

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Noah's sons and grandchildren settled in the plains between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. They all lived harmoniously together as they all spoke the same language. However, after a while, some of them became so arrogant that they thought they could be equal to God. So they started building a high tower on the land they occupied.

As the years passed, the tower gradually got higher, rising toward heaven. God saw their disobedience and conceit, and became very disappointed. He decided to punish mankind once more in order to correct them. This time, God confused their tongues and they began speaking different languages. Shortly after, the building of the tower stopped, as people could no longer understand each other. They were forced to part from each other and spread in different parts of the world. The land where the language confusion occurred was called Babylon, which means confusion.

Traditionally, Armenians claim that the Babylonian King Bahl reigned over the whole world. He was a very cruel man and wanted to rule all mankind. But the brave Hayk, who was a descendant of Noah's son, Japheth's race, refused to be subjected to Bahl. Hayk left Babylon with his family and relatives and settled in the land of Ararat. When Bahl heard about this move, he got very angry; he gathered his soldiers and attacked Hayk with his big army. However, Hayk was not frightened by Bahl's huge army. He assembled his brave soldiers and told them: "We either die and our tribe becomes Bahl's subjects, or we win and Bahl's army withdraws (flees)".

The battle took place near Lake Van. It began in the morning and lasted until evening. During the most critical moment of the fight, Hayk shot Bahl with an arrow from his big bow. The blow was so strong that Bahl was knocked down and died. When Bahl's soldiers realized that he was dead, they were alarmed and ran away in defeat.

After defeating Bahl, Hayk firmly settled down in his beloved country. He had many descendants who were later called Armenians. And the country in which the Armenians lived was named after Hayk, namely Hayastan (Armenia) which later became our most beloved home, our fatherland.





QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Where did Noah's grandchildren live?
2. Why did arrogant men decide to build a tower?
3. How did God decide to punish mankind?
4. Who was Bahl? Can you describe him?
5. Who was Hayk? Where did he relocate?
6. What did Hayk say to his brave soldiers?
7. What was the outcome of the battle?
8. Why our fatherland was called Hayastan?
9. Have you been to Armenia? How do you visualize Armenia?



A SHORT PRAYER TO LEARN

Morning Light, Righteous Sun - Jesus Christ

**let the light that flows from the Father
dawn on me, and bring forth in my heart
words that please You!**