

After Noah Was 500 Years Old, He Became the Father of Shem, Ham and Japheth

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REFLECT: Do you have a family historian? Do you have a genealogical tree drawn up to pass down the line? Why do you suppose genealogies are less important today than they were to people in biblical times? How does Chapter 5 augment *your story of fall and redemption*?

Noah is the **tenth generation** and means *rest*. Contrary to what the evolutionists say, there were not billions of years between the Creation and the Flood. There were only *two generations*, from Adam to Noah. **After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.** They were not triplets. What this implies is that Noah was **500 years old** before any of them were born. **Shem** means *name*, **Ham** means *warm or hot*, **Japheth** means *fair or beautiful*.

One can only imagine the ridicule that **Noah** endured. Before the Flood there was no rain. Yet **Noah** and **his sons** built the ark. It must have been a time of grief for the godly man as the world that **he** knew became more and more evil. I am sure **his** preaching and witnessing seemed futile. **His** own brothers and sisters and their families were overwhelmed by the wicked culture and were drowning in their **sin**. It is also likely that all this affected **his** own family, but we cannot be sure. We do know that **he** had three **sons** who escaped the Flood, but it seems likely that **he**, like the others in **his** line, would have **had other sons and daughters** who rejected **his** message. But **Noah** continued, for 120 years, to be faithful and build the ark. Mrs. **Noah** must have been an incredible woman (**6:18, 7:7 and 13, 8: 16 and 18**) to stand by **his** side in the mist of the evil and corruption of their world. **He** built and **he** preached, but **his** preaching to the world did not save it because there was no repentance except for the eight who entered the ark. **His** preaching did not save **his** generation; it condemned them (**Hebrews 11:7**).

Satan was watching all of this with sinister joy. **He** always looks for our weaknesses, just as **he** did in the garden of Eden. And at just the right moment of our greatest weakness **he** steps in with temptation. If we **resist him**, **he will flee from us** (**James 4:7**). But here, **desire** had given **birth to sin**, and **sin** was growing, which would eventually give **birth to death** (**6:11 to 8:14**). What we see next is the fruit of that evil generation.