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Spread of Civilization Centers to Three Continents and Domination of Central Religion (Arab) Civilizations

Tika Nadila[1)] , Yara Laela[2)]
[1-2)] Universitas PTIQ Jakarta
*e-mail corespondency: tikanadila@mhs.ptiq.ac.id[*)]

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Abstract

The story of Noah is a long series of preaching journeys and the series of events in it provide valuable lessons for Muslims. Because Noah's long life history holds a very valuable historical treasury. Noah is called the father of world civilization because he continued the birth of humans on earth through his three children. This research is library research which examines the historical development of the spread of humans through Noah's son using a deductive approach. It was found that Noah's three sons were the fathers of the nations on the three continents, such as Sam, the father of the Semitic nation (Arab and surrounding areas), Yafis, the father of the Asian and European nations, and then Ham, who was the father of the African nation, they intermarried with each other, which then resulted in diverse ethnicities. The three heavenly religions known today are theological developments brought by the descendants of Sam bin Noah. Many civilizations were created by the descendants of Noah, such as the first kingdom built by Menes or Mishram, the descendants of Ham in Africa.

KATA KUNCI:
Nuh, Peradaban
Tiga benua, Putra Nuh

Abstrak

Kisah Nabi Nuh merupakan rangkaian panjang perjalanan dakwah, dan peristiwa-peristiwa di dalamnya memberikan pelajaran berharga bagi umat Islam. Sebab, riwayat panjang kehidupan Nuh menyimpan khazanah sejarah yang sangat berharga. Nuh disebut sebagai bapak peradaban dunia karena ia melanjutkan keberlangsungan keturunan manusia di bumi melalui tiga orang putranya. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kepustakaan yang mengkaji perkembangan historis penyebaran umat manusia melalui keturunan Nuh dengan menggunakan pendekatan deduktif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tiga putra Nuh merupakan nenek moyang bangsa-bangsa di tiga benua, yakni Sam sebagai nenek moyang bangsa Semit (Arab dan sekitarnya), Yafits sebagai nenek moyang bangsa Asia dan Eropa, serta Ham sebagai nenek moyang bangsa Afrika. Mereka saling melakukan perkawinan antar-keturunan yang kemudian melahirkan beragam etnis.Tiga agama samawi yang dikenal hingga kini merupakan perkembangan teologis yang dibawa oleh keturunan Sam bin Nuh. Banyak peradaban lahir dari garis keturunan Nuh, seperti kerajaan pertama yang didirikan oleh Menes atau Mishram, keturunan Ham di Afrika.

INTRODUCTION

History is a reflection of the past and a guide for the future. To neglect history is to sacrifice the future and disregard the values that once existed. History is not merely a record of past events and facts, but a spirit that shapes a better and brighter future. Forgetting history not only leads to misleading darkness, but also disregards its educational, inspirational, and guiding values, as well as dismisses a field of knowledge that can be both enlightening and recreational. Strengthening

one's identity becomes difficult when history is forgotten, and a great nation is one that always remembers its history (Al-Asyi, 2020)

Although the origin of the first human remains a matter of debate among scientists and religious scholars, the majority of Islamic scholars agree that the first human was Prophet Adam (peace be upon him). This view is also shared by the two other Abrahamic religionsChristianity and Judaism. The question of how human life continued after Adam often leads to new discussions. Prophet Noah (Nuh, peace be upon him) is regarded as a key figure in civilization after Adam, especially after the great flood that destroyed the earlier civilizations.

Noah was not only a messenger of God who delivered His message, but also played a crucial prophetic role in the development of human civilization. The great flood symbolized the destruction of past civilizations and the emergence of new hope, continued through those who survived the disaster. This paper will discuss who those survivors were and how they contributed to the development of human civilization as we know it today.

So far, studies on Prophet Noah have mostly focused on his preaching journey his patience and the methods he used. For example, Qanita Nurshabrina in her research *"Dakwah Nabi Nuh 'Alaihissalam: A Thematic Interpretation Study of Prophet Noah's Preaching in Surah Nuh"* examined this aspect (Nurshabrina, 2021). Similarly, Nabila Salsabila R. et al., in their work *"The Story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an"*, highlighted the values and wisdom contained in the story of Prophet Noah.(R et al., 2024) However, research on Noah has rarely delved into the spread of civilization through his descendants as mentioned in religious texts. Therefore, this study aims to enrich the discourse on Prophet Noah and the civilization built by his progeny.

Based on the review of previous studies on the story of Prophet Noah, this research identifies a significant academic gap that warrants further investigation. Earlier studies have generally focused on Noah's preaching, patience, and methods of conveying his message, but few have explored in depth the historical dimension of his descendants and their contribution to the spread of human civilization after the Great Flood. Therefore, this study offers a novelty in the scholarship on Prophet Noah by highlighting the genealogical narrative and the role of his descendants in shaping world civilizations. This approach is expected to enrich academic discourse on the relationship between prophetic history and the development of human civilization from a historical-theological perspective.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a library study employing a qualitative method with a narrative approach. Data were collected through documentation techniques from various written works discussing the story of Prophet Noah. The focus of this study is to answer questions related to the brief history of Prophet Noah, including his genealogy and descendants, the spread of humanity through his three sons, as well as the dominant role of the central region in the development of global civilization. The approach used is deductive, which involves presenting general data and information to derive more specific and directed conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Hasil

A Glimpse of Prophet Noah and the Flood

Tawhid (the oneness of God) is the fundamental principle of every religion brought by the prophets. Although every prophet conveyed this principle, the Qur'an reveals differences in how they explained it. The arrival of Prophet Noah as a messenger occurred during a time when people had begun to forget the teachings of previous prophets. He lived in the "Fatrah" period, an interval following Adam, Seth, and Idris, and was the ninth generation after Adam. During his time, society had turned to *shirk* (polytheism), abandoned good deeds, and immersed themselves in sin and immorality. They worshipped idols believed to possess supernatural powers.(K, 2013)

The Qur'an describes how Noah preached to his rebellious people for 950 years, yet only gained 80 followers. Seeing the stagnation of the mission, Allah commanded Noah to build an ark to save the believers, as stated in Surah Al-Mu'minun (23): 27:

"So We inspired him: 'Construct the Ark under Our eyes and with Our revelation. Then, when Our command comes and the oven gushes forth, take on board a pair from every species, along with your family except those against whom the decree has already been passed. Do not plead with Me for those who have done wrong, for they will surely be drowned.'" (Qur'an 23:27)

Some commentators mention that the floodwaters reached a height of 15 cubits, while others say 80 cubits.(Imaduddin Abu Fida' Ismail bin Katsir Al-Quraisyi, 2013) The water covered the entire earth fields, valleys, and everything else. No living creature remained except Noah, his descendants, and the believers who boarded the ark. However, in *Tafsir Al-Munir*, Wahbah az-Zuhayli stated that only Noah, his sons, and their wives survived. It is generally agreed that only those who believed in Allah survived.

Theological Claims Regarding the Civilization of Noah's Descendants

The three Abrahamic religions agree that the second wave of human civilization originates from Noah. After the flood that destroyed the rebellious people, scholars attempted to identify who remained in the ark and later rebuilt human civilization. In *Tafsir Al-Munir*, Wahbah az-Zuhayli explains verses 76–77 of Surah As-Saffat:

"And We saved him and his family from the great distress. And We made his descendants the only survivors." (Qur'an 37:76–77)

He interpreted this as follows:

We saved Prophet Noah and his followers from the great disaster—either the flood or the torment from his people. We made his descendants the ones who continued the human lineage until the Day of Judgment. All of humanity descends from Prophet Noah. He had three sons: Shem (ancestor of the Arabs, Persians, and Romans), Ham (ancestor of black-skinned people), and Japheth (ancestor of the Turks, the Khazar people [narrow-eyed], and Gog and Magog, including the Chinese, Japanese, and similar peoples). It is said that everyone on the ark died except for Noah's children and their wives. (Az-Zuhali, 2016)

In his monumental work *Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azhim*, Imam Ibn Kathir also presented similar interpretations.

'Ali ibn Abi Talhah narrated from Ibn Abbas: *"None remained except the descendants of Noah."* Sa'id ibn Abi 'Arubah narrated from Qatadah regarding the verse *"And We made his descendants the survivors* meaning that all humans today descend from Noah. At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Jarir, and Ibn Abi Hatim reported from Salid ibn Bashir, from Qatadah, from Al-Hasan, from Samurah, from the Prophet (peace be upon him), who said:

"Shem is the father of the Arabs, Ham is the father of the Abyssinians, and Japheth is the father of the Romans." (Narrated by At-Tirmidhi from Qatadah with this wording. Al-Hafiz Abu Umar ibn Abd al-Barr stated that Imran ibn Husayn narrated a similar hadith from the Prophet.)(At-Tirmidhi, 2007)

Islam explains its belief in Noah's role in the continuation of human civilization through these scriptural and scholarly interpretations. Meanwhile, Jewish and Christian traditions clearly record the genealogy of Noah in the Book of Genesis. In Judaism, the Book of Genesis is not merely a historical account but also a source of moral and spiritual guidance. Many Jews study the text deeply to better understand their relationship with God and their national identity. Genesis is highly revered in both Jewish and Christian traditions as a source of knowledge about the origins of the world and humanity.

Genesis 9:18–19 states:

"The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth."

Discussion

The Origins of the African Peoples

As stated in the hadith, Africa is said to descend from Ham, the son of Prophet Noah (peace be upon him), who migrated to the African region and established a civilization there through his descendants(Al-Asyi, 2020). Ham's descendants are described as having physical characteristics similar to modern Africans dark skin, sturdy builds, and curly hair. However, some of Ham's descendants are also described as having lighter skin and slanted eyes, which has led to speculation that they may have been the ancestors of the Chinese, though this view remains uncertain in its validity. Among Ham's sons were Kush, Mizraim (Mishraim), Put, and Canaan.

From Kush's lineage came the civilization of Nimrod (Namrud), son of Canaan, son of Kush, son of Ham, son of Noah. He became a ruler and is known as one of the tyrants opposed by Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him). Nimrod ruled over the region of Mesopotamia around 2200 BCE. He established several cities there, including Babel, Erech, Akkad, Calah, and Nineveh. Nimrod's story is recorded clearly in the Qur'an, as in the following verse:

"Have you not considered the one who argued with Abraham about his Lord [merely] because Allah had given him kingship? When Abraham said, 'My Lord is the one who gives life and causes death,' he said, 'I give life and cause death.' Abraham said, 'Indeed, Allah brings up the sun from the east, so bring it up from the west.' So the disbeliever was dumbfounded. And Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people." (Al-Baqarah, 2:258)

Nimrod fell silent during the dialogue because he was confused by his disbelief and could not answer Abraham's challenge to bring the sun from the west. According to *Qashash al-Anbiya* by Ibn Kathir, Nimrod died because of a mosquito that entered his nose and reached his brain, causing him immense pain until his death. Allah took his life with just a small creature that he could not defeat.

Apart from Nimrod, who descended from Kush, there was Mizraim, another son of Ham, who married Philemon, the daughter of a priest from Heliopolis (an ancient Egyptian city). Mizraim, his wife, and their followers about 30 people founded a kingdom in Egypt. The first city they built was *Manf*, which later developed into Memphis. Before the descendants of Ham settled in Africa, the region was known as *Siridaik*, inhabited by the descendants of Seth (Syith), son of Adam (Sani, 2022).

Memphis was an ancient capital of Egypt and a key center in its history, located south of the Nile Delta, about 24 km south of modern-day Cairo. Its necropolis is famous for pyramids such as those at Giza and Saqqara. In 1979, the Memphis archaeological zone was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city's original name was *White Wall*, possibly referring to a royal palace made of white-painted bricks. The modern name *Memphis* comes from *Men-nefer*, the name of a pyramid built by King Pepi I nearby. Ptah, Memphis's local god, was the patron of craftsmen and artists, and his great temple was one of the city's most famous structures. (Mertz, 2024)

Memphis's power is evident in the large tombs found in Saqqara and nearby from the Early Dynastic Period and the Old Kingdom. Egypt was reunited during the Middle Kingdom, and many 12th Dynasty kings built temples for Ptah. After a period of turmoil due to the Hyksos, Memphis flourished again under the 18th Dynasty, although some scholars argue its political power had never entirely vanished. Memphis held great religious significance, with numerous royal ceremonies such as the *Heb-Sed Festival*, symbolizing the unification of Egypt. (Mertz, 2024) During this period, organized political knowledge and structured kingdoms such as those of Mizraim and Nimrod began to emerge.

The Origins of the European and Asian Peoples

Japheth (Yafith) was one of the sons of Prophet Noah who migrated to the European region and became the ancestor of the peoples of Europe and Asia. Among Japheth's descendants were the Indo-Iranians, also known as the Aryans, who had physical characteristics such as fair skin, sharp noses, and thin lips. The Aryans were a nomadic people who spread across various regions while maintaining their societal identity. Around 2000–1500 BCE, the Aryans entered the Indian subcontinent, specifically in the regions of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. The Harappan people, known as the Dravidians, lived prosperous lives as farmers, artisans, traders, and also developed sailing vessels. The Dravidian civilization in Harappa existed alongside the Akkadian civilization, which practiced polytheism, while Harappa was a civilization that had moved away from religion and instead emphasized science, high philosophy, and social hierarchy. (Miftahuddin, 2019)

Around 2300 BCE, along the Halys River, the Aryan tribes spread westward across the peninsula. They traded actively with eastern islands and western peoples, especially the city of Assur.(Bauer, 2011) The Dravidians of Harappa had physical characteristics such as dark skin, flat noses, curly hair, thick lips, and sturdy bodies. According to many historians, the Dravidians were destroyed by the Aryan invasion into their territory. This history is supported by the discovery of low-quality weaponry (swords and spears) and human bones. Archaeological evidence suggests that after 300 years of cohabitation, conflict emerged due to Aryan dominance. It is widely accepted that the Harappan Dravidian civilization collapsed around 1500 BCE, after which it was succeeded by the Aryans. (Miftahuddin, 2019) The intermingling of Dravidians and Aryans later gave rise to Hindu civilization.

Around 1100 BCE, the region of Greece began to develop. Its culture was heavily influenced by the civilizations of Syria-Hittite, Phoenicia, Assyria, and Egypt. This cultural mixing was due to migration among peoples in this case, Semitic peoples mixed with the Greeks, who were descendants of Japheth. The Greeks went on to build a civilization that spread throughout the Middle East and surrounding regions. Greek philosophical thought, such as that of Plato and Aristotle, had a significant impact on the era.Another Japhethic people was the Celts, who originated in the Mediterranean and later migrated to Britain, Brittany, Galicia, and surrounding areas around 900 BCE. (Sani, 2022)

In addition to the Celtic peoples, the Mediterranean region saw the rise of another major civilization around 750 BCE—a city called Rome, which later grew into the Roman civilization. The Roman Republic conquered surrounding kingdoms, including Carthage and Macedonia. Greek philosophers significantly influenced Roman civilization during this period, especially in the fields of education, politics, science, and the arts in Europe. The Roman Empire eventually fell in 476 CE after a series of invasions by Germanic tribes in the 4th and 5th centuries. (Sani, 2022)

The Origins of the Arab Peoples

As previously mentioned, the descendants of Prophet Noah had different physical characteristics, which resulted in distinctions among the peoples of Europe, Asia, and Africa. However, regarding Shem (Sam), there is little information available about the specific physical traits of his descendants, who became the ancestors of the Semitic peoples. Upon the author's investigation, the Qur'an does not explicitly mention the names of Noah's grandchildren, so the reference used here is the Book of Genesis, particularly Genesis 10:22–23. This passage states that Shem had five sons: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

From the descendants of Aram and Arpachshad came several prophets who called people to Islam, including the Prophet Muhammad, who was a descendant of this line. Hud was the son of Arpachshad bin Shem bin Noah, sent to preach to the people of 'Ad. In the Qur'an, Allah says about Hud:

> "O my people! Worship Allah; you have no other god but Him. You are merely fabricating [falsehood]." (Hud: 50).(Barid & Umbara K, 2016) The 'Ad people were one of the Semitic descendants of Noah whom Allah destroyed. Surah Al-Fajr (89:6–8) speaks of their civilization, known for constructing towering buildings unlike anything before:"Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with 'Ad—of Iram with lofty pillars, the like of whom was never created in the land?"Their pride and arrogance, however, led to their rejection of the truth.

As the Qur'an says: "As for the 'Ad, they acted arrogantly in the land without right and said, 'Who is greater than us in strength?' Did they not see that Allah, who created them, was greater in strength than them? But they continued to reject Our signs." (Fussilat/41:15)

According to Abu al-Qasim al-Isfahani in *Al-Mufradat fi Gharib al-Qur'an*, the word *istikbar* here implies arrogance and an inflated sense of superiority without justification. This arrogance stemmed from their intellectual and material achievements.(Imam, n.d.) The people of 'Ad, ancestors of the Arabs, were destroyed due to their arrogance and refusal to accept the truth.(Hakim, 2020)

They were known for constructing grand and strong buildings, often uninhabited, which they used as symbols of status and tools for exploitation. Surah Hud (verses 50–60) and Surah Al-Haqqah (69:6–8) describe how a fierce windstorm destroyed them:

"And the 'Ad were destroyed by a furious, bitter wind, which He unleashed upon them for seven nights and eight days in succession. So you would see the people lying dead like trunks of hollow palm trees. Do you see any of them left?" (Al-Haqqah/69:6–8)

Another prophet from Shem's lineage was Prophet Salih, who was sent to preach monotheism to the Thamud people. According to genealogical records, Salih was a descendant of Thamud, who traced their lineage back to Shem: Salih bin Ubaid bin Asif bin Mashikh bin Ubaid bin Jadir bin Thamud bin Jatsir bin Aram bin Shem bin Noah. Like other destroyed nations, Thamud was punished for their arrogance and rejection of divine truth.

The genealogy of the Arab peoples is also detailed in the Torah. In Genesis and the Book of First Days, we find groups referred to as "Majmu'at" (groups), such as the Yaqtanite and Ishmaelite groups. The Ishmaelites descended from Ismail. Historians discovered poetry by Akhnas bin Shihab bin Shuraik mentioning tribal names such as Ma'ad, Lakiz, Bakar, Tamim, Kalb, Ghassan, Bahra', Iyad, and Lakhm. These names include tribes from both Adnaniyyin and Qahtaniyyin lineages, though it is unclear which belongs exclusively to each due to overlapping identities.(Ali, 2019)

The Adnaniyyin and Qahtaniyyin are ancestral Arab tribes descended from Shem and still exist today. There are two main tribal branches: the Adnaniyyin (descended from Ismail ibn Ibrahim) and the Qahthaniyyin (descended from Yaqtan, also called Yaqzan in the Torah). According to genealogist Nassubun, Qahthan is the ancestor of the southern Arab tribes (al-Yamaniyyin). Literature suggests that the Adnaniyyin and Qahthaniyyin were the builders of Arab civilization that continues to this day(Tarigan et al., 2023)

Shem's descendants gave rise to major nations that spread across the world. The Semitic peoples descended from Shem and formed tribes across the Arabian Peninsula, speaking a variety of languages. Among the Canaanite-speaking Semitic tribes (20th century BCE) were the Amorites, Ammonites, Hebrews, Edomites, Amalekites, Moabites, and Phoenicians. Semitic tribes speaking Arabic included Gindibu, Lihyan, Thamud, Ghassanid, and Kedar (descendants of Prophet Ismail).

One of the Semitic groups the Akkadians migrated to Mesopotamia and intermarried with the Sumerians, forming the Assyrian and Babylonian peoples by the 4th century BCE. Lasting legacies from the Sumerian civilization include the division of hours into 60 minutes, the 360-degree circle, the 7-day week, and the 12-month year. These time units are now named differently in various cultures; in Indonesia, for example, the weekdays are named using Arabic-derived terms.(Sani, 2022)

The relationship among the three revealed religions

Religion is a set of rules that governs the relationship between humans and their God(Aizid, 2023). Meanwhile, a revealed religion (*Samawi religion*) is the one conveyed by Allah through His angels to humankind(Anwar et al., 2020). One of the important figures in the revealed religions is Judaism, Christianity, and Islam is Prophet Noah AS. His story about patience in delivering the divine message and the great flood becomes a theological meeting point that affirms the shared legacy of faith in these three religions. In all three traditions, Noah AS is regarded as

the father of humankind after the great flood, from whom all human descendants continue. The story of Noah's Ark has thus become a universal symbol of salvation for the believers, as well as a warning for those who reject faith.

All contents of the revealed religions are equally true and mutually affirm one another, yet their affirmation takes two forms: first, affirming the earlier revelations while allowing them to continue; and second, affirming them but limiting their validity only to a specific period. Thus, some revealed religious laws (*sharī'ah*) are eternal and unchanged by the shifts of time and space, while others are temporary and end when their designated period has passed(Hanafi, 2008).This clarifies that revealed religions play a role in the continuity of divine revelation, while temporary laws only apply within their historical context. Therefore, revealed religions do not negate one another but rather reinforce each other, until Islam came as the final religion that perfects the previous ones.

The three revealed religions share similarities from theological, historical, and humanistic perspectives. First, the theological aspect, which refers to the divine statements or words of God in the scriptures concerning the oneness (*tawḥīd*) of Allah. The most dominant parallel among the three traditions is that they represent monotheism the belief in the absolute oneness of God and in a well-ordered universe. Second, the historical aspect, in which each scripture contains narratives of prophets as recorded in the revealed books, such as the acknowledgment of Abraham (Ibrāhīm) as the patriarch of faith and a beloved of God. This explanation is found in the Bible, the Torah, and the Qur'an. Third, the humanistic aspect, in which the scriptures teach how to be a true human being bringing benefit, peace, and love to others(Indriana, 2020). Thus, the similarities in the theological, historical, and humanistic aspects of the three revealed religions lie in their shared foundation of values: the recognition of God's oneness, the continuity of prophetic history, and the universal teaching of humanity that guides their followers to live in goodness and peace.

In the context of an increasingly plural modern life, the revealed religions hold significant relevance. All religions were fundamentally revealed to carry the mission of humanity, peace, and respect for human life(Khoirul, 2023). These values can serve as a foundation in facing global challenges such as social conflict, intolerance, and humanitarian crises. Religious teachings on compassion, justice, and solidarity across differences can indeed provide the basis for creating a harmonious and civilized society. Thus, the convergence of humanitarian values within the traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam remains relevant as a guide for building a peaceful social order in the present time.

Civilizational Dominance of the Middle Region

The Semitic peoples named after Shem (Sam), son of Noah produced descendants who played dominant roles in shaping new civilizations across the Middle East. Many prophets emerged from Shem's lineage, both from the Arab line through Ismail and the Israelite line through Prophet Jacob (Ya'qub). As previously mentioned, Shem had five sons: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. Through Aram and Arpachshad came many prophets who established widespread civilizations.Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim), descended from Arpachshad, had two main lineages: from his sons Ismail and Ishaq (Isaac).

Ismail, born to Hagar (an African woman), was the ancestor of the Arabs and of the noble Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), whose full lineage is preserved from Muhammad bin Abdullah all the way back to Ismail.As we know, Islam brought by Prophet Muhammad as the final prophet has profoundly influenced global civilization.Another civilization from Shem's line

was that of Bani Isra'il, the descendants of Jacob (Ya'qub) bin Isaac bin Abraham.(Zahara, 2019) Jacob had twelve sons who became the ancestors of the prophets in Judaism and Christianity: Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, and Levi. Jesus (Isa, peace be upon him) was descended from Judah, and Moses (Musa), a key figure in Judaism, came from the tribe of Levi. The followers of these two prophets still exist and continue to grow worldwide.Thus, it is fair to say that civilizations originating from Shem's descendants dominate the world theologically. According to World Population Review, Christianity holds the largest number of adherents globally, with Islam in second place.(Indonesia, 2022)

CONCLUSION

The three Abrahamic religions Islam, Christianity, and Judaism agree that human civilization continued through the descendants of Prophet Noah. This belief is supported by theological texts from each tradition. In Islam, this claim is backed by Qur'anic verses such as Surah As-Saffat 76–77, further interpreted by scholars. In Christianity and Judaism, the belief is supported by the Book of Genesis 9:18–19.

Who survived the great flood were Prophet Noah and his descendants, including their wives; some scholars also include a few companions. These descendants became the ancestors of the major human groups: the Europeans and Asians (Japheth), the Semites or Arabs (Shem), and the Africans (Ham). Their progeny spread across continents, gave rise to prophets, kings, and powerful civilizations, and shaped the world's cultural and religious heritage to this day.

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