

# Genesis 5:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

## Analysis

---

**And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth....** This passage belongs to the primeval history section (Genesis 1-11) which establishes universal truths about God, humanity, sin, and divine purposes before focusing on Abraham and Israel. These chapters answer fundamental questions about human origins, the spread of wickedness, God's judgment, and the preservation of a righteous remnant.

Recurring patterns emerge: human sin escalating from individual disobedience to societal corruption, divine patience followed by judgment, gracious preservation of a remnant, and covenant promises ensuring redemptive purposes continue. The genealogies connect historical persons, demonstrate the fulfillment of divine promises (blessing and multiplication), and trace the line leading to Abraham and ultimately Christ.

Key theological themes in this section include:

1. sin's destructive progression affecting all humanity
2. God's righteous judgment while preserving mercy
3. human pride and autonomy opposing divine sovereignty
4. cultural development as both blessing and potential idolatry
5. God's sovereign plan advancing despite human rebellion.

These narratives provide the necessary context for understanding God's calling of Abraham and the covenant promises through which all nations will be blessed.

## Historical Context

---

The primeval history (Genesis 1-11) parallels ancient Near Eastern traditions including Sumerian King Lists (pre-flood longevity), Akkadian flood traditions (Atrahasis, Gilgamesh), and Mesopotamian city foundation myths. However, Genesis demythologizes these traditions, presenting monotheistic history rather than polytheistic mythology. The genealogies connecting Adam to Noah to Abraham provide historical framework absent in pagan myths.

Archaeological evidence confirms ancient urbanization (chapter 4's cities), agricultural development, metallurgy, and musical instruments emerging in Mesopotamia's early history. The Babel account reflects Mesopotamian ziggurat construction (stepped pyramid temples), particularly in Babylon. Linguistic diversity requiring explanation was obvious to ancient peoples, making the Babel narrative culturally relevant.

For Israel in covenant with Yahweh, these chapters explained their relationship to surrounding nations. All peoples descended from Noah, but Israel descended from Shem through Abraham—chosen for blessing all nations. The flood demonstrated God's justice and mercy: judging wickedness while preserving the righteous. This pattern would recur throughout Israel's history, assuring them that God's covenant faithfulness endures despite judgment on the wicked.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

---

1. What theological truths about Genealogy emerge from this passage?
2. How does this passage challenge modern cultural assumptions about identity, purpose, or morality?

3. What connections can we trace from this verse to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְהָיָה	נֹחַ	בֶּן	חָמֵשׁ	מֵאֹת	שָׁנָה	וַיֵּלֶד	נֹחַ	אֶת
H1961	And Noah	old	was five	hundred	years	begat	And Noah	H853
	H5146	H1121	H2568	H3967	H8141	H3205	H5146	
שֵׁם	אֶת	חָם	וְיָפֶתֹ:					
Shem	H853	Ham	and Japheth					
H8035		H2526	H3315					

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Genesis 6:10** (Parallel theme): And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

**Genesis 10:21** (Parallel theme): Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder, even to him were children born.