

# CREATION FOR KIDS

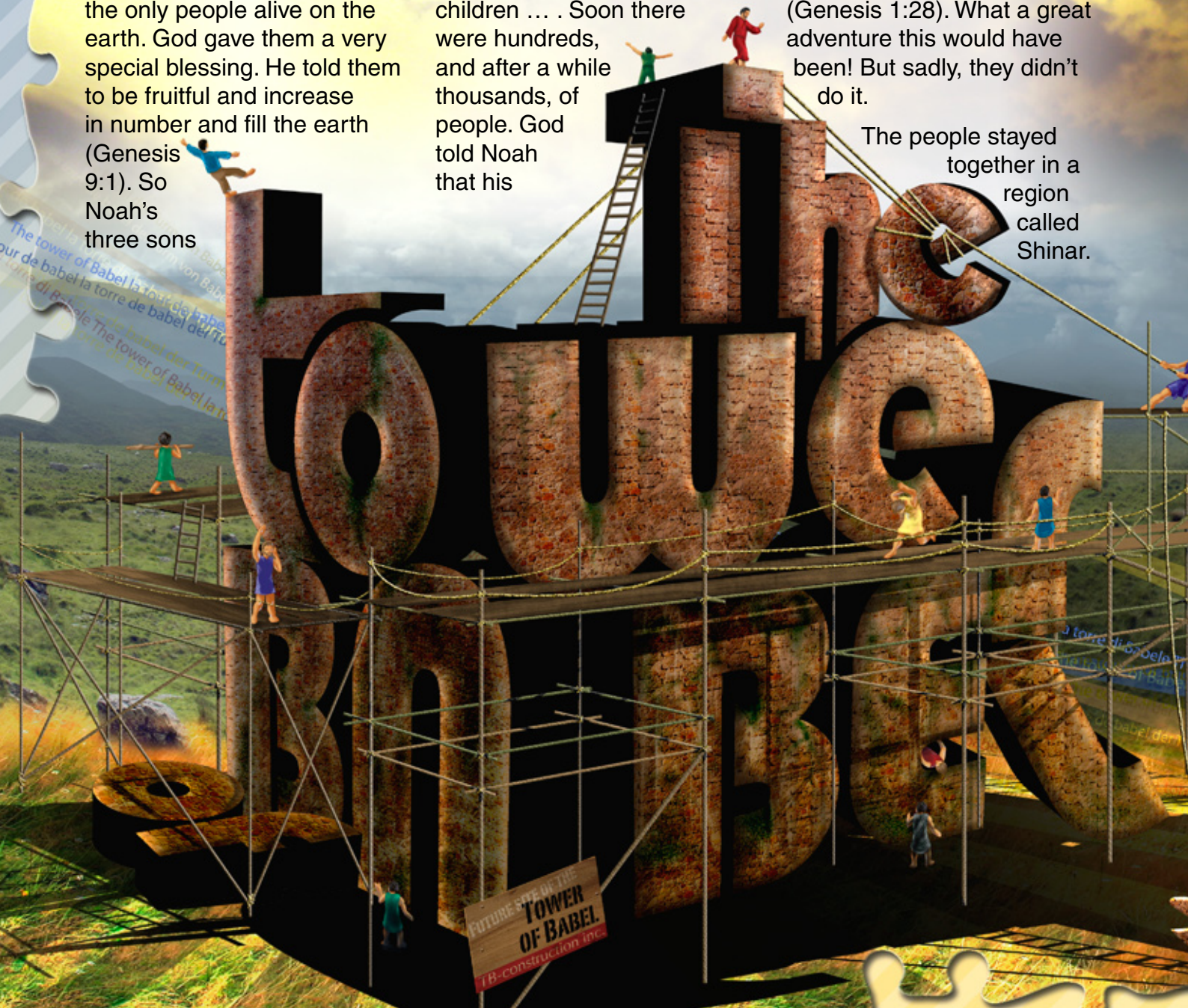
By Russell Grigg

**A**fter the Flood, the eight members of Noah's family were the only people alive on the earth. God gave them a very special blessing. He told them to be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth (Genesis 9:1). So Noah's three sons

and their three wives had lots of children, who had lots of children ... . Soon there were hundreds, and after a while thousands, of people. God told Noah that his

descendants were to spread out all over the earth—to look after it on God's behalf (Genesis 1:28). What a great adventure this would have been! But sadly, they didn't do it.

The people stayed together in a region called Shinar.





Instead of obeying God, they wanted to do their own thing, which was to build a city for themselves—later called Babel. It had a tower in it that stretched up into the sky. They made bricks from clay that they baked in ovens, and they used tar as mortar. Day after day they built their tower. Up, up, up it went—showing how clever they were (Genesis 11:6).

They did all this to “make a name” for themselves, and to avoid being “scattered abroad over the face of the earth” (Genesis 11:4). However, God is not outwitted when people defy Him or think they are smarter than He

is. He sees everything that everybody does, so He knew what they were up to. He could easily stop them from building their tower, and make them migrate to other parts of the earth.

At that time everybody spoke the same language. So God caused people to begin speaking in different languages. Suddenly, people in one family group could not understand what people in other groups were saying. What confusion there was! Imagine what it would be like if one day everyone in your class at school suddenly began speaking

a different language, like Afrikaans, and Arabic, and Cantonese, and French, and Greek, and Indonesian, and Maori, and Russian, and Thai, and so on—and no one could understand anyone else’s language!

They couldn’t work together to build their tower any longer. So the only thing family groups could now do was move away from Babel to work out their own way of life—in due course all over the earth. In this way, God made the people do what He wanted them to do.





# THE BOOK OF GENESIS SOLVES SOME INTERESTING QUESTIONS THAT PEOPLE HAVE . . . . .



1. Why can people talk and animals can't?

2. Can all the

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## 1. Why can people talk and animals can't?

God speaks, and God made people in his image (Genesis 1:26–27) so that they could talk to Him and to each other. This happened from the very day that God created Adam and Eve. Animals communicate by making noises like barking and snarling, by the odours they emit, by the way they stand and act, but God did not give them the ability to talk in real language. He did not make them in His image.

## 2. Can all the languages on Earth be traced back to one language?

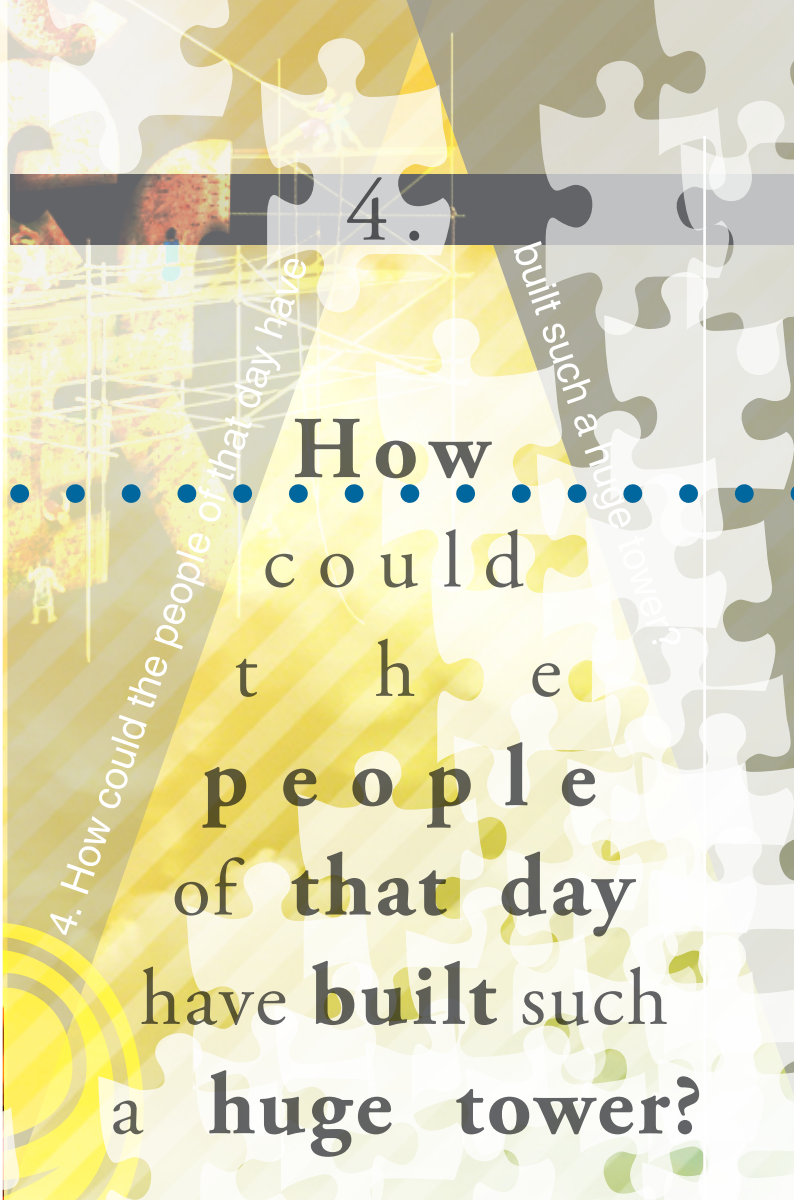
Not to one language, but to one *event*. At Babel, God suddenly and miraculously programmed the different family groups to speak totally different languages. Noah had 16 grandsons (Genesis chapter 10), so probably this was the number of languages that God supernaturally created at Babel. In the 4,250 years since then, as people groups moved away and became more and more separated from one another, these original languages have gradually changed and split into the 7,000 or so languages in the world today. These can be grouped into about a dozen separate “language families”, probably reflecting that original Babel separation.





### 3. How did all the different people groups form?

When God confused the languages, the different language groups would have separated and spread in families in different directions. Think about skin colour. Some families would have been lighter in colour than others. Some would be darker. Darker skinned people would have survived better in the harsh tropical sun. On the other hand, lighter-skinned people would do better in places with long dark winters. So in time people living in different areas ended up with skin colour suited to those areas.



### 4. How could the people of that day have built such a huge tower?

Among Adam's descendants, Jubal could make and play musical instruments, and Tubal-Cain invented and made all sorts of things out of bronze and iron (Genesis 4:21–22). Noah built a huge ship that was longer than a football field (Genesis 6:15). The people who went away from Babel knew enough to build pyramids in Egypt, China, India, Mexico, and other places, including Babylon, where they were called ziggurats.

