

Living Life!

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People are different from animals in many ways. One of those ways is that we talk – we use words to communicate with each other.

From the time of Adam and Eve until the time of Noah people had only *one* language. There are over 6000 languages spoken in the world today.

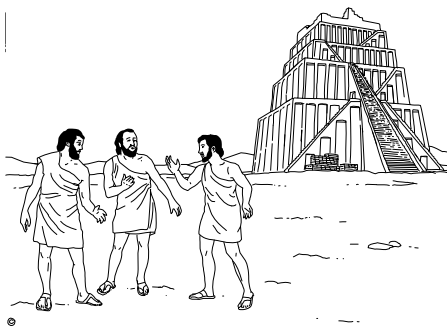
Then came the huge flood that destroyed the whole world except for Noah and his family and some of each of the animals.

After that time, Noah's three sons and their wives had children and grandchildren ... until there were once again a lot of people – many nations of peoples – in the world. By the way, the city of Nineveh (Mosul) was built by Nimrod – the son of Cush, the son of Ham, the son of Noah.

It was during this time that God created *many* languages because of the disobedience of the people! After the flood, God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." Noah's sons were obedient in having many children, but they were disobedient because they didn't "fill" the earth. Instead, they all stayed in one place, which displeased God.

This is the history of God creating the languages. It comes from the book of "Beginnings" (Genesis) which the prophet Moses wrote:

The Dispersion of the Nations at Babel



"The whole earth had a common language and a common vocabulary. When the people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. Then they said to one another, 'Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly.' (They had brick instead of stone and tar instead of

mortar.) Then they said, 'Come, let's build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves. Otherwise we will be scattered across the face of the entire earth.'

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the people had started building. And the LORD said, 'If as one people all sharing a common language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be beyond them. Come, let's go down and confuse their language so they won't be able to understand each other.'

So the LORD scattered them from there across the face of the entire earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why its name was called Babel – because there the LORD confused the language of the entire world, and from there the LORD scattered them across the face of the entire earth."

Later, God gave the prophet Moses this command: "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold guiltless anyone who takes his name in vain."

When the prophet Jesus was on the earth, he told the people this: "Do not take oaths at all – not by heaven, because it is the throne of God, not by earth, because it is his footstool, and not by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. Do not take an oath by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no.' More than this is from the evil one."

Today many people in our world are guilty of using the name of God in vain. They constantly say things like, "Oh my God!" and "By God!" when they really are not asking God for help in a serious way. Because it is so common, we tend to think that it is OK to say it, but it is *not* OK. It is very disrespectful and disobedient to God.

Let's obey God by using the language that he gave us in a respectful way and by encouraging others to do the same.