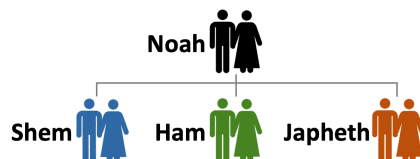
How Yahweh Judges and Saves	The Global Flood
1. Grace before judgment	Noah warned everyone.
2. Whom to save, whom to judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saved: Those in the ark• Judged: Those outside the ark
3. Only one way of salvation	Only one ark designed by God and it had only one door.
4. Man and nature impacted	The global flood changed the whole world.
5. How to be saved: by faith	Noah was saved because he trusted God.

We will now continue in the narrative to see what happened after the Flood.



AFTER THE FLOOD

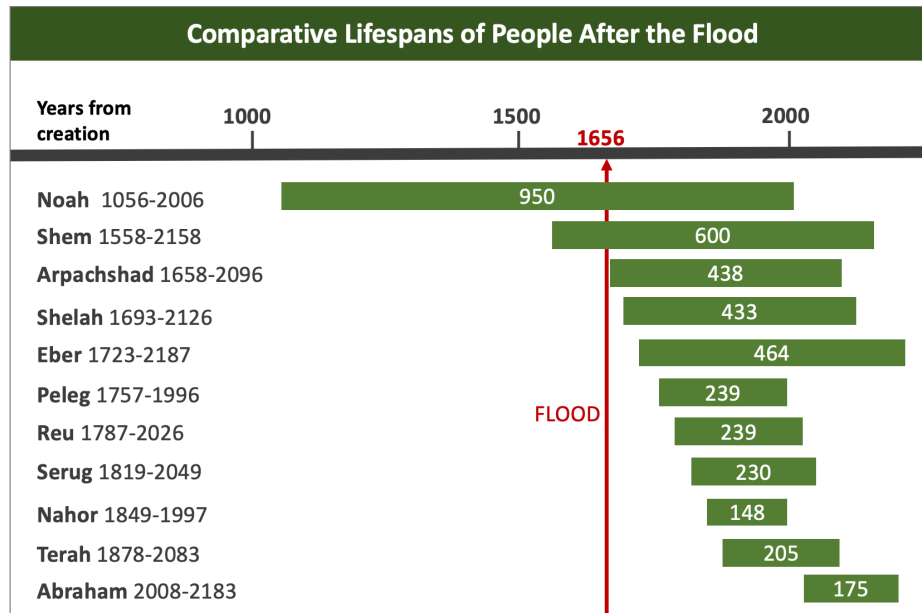
After the Flood, there were only eight people in the entire world. These eight carried with them all the genetic material necessary to refill the earth with mankind. All mankind can trace their ancestry back to one of Noah's three sons.



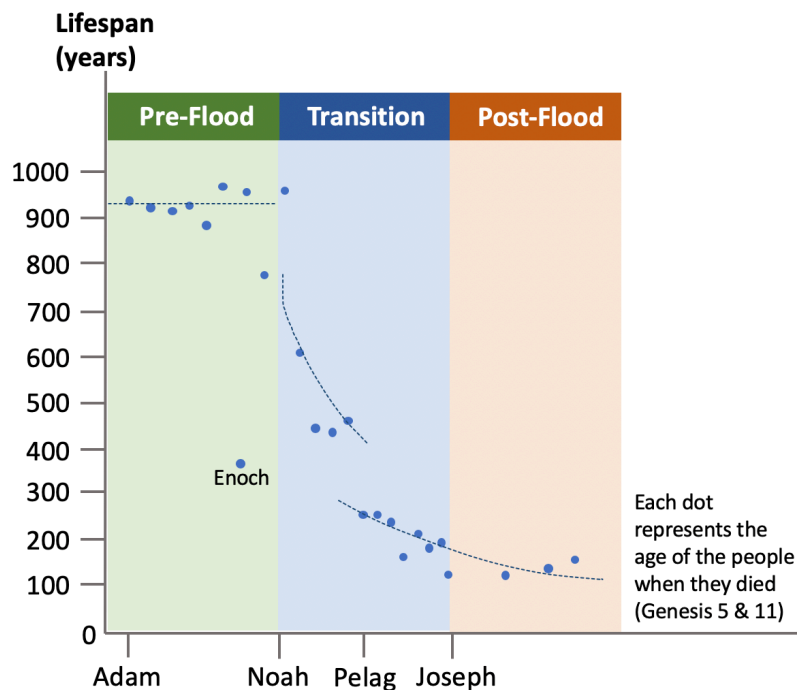
However, people born after the Flood lived far shorter lives compared to those who lived before.

Shortened lifespans

No longer were lifespans 800–900 years. There was a significant drop in lifespans post-Flood. Even Shem, the last of the “pre-Flood” generation, was physically stronger and lived longer than his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Data from Genesis 5 and 11 shows that mankind's whole body changed after the Flood. In fact, plotting the lifespans gives us an "exponential decay curve" (represented by the dotted lines). These types of "curves" are typically seen in physics, chemistry and electronics when there is a change from one stable state to another. In this case, the huge change was from the pre-Flood environment to the post-Flood environment.



What else do we know about the time after the Flood?



Let's turn to our Bibles and read Genesis 8:20–9:17.

(The leader reads aloud. For reference, the verses are also here.)

Genesis 8:20–9:17

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose. ²¹ And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things. ²² As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.”

¹ Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. ² All the animals of the earth, all the birds of the sky, all the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the fish in the sea will look on you with fear and terror. I have placed them in your power. ³ I have given them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables. ⁴ But you must never eat any meat that still has the lifeblood in it.

⁵ “And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person’s life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. ⁶ If anyone takes a human life, that person’s life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image. ⁷ Now be fruitful and multiply, and repopulate the earth.”

⁸ Then God told Noah and his sons, ⁹ “I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, ¹⁰ and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”

¹² Then God said, “I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. ¹³ I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. ¹⁴ When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, ¹⁵ and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. ¹⁶ When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth.” ¹⁷ Then God said to Noah, “Yes, this rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth.”

Noah continued to worship Yahweh

After Yahweh saved Noah and his family from the Flood, Noah worshipped Yahweh by sacrificing clean animals. In a later lesson, we will see why God told people to worship Him in this way. We will also learn the significance of this.

Yahweh's contract: the New World Contract

With the Global Flood, Yahweh eliminated evil from the world by destroying evil mankind. But after that, He made a “peace contract” with mankind and animals. The Bible uses the word “covenant”, and it basically means contract or legal promise.

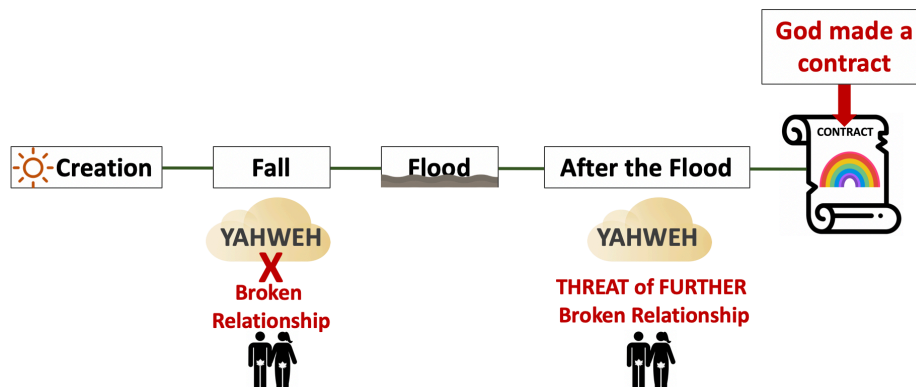


Genesis 9:8–10

⁸ Then God told Noah and his sons, ⁹ “I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, ¹⁰ and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth.

Why did God make a contract? This was because, between mankind and God:

- i. there had been a broken relationship in the past (at the Fall, mankind broke their relationship with God) and
- ii. after the Flood, there would be the threat of further broken relationships.



So this first contract that God made was a “peace contract” after the devastating Global Flood.

What were the details of this agreement?



1. Parties of the New World Contract

This contract was made by God with:

- Noah and all his descendants (that is, all mankind)
- Animals

Genesis 9:9–10

⁹ “I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, ¹⁰ and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth.



2. Promises or the legal terms of the New World Contract

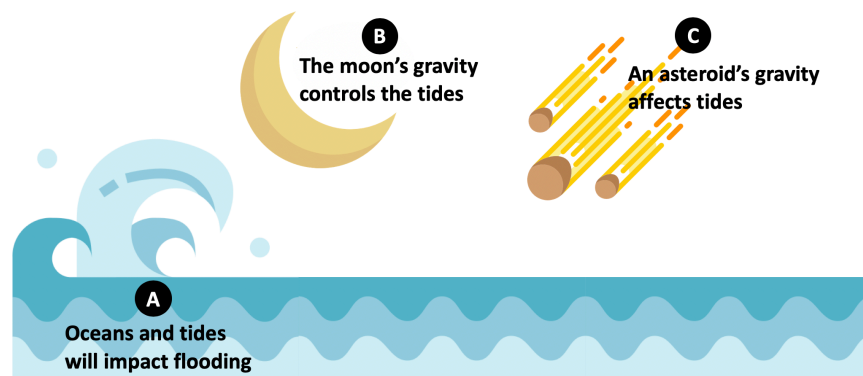
Yahweh promised that there would never ever again be another global flood on the earth.

Genesis 9:11

Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.

Actually, for Yahweh to have been able to make and keep this promise, He really needed to be a God that had total and absolute control, not just over the earth, but also over the whole universe, including all chaos and evil.

Why?



- A. The oceans and tides of the world have an impact on flooding, so God had to be in control of all the oceans of the world.
- B. In fact, the moon's gravity controls the tides. If God were only in charge of the earth, He would not be able to ensure that the moon's gravity would not interfere with the earth and cause a global flood. So God had to be in control of the moon.
- C. In addition, if we think it through a little more, we would realise that God had to ensure that no other heavenly body's gravity (like an asteroid flying too close to earth) would cause massive tides and thus global flooding. So God had to be in control of the entire universe.

Being in control of just a small part of nature would not have been enough for Yahweh to keep the promise of no more global flooding. He had to be in charge of the whole universe in order to confidently make such a promise. And He needs to be all-powerful, all-knowing and everywhere present at the same time in order to keep this contract.

For any contract to be enforceable, the terms or conditions stated in the contract must be observable or "provable". This means that people must be able to clearly see that the conditions in the agreement have been kept.

Till today, all mankind has been able to see for themselves and check God's behaviour and declare that He has indeed kept His promise. There has not been any other global flood.

Importantly, God's promise in this contract did not come with any conditions that said, "IF you (are good), THEN I will (not send another global Flood)."

Conditional Promise	Unconditional Promise
If you... then I will...	I will do it!

In fact, He said that even though people would continue in their wicked ways, He would still keep His promise.

God's promise was unconditional and not dependent on what mankind did or didn't do.

This is what God said after Noah offered a sacrifice to Him.

Genesis 8:21

And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things.

In addition, God also promised that there would be stability and certainty in nature.

Genesis 8:22

As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.

God promises stability and certainty in nature



Yahweh put limits and controls on nature that cannot be violated. Interestingly, it is because God keeps this promise and controls the stability of nature that the study of science is possible.



3. The signing of the New World Contract

Covenants or contracts are normally signed by the parties responsible for what has been promised. Typically, two or more parties would sign a contract.

However, in this New World Contract, God alone signed it. No one else. What does this mean? It means that God alone was making the promises and God alone was responsible for fulfilling them. No one else.

How did God “sign” the covenant?

Genesis 9:12–15

¹² Then God said, “I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. ¹³ I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. ¹⁴ When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, ¹⁵ and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life.



The rainbow was the sign or God’s “signature”. Why did God choose the rainbow? Possibly because the rainbow is what surrounds God’s throne and it represents His person and presence.

For example, when God allowed the prophet Ezekiel to see His throne room in heaven, this is what Ezekiel said about God:

Ezekiel 1:28

All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. This is what the glory of the LORD looked like to me. When I saw it, I fell face down on the ground, and I heard someone’s voice speaking to me.



The significance of the rainbow is that it reveals some of God’s glory. God used it in the New World as a sign of His presence and of His promises found in this covenant.

This is the summary of the first contract that God made with mankind after the Flood.

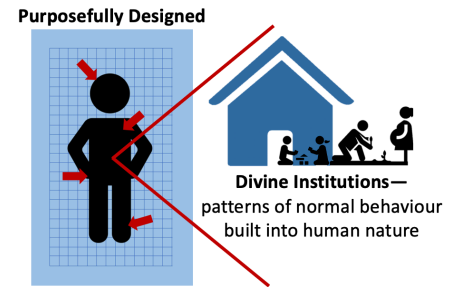
Summary of the New World Covenant

	New World Covenant (Noahic Covenant)
 Parties	God, mankind, animals
 Signatories (the one who signs)	God alone (with the rainbow)
 Promises	No future global floods
 Type of Covenant	Unconditional (God will keep His promise. It is not dependent on anything or anyone else.)

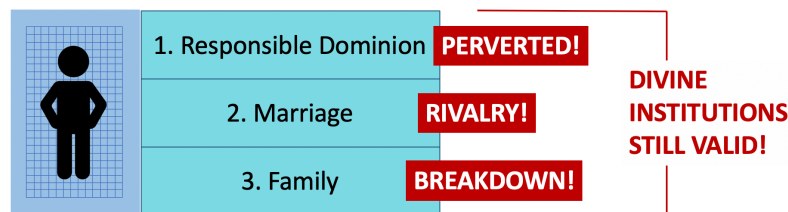
The reinstalled divine institutions

At creation, Yahweh purposefully designed mankind to live and thrive in a certain way. And He explained these divine institutions to mankind.

When mankind fell, people became abnormal and the Divine Institutions given by God were ruined. However, God did not remove them. In fact, after the Flood, He reminded mankind of them.



God's Instructions after the Flood



People were still supposed to exercise responsible dominion, looking to God as their Creator and being responsible under-lords over God's creation.

Marriage was still supposed to be between a man and a woman. Together, they were to procreate and successfully exercise responsible dominion as a team.

And family was still for the purpose of training and effectively raising children to responsibly enjoy and care for the world under God.

But God also added a new Divine Institution to help mankind deal with the realities of sin and evil in the fallen world.

New fourth divine institution: Civil Government

Life is very important to God. And human life is especially important to Him. This is because humans are made in His image. So He expects every person's life to be honoured highly.

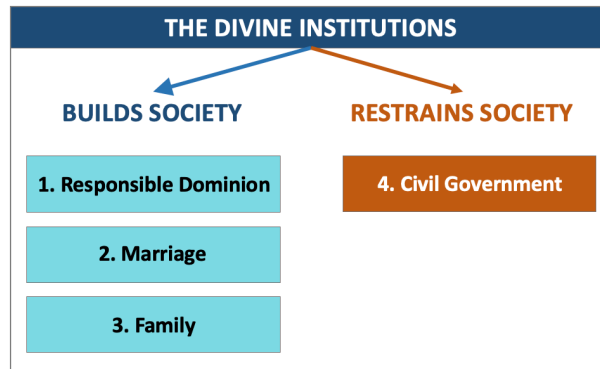
Before the Flood, mankind had already started murdering each other, beginning with Cain. God knew that this murderous streak would go on in evil mankind and many innocent victims would be slaughtered. So this is what God told Noah after the Flood.

Genesis 9:5–6

⁵ "And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. ⁶ If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image.

Whether a man is killed by an animal or another person, the penalty is death—the killer's life is taken away.

Why did Yahweh do this? He was putting in place restraints to limit evil within society. The punishment was so serious because God wanted to protect and preserve innocent life. He was not going to allow irresponsible and indiscriminate killing.



In doing this, Yahweh was essentially giving mankind the ability to create civil government. How so? This was because mankind would need an organised structure and system to maintain order in society and to determine guilt properly before administering this punishment responsibly. This command for punishing murder could not be enacted randomly by just any independent volunteer. Hence, God was instructing mankind to create governments with the authority to punish those who did evil.

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS TO FILL THE EARTH

After leaving the ark, Noah and his descendants found themselves in a new, re-shaped world, with a new climate, new physical geography and new human lifespans. They had a chance to start over in this new world. And they had such great potential. Yahweh wanted mankind to go out into the whole earth, enjoy it and take care of all of it. After all, the Bible tells us that God had made the whole world for man to enjoy. So God told Noah the same thing that he told Adam and Eve.

Genesis 9:1

Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth.

However, Noah's descendants chose to rebel against God.



Let's turn to our Bibles and read Genesis 11:1–9.

(The leader reads aloud. For reference, the verses are also here.)

Genesis 11:1–9

¹ At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ² As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

³ They began saying to each other, “Let’s make bricks and harden them with fire.” (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) ⁴ Then they said, “Come, let’s build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world.”

⁵ But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building.

⁶ “Look!” he said. “The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷ Come, let’s go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won’t be able to understand each other.”

⁸ In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

Organised rebellion against Yahweh at Babel

After the Global Flood, all evil was destroyed except for what remained in mankind’s heart. With their evil hearts, led by a ruler called Nimrod, the people organised themselves to collectively rebel against God. They intentionally devised a plan to thwart God and prevent themselves from being scattered all over the whole world.

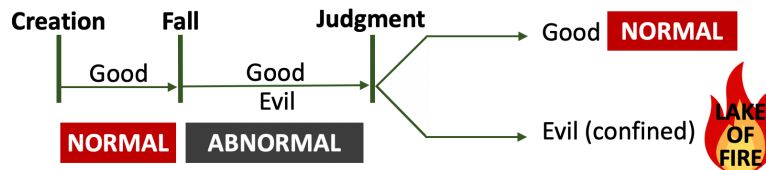
They chose to settle in the land of Babylonia and:

1. Build a **city** so everyone could stay together in the same place.
2. Build a **waterproof tower** that reached to heaven. Perhaps they did not trust Yahweh’s promise not to send another Flood and they wanted to protect themselves from Him.
3. Make their **name** famous. They wanted to be important and create a great name for themselves. They wanted to live a life without God’s interference.



Yahweh prevented them from sealing their own destiny

Instead of taking advantage of the fresh start that God had given the world, the people repeated the rebellion of Adam and Eve. So, in His mercy, Yahweh stopped them. He knew that their evil choices would only lead them to the second death.



How did Yahweh stop them? He did it by creating different languages so the people could not gather to plot evil.



Genesis 11:5–7

⁵ But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building.

⁶ “Look!” he said. “The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷ Come, let’s go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won’t be able to understand each other.”

Even though the Babel builders thought they were building a great high tower, from the Creator-God’s perspective, it was tiny. Being all-knowing, Yahweh knew exactly what was in their hearts and what they were doing. Nevertheless, God came down and made a very careful inspection before pronouncing His judgment. God is never random or careless. When He judges, He is very careful.



God destroyed their ability to understand each other. If the world had one language, whatever evil mankind could think of could be done on a worldwide scale.

Genesis 11:8–9

⁸ In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

That was how mankind came to “fill the earth”. It was not that Noah’s descendants were obedient. Rather, because of their disobedience, God disrupted their plans and forced them to leave the city that they had built. In Genesis 10, we learn that mankind did indeed fill the earth.

- Japheth’s family group migrated to faraway lands. They occupied parts of Europe and Central Asia.
- Ham’s family group migrated to the Middle East, Mediterranean and Africa.
- Shem’s family group filled areas of the Middle East and Asia Minor.

Where did they migrate to?



- Middle East
- Asia Minor



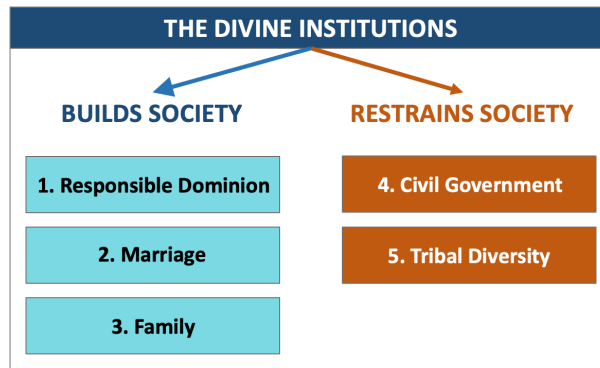
- Middle East
- Mediterranean
- Africa



- Europe
- Central Asia

The fifth Divine Institution: Tribal Diversity

Just as God had given the fourth Divine Institution of civil government to limit evil, He now created many different languages to also slow down the spread of evil. Many languages would limit mankind from plotting evil on such a large and rapid scale.



Specifically, God gave the fifth Divine Institution of tribal diversity. What does this mean? God divided mankind into family groups, tribes and nations and placed them in different geographies and locations all over the world.

Deuteronomy 32:8

When the Most High assigned lands to the nations,
 when he divided up the human race,
 he established the boundaries of the peoples
 according to the number in his heavenly court.

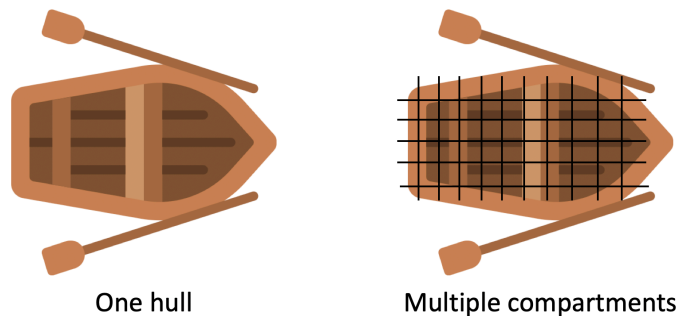
It's important to note that God didn't divide the people by "race". He created only one "race"—the "human race". After the Global Flood, all the peoples of the world descended from the same family—Noah's. But God divided the peoples up by language, location and shared national identity.

Genesis 10:5 (Sons of Japheth)	Genesis 10:20 (Sons of Ham)	Genesis 10:31 (Sons of Shem)
Their descendants became the seafaring peoples that spread out to various lands, each identified by its own <u>language</u> , <u>clan</u> , and <u>national identity</u> .	These were the descendants of Ham, identified by <u>clan</u> , <u>language</u> , <u>territory</u> , and <u>national identity</u> .	These were the descendants of Shem, identified by <u>clan</u> , <u>language</u> , <u>territory</u> , and <u>national identity</u> .

By dividing the people into tribes, God took the power away from one global tyrant (in this case Nimrod) and shared it among many nations. In other words, God created a balance of power among the peoples. This would prevent any fame- and power-hungry madman from getting supreme power, ruling the world and driving it even faster into anti-God rebellion and mass destruction. Tribal diversity helps preserve mankind, so no segment of individuals can get enough power to destroy the rest of mankind, and eventually themselves.

This idea can be illustrated using the hull of a boat.

- If a boat has just one hull and this hull is damaged with a hole, the boat would very quickly fill itself with water and sink.
- However, if a boat is built in such a way that many different compartments make up the entire hull, then if a hole develops in one compartment, the other compartments would keep the boat afloat while attempts can be made to patch the hole.



Similarly, by separating mankind into tribes and nations, if one tribe became totally corrupt, God can judge that tribe without needing to judge the entire world. He would also be able to use another tribe as an instrument of judgment against the corrupt tribe. This is one way God has restrained evil after the Flood, while awaiting the final judgment.

What happened next?

If mankind were to continue their rebellion against Yahweh, all would face the second death. In the next lesson, we will see what God did to preserve His history and truth so all future generations of mankind would have an opportunity to decide for themselves if they would believe in Him or reject Him.



Bible reading for review

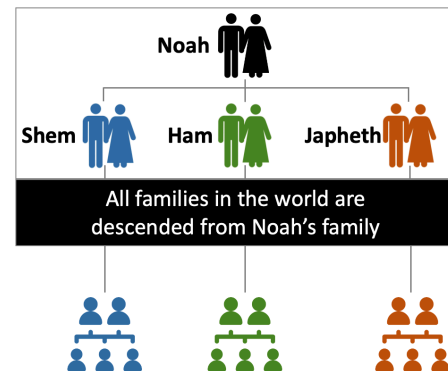
Genesis 8:20–11:9 (This spans four chapters: Genesis 8 (beginning at verse 20), Genesis 9, Genesis 10 and Genesis 11 (till verse 9)).

If God did not separate the people by race, then where did racism come from?

The idea of race is not found in the Bible. The Bible says that all mankind today are descendants of Noah's three sons.

Genesis 9:19

From these three sons of Noah came all the people who now populate the earth.

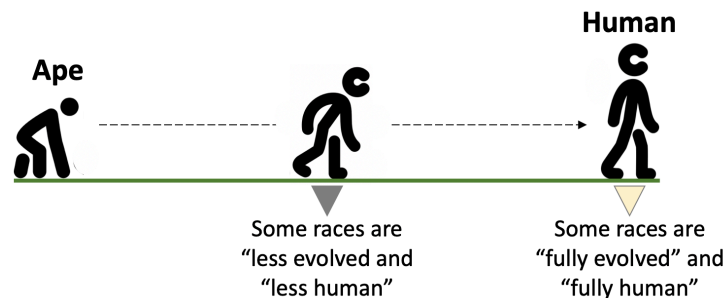


This means we all share the same bloodline. We are all of the same family. We are all humans made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26).

As people left Babel, different groups with different combinations of genes resulted in the descendants having some physical differences. However, whatever physical differences people might have are just surface differences (like skin colour which is due to the different levels of melanin in each person). These differences do not make a person more or less human or more or less an image of God. All humans are made in the image of God. All humans are valued by God.

However, since Babel, evil man would use these physical differences as an excuse to abuse each other. Evil man came up with "racism".

In the 1800s, Charles Darwin made racism even more popular after the general worldwide acceptance of his theory of evolution. According to evolution, humans changed from molecules to ape-like animals to man over millions of years.

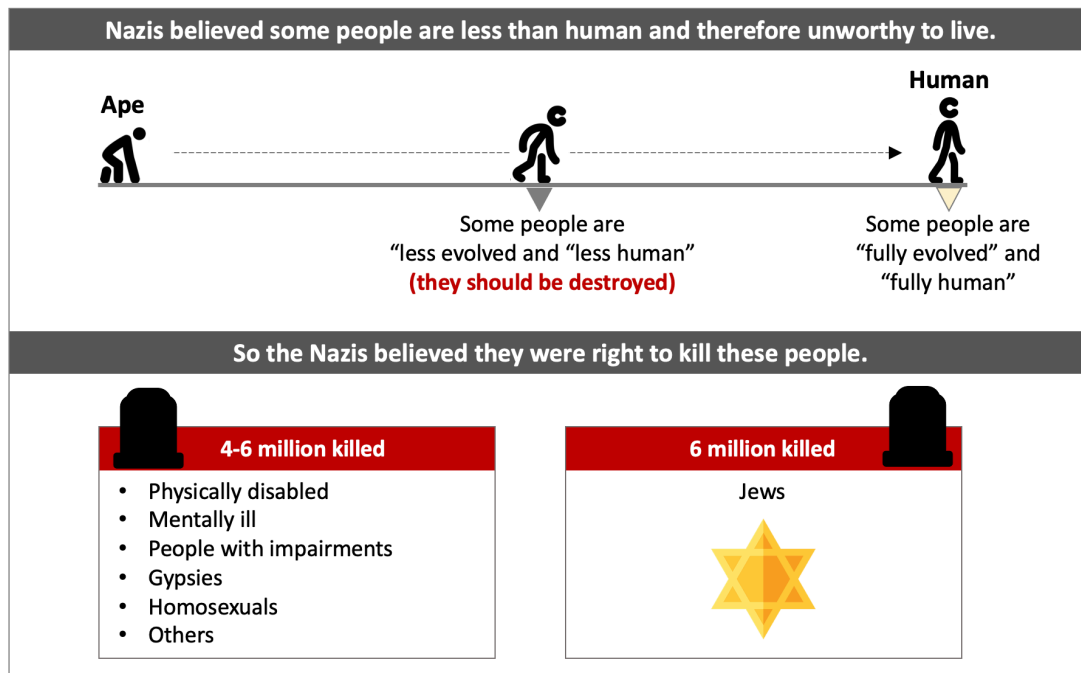


This implies there is a continuum: certain "races" are more "evolved" and therefore more "human"; other "races" are less "evolved" and therefore less "human". How do people decide who is more or less "evolved"? They look at superficial aspects of a people group like their culture, lifestyle, clothing, the types of tools they use, the sound of their language, and even their appearance.

By the 1900s, the question that was being asked was: “Who is human and who is not?” Different groups of people were judged by evil man to be not human, less human or less evolved. And this was good enough reason for evil man to practise racism, oppression and genocide.



But things did not stop there. Adolf Hitler was an evolutionist. He believed in the idea of a master race. His plan was not just to exterminate the “inferior race” (that is, the Jews), he also believed in getting rid of other people whom he judged to be less human (for example, the handicapped, mentally disabled, elderly, etc.).



Over the course of human history, many others have shared this idea of there being a superior race and therefore inferior races. This is how they justify racism and discrimination based on “race”.

However, this is not Yahweh’s view of the human beings He created. “Race” is not God’s idea. Evil man came up with it. Man has no authority to judge who is “human” and who is not. Yahweh created only one “race”: the human race. All people are made in His image. He loves and values all mankind.