

## Genesis Patriarchs and Biblical Authority

### Commentary for April 16, 2026 — Pre- and Post-Flood Truth

The chart below shows that Shem, son of Noah, lived 150 years after the flood, during the life of Abraham and 50 years after the birth of Isaac and Ishmael. They could have learned from Shem about the pre-flood world.<sup>1</sup>

ADAM			NOAH			SHEM		
<i>was contemporary with</i>			<i>was contemporary with</i>			<i>was contemporary with</i>		
	Years.			Years.			Years.	
LAMECH.....	56		LAMECH.....	595		LAMECH.....	93	
METHUSELAH.....	243		METHUSELAH.....	600		METHUSELAH.....	98	
JARED.....	470		JARED.....	366		NOAH.....	448	
MAHALALEEL.....	535		MAHALALEEL.....	234		<i>and after the Flood with</i>		
CAINAN.....	605		CAINAN.....	179		ABRAHAM.....	150	
ENOS.....	695		ENOS.....	84		and ISAAC.....	50	

**NOTE:** In the lists above, examine each from **top to bottom** and **bottom to top** for clarity.

### Adam, Noah, Shem, to Abraham

There is a direct line from Adam, to Noah, to Shem, and to Abraham for their family, clan, and tribal history and traditions presented through the medium called "oral history," of memorized prose and poetry. Adam died before Noah was born. However, many people knew Adam for hundreds of years and they likely spoke to Noah about those who knew Adam for decades and even centuries.

These three "long-lived" men (and others) taught their descendants about the creation of mankind, Garden of Eden events, the pre-flood world, the flood, the early post-flood world, and Babel. Shem could have taught Abraham personally about the flood miracles from Yahweh. By Abraham's time, writing was invented and history was written down.

The chart above indicates Enos (usually spelled *Enosh*) was contemporary with Adam for almost 700 years. He was Adam's grandson, according to Genesis 4:26; 5:6ff; 1 Chronicles 1:1; and Luke 3:38. "Enosh" means "man" in Hebrew. Here is part of the Enosh text:

**"And the days of Adam, AFTER his begetting Seth [Adam and Eve's third son], came**

<sup>1</sup> The Chart is from Ingram Cobbin, [\*The Pictorial Bible and Commentator: presenting the great truths of God's word in the most simple, pleasing, affectionate, and instructive manner\*](#) (Philadelphia 1878 edition), public domain. The chart is at the bottom of page 1017 **on the original document**. DWS

to be **SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS**, and he [Adam] **begot sons and daughters. So all the days of Adam which he lived came to be **nine hundred thirty years**; then he died. Seth lived two hundred five years and begot ENOSH. After his begetting Enosh, **Seth lived seven hundred seven years** and begot sons and daughters. So, **all the days of Seth came to be nine hundred twelve years**; then he died.”**

• **Genesis 5:4–8**

“Seth” means “appointed” as a replacement for Abel (Genesis 4:25 CLV): **“Truly Elohim has set for me another seed instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”** Enosh, Seth’s son, and Adam’s grandson, may have been the first grandson of Adam and Eve. Yes, girls were born to Eve, and their granddaughters. Everyone at that time married close relatives.

Writing was unnecessary before the flood, and after until Babel. People then had one language and perfect memories. In my July 2015 Commentary [“Thoughts about Babel,”](#) I suggest writing did not exist before the flood, **until God caused the confusion of tongues** of all people. Then Yahweh separated people groups to spread from Babel and migrate around the world. This occurred during the time of Peleg, whose name means “division.”

**“To Eber were born two sons; the name of the one was Peleg; for in his days THE LAND was distributed** [or “divided”]. **His brother's name was Joktan.”**<sup>2</sup>

• **Genesis 10:25** (and 1 Chronicles 1:19) **CLV**

Not only were the people of the world distributed or divided, but so was **“the land.”** This means continents may have divided at that time. This would have been understood as a second judgment after the flood, signaling God’s displeasure with mankind, as Genesis says:

**“Grant attention! Do let us descend, and do let us disintegrate their language there, so that each man may not hearken to the language of his associate.”**

**Then Yahweh scattered them from there over the surface of the entire earth, and they left off building the city and the tower. Therefore one called its name Babel, because there** [at that place]

[1] **Yahweh disintegrated the language of the entire earth, and**

[2] **Yahweh scattered them from there over the surface of the entire earth.”**

• **Genesis 11:7–9 CLV**

God created humanity with perfect genetics, which has deteriorated to our time today. At creation mankind had what today is called “total recall.” After the flood Yahweh limited the lifespan to a maximum of 120 years (Genesis 6:3). Later, in Psalm 90:10 God seems to limit the human life span again with a general maximum lifespan of 70 to 80 years.

God limited mankind by **(1) “disintegrating their language,”** **(2)** diminishing their life-span, **(3)** choosing to **“scatter them.”** I also believe God may have **(4)** limited their memory. Memory plays an important part in language. Yet, they could not remember their former single language. It is likely writing developed after Babel so people could communicate across time and space to their own and other people, and learn other languages. At this time before Christ’s returns, Babel seems not to be an issue. The goal of instant worldwide communication in all languages, is nearly completed.

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<sup>2</sup> “Joktan” means “small” in Hebrew. It may refer to his size or the number of his descendants. *DWS*