



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- **Discussion** – churches hold what they call “Seeker” services all the time, but is anyone really seeking?
 - Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God.”
 - People may seek for the benefits that come through knowing God, but that is not the same as seeking Him.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 10:1 Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.
- **Genesis 10 is a chapter that contains what many theologians call a “Table of Nations”.**
- All nations that exist today, and that have ever existed, came from the genealogies of Genesis chapter 10.



In the Beginning

- I am struck by the number of people who are so caught up into their ancestry – a lot of money is being made on this curious interest.
- Internet sites like www.23andme.com will provide a DNA profile that will show the likely places in the world your ancestors lived.
- Beyond your parents, and grandparents is there any value to knowing that my DNA indicates I am 1/64 Scottish?





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In the Beginning

- The records in Chapter 10 are not exhaustive, but selective – not every immediate descendant of Noah and his sons are mentioned.
- There are three sections in this genealogy – one for Shem, one for Ham, and one for Japheth.
- Each of these three sections has three categories. First, the son is listed; Japheth, Ham, Shem; secondly, the descendants of the son are listed; and thirdly, a summary is given concerning their offspring.



Noah's Sons (Genesis 10)



JAPHETH

HAM

SHEM

(Gen 10:2-5)

(Gen 10:6-20)

(Gen 10:21-30)

7 sons

4 sons

5 sons

**Europe and
Asia**

**Southwest Asia,
Canaan, Africa**

**Middle East
Shemites**

Noah

Ham

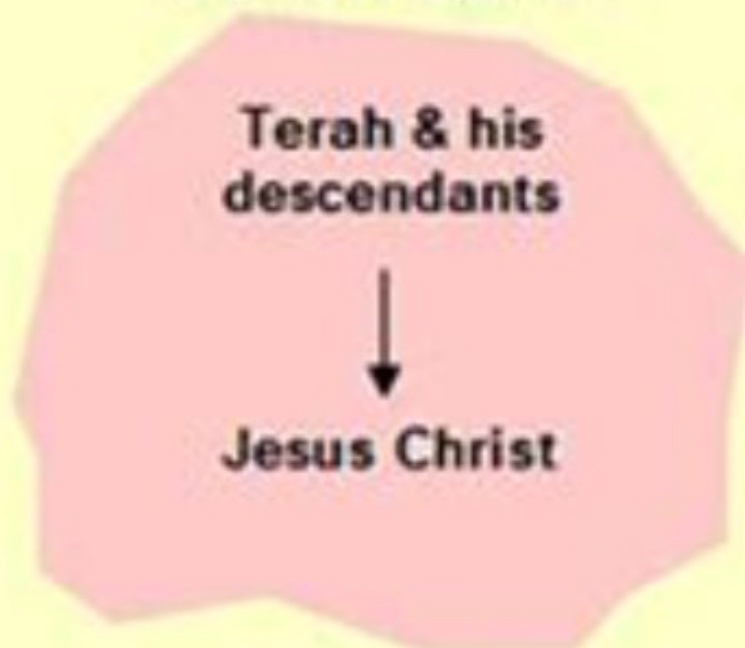
POLYTHEISTS



World system:
Role in Bible times
*Babylon, Egypt, North
Africa, Syria, Jordan*

Shem

MONOTHEISTS



Semitic peoples
Jews & Arabs

Japheth

POLYTHEISTS



World system:
Role in end times
*Europe, Russia,
Iran, Iraq*

Polytheistic religions include:

Hinduism
Mahayana Buddhism
Confucianism
Taoism
Shintoism
Tribal religions in the Americas and Africa
Modern Neopaganism

With the exception of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, most world religions are characterized by polytheism.



JAPHETH

HAM

SEM

EUROPE

EGYPT

Persian Gulf

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Mount Ararat

Dnieper River

Kama River

Irtysh

Ob River

Lake Balkhash

Aral Sea

Amu Darya River

Indus River

Arabian Sea

Lake Chad

Nile River

TARSHISH

TARSHISH

JAVAN

TIRAN

GOMER

ASHKENAZ

LUD MESHACH

TUBAL

TOKARMAH

GOMER

INDIAN

HEBER

Haran

Nineveh

Calah

CAPHTORIM

PHILISTIA

ELAM

MEADAI

CEILAHIM

PUT

LUBIM

PHILISTIA

TUBAL

HEBER

ELAM

Haran

Nineveh

Calah

MEZRAIM

Memphis

SINAI

JERUSALEM

ELAM

Haran

Nineveh

Calah

PATHRUSIM

DEDAN

Arabian Desert

HAVILAH

HAVILAH

RAAMAH

SEBA

SEBA

BAZARMAVEDI

PUT

HAM

SEM

In the Beginning

- Genesis 10:8 Now Cush became the father of 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.”
- In other words, if you wanted to say somebody was really powerful, you would say he was like Nimrod. He was the prototypical powerful guy.



In the Beginning

- Nimrod is the instigator behind the building of the Tower of Babel in chapter 11.
- He turns out to be the icon for rebellious mankind even with the devastation of the flood in his recent past.
- Nimrod was the grandson of Ham and would surely have heard stories of the flood from both Ham and Noah.



In the Beginning

- According to the historian Josephus, Nimrod “said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to reach. And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers”.
- It is the mark of history’s fools that they thought themselves more important, and more powerful than God.

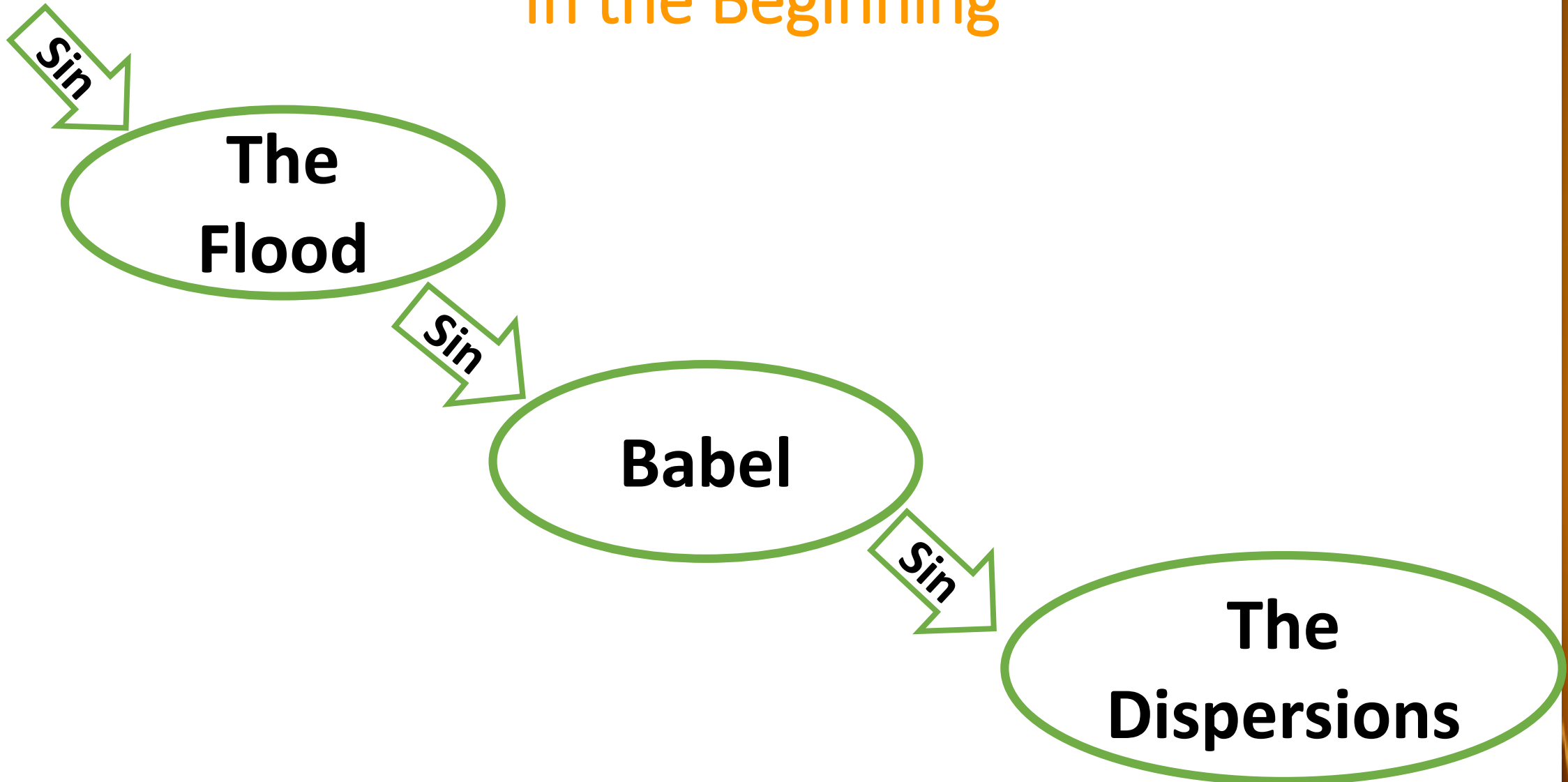


In the Beginning

- Nimrod was rebellious against God, just like his antediluvian forebears, and, according to Josephus, he “persuaded [his subjects] not to ascribe [their strength] to God, as if it were through His means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness”.
- Like all rebels he is not content to “enjoy” his sin alone, but needs to drag others down along with him.
- Spiritual rebels are usually intensely insecure in their path – as they should be because they are on a path to judgment!



In the Beginning



In the Beginning

- Nimrod will eventually lead a worldwide rebellion against God – what an arrogant, evil, fool he proved to be.
- Nimrod was not alone though – once again most of the world will turn from God despite the nearly first-hand knowledge of how God judges sin.
- The testimonies of the flood from Ham, Shem, and Japheth seem to have had no effect whatsoever on the spiritual condition of mankind.



In the Beginning

- We should not be surprised by this because it is the story of history – sin has infected the human race and the only remedy is Jesus Christ.
- We must wonder a bit about what the “gospel” message would have been in the days after the flood.
- We know that before the flood the message was “repent, judgment is coming” and that was faithfully preached by Noah with no recorded conversions beyond his family.



In the Beginning

So what about after the flood – what do you think the “gospel” message sounded like after the flood?



In the Beginning

- After the flood, Noah and his sons had proof of God keeping His word.
- They could point to the flood, and surely the evidence of their first hand testimonies would be believed and bring about repentance, wouldn't they?
- Sadly, we already know how that went – the message of salvation, in all its forms, has never had anything but a small audience of a few.



In the Beginning

- There is probably a universal and common reason for why the “gospel” in any age is believed by just a few – what might that be?
- The sin nature wants no restraints, and mankind in general wants to be their own god.
- Romans 1 describes the symptoms and Romans 2 does a thorough follow-up.



In the Beginning

- Many wrong ways
- Seed robbed by the devil
- No interest in any way
- Frank Sinatra syndrome
- Blind to the need for any way
- There is little resistance to the wrong ways
- Others have convinced them they are good enough
- Blinded by sin and affection for the world



In the Beginning

- Romans 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. 3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?



In the Beginning

- Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to each person according to his deeds: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 11:1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” 5 The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 The Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. 7 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 the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.



In the Beginning

- As we open chapter 11 there is a focus on languages – “Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.”
- This is like saying we all speak English and have the same vocabulary.
- In other words, there were no communication gaps to be filled – they all had clarity when each other spoke.



In the Beginning

- This is not as obvious as you might think – having the same language is not the same as having the same vocabulary.
- New Yorkers live in apartments; Londoners live in flats.
- Brits call the front of a car the bonnet, while Americans call it the hood.



In the Beginning

- These are not insurmountable differences, but without those differences communications would be far more seamless.
- Even in America, vocabulary changes from region to region – what we call “soft drinks” in the north might well be “pop” in the south.
- What is more classic than “y’all” versus “y’uns”.



In the Beginning

- All of the nations of the world and all of the languages of the world started because of the action that God took at Babel.
- And even that could be said to be a reaction to the actions of man – so what might that tell us?
- I think it tells us that on the new earth in eternity we will all speak one language and be one nation.



In the Beginning

- Just as the world at large believes that all that we see evolved from nothing, they also believe that all languages just sort of evolved.
- But, in Genesis 11:7 we read, “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”
- The languages of the world did not evolve as people moved away from each other – the languages were changed in a day by a direct act of God.





The Origins of Language

In the Beginning

- A common language expedites the advancement of everything, including sin.
- And from the flood account we know that God is not going to stand idly by and watch the destruction of His people and His creation.
- He decides to act, He decides to intervene and put some speed bumps in the way of mankind – He will not handcuff men so that they cannot sin, but He will act to impede them.

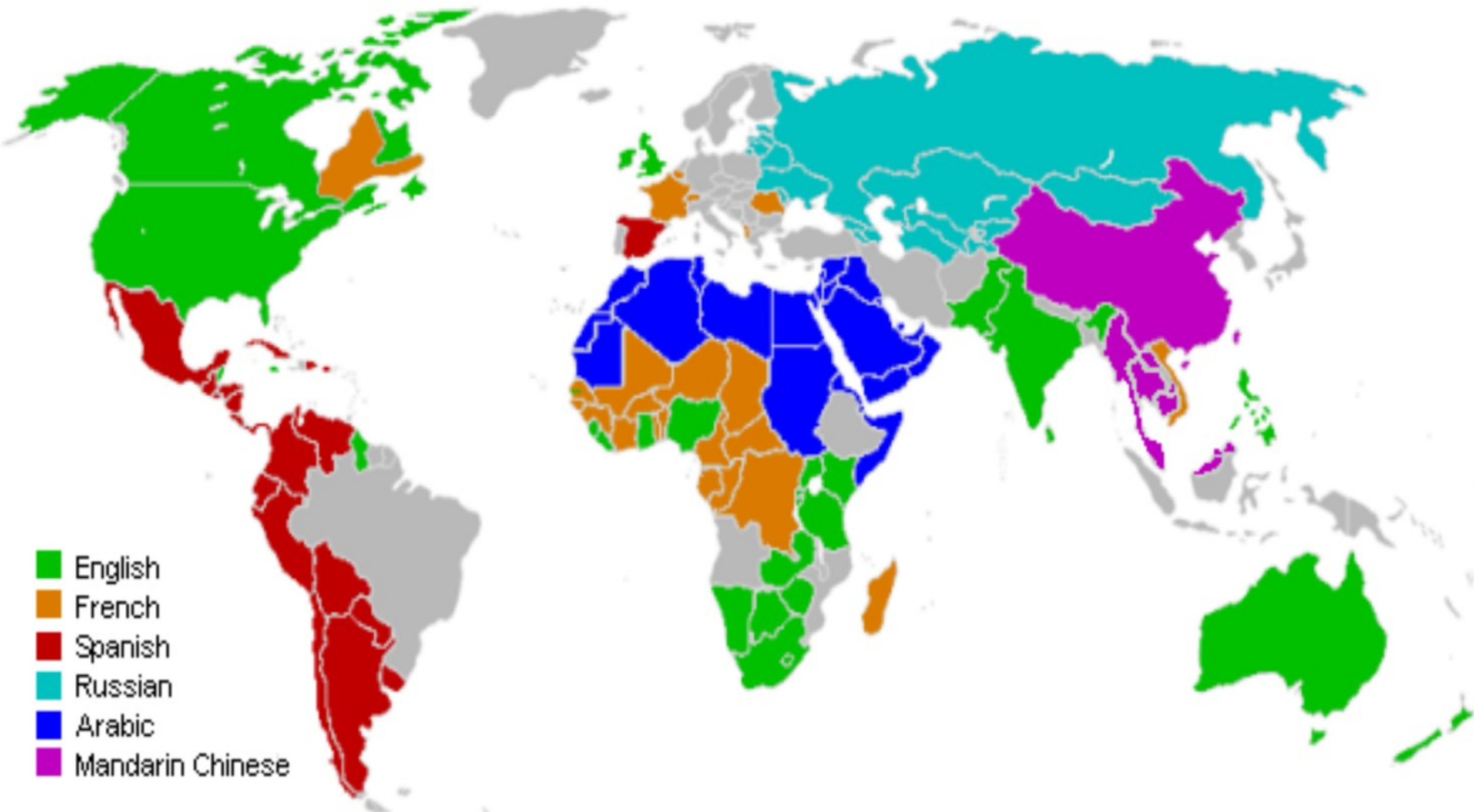


In the Beginning

- It would be interesting to know what language was spoken in the Antediluvian world and the post flood world.
- At the tower of Babel about 1,750 years had passed since creation so you can imagine the sophistication their language would have had.
- One language for 1,750 years of the universe and today, because of Babel, we have roughly 6,500 languages. However, about 2,000 of those languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers.



Rank	Language	Native Speakers in Millions	% of World's Population
1	Mandarin	955	14.10%
2	Spanish	405	5.85%
3	English	360	5.52%
4	Hindi	310	4.46%
5	Arabic	295	4.23%
6	Portuguese	215	3.08%
7	Bengali (Bangla)	155	3.05%
8	Russian	125	2.42%
9	Japanese	125	1.92%
10	Punjabi	100	1.44%
11	German	95	1.39%
		3140	47.46%



- English
- French
- Spanish
- Russian
- Arabic
- Mandarin Chinese

BILINGUALISM AROUND THE WORLD



20% OF
AMERICANS
ARE BILINGUAL.



SPEAKING 2
LANGUAGES
IMPROVES BRAIN
EFFICIENCY &
PERFORMANCE.



55 MILLION
AMERICANS SPEAK
A LANGUAGE OTHER
THAN ENGLISH AT
HOME.



THERE ARE
6,909 DISTINCT
LANGUAGES
SPOKEN AROUND
THE WORLD.



OVER HALF
OF THE WORLD'S
POPULATION IS
BILINGUAL.



Language
Trainers

In the Beginning

- English is far and away the most used language of the world and as a result of that, we are far from the top of the list bilingual people.
- There is no pressing need for U.S. citizens to learn additional languages.
- Although the number of languages spoken in the U.S. is huge compared with many other countries, the percentage of multilingual citizens is quite low when compared with the other countries.



In the Beginning

- The whole subject of bilingualism would be moot were it not for what happened at Babel.
- The world will no doubt return to one common language, perhaps in the millennial kingdom, but certainly on the new earth.
- What language will that be? ????????????



Questions

