

Noah's three sons

And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Gen 5:32)

Now if you are like me, you will be wondering: Who was the oldest? Who was the youngest? Who was the most righteous?

The oldest

Looking at the text in verse Genesis 5:32 & 6:10, what do we notice?

And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Gen 6:10)

Ah! We might say it's obvious, Shem was the oldest, then came Ham and lastly Japheth. But I'd say, wait, not so quickly, what do the rest of the texts say?

These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations. And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder. (Gen 10:20-21)

So according to this text Japheth was the oldest, between Japheth and Shem.

The youngest

So who was the youngest son of the three?

And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. (Gen 9:20-24)

So the sons of Noah were Japheth, Shem and Ham. But when were they born?

According to the genealogy in Genesis 5:1-32 Noah was born 1056 years after Adam was created, and Japheth was born when Noah was 500 so that would be 1556AM. (AM means Anno Mundi – the years since Creation began)

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters were on the earth. (Gen 7:6)

This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. (Gen 11:10)

So if Noah was 600y at the flood, and Shem was 100y two years after the flood, then Shem was born when Noah was 502 years old, which would be 1558AM. This year is very important, because Shem is the righteous son of Noah, and through Shem, Abraham is a direct descendant.