

A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

The Book of Genesis

I. The First Five Books of the Bible

A. Unified

B. Name(s)

1. What this set is called – and one unfortunate translation
2. What each book is called

C. Author

1. Source

2. Instrument

a. Scriptural evidence

b. Some puzzling passages

3. Alternate “theories” (JEDP)

II. The First Book of the Bible

A. Name(s)

1. How it is referred to...
2. The uniqueness of this book (captured in its name)
 - a. Things not found *anywhere else*
 - b. How many “beginnings”?

B. Author and date

1. Source and instrument

2. The dates at which the events took place (Old Testament dating)
3. The date at which the book was written

C. Recipients

1. The people of Israel
2. Humanity

D. Setting

1. In which it takes place
 - a. Chapters 1-11
 - b. Chapters 12-50
2. In which it was written

E. Purpose

1. The origins of *things* and of *people*
2. However,... it is not a textbook of science or history
3. God traces his saving activity

F. Content

1. Confer the outline
 - a. “Toledoth”
 - b. Abram/Abraham the link or dividing line
 - c. Emphasis on God’s “saving activity”
 - d. Chronicles inserts
2. The whole of Christian doctrine already scripted

An Outline of the Book of Genesis

Theme: The Beginning History of God's Saving Activity

Introduction: The creation account as vital background (1:1-2:3)

I. The early history of God's saving activity in the original world (2:4-11:26)

- A. The "toledoth" of heaven and earth (2:4-4:26)
- B. The "toledoth" of Adam (5:1-6:8)
- C. The "toledoth" of Noah (6:9-9:29)
- D. The "toledoth" of the Sons of Noah (10:1-11:9)
- E. The "toledoth" of Shem (11:10-26)

II. The early history of God's saving activity among the patriarchs (11:27-50:26)

- A. The "toledoth" of Terah (11:27-25:11)
- B. The "toledoth" of Ishmael (25:12-18)
- C. The "toledoth" of Isaac (25:19-35:29)
- D. The "toledoth" of Esau (36:1-37:1)
- E. The "toledoth" of Jacob (37:2-50:26)

(Carl J. Lawrenz and John C. Jeske – A Commentary on Genesis 1-11, pp. 13,14)

1 Chronicles inserts into the reading of Genesis

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genesis 4:1-5:32... 1 Chronicles 1:1-4• Genesis 10:1-5... 1 Chronicles 1:5-7• Genesis 10:6-20... 1 Chronicles 1:8-16• Genesis 10:21-11:26... 1 Chronicles 1:17-27• Genesis 25:12-18... 1 Chronicles 1:28-31• Genesis 25:1-4... 1 Chronicles 1:32-34• Genesis 25:5-6... 1 Chronicles 1:34• Genesis 33:1-35:29... 1 Chronicles 2:1,2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genesis 36:1-43... 1 Chronicles 1:35-54• Genesis 45:1-46:9... 1 Chronicles 5:1-6• Genesis 46:10-12... 1 Chronicles 2:18-55• Genesis 46:10-12... 1 Chronicles 4:1-23• Genesis 46:13... 1 Chronicles 7:1-5• Genesis 46:14-8... 1 Chronicles 7:30-40• Genesis 46:19-25... 1 Chronicles 7:6-12 |
|---|--|

Questions for the Book of Genesis (chapter 1-11:26)

Introduction: The creation account as vital background (1:1-2:3)

1. What four “insufficiencies” can you identify in the first verses of Genesis? (1:1,2)
2. Where do you see the Trinity already in the first three verses of Genesis? (1:1-3)
3. By what name is the divine identified in this introduction? (1:1-2:3)
4. List God’s activity on each of the first six days of creation: (1:1-31)
5. God’s creating activity is not random. Comment on the “orderliness” of God’s creative activity (hint: days of filling match up with the days of forming... see image/chart on page 8)
6. What repeated phrase helps us identify the days of creation as normal 24 hour periods of time? (1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31)
7. What was God’s conclusion on each day of creation (with the exception of day two)? (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25) How was God’s conclusion different on day six? (1:31)
8. What are some of the unique features about the creation and purpose of humankind? (1:26-28)
9. What makes the seventh day unique? (2:1-3)

I. The early history of God’s saving activity in the original world: The “toledoth” of heaven and earth (2:4-4:26)

1. What divine name is first introduced in this section? (2:4) What is the significance of the change in which Moses refers to the divine?
2. This is not a “second creation story”, but a retelling of the same story with a specific agenda. Who or what is the focus of this account? (2:7, 15, 22)
3. What and where is Adam and Eve’s first place of residence? (2:8)
4. What is the significance of two trees in the middle of the garden? (2:9)
5. Are any of the places mentioned in this section familiar to us still today? (2:11-14)
6. What command and consequence did God place on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? (2:16,17) Eve was not yet created when God announced his restrictions on the Tree. How do we assume she found out about the Tree? (2:25)
7. Why did God have Adam name the animals? (2:18-20)
8. How is Adam and Eve’s “interdependence between each other” (not “independence from each other”) stressed in the creation of Eve? (2:21-23)
9. What is anachronistic about what Moses says about marriage? (2:24)

10. Who is introduced in the first verses of chapter 3? (3:1)
11. What are some of Satan's tactics for temptation to rebel against God? (3:1-5)
12. Why is Genesis 3:6 the turning point of all earthly history and a reason for which God had Moses begin to transcribe His Word into a book?
13. Where was Adam while Eve was being tempted by Satan? (3:6)
14. What is significant about the fact that God comes looking for Adam and Eve... and that Moses identifies him as "the LORD God"? (3:8,9)
15. How did Adam and Eve give evidence that they had, indeed, become unrighteous, imperfect, unholy, sinful rebels? (3:10-13)
16. Why is Genesis 3:15 the turning point of all existence (even beyond this earth) and the greater purpose for which God had Moses begin to pen the Scriptures?
17. List the consequences of Adam and Eve's fall into sin. (3:16-19)? What was God's purpose in introducing these consequences into the lives of humankind?
18. How does Adam and Eve's life in Eden end... and why? (3:20-24)
19. What blessings come to Adam and Eve? (4:1,2)
20. How did the brothers differ? (4:3-5)
21. What sad event happened? (4:8)
22. Throughout his dealings with Cain, Moses consistently refers to God as "the LORD". Why is this significant? (4:9-16)
23. Identify how Cain made it obvious he did not fear, love, or trust in the LORD. (4:16-18)
24. How do the life and words of Lamech reveal about sinful humankind? (4:19-24)
25. What is meant by the final verse of chapter 4? (4:26b)

II. The early history of God's saving activity in the original world: The "toledoth" of Adam (5:1-6:8)

1. Which sad refrain is repeated in Genesis 5? (5:5, 8, 11, 14, etc.) Someone once described the refrain as the "tolling of the bell" at a funeral!
2. Who is the exception to this refrain? (5:24)
3. What do you notice about the ages of people living in this era?
4. If you anticipate where Genesis is going, what "family tree" is Moses following?
5. What is the importance of an entire chapter of genealogy (or chapters, plural, if you are also reading the 1 Chronicles inserts)?

6. How “evil” had the world become? (6:1-6)
7. Identify the *three* ways in which God describes humankind’s “total depravity”. (6:5)
8. Why would call God “the LORD” when God announces his intent to wipe out humankind? (6:6)
9. How long did God give humankind to come to repentance? (6:3)
10. Through whom would God continue the generations? (6:8)

III. The early history of God’s saving activity in the original world: The “toledoth” of Noah (6:9-9:29)

1. How is Noah described? (6:9) What can this not mean? (9:21)
2. What instructions did Noah receive from God? (6:13-21) See chart on page 11
3. What span of time do we assume took place within vs. 22?
4. Who and what were able to join Noah on the ark? (7:1-5)
5. From where did the water come that produced the world-wide flood?” (7:11,12)
6. Give some of the details of the flood. (7:17-24)
7. What accounted for the stopping and receding of the flood waters? (8:1-5)
8. How did Noah determine that it was “safe” to leave the ark? (8:6-12)
9. What significant thing did Noah do when he first left the ark? (8:20)
10. What is stunning about God’s assessment of humankind after the flood? (8:21)
11. What promises does God make to humankind? (9:21,22)
12. What previous instructions does God reiterate to Noah and his descendants? (9:1-3)
How is it different from what God said to Adam and Eve?
13. What does God establish in Genesis 9:6 and why?
14. What sign did God give as a remembrance of his promises to Noah? (9:12)
15. Why was this an appropriate sign considering what had happened and what God was promising? (8:16)
16. Who were the three sons of Noah? (9:18-19)
17. What unsavory incident occurs? (8:20-23)
18. List the blessing or curse that Noah announces on each of his sons. (9:25-27)

IV. The early history of God's saving activity in the original world: The “toledoth” of the Sons of Noah (10:1-11:9)

1. Chapter 10 had been called the “Table of Nations”. Why is this an apt description?
2. What is significant about the order in which Moses lists the nations that descended from the sons of Noah?
3. What one person is given special mention in chapter 10? (10:8-12)
4. In your Bible underline any of the names or places that you recognize. Find them on the map on page 12
5. Shem is the ancestor of people known as “Semitic”. Why is that significant? (10:21ff)
6. Eber is the ancestor of people known as “Hebrews”. Why is that significant? (10:21ff)
7. What meaning does the last verse of chapter 10 have for today?
8. What do we find out about the nations of the world in first verses of chapter 11? (11:1)
9. Whose name is missing from the conversation humankind was having? (11:3,4)
10. From an engineering perspective, what is astounding about what the people of the world are considering? Why is that significant? (11:4)
11. Why does Moses call God, “the LORD” when he tells us about God’s intervention into humankind’s plans for world-wide, ungodly dominance? (11:5)
12. What was God’s solution to humankind’s plans? (11:5-8)
13. What happened because of the confusion of languages? (11:9)

V. The early history of God's saving activity in the original world: The “toledoth” of Shem (10:10-26)

1. What do you notice about the lifespans after the flood? (11:11, 13, 15, 17, 21, etc.)
2. What narrowing down is Moses pursuing in his genealogy of Shem? (11:24-26)
3. Who is introduced for the first time? (11:26)
4. How is the genealogy of Shem different than the previous genealogy of Adam/Seth (chapter 5)?
5. The first 11 chapters of Genesis cover an enormous amount of time with both maximum efficiency and clarity of purpose. Give at least three goals that God is accomplishing in choosing the material he wants included in His “History of the World”.

CREATION GENESIS 1-2

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DAYS 1-3

GOD FORMS THE CREATION

1



God separates the light from the darkness

1:3-5

4



God creates the sun, moon and stars

1:14-19

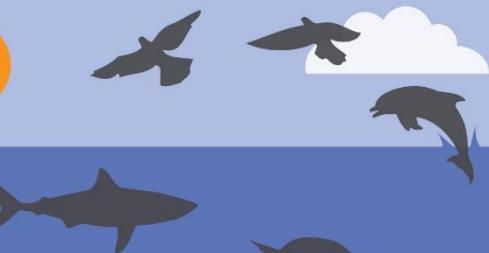
2



God separates the water from the sky

1:6-8

5



God creates the sea creatures and birds

1:20-23

3



God separates the earth from the sea

God creates vegetation

1:9-13

6



God creates the land creatures and humanity

God gives vegetation for food

1:24-31

7

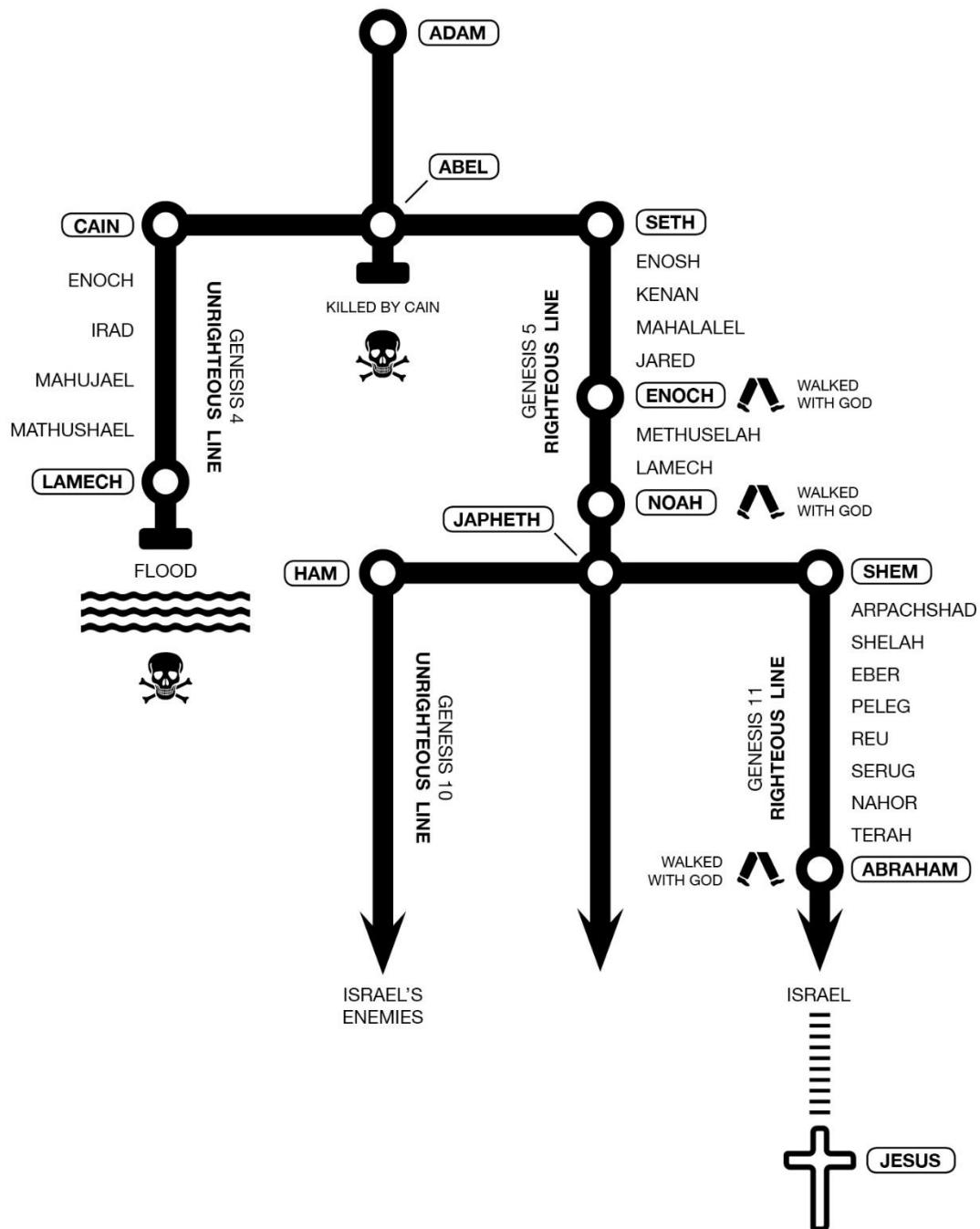
God rests from his work of creation

2:1-3

LINES of ADAM

GENESIS 4-11

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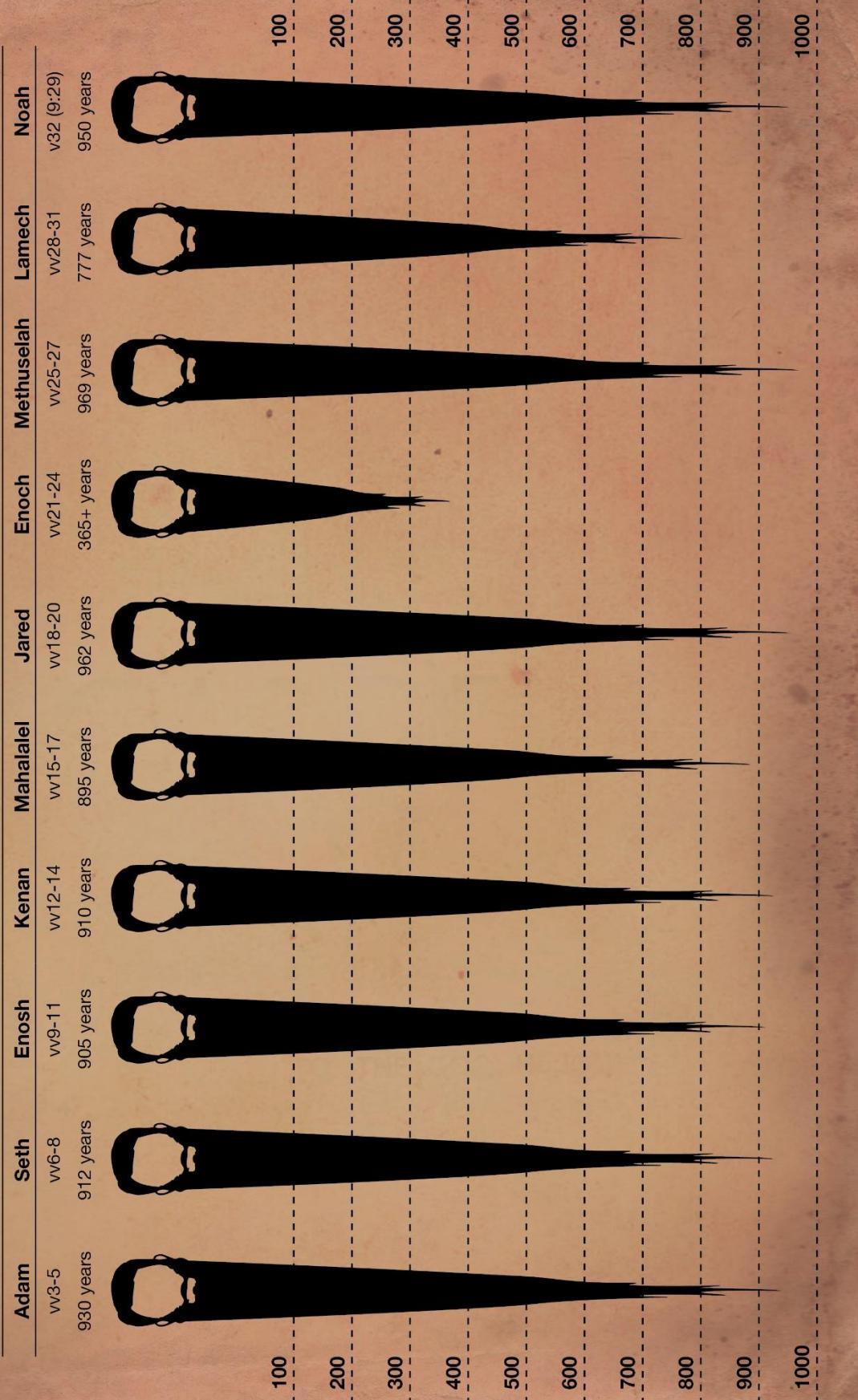


ADAM to NOAH



GENESIS 5

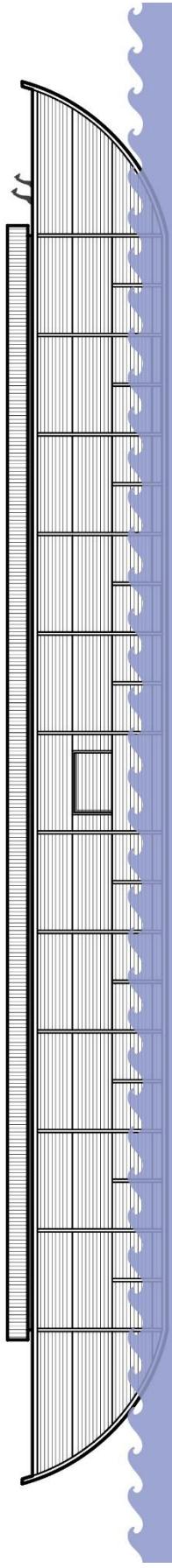
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NOAH'S ARK

GENESIS 6-9

→ LENGTH: 300 cubits = 450ft / 140m ↗ BREADTH: 50 cubits = 75ft / 23m ↓ DEPTH: 30 cubits = 45ft / 14m



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► THE WATERS INCREASE (150 DAYS)

1 ☼

6:17; 22; 7:4-5

The flood begins and Noah enters the ark along with his family and the animals.

2 ☁

7:11-12, 17

Rain falls and the depths burst open for 40 days and nights. Every living thing on the face of the earth is consumed.

3 ☁

7:24; 8:1-4

The flood remains for 150 days. The Ark comes to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

4 ☁

8:5

The waters subside until the tops of the mountains become visible.

5 ☀

8:6-7

Noah sends out a raven to scout for dry land.

6 ☀

8:8-9

Noah sends out a dove. It returns to the Ark without finding dry land.

► THE WATERS DECREASE (150 DAYS)

7 ☀

8:10-11

Again Noah sends out the dove. This time it returns with an olive leaf.

8 ☀

8:12

Once more Noah sends out the dove. This time it does not return.

9 ☀

8:13

The waters fully subside from the earth.

10 ☁

8:14-19

Noah removes the covering of the Ark, after the face of the earth begins to dry.

11 ☀

8:13

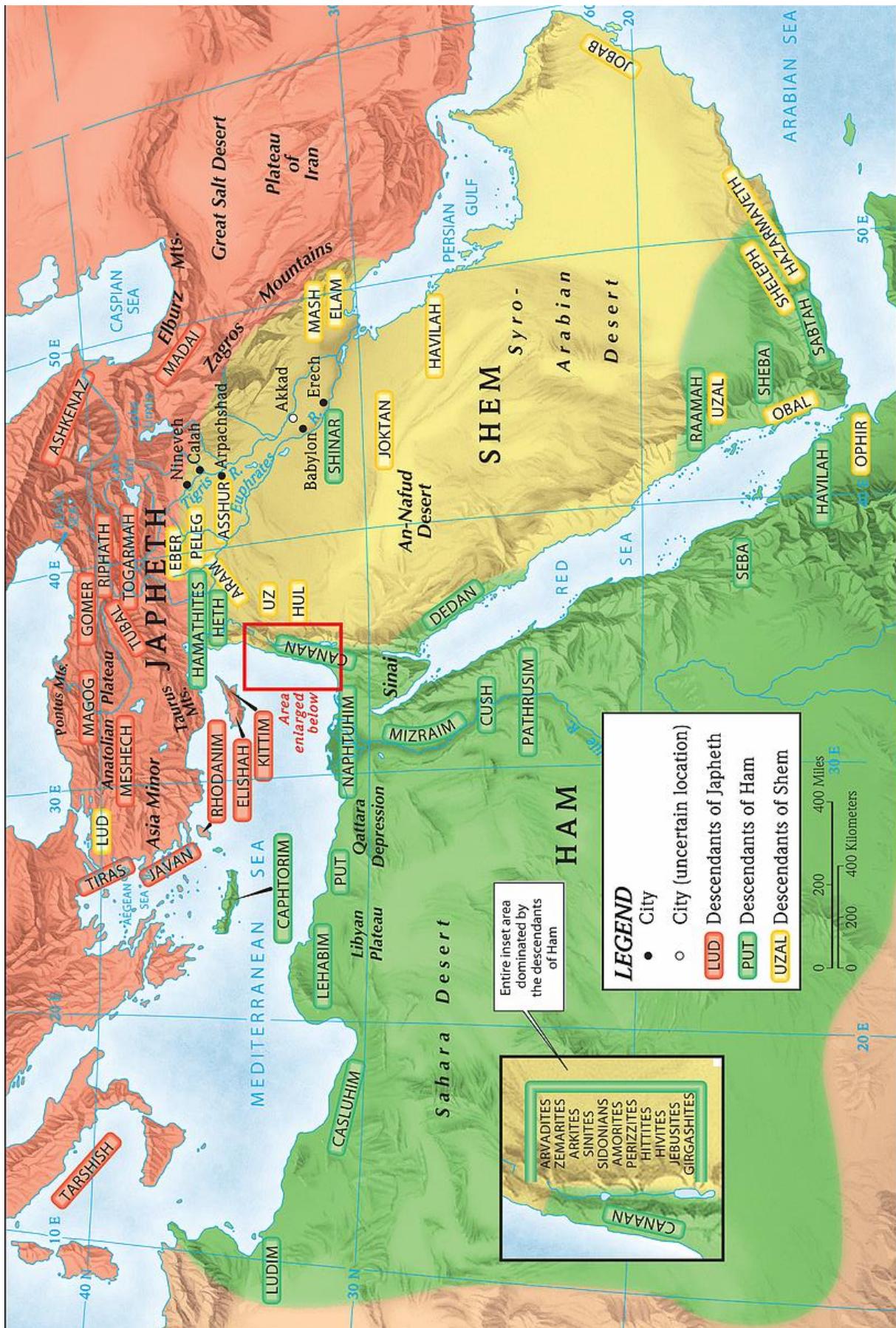
Noah commands Noah to leave the Ark, after the earth becomes fully dry.

12 ☀

8:14-19

God commands Noah to leave the Ark, after the earth becomes fully dry.

► THE EARTH DRIES OUT (70 DAYS)



SHEM to ABRAM

GENESIS 11



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