

# Genesis 9:18 -11:9

Bible Study

Chapter 9: 18-29  
Noah and his sons

Introduction to the table of nations

The curse of Canaan

**Genesis 9:18**

<sup>18</sup>Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. **And Ham was the father of Canaan.**

"And Ham was the **father** of Canaan"--would be repeated again (v.22)

- this phrase prepares the reader for the narrative that follows
- is an important statement in relation to world history--effects us to this day--especially **religiously**

▪ something was going on here just a few decades after the flood—the phrase sets the stage for Noah's prophecy as it relates to Ham's descendents

▪ notice it was Ham's descendent and not Shem's here that is emphasized

**Genesis 9:19**

<sup>19</sup>These three ~~were~~ the sons of Noah, and from these **the whole earth was populated.**

Shem, Ham and Japheth..... (and wives)

Noah had proven to be "righteous" now his sons course of actions would come to light--and how would that effect humanity

### Genesis 9:20-21

<sup>20</sup>And Noah began *to be* a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.

<sup>21</sup>Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

Noah makes a mistake—however in Hebrews 11: 7 he is called “heir of righteousness”

➤ It is not stated here but most likely he repented

### Genesis 9:21

<sup>21</sup>Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

“became uncovered”: (BKC) (Heb.)—  
“uncovered himself” a reflexive verb

“**uncovered in his tent**”—the expression  
‘nakedness uncovered’ is used in Lev. 18  
denotes sexual relations

Repeated from v. 18

### Genesis 9:22

<sup>22</sup>And Ham, **the father of Canaan**, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

(BKC) “To the ancients, even seeing one’s father naked was a breach of family ethic. The sanctity of the family was destroyed and the strength of the father was made a mockery

...Ham went out and exultingly told his two brothers, as if he had triumphed over his father”

“saw the nakedness of his father”

(BKC) “The Hebrew expression here means what it says: Ham...saw his father’s nakedness.

He was not involved with Noah sexually, for in that case the Hebrew would be translated ‘he uncovered his father’s nakedness’

(Expositors) “Since some scholars have interpreted Exodus 20: 24-26 as a prohibition of Canaanite forms of worship, there may be an **intended link between Ham and the Canaanites in the notion of nakedness**”

### Genesis 9:23

<sup>23</sup>But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid *it* on both their shoulders, and **went backward and covered the nakedness** of their father. Their **faces were turned away**, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.

Ham’s action was not honorable...Shem and Japheth's were

➤ Character traits

The contrast between the deeds of the brothers is being emphasized

That contrast is the basis for the cursing in the later verses

## Genesis 9:24

<sup>24</sup>So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his **younger son** had done to him.

Implies Ham at first glance...however:

(Barnes) Heb: "his son the little"

(JFB)('the little, small son)—perhaps referring to Canaan the grandson

v. 25-27 Noah's prophecy (1<sup>st</sup> recorded prophecy by a man in OT)

"**And**" (OKJ)

<sup>25</sup>Then he said: "**Cursed *be* Canaan**; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."

(JFB) Probably a long interval between v. 24-25

Hebrew conjunction "**and**" (OKJ) does not indicate immediate sequence, but is used to connect recorded events separated from each other

## Genesis 9:26-27

<sup>26</sup>And he said: "Blessed *be* the Lord, The God of **Shem**, And may Canaan be his servant.

<sup>27</sup> May God enlarge **Japheth**, And may he dwell in the tents of **Shem**; And may Canaan be his servant."

Noah's prophecy

First time a man is recorded as uttering a curse

### Genesis 9:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Then he said: "**Cursed be Canaan**; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."

<sup>26</sup>And he said: "Blessed *be* the Lord, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.

<sup>27</sup> May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant."

1. The accuracy of this prophecy
2. Noah's words, though not stated **effect the future**
3. Shem and Japheth are blessed but **Ham is not**

➤ Most likely Noah had come to see the character of Ham...probably influenced by the corrupt world before the flood

Why is Canaan cursed and not Ham?

1) Some commentaries say that Ham could not be cursed because he has been blessed previously by God (Gen. 9:1)

2) The fact that Canaan's name is mentioned here  
➤ he could have been the one who did the wrong...

But Ham shares the **blame indirectly**--the shame of the father

## Genesis 9:25

<sup>25</sup>Then he said: “Cursed *be* **Canaan**; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.”

(Vines): verse 25-27 "stamps a **theological** significance on "**Canaan**"-  
➤ in other words part of this curse has to do with **religion**

The Canaanites, later called Phoenicians practiced a debauch and sexually perverted form of religion

Canaanite religion was centered on sex and its manifestations

(Vines) “Canaanite “--became synonymous with religious and moral perversions of every kind”

(Merril Unger: Archaeology and the O.T.) “That **Canaan’s curse** was basically **religious** has been amply demonstrated by the discovery of the Canaanite religious text...in North Syria.....

These texts corroborated the estimate of older scholars as Lenormant, who said of the Canaanite religion, ‘no other people ever rivaled them in the mixture of bloodshed and debauchery’”

## Genesis 9:25

<sup>25</sup>Then he said: “Cursed *be* Canaan; **A servant of servants** He shall be to his brethren.”

“servant”—used 1<sup>st</sup> time here: signifies **labor, service of any kind**  
(JFB) “but not that servitude which was afterwards called by the name of slavery”

“servant of servants” – “A Hebrew superlative, described a state of the most abject degradation....this malediction took effect in the **moral degradation** of the Canaanites, expulsion from the land, and reduction to....servitude” (JFB)

Another aspect of this:



The Canaanite **religion** had a strong influence and became a **form of slavery to Israel**--Israelites became *cultural descendents* of the Canaanites because they adopted Canaan' spiritual traditions

Ex. 13: 3 "out from bondage"--Israel was in spiritual bondage as much as they were in physical bondage



## Abomination of the Canaanites:

v. 25 (middle part) “a servant of servants”  
(RSV) “a slave of slaves”

“Baal” —was the chief god of the Canaanites  
“Baal’= means ‘possessor’  
Worshippers of Baal were **slaves** to it

Lev. 18: 21- 27

God calls the idolatrous practices of the people of Canaan—abominations

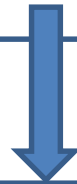
### **Leviticus 18:27**

<sup>27</sup>(for all these **abominations** the men of the land have done, who *were* before you, and thus the land is defiled),

## Genesis 9:26

<sup>26</sup>And he said: “Blessed *be* the Lord, **The God of Shem**, And may Canaan be his servant.

Noah was blessing the Lord because he was Shem’s God



Shem worshipped God

➤ God’s blessings would come through his descendents

Blessings: Physical blessings through Abraham  
Spiritual blessings through Christ—Abraham’s descendent

(v.26 last part )“And may Canaan be his servant.”

Israel conquered Canaan while entering the promised land and Canaan was partly exterminated and **subjugated to servitude by Israel**, especially in the early days of the monarchy

## Genesis 9:27

<sup>27</sup> May God **enlarge** Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.”

‘enlarge’—used in a sense that God will allow Japheth to grow

Most of his descendents became peoples with large populations

“And may he dwell in the tents of Shem:”—implies friendly sharing of one’s hospitality and blessings

Partly fulfilled where the descendents of Japheth have benefited from Shem’s descendents:  
Mexicans and other Latinos in the U.S.; Chinese and Japanese on the west coast

India, Hong Cong, Singapore under the British

“And may Canaan be his servant”

—slavery repeated for those Canaanites who survived subjugation by the Israelites....as they were conquered later by Greeks, Romans, Persians (of Japheth)

## Genesis 9:28-29

<sup>28</sup>And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

<sup>29</sup>So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died

## Chapter 10: table of nations

## Background information:

Chapter 10 lists 70 nations from the sons of Noah

- Unique in world literature—the Bible is the only source of information as to where the nations came from

(Word): "This list does not purport to be an exhaustive list of the nations of the world; rather it mentions the major peoples known to Israel and their relationship to each other and to Israel."

The purpose of the table of nations is not to primarily trace ancestry. But it shows political, geographical and ethnic affiliations....the major tribes in and around the promised land

Chapter 10 contains many **historical notes**: information about peoples who would come under God's judgment—Babylon, Assyria, Canaan, Sodom and Gomorrah, Sidon

Many of the nations recorded in chapter 10 disappear from the scriptural record, but they reappear in the **prophetic books**... many of them in connection with **end-time events**

**Chronologically** Chapter 11: 1-9 (tower of Babel and dispersion of the nations) should be before the table of nations in chapter 10

(Unger) "The reason it is placed after this event is that insertion before the table of nations would have obscured the introduction to the table of nations (Ch. 9:18-27)

## Genesis 10:1

<sup>1</sup>Now this *is* the genealogy of the sons of Noah: **Shem, Ham, and Japheth**. And sons were born to them after the flood.

Seven sons of Japheth mentioned first—they form the largest part of humanity  
Few details are mentioned because they are of the least consequence to Israel...but they show up in prophecy later in the OT

## Genesis 10:2

<sup>2</sup>The **sons of Japheth** were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

1) Gomer—Southeast Asia  
Cambodia, Burma, Indonesia, etc

2) Magog—Asiatics:  
China, Korea, Japan

3) Madai—Medes:  
Eurasian people: Ukraine,  
Romania, Poland

4) Javan—Greeks

5) Tubal (Tobolsk)—Siberia

6) Meshech (Moskva)--  
Moscow

7) Tiras—Indians of the Americas  
Tauri --(Greeks: sea people,  
pirates)  
Tarasacan Indians of Mexico

Russians

### **Genesis 10:2-3**

<sup>2</sup>The sons of Japheth *were* Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

<sup>3</sup>The sons of Gomer *were* Ashkenaz, <sup>£</sup>Riphath, and Togarmah.



### **Ezekiel 38:2-3**

<sup>2</sup>“Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, <sup>£</sup>the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

<sup>3</sup>and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

<sup>6</sup>Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from* the far north and all its troops—many people *are* with you.

Ezekiel 38-39—a prophecy of Gog of Magog and his allies that will come into the land of Israel with a vast invasion force in the ‘latter days’

**Genesis 10:3**

<sup>3</sup>The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, <sup>ƒ</sup>Riphath, and Togarmah.

Southeast Asiatics

In ancient times lived near the Black  
Sea

Togormah—Siberian,  
Mongolian Asiatics

**Ezekiel 27:14**

<sup>14</sup>Those from the house of Togarmah traded for your wares with horses, steeds, and mules.

Associated with end time Tyre (Babylon) and its great merchant system

### Genesis 10:4

<sup>4</sup>The sons of Javan *were* Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and <sup>£</sup>Dodanim.

Greeks

Mediterranean peoples—kin to the Greeks

Elishah--Cyprus

Kittim—Cyprus and  
Southern Italy

Dodanim—Isle of Rhodes  
(Rodanim)

Tarshish—Spain and  
Portugal

Daniel 11: 30 “For the ships of Chittum (Cyprus NKJ) shall  
come against him”

➤ Roman fleets from Cyprus that prevented Antiochus  
from sacking Egypt

### Ezekiel 27:12

<sup>12</sup>“Tarshish *was* your merchant because of your many luxury goods. They gave you silver, iron,  
tin, and lead for your goods.

### Genesis 10:5

<sup>5</sup>From these the coastland *peoples* of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone  
according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.



## Genesis 10:6

<sup>6</sup>The **sons of Ham** *were* Cush, Mizraim, <sup>£</sup>Put, and Canaan.

Ham—Africa, Middle East, India

Cush—original Babylonians  
Two branches: East Africa (blacks),  
India (Browns)

Put—  
Two branches: Libya,  
northern and central  
Africa (blacks)  
Pakistan, India (browns)

Mizraim--Egypt

Canaan—originally settled in Palestine (Phoenicians), but later subdued by many peoples and end up in So. Europe, Italy

## Genesis 10:7

<sup>7</sup>The sons of **Cush** *were* Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah *were* Sheba and Dedan.

Seba—brown people of South India and Ceylon

Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabtechah—Cushite tribes of the **Arabian peninsula**.... They become mingled with other Arabic tribes of Arabia

## Genesis 10:8

<sup>8</sup>Cush begot **Nimrod**; he began to be **a mighty one** on the earth.

Founder of Babylon

Historical note

Imperial power first appears on Earth

## Genesis 10:9

<sup>9</sup>He was a **mighty hunter** *before* the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the **mighty hunter** *before* the Lord."

"a hunter"—the opposite of an ideal king (shepherd)

"before"= against...when properly translated: 'in place of God'

(Companion) "Nimrod the founder of Babylon, which partook of his character as being the great antagonist of God's truth and God's people"

Entire plain of Babylonia

## Genesis 10:10

<sup>10</sup>And the **beginning** of his kingdom was **Babel**, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of **Shinar**.

## Genesis 10:11-12

<sup>11</sup>From that land he went to **Assyria** and built **Nineveh**, Rehoboth Ir, Calah,  
<sup>12</sup>and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (*that is* the principal city).

The cities and empire he built became enemies of Israel

# Map of Ancient Near East



Nimrod's empire:

Nineveh  
Calah  
(Calneh)

Babylon

Hebrew name for Egypt

**Genesis 10:13-14**

<sup>13</sup>**Mizraim** begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,  
<sup>14</sup>Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim).

Ludim—Lydia (western Asia  
minor....central Sahara  
north Africa

Anamin—tribes in  
No.Africa bordering  
Egypt

Lebahim—originally  
Libya...scattered in western Sudan

Naphtuhim—central Egypt

Pathrusim—Southern Egypt

Casluhim

Philistines--Palestine

Caphtorim--Crete

## Genesis 10:15

<sup>15</sup>Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth;

Canaanites originally settled in  
Palestine

Sidon—west coast of  
the Mediterranean

Heth—Hittites of north of  
Palestine

## Genesis 10:16-17

<sup>16</sup>the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Gergashite;

<sup>17</sup>the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;

Descendents of Canaan who occupied the promised land when Israel conquered it...they are mentioned because they would come into **contact with Israel**

## Genesis 10:18 (first part)

<sup>18</sup>the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite.

Many of these were put to forced labor under Solomon in his building projects...fulfilling Noah's prophecy of being servants to Shem

v. 18 (last part)

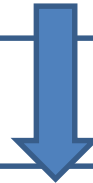
‘Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed’-- (OKJ) **“spread abroad”**

Canaanites were called Phoenicians by the  
Greeks

“Spread abroad”:

1) Phoenician (Canaanites) were sailors and established many colonies in the Mediterranean world

2) They were subjugated by conquerors of Palestine (Greeks, Romans, Persians) and taken away



Many were settled in the southern Mediterranean countries: Southern Italy, Sicily, Southern Spain and Portugal

### Genesis 10:19

<sup>19</sup>And the **border of the Canaanites** was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

The **land** of the Canaanites is described from border to border because this would be the land of promise to Israel

### Genesis 10:20

<sup>20</sup>These *were* the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands *and* in their nations.

Several details and notes are given of Ham's descendents in verses 6-20 because of their frequent and obvious **contact with the Israelites**

(Barnes) "Babylon, Cush, Egypt and Canaan are the powers that come into contact with Shem....hence it is that in the table of nations special attention is directed to Cush, Nimrod, Mizraim and to the tribes and borders of Canaan"

## The sons of Shem:

### Genesis 10:21

<sup>21</sup>And *children* were born also to **Shem**, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder.

The chosen line is dealt with last

Ham not mentioned

Eber— 'Hebrew'

Who is the oldest?

(NKJV Margin): 'or the older brother of Japheth'

(NIV) (last part)

"Shem, whose older brother was Japheth" (OKJ) "Japheth the elder"

The descendents of Shem are repeated in chapter 11, but with fewer details

(Expositors) "It is significant that **another genealogy** of Shem is repeated after the building of Babylon.

In arranging the descendents of Shem in such a way, the author draws a dividing line through the descendents of Shem on either side of the city of Babylon.

The dividing line is between the two sons of Eber, Peleg and Joktan. One line leads to the building of Babylon, the other to the family of Abraham"



### Genesis 10:22

<sup>22</sup>The sons of Shem *were* Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

Elam: Poles-Slavs-Czechs-  
Romanians

Asshur: (Assyria)  
Germans-Austrians

Arphaxad: Abraham (Israel)  
Southwest Europeans (Chaldeans)

Lud: Adriatic—  
Albania, etc

Israel had close relations with Aramaeans  
(Isaac's wife Rebekah from Aram) Gen.25:20

Anciently Aramaean's occupied much of Palestine

- Aramaic language was closely related to Hebrew, became the international language of trade and diplomacy in the Middle East
- One of the three languages that the Bible was originally written

### Genesis 10:23

<sup>23</sup>The sons of Aram *were* Uz, Hul, Gether, and <sup>£</sup>Mash.

Present day Syria

Scattered peoples: European Russia, Armenia,

### Genesis 10:24

<sup>24£</sup>Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber.

## Genesis 10:25

<sup>25</sup>To Eber were born two sons: the name of one *was* **Peleg**, **for in his days the earth was divided**; and his brother's name *was* Joktan.

Peleg= 'to divide' (Heb.)—a prophetic name ...great events would take place in his lifetime



“for in his days the earth was divided”—refers to people being divided...the dispersal of nations at the tower of Babel

Peleg's descendents, **leading to Abraham** are not listed in this chapter...

They are listed in chapter 11: 18-26 (**after Babylon**)

The rest of the chapter lists the descendents of Joktan.....

And leads up to the story of Babylon

## Genesis 10:26-29

<sup>26</sup>Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

<sup>27</sup>Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

<sup>28</sup>Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

<sup>29</sup>Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these *were* the sons of Joktan.

<sup>30</sup>And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east.

Arabs

(Word) “Tribes in Southern Arabia claim that pure Arabs are descended from Joktan (Yoqtan)

The connection of Joktan with South Arabia seems to be confirmed by the names of his sons. They lend themselves to Arabic etymologies, and some may be **located in Arabia.**”

**Two** ethnic stocks of Arabs:

1) Arabian Arabs from Joktan

Southern Arabs (settled people, towns)

2) Arabicized Arabs from Ishmael

Northern Arabs (nomads)

(Phillip K. Hitti--History of the Arabs) “this gulf between the two Arabian stocks was never bridged. The age old division continued to be as pronounced as ever, even after Islam had apparently unified the Arabian nation”


### Genesis 10:31

<sup>31</sup>These *were* the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.

### Genesis 10:32

<sup>32</sup>These *were* the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and **from these the nations were divided on the earth** after the flood.

The summary statement of chapter 11—  
The nations that descended from Noah's  
sons after the flood



“from these the nations were divided”—  
anticipates the dispersal after Babel

## Chapter 11: 1-9 Tower of Babel—founding of Babylon

### Genesis 11:1

<sup>1</sup>Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

Aprox: 100 yrs after the flood  
326 yrs. Before the call of Abraham

(Keil and Delitzch): estimate around 30,000 people

They had not dispersed  
“Be fruitful and multiply, **fill the earth**” (Gen. 9:2)

### Genesis 11:2

→ ‘eastward’

<sup>2</sup>And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

The generations of Noah traveled southward from Armenia (ark rested) and the moved east

Shinar: term for the plain of Babylonia

(Expositors) “in the Genesis narratives, when man goes east, he leaves the land of blessing, and goes to a land where his greatest hopes will turn to ruin , i.e. Babylon, Sodom”

### Genesis 11:3

<sup>3</sup>Then they said to one another, “**Come**, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

“Come: (OKJ): “Go to”= action and (scornful) exhortation

“bake them thoroughly”—to be more durable and last through the ages

(last part)—a comparison of building techniques between Babylon and Israel  
“brick for stone”—use of brick in Babylon common, in Israel stone  
Asphalt common used in Babylon instead of mortar

### Genesis 11:4 (2256 BC)

<sup>4</sup>And they said, “**Come**, let us build ourselves a **city**, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

“a city”—the nucleus and origin of the famous capital

Could have been a type of observatory to worship the sun, moon and stars

(Adam Clarke) “Two of the Jewish Targum says that the tower was used for worship and idolatry and they intended to put an image on the peak of the tower....it is certain that the purpose of the tower was for idolatry”

“lest we be scattered over the face of the earth”—against God’s command to fill the earth

## Genesis 11:5

<sup>5</sup>But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

“came down”—in judgment

(Gen. 18:21) God went down—Sodom and Gomorrah were judged

## Genesis 11:6

<sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

Reflects back to previous chapters of descending from Noah and Adam

(Word) “makes this narrative prior to chapter 10 when the various nations of the world were established”

“this is what they begin to do”—the forerunner of yet more possible transgression

“now nothing that they propose to do”  
(NSB) “The potential is that humankind will become as willfully sinful as they were before the flood”

### Genesis 11:7

<sup>7</sup>Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

"Confuse their language..." –forcing them to scatter upon the earth...what they did not want to do

### Genesis 11:8

<sup>8</sup>So the Lord **scattered** them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building **the city**.

What they tried to prevent happened to them in judgment

The tower is not mentioned because it is the **name of the city** that is most important

### Genesis 11:9

<sup>9</sup>Therefore its name is called **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.

To the Babylonians "Babel" meant: the gate of the god

Hebrew Babel meant: confusion, mixed-up



The story of the tower of Babel was the last judgment that occurred to mankind in those primeval ancient times

A link of the fate between Babylon and Sodom in Genesis:

1) Both are from Ham, via Nimrod and Canaan

2) In both God 'came down' to see what was happening



**Isaiah 13:19**

<sup>19</sup> And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

(Expositors) "The tower of Babel is not followed immediately by a hopeful sequel; the years roll on without a hope of renewal. The last word is Babel. It is as if to say, man must leave Babel, its proud dreams and God-defying ways, if there is to be hope.

And it is with Terah and Abraham departing from Ur in southern Babylonia that the saving history of the patriarchs begins"