

The Natural Reading of Noah's Flood as a Local Flood

Table of Contents

1. Does the Bible Teach a Global or a Local Flood?.....	1
2. Translation Bias.....	1
3. Interpretation Bias.....	3
4. Modified ESV Text of Genesis 6-9.....	4
5. Different Biases in English and Spanish.....	9

1. Does the Bible Teach a Global or a Local Flood?

Traditionally Noah's flood has been viewed as a global flood, with water covering the entire earth. However, some simple physical calculations show that this would be impossible, as shown in [this article](#), [this article](#), and [this article](#), among many articles on the [Reasons to Believe](#) website and many other websites. One of the most thorough presentations is Hugh Ross's excellent book [Navigating Genesis](#), especially chapter 17.

But when we read the account of the flood in Genesis 6-9 it certainly appears that it must have been a global flood, which appears to make the Bible conflict with the findings of objective science.

However, in reality **the Bible text supports a local flood** just as [readily](#) as a global flood, provided it is translated and interpreted using the [most common meanings](#) of these words instead of those with a bias towards a global flood.

The problem is that in these chapters we face two different kinds of *bias*, which we can call *translation bias* and *interpretation bias*.

The first refers to a translation done on the basis of certain presuppositions that the text itself does not require. Examples are given in the [relevant section](#) below.

The second refers to reading the text of the Bible on the basis of certain presuppositions that the text itself does not require. Even in the case of words that are not [the result of translation bias](#), we can easily misinterpret some words if our presupposition is that the flood was global. Examples are given in the [relevant section](#) below.

2. Translation Bias

It turns out that our English translations suffer from a bad case of *translation bias*. In fact, much of the misunderstanding of these chapters is based on the translations of just a couple of words, which I discuss in the following paragraphs.

1. The Hebrew word אֶרֶץ /'ĕretṣ/ is extremely common in the Old Testament, occurring 2503 times, and is translated "land, country, ground, earth", though the majority of its cases are translated "land" or "country". Its definite form הָאָרֶץ /hā'ĕāretṣ/ "the land", occurs many times in Genesis 6-9, and the

ESV always translates it as “the earth” in these chapters, though elsewhere it is far more often translated “the land”, as in Genesis 34:30. To our modern minds “the earth” sounds like it is referring to the entire planet,¹ but this is actually a fairly uncommon meaning for this Hebrew word, and in fact it can very naturally be translated “land” every time it occurs in these chapters, the idea being that, just as in the time of the Tower of Babel, it is probable that the people had not spread out over the earth as God had commanded them in Genesis 1:28, but had remained in just one area. This drastically changes our perspective on the meaning of Genesis 6-9, and makes a local flood a perfectly natural interpretation, whose effects were nevertheless global as far as the destruction of humankind is concerned. In the text in the [big chart](#) below each case of this is marked in **red**, and the word **land** is in bold to show that I changed it from **earth**.

Often **הָאָרֶץ** /hā'ṗāreṣ/ “the land” is preceded by the preposition **בְּ** /bə/ “in, on, at”, producing the word **בְּאֶרֶץ** /bə'ṗāreṣ/,² which is most commonly translated as “**in the land**” in the ESV, as in Genesis 34:21, but in Genesis 6-9 it is always translated “**on the earth**”, except once, in Genesis 6:5, where it is translated “**in the earth**”. I have changed all of these to “**in the land**”, except that Genesis 6:5 has “**in the land**” since I didn’t change the word **in**.

הָאָרֶץ /hā'ṗāreṣ/ “the land” can also be preceded by a different preposition **עַל** /ʕal/ “on, on top of, upon, over”, producing the uncontracted phrase **עַל-הָאָרֶץ** /ʕal-hā'ṗāreṣ/, which is most commonly translated as “**over the land**” or “**on the land**” in the ESV, as in 1 Kings 23:33 or Genesis 19:23, but in Genesis 6-9 it is always translated “**on the earth**” or “**upon the earth**” or “**over the earth**”. I have changed all of these to “**on the land**” or “**upon the land**” or “**over the land**”, and have marked “**on**” or “**upon**” or “**over**” in **dark green** and **עַל** in **dark green** to show that they need never be changed in these chapters.

A different Hebrew word **הָאֲדָמָה** /ḥāḏā'mā/ also occurs in Genesis 6-9, and the ESV usually translates it as “ground”, though occasionally “land” or “soil”. These need no adjustment, since their meaning is naturally understood as local. All of the cases in these chapters are the definite form **הָאֲדָמָה** /ḥāḏā'mā/, “the ground”. All of these cases are shown in **blue**.

In one case the preposition **עַל** /ʕal/ “on” occurs before **הָאֲדָמָה**, in Genesis 7:8, and I marked this in **dark green**. The preposition **בְּ** /bə/ “in, on, at” does not occur with this word in Genesis 6-9.

Another extremely rare Hebrew word **הָאֲרָצָה** /ḥārā'ḥā/ “dry land, dry ground” also occurs in Genesis 7:22, with the prefix **בְּ** /bə/ “in, on, at”, and the ESV translates it as “on the **dry land**”, although technically it should be “on **dry land**”, since it is indefinite (the NIV translates it correctly as “on **dry land**”). Even so, I didn’t change this in the ESV, since it probably won’t significantly affect any interpretation bias. This is shown in **light green**.

2. The word **הָרִים** /hā'rîm/ can mean “mountains, hills, hill country” (the singular is **רֶךָ** /'hār/ “mountain, hill, hill country”, but in Genesis 6-9 it only occurs in the plural). Most of the mountains in Israel are not very tall, and these are the ones generally referred to in the Old Testament, so they didn’t really need words to distinguish hills from mountains. And if the flood occurred in central Mesopotamia or even a dry Persian Gulf, because that is where all of the people were living, no mountains would be visible, only local hills, and it is quite possible that these are the ones referred to in Genesis 7:19-20. As for the “mountains of Ararat”, in the Bible the name Ararat referred to a country, not a mountain, and corresponded to the ancient region and kingdom of [Urartu](#) (see 2 Kings 19:37, Isaiah 37:38, and Jeremiah 51:27). The mountain we know today as Mount Ararat historically did not even have this name. Thus the original readers of Genesis 8:4 would have thought not of this mountain but of the region and kingdom, whose borders came down almost to the edge of the Mesopotamian plain, in fact almost to Nineveh, as can be seen by [this map](#) and [this map](#).

Actually the Bible does not say that the ark ended up on the very top of a high mountain, and it more likely settled on some hill at a much lower altitude, probably not far above the Mesopotamian plain, which reaches 400 meters (1300 feet) above sea level where it meets the foothills.³

¹ **Even** in English “earth” does not always refer to the whole planet, as we can see from verses like Genesis 24:52, 26:15, and 28:15, among many others, **and** its meaning also depends on its context.

² /bəhā/ “in the” gets contracted to /bə/.

I have changed all of these cases to **hills**, bold and in pink. (The definite form is הַהָרִים /hehā'rîm/ “the **hills**”. The construct form is הָרֵי /hā'rê/ “**hills of**”.)

[Navigating Genesis](#) deals with all of these words in detail in chapter 16 (though its handling of the hills is slightly different from my view here), and inspired me to write this page, since I thought it would make these ideas more real if I actually adjusted the text to its most natural reading. However, I strongly recommend that you read the book, since what I am presenting here is very limited.

This book also points out that in several instances it is important to understand that the perspective of these chapters is generally that of Noah, and should be viewed from his point of view. For example, in 7:19 it says, “And the waters prevailed so mightily **on the land** that all the high **hills** under the whole heaven* were covered.” However, this should be understood as “under the whole sky (that Noah could see)”, so it would mean all the hills within his view. I mark all of these cases with asterisks.

In choosing the English Standard Version ([ESV](#)) for this exercise I am not being critical of the ESV: on the contrary, it’s the translation I personally prefer for my Bible reading and study. But all the Bible translations that I know of have this same bias.

3. Interpretation Bias

Even when no *translation bias* is involved, certain words can still be affected by the *interpretation bias* of the reader. For example, the word תְּרָבָה /tĕrā'bâ/ “dry land, dry ground” in Genesis 7:22 which was discussed above will naturally be interpreted according to the reader’s understanding of Genesis 6-9 as a whole, as to whether it applies to all the dry land on the planet or only the dry land in a local area. As I have made clear, I believe the latter should apply.⁴

And of course, even the English word “land” must be interpreted according to this same criterion, whichever Hebrew word it is translating. though it is much less prone to be interpreted as planetwide than “earth”. Again my point is simply that there is absolutely nothing in Genesis 6-9 that requires a planetwide understanding of the Flood.

³ Ancient Jewish, Christian, and Islamic tradition said that Noah’s ark came to rest not on what is today called Mount Ararat, but on a mountain called [Mount Judi or Mount Qardū](#), which is in the first range of mountains north of the Mesopotamian plain, at 2,089 meters (6,854 feet), in present-day Turkey, close to where Turkey, Syria, and Iraq meet. It is also close to where the River Tigris leaves the plain and moves north into the mountains. (The coordinates given in the link above, and the place marked on Google Maps as [Cudi Dağı](#) is located incorrectly, as is obvious by the fact that it is supposed to be 2,089 meters tall, but the altitude at the place marked is only 600 meters. I have located the correct location at: [37°22'43.4"N 42°27'09.5"E](#), which seems to be the highest point in its range, at least until you go much farther east. This tradition is probably much closer to the actual location than Mount Ararat is, but it is impossible to know for certain how close it really is.

⁴ It is interesting that this is not the word used in Genesis 1:9-10 to refer to the dry land which was separated from the sea, which certainly in that context applies to the whole planet. That word is יַבְשָׁה /yabbā'sâ/, also translated “dry land, dry ground”, and is almost as rare as תְּרָבָה. But again, that word also must be interpreted carefully according to its context, since in Joshua 3:17 and 4:18 it applies only to the dry ground the Israelites needed to cross the Jordan.

4. Modified ESV Text of Genesis 6-9

Modified ESV text of Genesis 6-9 , with key words in color, and all modified words in bold	Hebrew text
Increasing Corruption on Earth	
6	
<p>¹ When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³ Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in⁵ man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” ⁴ The Nephilim⁶ were in the land in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.</p>	<p>¹ וַיְהִי כִּי־הִחַל הָאָדָם לָרֹב עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וּבָנוּת יִלְדוּ לָהֶם: ² וַיִּרְאוּ בְנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם כִּי טֹבֹת הֵנָּה וַיִּקְחוּ לָהֶם נָשִׁים מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּחָרוּ: ³ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לֹא־יָדוֹן רוּחִי בָאָדָם לְעַלְמָם בְּשַׁגְם הוּא בָשָׂר וְהָיוּ יָמָיו מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה: ⁴ הַנְּפִלִים הָיוּ בְּאֶרֶץ בְּיָמֵים הָהֵם וְגַם אַחֲרֵי־כֵן אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ בְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים אֶל־בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם וַיִּלְדוּ לָהֶם הֵמָּה הַגִּבּוֹרִים אֲשֶׁר מְעוֹלָם אֲנִישֵׁי הַשָּׁמַיִם: פ</p>
<p>⁵ The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the land, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD regretted that he had made man in the land, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.</p>	<p>⁵ וַיִּרְא יְהוָה כִּי רַבָּה רַעַת הָאָדָם בְּאֶרֶץ וְכָל־יִצְרָר מִחַשְׁבֹּת לִבּוֹ רָק רָע כָּל־הַיּוֹם: ⁶ וַיִּנְחַם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּאֶרֶץ וַיִּתְעַצֵּב אֵל־לִבּוֹ: ⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֲמַחֶה אֶת־הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר־בְּרָאתִי מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה עַד־בְּהֵמָה עַד־רֶמֶשׂ וְעַד־עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם כִּי נִחַמְתִּי כִּי עָשִׂיתֶם: ⁸ וְנֹחַ מָצָא חֵן בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה: פ</p>
Noah and the Flood	
<p>⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.</p>	<p>⁹ אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים הָיָה בְּדַרְתּוֹ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים הִתְהַלָּךְ־נֹחַ: ¹⁰ וַיִּוֹלַד נֹחַ שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנִים אֶת־שֵׁם אֶת־חָם וְאֶת־יָפֶת:</p>
<p>¹¹ Now the land was corrupt in God’s sight, and the land was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw the land, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the land. ¹³ And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh,⁷ for the land is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the land. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopher wood.⁸ Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with</p>	<p>¹¹ וַתִּשְׁתַּח הָאֶרֶץ לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וַתִּמְלֵא הָאֶרֶץ חָמָס: ¹² וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאֶרֶץ וְהִנֵּה נִשְׁחָתָה כִּי־הִשְׁחִית כָּל־בָּשָׂר אֶת־דַּרְכּוֹ עַל־הָאֶרֶץ: ¹³ וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְנֹחַ קַץ כָּל־בָּשָׂר בָּא לִפְנֵי כִּי־מָלְאָה הָאֶרֶץ חָמָס מִפְּנֵיהֶם וְהִגַּנְנִי מִשְׁחִיתֶם אֶת־הָאֶרֶץ: ¹⁴ עֲשֵׂה לְךָ תֵּבַת עֲצֵי־גֹפֶר קַנִּים תַּעֲשֶׂה אֶת־הַתֵּבָה</p>

⁵ **Genesis 6:3** Or *My Spirit shall not contend with*

⁶ **Genesis 6:4** Or *giants*

⁷ **Genesis 6:13** Hebrew *The end of all flesh has come before me*

⁸ **Genesis 6:14** An unknown kind of tree; transliterated from Hebrew

pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits,⁹ its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof¹⁰ for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters **upon the land** to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is **in the land** shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of **the ground**, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.” ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

וּכְפַרְתָּ אֹתָהּ מִבַּיִת וּמִחוּץ בַּכֶּפֶר: ¹⁵ וְזֶה אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה אֹתָהּ שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אַמָּה אָרְדָּה הַתֵּבָה חֲמֵשִׁים אַמָּה רְחֹבָהּ וּשְׁלֹשִׁים אַמָּה קוֹמָתָה: ¹⁶ צִהַר וּתַעֲשֶׂה לַתֵּבָה וְאֶל־אֹמֶה תְּכַלְכֶּנָה מִלְמַעְלָה וּפְתַח הַתֵּבָה בְּצִדָּהּ תִּשְׂשִׂים תַּחְתִּיִּם שְׁנַיִם וּשְׁלֹשִׁים תַּעֲשֶׂה: ¹⁷ וְאֲנִי הִנְנִי מֵבִיא אֶת־הַמַּבּוּל מִיַּם **עַל־הָאָרֶץ** לְשַׁחַת כָּל־בָּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ רֵיחַ חַיִּים מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם כָּל אֲשֶׁר־בָּאָרֶץ יָגוּעַ: וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתְּךָ וּבֵאתָ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה אִתָּהּ וּבְנֵיךָ וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וּבְנֵי־בְנֵיךָ אִתְּךָ: ¹⁹ וּמִכָּל־הַחַי מִכָּל־בָּשָׂר שְׁנַיִם מִכָּל תָּבִיא אֶל־הַתֵּבָה לְהַחֲיָת אִתְּךָ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה יְהִי: ²⁰ מִהָעוֹף לְמִינֵהוּ וּמִן־הַבְּהֵמָה לְמִינָהּ מִכָּל רֶמֶשׂ הָאֲדָמָה לְמִינֵהוּ שְׁנַיִם מִכָּל יָבֹאוּ אֵלֶיךָ לְהַחֲיוֹת: ²¹ וְאִתָּהּ קַח־לְךָ מִכָּל־מַאֲכָל אֲשֶׁר יֹאכֵל וְאִסַּפְתָּ אֵלָיו וְהָיָה לְךָ וּלְהֵם לְאֹכְלָה: ²² וַיַּעַשׂ נֹחַ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱלֹהִים עִיָּהּ: ס

7

¹Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals,¹¹ the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³and seven pairs¹² of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all **the land**. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain **on the land** forty days and forty nights, and every living thing¹³ that I have made I will blot out from the face of **the ground**.” ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לְנֹחַ בָּא־אִתְּךָ וְכָל־בֵּיתְךָ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה כִּי־אִתְּךָ רָאִיתִי צַדִּיק לְפָנַי בְּדוֹר הַזֶּה: ² מִכָּל הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה תִּקַּח־לְךָ שְׁבָעָה שְׁבָעָה אִישׁ וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּמִן־הַבְּהֵמָה הָאֲשֶׁר לֹא טְהוֹרָה הִוא שְׁנַיִם אִישׁ וְאִשְׁתּוֹ: ³ גַּם מִעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם שְׁבָעָה שְׁבָעָה זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה לְחַיּוֹת זָרַע עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ: ⁴ כִּי לַיָּמִים עוֹד שְׁבָעָה אָנֹכִי מִמְטִיר **עַל־הָאָרֶץ** אַרְבַּעַיִם יוֹם וְאַרְבַּעַיִם לַיְלָה וּמַחֲיִתִּי אֶת־כָּל־הַיְקוּם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה: ⁵ וַיַּעַשׂ נֹחַ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּהוּ יְהוָה:

⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came **upon the land**. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps **on the ground**, ⁹two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And after seven days the waters of the flood came **upon the land**.

וַיֵּלֶךְ בֶּן־שֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וְהַמַּבּוּל הָיָה מֵיַם **עַל־הָאָרֶץ**: ⁷ וַיָּבֵא נֹחַ וּבְנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּבְנֵי־בְנָיו אִתּוֹ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה מִפְּנֵי מֵי הַמַּבּוּל: ⁸ מִן־הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה וּמִן־הַבְּהֵמָה הָאֲשֶׁר אֵינְנָה טְהוֹרָה וּמִן־הָעוֹף וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־רֶמֶשׂ **עַל־הָאֲדָמָה**: ⁹ שְׁנַיִם שְׁנַיִם בָּאוּ אֶל־נֹחַ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נֹחַ: ¹⁰ וַיְהִי לְשִׁבְעַת הַיָּמִים וּמֵי הַמַּבּוּל הָיוּ **עַל־הָאָרֶץ**:

⁹ Genesis 6:15 A cubit was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters
¹⁰ Genesis 6:16 Or skylight
¹¹ Genesis 7:2 Or seven of each kind of clean animal
¹² Genesis 7:3 Or seven of each kind
¹³ Genesis 7:4 Hebrew all existence; also verse 23

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell upon the land forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴ they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the land, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

¹¹ בַּשָּׁנָה שִׁש־מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה לְחַיֵּי־נֹחַ בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בַשְּׁבַע־עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה נִבְקְעוּ כָּל־מַעְיַנֹת תְּהוֹם רַבָּה וְאַרְבַּת הַשָּׁמַיִם נִפְתְּחוּ: ¹² וַיְהִי הַגֶּשֶׁם עַל־הָאָרֶץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וְאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה: ¹³ בַּעֲצָם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה בָּא נֹחַ וְשֵׁם־וְחָם וְיִפֶּת בְּנֵי־נֹחַ וְאִשְׁתּוֹ נֹחַ וּשְׁלֹשַׁת נְשֵׁי־בָנָיו אִתָּם אֶל־הַתְּבֵה: ¹⁴ הָמָּה וְכָל־הַחַיָּה לְמִינָהּ וְכָל־הַבְּהֵמָה לְמִינָהּ וְכָל־הַרְמֵשׁ הָרֹמֵשׁ עַל־הָאָרֶץ לְמִינָהּ וְכָל־הָעוֹף לְמִינָהּ כֹּל צִפּוֹר כָּל־כַּנָּף: ¹⁵ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלֶיךָ אֶל־הַתְּבֵה שְׁנַיִם שָׁנִים מִכָּל־הַבְּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר־בּו רֵוַח חַיִּים: ¹⁶ וְהַבָּאִים זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה מִכָּל־בְּשָׂר בָּאוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱתוֹ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּסְגֹר יְהוָה בַּעֲדוֹ:

¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the land. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the land. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the land, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹ And the waters prevailed so mightily on the land that all the high hills under the whole heaven* were covered. ²⁰ The waters prevailed above the hills, covering them fifteen cubits¹⁴ deep. ²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the land, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the land, and all mankind. ²² Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³ He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the land. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. ²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the land 150 days.

¹⁷ וַיְהִי הַמַּבּוּל אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּרְבּוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־הַתְּבֵה וַתָּרָם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ: ¹⁸ וַיִּגְבְּרוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּרְבּוּ מְאֹד עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַתִּלָּךְ הַתְּבֵה עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם: ¹⁹ וְהַמַּיִם גָּבְרוּ מְאֹד מְאֹד עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּכְסּוּ כָּל־הַהָרִים הַגְּבוּהִים אֲשֶׁר־תַּחַת כָּל־הַשָּׁמַיִם: ²⁰ חָמֵשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה אַמָּה מִלְּמַעְלָה גָּבְרוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּכְסּוּ הַהָרִים: ²¹ וַיִּגְוַע כָּל־בְּשָׂרוֹ הָרֹמֵשׁ עַל־הָאָרֶץ בְּעוֹף וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבַחַיָּה וּבְכָל־הַשָּׂרֵץ הַשָּׂרֵץ עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְכָל־הָאָדָם: ²² כֹּל אֲשֶׁר נְשַׁמְת־רוּחַ חַיִּים בְּאַפְיוֹ מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר בַּחַרְבָּה מֵתוּ: ²³ וַיִּמַח אֶת־כָּל־הַיְקוּם אֲשֶׁרוֹ עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד־בְּהֵמָה עַד־רְמֵשׁ וְעַד־עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּמָּחוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשָּׂאֲר אֶד־נֹחַ וְאִשְׁרֵי אִתּוֹ בַּתְּבֵה: ²⁴ וַיִּגְבְּרוּ הַמַּיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ חֲמֵשִׁים וּמֵאוֹת יוֹם:

The Flood Subsides

8

¹ But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the land, and the waters subsided. ² The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³ and the waters receded from the land continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, ⁴ and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the hills of Ararat. ⁵ And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the hills were seen.**

¹ וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נֹחַ וְאֶת כָּל־הַחַיָּה וְאֶת־כָּל־הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ בַּתְּבֵה וַיַּעֲבֵר אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׁכּוּ הַמַּיִם: ² וַיִּסְכְּרוּ מַעְיַנֹת תְּהוֹם וְאַרְבַּת הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּכְלָא הַגֶּשֶׁם מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם: ³ וַיִּשְׁבּוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ הַלֹּוֹד וְשׁוּב וַיִּחַסְרוּ הַמַּיִם מִקְצָה חֲמֵשִׁים וּמֵאוֹת יוֹם: ⁴ וַתָּנַח הַתְּבֵה בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בַשְּׁבַע־עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ עַל הַרֵי אֲרָרָט: ⁵ וְהַמַּיִם הָיוּ הַלֹּוֹד וְחֹסֵר עַד הַחֹדֶשׁ הָעֲשִׂירִי בַעֲשִׂירִי בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ נִרְאוּ רֵאשֵׁי הַהָרִים:

¹⁴ Genesis 7:20 A cubit was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters

⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from **the land**. ⁸Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of **the ground**. ⁹But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole **land**.*** So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from **the land**. ¹²Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

⁶וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וַיִּפְתַּח נֹחַ אֶת-חַלּוֹן הַתֵּבָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: ⁷וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-הָעֹרֵב וַיֵּצֵא וַיָּשׁוּב עַד-יִבְשַׁת הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ: ⁸וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-הַיּוֹנָה מֵאֵתוֹ לִרְאוֹת הַקְּלוּי הַמַּיִם מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה: ⁹וְלֹא-מָצְאָה הַיּוֹנָה מְנוּחַ לְכַף-רַגְלָהּ וַתָּשׁוּב אֵלָיו אֶל-הַתֵּבָה כִּי-מַיִם עַל-פְּנֵי כָל-הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וַיִּקְחֶהָ וַיָּבֵא אֵתָהּ אֵלָיו אֶל-הַתֵּבָה: ¹⁰וַיִּחַל עוֹד שִׁבְעַת יָמִים אַחֲרָיִם וַיִּסַּף שְׁלַח אֶת-הַיּוֹנָה מִן-הַתֵּבָה: ¹¹וַתָּבֵא אֵלָיו הַיּוֹנָה לַעֲת עֹרֵב וְהִנֵּה עֵלֶיהָ-גֵּזַת טָרֵף בִּפִּיהָ וַיֵּדַע נֹחַ כִּי-יִקְלוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ: ¹²וַיִּחַל עוֹד שִׁבְעַת יָמִים אַחֲרָיִם וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-הַיּוֹנָה וְלֹא-יָסְפָה שׁוּב-אֵלָיו עוֹד:

¹³In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off **the land**. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of **the ground** was dry. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, **the land** had dried out. ¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps **on the land**—that they may swarm **on the land**, and be fruitful and multiply **on the land**.” ¹⁸So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. ¹⁹Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves **on the land**, went out by families from the ark.

¹³וַיְהִי בְּאַחַת וּשְׁש־מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה בְּרֵאשׁוֹן בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ חָרְבוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ וַיִּסַּר נֹחַ אֶת-מִכְסֵה הַתֵּבָה וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה חָרְבוּ פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה: ¹⁴וּבְחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בְּשִׁבְעָה וָעֶשְׂרִים יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ יָבֹשָׁה הָאָרֶץ: ¹⁵וַיִּדְבַּר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-נֹחַ לֵאמֹר: ¹⁶צֵא מִן-הַתֵּבָה אַתָּה וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וּבְנֵיךָ וּנְשֵׁי-בְנֵיךָ אִתְּךָ: ¹⁷כָּל-הַחַיָּה אֲשֶׁר-אִתְּךָ מִכָּל-בֶּשֶׂר בְּעוֹף וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל-הַרְמֵשׁ הָרֹמֵשׁ עַל-הָאָרֶץ הוֹצֵא “הַיָּצֵא” אִתְּךָ וְשָׂרְצוֹ כָּאָרֶץ וּפְרוּ וּרְבוּ עַל-הָאָרֶץ: ¹⁸וַיֵּצֵא-נֹחַ וּבְנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּנְשֵׁי-בְנָיו אִתּוֹ: ¹⁹כָּל-הַחַיָּה כָּל-הַרְמֵשׁ וְכָל-הָעוֹף כֹּל רוֹמֵשׁ עַל-הָאָרֶץ לְמִשְׁפַּחְתֵיהֶם יָצְאוּ מִן-הַתֵּבָה:

God’s Covenant with Noah

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse ¹⁵**the ground** because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²²While **the land** remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

²⁰וַיִּבְנוּ נֹחַ מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיִּקַּח מִכֹּל הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה וּמִכֹּל הָעוֹף הַטְּהוֹר וַיַּעַל עֹלֹת בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ: ²¹וַיִּרַח יְהוָה אֶת-רֵיחַ הַנִּיחֹחַ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-לִבּוֹ לֹא-אֶסָף לְקַלֵּל עוֹד אֶת-הָאֲדָמָה בַּעֲבוּר הָאָדָם כִּי יַצַּר לֵב הָאָדָם רַע מִנְעוּרָיו וְלֹא-אֶסָף עוֹד לְהַכּוֹת אֶת-כָּל-חַי כִּי אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי: ²²עַד כָּל-יְמֵי הָאָרֶץ זָרַע וְקָצִיר וְקֹר וְחֹם וְגֵזֶם וְחֹרֵף וַיּוֹם וַלַּיְלָה לֹא יִשְׁבָּתוּ:

9

¹And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill **the land**. ²The fear of you and the dread of you shall be

¹וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-נֹחַ וְאֶת-בְּנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ: ²וּמִוְרָאֵכֶם וּחְתֻכֶּם יְהִיָה עַל כָּל-חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ וְעַל כָּל-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם כָּכֵל אֲשֶׁר

<p>upon every beast of the land and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.</p>	<p>תִּרְמֹשׁ הָאָדָמָה וּבְכָל־דָּגַי הַיָּם בְּיַדְכֶם נִתְּנוּ: ³ כָּל־רֶמֶשׂ אֲשֶׁר הוּא־חַי לָכֶם יִהְיֶה לְאֹכְלָהּ כִּי־רַק יֵעָשֶׂב נִתְּתִי לָכֶם אֶת־כָּל: ⁴ אֲדֹבֶשֶׁר בְּנִפְשׁוֹ דָּמּוֹ לֹא תֹאכְלוּ: ⁵ וְאֹד אֶת־דַּמְּכֶם לְנִפְשׁוֹתֵיכֶם אֶדְרֹשׁ מִיַּד כָּל־חַיָּה אֲדָרְשָׁנוּ וּמִיַּד הָאָדָם מִיַּד אִישׁ אֶחָיו אֶדְרֹשׁ אֶת־נַפְשׁ הָאָדָם:</p>
<p>⁶“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.</p>	<p>⁶ שֹׁפֵךְ דַּם הָאָדָם בְּאָדָם דָּמוֹ יִשְׁפֹךְ כִּי בַצֶּלֶם אֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם:</p>
<p>⁷And you, ¹⁶ be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the land and multiply in it.”</p>	<p>⁷ וְאַתֶּם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּשְׂרָצוּ בָאָרֶץ וּרְבוּ־בָהּ: ¹⁶ ס</p>
<p>⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the land with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the land. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the land.” ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the land. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the land and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the land.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the land.”</p>	<p>⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־נֹחַ וְאֶל־בָּנָיו אִתּוֹ לֵאמֹר: ⁹ וְאַיִי הִנְנִי מִקִּים אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם וְאֶת־זֶרְעֵכֶם אַחֲרֵיכֶם: ¹⁰ וְאֵת כָּל־נִפְשׁ הַחַיָּה אֲשֶׁר אִתְּכֶם בְּעוֹף בְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל־חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ אִתְּכֶם מִכָּל־יִצְאֵי הַתְּבֹהַ לְכָל־חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ: ¹¹ וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם וְלֹא־יִכָּרֵת כָּל־בֶּשֶׁר עוֹד מִמֵּי הַמַּבּוּל וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה עוֹד מַבּוּל לְשַׁחַת הָאָרֶץ: ¹² וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים זֹאת אוֹת־הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר־אֲנִי נֹתֵן בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין כָּל־נִפְשׁ חַיָּה אֲשֶׁר אִתְּכֶם לְזֵרֶת עוֹלָם: ¹³ אֶת־קַשְׁתִּי נִתְּתִי בְּעַנְנוֹ וְהָיְתָה לְאוֹת בְּרִית בֵּינִי וּבֵין הָאָרֶץ: ¹⁴ וְהָיָה בְּעַנְנֵי עָנָן עַל־הָאָרֶץ וּנִרְאָתָה הַקַּשְׁתַּת בְּעַנְנוֹ: ¹⁵ וּזְכַרְתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין כָּל־נִפְשׁ חַיָּה בְּכָל־בֶּשֶׁר וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה עוֹד הַמַּיִם לְמַבּוּל לְשַׁחַת כָּל־בֶּשֶׁר: ¹⁶ וְהָיְתָה הַקַּשְׁתַּת בְּעַנְנוֹ וּרְאִיתִיהָ לְזִכֹּר בְּרִית עוֹלָם בֵּין אֱלֹהִים וּבֵין כָּל־נִפְשׁ חַיָּה בְּכָל־בֶּשֶׁר אֲשֶׁר עַל־הָאָרֶץ: ¹⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־נֹחַ זֹאת אוֹת־הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר הִקְמַתִּי בֵּינִי וּבֵין כָּל־בֶּשֶׁר אֲשֶׁר עַל־הָאָרֶץ: ^פ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Noah's Descendants</p>	
<p>¹⁸ The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole land were dispersed. ¹⁷</p>	<p>¹⁸ וַיְהִיו בְּנֵי־נֹחַ הַיֹּצְאִים מִן־הַתְּבֹהַ שֵׁם וְחָם וְיָפֶת וְחָם הוּא אָבִי כְּנָעַן: ¹⁹ שְׁלֵשָׁה אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי־נֹחַ וּמֵאֵלֶּה נִפְצְּהָ כָּל־הָאָרֶץ:</p>
<p>²⁰ Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.</p>	<p>²⁰ וַיַּחַל גֵּחַ אִישׁ הָאָדָמָה וַיִּטַּע כֶּרֶם: ²¹ וַיִּשְׂתֶּה מִן־הַיַּיִן וַיִּשְׁכַּר וַיִּתְגַּל בְּתוֹךְ:</p>

¹⁶ Genesis 9:7 In Hebrew you is plural

¹⁷ Genesis 9:19 Or from these the whole earth was populated

<p>22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. 24 When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said,</p>	<p>אָהֶלָהּ: 22 וַיֵּרָא הָם אֶבְי כֹנֵעַן אֶת עֲרֹנֹת אָבִיו וַיִּגְדּוּ לְשָׁנֵי-אָחָיו בַּחֹץ: 23 וַיִּקְחוּ נֶשֶׂם וַיִּלְפָּתוּ אֶת-הַשְּׂמֹלֶה וַיִּשְׂימוּ עַל-שִׁבְתֵּם שְׁנֵיהֶם וַיִּלְכוּ אַחֲרָיִת וַיִּכְסּוּ אֶת עֲרֹנֹת אֲבֵיהֶם וּפְנֵיהֶם אַחֲרָיִת וְעֲרֹנֹת אֲבֵיהֶם לֹא רָאוּ: 24 וַיִּיקָץ נֹחַ מִיֵּינוֹ וַיֵּדַע אֵת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה-לוֹ בְּנוֹ הַקָּטָן:</p>
<p>“Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”</p>	<p>25 וַיֹּאמֶר אָרוּר כְּנָעַן עֶבֶד עֲבָדִים יִהְיֶה לְאָחָיו:</p>
<p>26 He also said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. 27 May God enlarge Japheth,¹⁹ and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.”</p>	<p>26 וַיֹּאמֶר בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי שָׁם וַיְהִי כְנָעַן עֶבֶד לָמוֹ: 27 יִפְתַּח אֱלֹהִים לְיִפְתָּח וַיִּשְׁכַּן בְּאֶהֱלֵי-שָׁם וַיְהִי כְנָעַן עֶבֶד לָמוֹ:</p>
<p>28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years. 29 All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.</p>	<p>28 וַיְחִי-נֹחַ אַחֲרֵי הַמַּבּוּל שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַחֲמֵשִׁים שָׁנָה: 29 וַיְהִיו כָּל-יְמֵי-נֹחַ תְּשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַחֲמֵשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: פ</p>

- * This is from Noah's perspective, the sky that he could see, and the nearby hills that he could have seen if they had not been covered with water.
- ** Again this is from Noah's perspective, the hills that became visible from where the ark was resting.
- *** Obviously the waters were *not* still on the face of the whole land, since the ark had settled to earth, and the tops of the hills were visible. But they were apparently too distant for the dove to reach, so from the dove's perspective, it *was* true. But here it is clear that “land” or “earth” refers to something far smaller than the whole planet.

5. Different Biases in English and Spanish

It is interesting that in Spanish the *translation bias* #1 discussed on page 1 does not occur, since אֶרֶץ /'ʔeretʃ/ **is** only translated in one way **in Genesis 6-9 in both the Reina Valera 1960, the most commonly used version in evangelical churches, and in the Nueva Versión Internacional**, as “*tierra*”, and the preposition בְּ /bə/ “in, on, at” **is** only translated in one way, as “*en*”, so both “**in the land**” and “**on the earth**” come out as “*en la tierra*”, with precisely the same ambiguities as Hebrew has.

Confusingly, אֲדָמָה /ʔādā'mâ/ is also always translated in Genesis 6-9 as “*tierra*”, making potential ambiguities slightly greater than in Hebrew. And even הָרֶבֶה /ħārā' bâ/ is translated simply as “*tierra*” in the Reina Valera 1960, though the Nueva Versión Internacional translates it as “*tierra firme*”, which means “dry land”.

In addition, the preposition עַל /ʕal/ “on, on top of, upon, over”, is never translated the same as בְּ /bə/ “in, on, at” in Spanish, but always as “*sobre*”, so there is no potential confusion here as there is in English.

¹⁸ Genesis 9:20 Or Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard
¹⁹ Genesis 9:27 Japheth sounds like the Hebrew for enlarge

However, *translation bias* #2 still applies in Spanish, at least in certain versions like the NVI, though the RV60 uses “*montes*”, which is just as ambiguous as the Hebrew **הָרִים** /hā'rîm/, or even nowadays tends to just mean “hills”.

Thus the *translation bias* in Spanish ends up being far less than in English. Instead, in Spanish, Hebrew, and other languages in which these words have similar ambiguities it becomes far more a question of *interpretation bias*.