**‘Shem, Ham, and Japheth – Were They Triplets?’**

***32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*** Genesis 5:32

***9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*** Genesis 6:9-10

Were Shem, Ham, and Japheth triplets? It is possible because of the wording of the texts we have.

Let’s take the sons born to Adam and Eve. We read in Genesis 4, ***1Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel.*** We know that Seth was born much later after Cain murdered Abel, but there again we find these words, ***25And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.”*** Genesis 4:25.

How is the genealogy of Adam to Noah recorded for us in Genesis 5?

***3And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.***

***6Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh.***

***9Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan.***

***12Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel.***

***15Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared.***

***18Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch.***

***21Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.***

***25Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech.***

***28Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. 29And he called his name Noah, saying, “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed.”***

***32And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.***

I see a pattern here. In each record of prior births, one son’s name follows the word ‘begot’ until we arrive at Noah. There we don’t have one son named, but three sons are named. We do not have separate pregnancies recorded with Noah’s sons. Now it would certainly have been possible for Noah’s wife to have two pregnancies in Noah’s five hundredth year, but three? The math simply doesn’t work.

Later in Genesis 9, Ham will be referred to as Noah’s “younger” son. And when children are born to Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Japheth is referred as being older than Shem (Genesis 10:21). The references “younger” and “older” don’t negate the possibility that these three weren’t triplets. What twin doesn’t know if he or she was born first or second? Wouldn’t triplets know which one was born first, second, or third? I’m assuming so. With the information we have, I propose the birth order was Japheth, Ham, and Shem.

Anyway, it’s something to ponder.

*Kathleen*