

PREPARING *the* WORLD *for*
JESUS
A Survey of the World Before Christ

Kevin Swanson



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PASSING ON THE FAITH

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Contents



	Introduction–The Desire of the Nations	xi
	CHAPTER I The Song of Creation	1
	CHAPTER II The Pre-Flood World	23
	CHAPTER III The Worldwide Flood	41
	CHAPTER IV The New World Emerges Bearing Pieces of the Old	61
	CHAPTER V The Babel Rebellion	77

		CHAPTER VI The Dispersion and the Descent into Darkness	93
		CHAPTER VII The Return of the Nephilim: Nimrod Attempts World Empire	129
		CHAPTER VIII God's Covenant with Abraham to Bless the World	149
		CHAPTER IX Early Egypt and the Exodus of God's People	167
		CHAPTER X The Beginning of Babylon—First of the Mesopotamian Empires	219
		CHAPTER XI God Reveals His Law to Man—From Creation to Solomon	235
		CHAPTER XII The Rise and Fall of the Amalekite—Phoenician Alliance	263
		CHAPTER XIII The Special People of God—Taking the Promised Land	285
		CHAPTER XIV Old Babylon—The Rising Threats to Israel	321
		CHAPTER XV The Rise and Fall of Israel's Monarchy	351



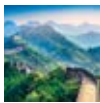
CHAPTER XVI

The Fall of Egypt by God's Decree—The Middle and Late
Empires of Egypt 391



CHAPTER XVII

India Waits for the Coming of Christ 413



CHAPTER XVIII

The Far East Before the Coming of Christ 429



CHAPTER XIX

Babylon Has Fallen 465



CHAPTER XX

The Kingdoms of the Elamites, the Medes, and the
Persians 495



CHAPTER XXI

The Misguided Greeks and Alexander's Ill-Fated Empire 545



CHAPTER XXII

The Hellenistic Kingdoms 591



CHAPTER XXIII

The Romans: Reaching the Zenith of the Empires 613



CHAPTER XXIV

Preparing the World for Jesus: Jerusalem 661

Notes 681

Index 701

List of Images 721



*This book is dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ,
who is Lord of All.
He is the Chief Shepherd of His church.*



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Introduction— The Desire of the Nations

For thus says the LORD of hosts: “Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory” says the LORD of hosts. (Haggai 2:6-7)

History should never be studied as if two separate stories existed within it—the secular and the sacred or the extra-biblical and the biblical accounts. The story of Augustus Caesar should never be presented apart from the story of Jesus Christ. History is utterly meaningless without Christ. It is He who always appears as the main event. He alone gives meaning to history. Without Him, nothing can be held together, and history itself falls to pieces. Thus the story of history is one story, all of it engagingly interwoven, intensely meaningful, and supremely thrilling. It is the story of God’s working within His creation to accomplish His wondrous purposes.

History possesses meaning only when we view it from God’s perspective. The story of Augustus Caesar should become familiar to us only because he represents the world into which the Son of God was born. Jesus Christ really

came into the real world, to really die for real sins and to establish a real kingdom that will never end. Every Christian family across the globe who desires to be rightly educated in world history must look first to the biblical historical records as their foundation. These alone provide the emphases that must form the main points of history from a biblical worldview perspective. Meanwhile, the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks provide the stage upon which the drama of biblical history played out.

Unbelieving, post-Christian historians tell us that biblical history is worse than unimportant and is entirely inaccurate—nothing more than a fairy tale. This assertion, however, is quite at odds with the truth. The dark eons of history hardly offer us any certainty, and worldly archaeologists are left to wild guesswork. The ancient tales of the Mesopotamians and Egyptians are patently cloaked in myth, and honest historians will admit they can scarcely make heads or tails of them. Only the Scriptures, the revelation of God recorded by His reliable prophets, can possibly provide us with a definite and certain framework for the rest of history. Thus, we must rely on Scripture for the true and certain facts of history. This must always be the foundation upon which our understanding of history is built.

Since Scripture is the infallible, inerrant Word of God, we should not be surprised at how much extant archaeological evidence increasingly validates the Bible's records. *Preparing the World for Jesus* will summarize the best, the most accurate, and the most important recent archaeological finds pertaining to biblical events. As we should expect, these secular accounts confirm time and again the reliability of Scripture:

- The worldwide flood really happened, and every tribe and nation in the world was impacted by it.
- Moses actually led God's people out of Egypt. And Pharaoh's armies really were destroyed in the Red Sea, toppling the Egyptian Empire.
- Joshua actually fought the battle of Jericho, and the walls really did come tumbling down.
- Nebuchadnezzar was truly humbled.
- Nineveh really repented.

- Cyrus the Great was actually named by Isaiah 300 years before he was born, and he did indeed help to rebuild the temple by the decree of Almighty God.
- Alexander the Great was really the horn of the male goat in Daniel's dream.
- Jesus, the Son of God, was really born in Bethlehem.

Archaeology upholds all of this. But, more importantly, each of these events were recorded in God's Word, and they are all essential to understanding His Story—the story of the world.

Until Jesus came, the whole world groaned and travailed under the weight of man's sin. Although they may not have realized it, all nations of the world looked forward with a life-or-death, desperate anticipation to the coming of the true Messiah of God.

These ancient civilizations record the stories of a Satanic rule over the nations of men, the nightmarish rule of evil, the failures of the god-state, and the endless wars, cruelties, and treacheries of the great men of the world. The optimistic pride and the accomplishments of men could only, always lead them to pessimism and destruction. No hope existed for ancient man—no hope outside of a miraculous intervention by God. Only the Savior of God could save man from this terrible predicament. Only God's King would bring the ultimate rule of true righteousness and peace. Only the arrival of Jesus Christ could bring meaning to the world and hope to the fallen race of mankind.

This is the only way to study the history of the world.



CHAPTER I



The Song of Creation

(4004–3584 BC)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

The Earth is a tiny speck in the vast universe, and yet in some respects the very center of the universe. This planet is very important to the Creator, such that He would send His only begotten Son to visit and to save the world 2,000 years ago. The history of the world is the story of the work of God first and only secondarily, the works of man on this earth. God's Word unfolds the story of the fall of man into sin, the judgment of God for sin, and the Incarnation of Jesus Christ in order to deliver His people from sin and death. All of history plays out according to God's purposes, including the sin of man and Christ's salvation. Indeed, Jesus is the "Lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8). All of history and all of creation has meaning, because God is the Creator and He has ordained a purpose for it. Most basically, the purpose for the existence of this earth and the whole material creation is to reflect the glory of God – "for of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things to whom be glory forever, Amen!" (Rom. 11:36).

Unbelieving philosophers and scientists have suggested other means by which the universe came into existence, theorizing a natural evolutionary process. But Scripture clearly states that the material world is the supernatural work of God, all of it created by the spoken Word of God, the second Person of the Trinity.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

Psalms 33 is a “song of creation,” offering a full explanation of how the universe came into being.

*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!
For praise from the upright is beautiful.
Praise the Lord with the harp;
Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.*



*Sing to Him a new song;
Play skillfully with a shout of joy.*

*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by
the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;
He lays up the deep in storehouses.*

Let all the earth fear the Lord;

Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

(Psalm 33:1-3, 6–9)

The first chapter of the Book of Genesis contains a chronological and historical record of the creation of the cosmos from God's perspective. There is no other mechanism mentioned than the spoken Word. Indeed, God spoke the entire universe into existence.

To set the example for man patterning work and rest, the Lord God took six days to transform His creation and rested the seventh day. During the first three days of creation, He created spaces by dividing what was already made. The first day, He made light and darkness. The second day, He created the sea and air. The third day, He created the land and filled it with plant life.

Over the second set of three days, the Creator filled these spaces in the same order. On the fourth day, He introduced light and darkness into space by providing the sun, moon, and stars. The fifth day He created fish and birds to dwell in the sea and in the air. And on the sixth day, He created the animals that live on the land. Finally, He made Man as the apex of the material creation, created in His own image and likeness.

Our Creator also established the material laws of physics at the beginning. These laws ordain a consistency to His providential, preserving care of the world He had made. While there are myriads of ways in which God could have created the world, He chose to form it in a poetic sort of order, dividing the world into spaces over three days, and then filling those spaces with living beings over the subsequent three days. The observer immediately realizes that God cannot be reduced to some impersonal force in the universe. He is the fountain of all life and wisdom. He is something more than a manufacturer or an engineer. He is the finest Poet and the most accomplished Artist. The



Methuselah Tree

universe speaks of more than mechanical function. Beauty, music, and poetry may be heard and seen in all of creation. The Artist will combine high levels of technical skill with creative wisdom, embedding multiple levels of symbolism into the artwork to produce that which is beautiful to Himself and other observers. God reviewed His artwork seven times in the Genesis account, and every time declared it to be “good” and “very good.” The heavens and earth declare the glory of God, because He crowned them with beauty when He had created them.

As man is made in the image of God, he is endowed with knowledge, righteousness, and holiness and assigned dominion over the creation. He possesses something of the creativity of the Creator, the ability to communicate, and to create and understand symbols. Man was created with the capacity and need for relationship with God and with his fellow man, for indeed, God Himself was in relationship from all eternity. Because God the Father had begotten the Son in eternity, mankind was also created with the capacity to beget sons and daughters. Humanity is uniquely made in the image of God and very much distinct from the animals in the lower creation, and the angels above.

The second chapter of Genesis contains an additional record of the creation, but this time from Adam’s perspective. While Adam could not have witnessed the creation of the first five days, he observed God planting the Garden of Eden. He received the covenant command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He studied the animal creation, distinguished them by their features, and gave them names. Then he witnessed the creation of the woman, whom God gave him as wife.

Herein, God has laid out a twofold witness of the creation of the heavens and the Earth—the testimony of God Himself and the testimony of Adam, our forefather, who witnessed the sixth and seventh days. The testimony of two witnesses is a foundational principle used throughout Scripture by God Himself, as a means of certifying the truth.

“By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.” (2 Corinthians 13:1)

Following six days of work in the creation of the world, God rested on the seventh day. The Sabbath principle is here established as a universal command

for all mankind. This also provides the fourth and final division of the distinguished spaces ordained in the Creation. God separated six common days from one holy day in each week. This day has been set aside for rest from labor, and for God’s worship and communion with our Creator.

When was the Universe Created?

In order that there be no confusion or false narratives concerning the early history of the world, the Bible has carefully laid out an internal chronology from Creation until the sixth year of Darius I of Persia, when Ezra dedicated the altar of the Second Temple in 516 BC. There are a few minor differences taken by biblical scholars on this chronology, as God’s revelation to man will be intentionally imprecise at points. Some of the passages are difficult to interpret. The chronology used for this study was first standardized by James Ussher¹. To briefly summarize this chronology, the following table lists historical timeframes and associated Biblical references.

1656 years	Period from Adam to the Flood (Genesis 5:1-31; 7:6)
352 years	Period from the Flood to the birth of Abraham (Genesis 11:10-32; 12:4; Acts 7:4)
75 years	Abraham’s age when God made the Covenant (Genesis 12:4)
430 years	Period from the Covenant to the Exodus (Exodus 12:40-41; Galatians 3:16,17)
479 years	Period from the Exodus to 4th year of Solomon (1 Kings 6:1)
36 years	Period from Solomon’s 4th year to his death (1 Kings 11:42; 2 Chronicles 9:30)
390 years	Period from Jeroboam to destruction of the temple (Ezekiel 4:5-9)
70 years	Period of desolation until temple is rededicated in 6th year of Darius I (Ezra)
3,488 years before Darius I (year 6, 516 BC) was Creation.	
516 years before Christ—Darius’ 6th year	
+ 3,488 years	
= 4,004 BC – Creation	

Based on differing interpretations of the above passages, other Bible scholars may place the Creation as much as 2,000 years before Ussher’s date, or later. Theologians and Bible interpreters differ mainly on whether the chil-

dren of Israel were enslaved in Egypt for 215 years or 430 years, and a few other variables.

While Scripture is to be taken as the highest authority and the most accurate source of knowledge concerning the origins of the world, there are three other significant witnesses from ancient cultures which have preserved some record of creation.

The Ancient Aryan Calendar

Originally settled by descendants of Shem or the early Aryans, India was conquered by the Cushites or the descendants of Cush (Ham's eldest son). Ancient Aryan manuscripts called the Vedas were preserved through the ages, of which the Rig Veda is believed to be the oldest. While much of it was corrupted with idolatry, some historical information was preserved describing four successive ages of increasing wickedness prior to the Flood. The ancient Aryan scribes placed the Creation of the world nine centuries before an important date they labeled as the Kali Yuga. The significant event recorded in the year 3104 BC involved the alignment of five planets, recorded by Hindu sages and confirmed by later astronomers. Adding 900 years to the year 3104 BC yields 4,004 BC for the Creation of the world.

The Ancient Persian Calendar

The ancient Persians also preserved an original calendar dating before the worldwide Flood, still used as the official calendar of Iran. According to that calendar, the "Lotus Creation" occurred 5,817 years before the year AD 1815, which puts the year of creation at 4003 BC.



Emperor Fu-Xi with Turtle,
painted by Ma Lin of the
Song Dynasty

Ancient Chinese Dating

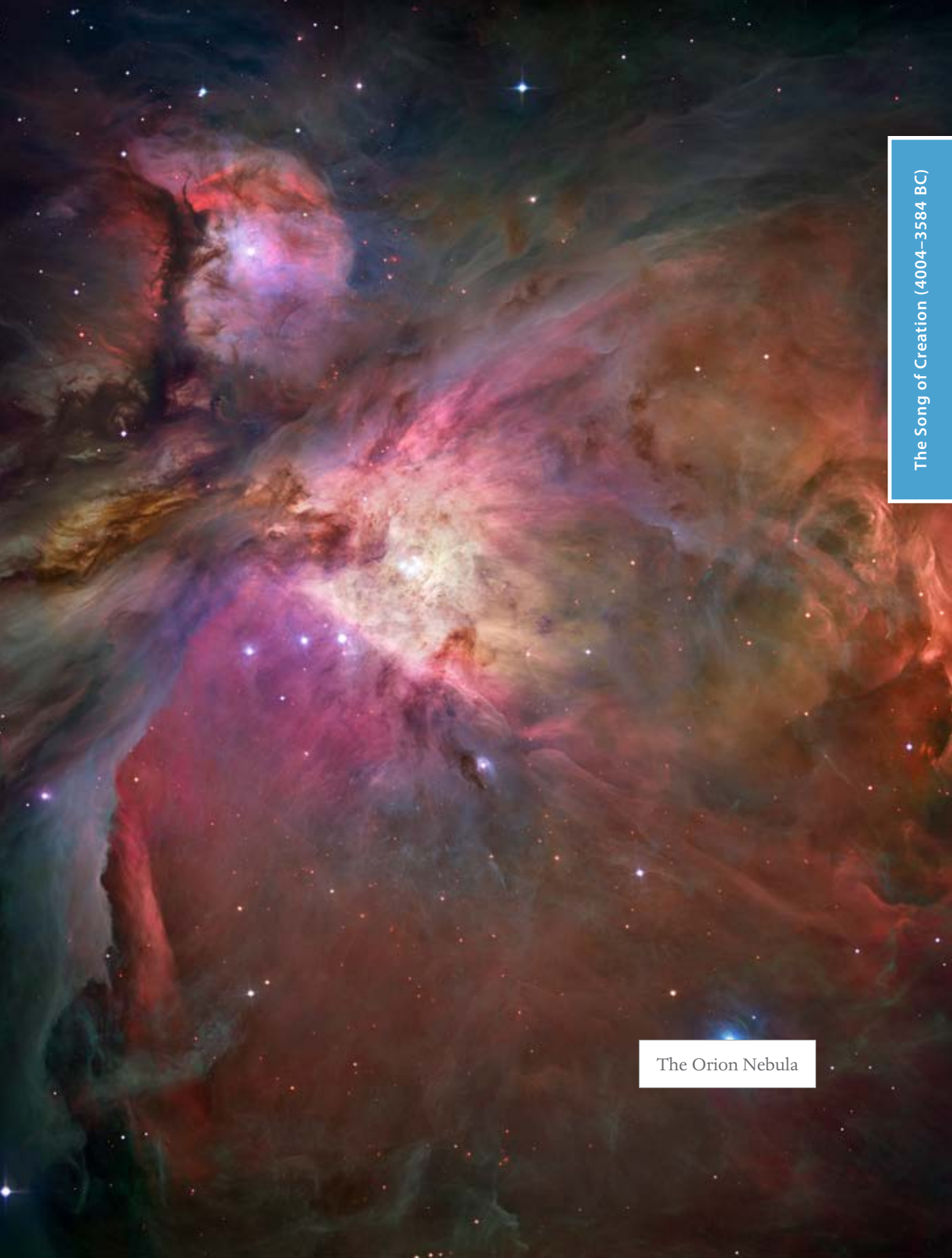
The Chinese have maintained records of their emperors from the first to the last. Putyi of the Qing dynasty was the last to reign. He abdicated in AD 1912 and died in 1967. China's first three emperors recorded in the ancient annals are Fu-Xi, Shin-nang, and Huang-Di, identified with the biblical characters of Adam, Seth, and Enosh. Chinese tradition points to Fu-Xi issuing a riddle that was never solved until Emperor Yu, who was born 1,800 years after Adam. According to Chinese dating, this monarch founded the Xia Dynasty and reigned 1,421 years before a solar eclipse recorded in 776 BC, which places his reign in 2197 BC. Add 1,800 years to 2,197 BC, and the first Chinese progenitor lived around 3997 BC. This places the life of Fu-Xi within seven years of Ussher's date for the Creation of Adam.

The Oldest Life on Earth

Since natural laws operated differently after the fall of man into sin, and after the worldwide Flood, the most reliable dating by scientific observation would have to be counting tree rings. Christians accept the regularity of scientific laws operating in the earth, particularly after the Flood because of the promise of God contained in Genesis 8:21-22. All trees and vegetation would have been destroyed in the worldwide Flood. Therefore, the best dating of ancient trees would only yield the date of the Flood. The oldest tree in the world, fittingly named "Methuselah," is located in the California White Mountains and is estimated to be 4,800 years old. While there is a 5–10% margin of error for the difficulty of discerning some of the rings, this tree would date somewhere around 2400–2800 BC—roughly accommodating the biblical dating for the worldwide Flood.

Starlight and Time

The only sure way to obtain the age of the earth is to rely upon divine revelation and turn to the One Who was there when the universe came into being. Unbelieving historians and atheistic evolutionists claim to use science to determine the age of the universe and the earth. For example, scientists will measure the amount of Carbon 14 in some specimens and estimate its age. The conclusion is based on assumptions. Because Carbon 14 is unstable,



The Song of Creation (4004–3584 BC)

The Orion Nebula

it will decay into Carbon 12. These scientists must assume the same decay rate taking place throughout history, and that the Carbon 14 to Carbon 12 ratio in the atmosphere remains constant over time. How could they ever prove this, unless they were to take measurements from 6,000 years ago? This form of science is extremely unreliable and hardly worth paying attention to when considering important matters such as the origins of man.

Atheists will also point to light travel as an argument for an old universe. Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. When viewing stars and galaxies at 40 billion light years away, they say that the universe must have been around for that length of time in order for the starlight to reach the earth from these far-off locations in the universe.

There is no easy answer to starlight and time. Thoughtful scientists have grappled with this question for a long time.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter. (Proverbs 25:2)

First, consider that God created the universe with the appearance of age. Adam was a grown man at creation, and God could very well have stretched the light rays from each star to every part of the universe at the beginning.

There is another more intriguing solution, however. Physicists have learned that time is related to the gravitational force of planets and stars, and the velocity at which an object is moving through space. Time slows down with increased gravitational force and then speeds up in regions where gravitational forces are the weakest (far away from stars and planets).

Christian scientists have proposed models reducing all the matter in the universe to a single ball with an enormous gravitational force at the beginning, so great a force that time would come to a standstill. This is called the “event horizon.”

When God stretched out the heavens, that ball of matter exited the event horizon and that is where time began for these parts of the universe. Genesis 1 explains that the earth was the last part of the universe to emerge from the event horizon. The sky was immediately filled with trillions of stars and galaxies on the fourth day. While the Earth is six thousand years old, portions of the universe may have experienced 40 billion years of time or even more; yet

they were both created at the same time. This is another possible explanation for what we observe in this awesome universe of God's creation.

The Creation of Man

God created man in His image, both male and female. He assigned man the task of dominion over the created realm, as a steward. Man was to cultivate the earth, and rule over it as one who reports to the owner of the property.

When the Lord God created the woman, He gave her to the man as his wife. She was assigned by God to be a “complementary helper” for the man in the dominion task. God established genders and gender roles in the creation, both of which would be rejected by revolutionary civilizations intent on destroying God's order for the world.

And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” (Genesis 2:18)

God also established marriage as a permanent and fundamental institution for human society.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)

And thus, man was assigned stewardship over God's creation, endowed with authority by God for the task. Adam was assigned authority over his wife, and together they were given authority over the rest of creation, and given the mission to cultivate the earth in the pattern of the Garden of Eden set up by God Himself. Authority may be delegated by a higher Authority. True authority may never be seized, and still be considered legitimate authority.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

The Fall of Man

God entered into a covenant relationship with Adam, stipulating one requirement of him, and promising blessing or cursing as consequences for obedience or disobedience. As he was created a moral being who was subservient to God, Adam was obligated to obey Him. Should Adam obey God during this period of trial, Adam could eat of the tree of life and live forever. Should he disobey, Adam and his posterity would be sentenced to death.

Mercifully, God gave Adam a single rule to obey. He was instructed not to eat the fruit of a single tree in the garden—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan, a fallen angel who had himself rebelled against God, took upon himself the form of a serpent, and tempted the woman by plainly contradicting God’s Word. He intimated that God was not good, and was not going to provide for the better interests of Adam and Eve. The devil further suggested that the man and woman would be “like God” if they ate of the forbidden tree, and by this means enter into a position of being in competition with God. The same impulse to compete with God had taken the devil when he rebelled, and this would turn into the root sin for the fall of man and his subsequent state of rebellion.

Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5)

This knowledge of good and evil may be taken in various ways. Surely, Eve would never have had intimate knowledge of evil, death, and suffering had she not eaten the forbidden fruit. This was a knowledge God did not want for man. While the devil suggested that Adam and Eve would gain better knowledge by disobedience, just the opposite is the case. The beginning of knowledge and wisdom comes by the fear of God, which entails obedience to God. Refusing to fear God, recognize His judgments, and obey His Word is the beginning of foolishness.

The Serpent also initiated an overturn of the created order. The world in proper order begins with God’s rule over man, the man ruling over his wife, and man and woman ruling together over the animal kingdom. Instead, the woman submitted to the serpent’s instructions, and then, both Adam and

Eve disobeyed God. Here was the first revolution, in which man would attempt to turn God's created order on its head.

The woman ate the forbidden fruit, and her husband followed suit. One solitary act of disobedience constituted a sin of such offense to a holy God, that every subsequent evil in the world may be traced to this simple infraction. Adam's first sin introduced all evil into the world, including the curse of death, the fear of death, bondage, tribal wars, despair, depression, disease, abuse, addictions, violence, murder, suicide, envy, divorce, sexual perversion, and broken relationships.

This event in the history of man introduced a radical shift in the entire cosmos, plunging mankind into a world of evil. By compliance with the Serpent's words, Adam surrendered his authority and freedom to the devil. A great, ominous darkness spread over the entire world and the prince of darkness had gained an iron-clad control over the sons of men.

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. (1 John 5:19)



Stained-glass representation of Adam and Eve

God's Judgment on Man's Sin

That very evening the Lord God paid a visit to the Garden and found the man and woman hiding themselves because of their guilt. He called them out and announced His judgments upon each.

For the serpent:

*So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust all the days of your life.
(Genesis 3:14)*

Then, for the woman:

*“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.” (Genesis 3:16)*

Besides the verdict of death assigned to both men and women, the Lord God added gender-specific curses for each. The woman would suffer pain in childbirth and other aspects of childbearing and child raising. God then announced another curse upon the marital relationship—a continual tension and lack of peace would prevail. The woman would instinctively desire after domination, to devour her husband (like a wild beast). This would result in perpetual misery for the woman especially, in that she would always find herself in the uncomfortable position of forced submission. Every fallen daughter of Eve would chafe under her husband’s authority. Within pagan societies, the woman’s plight would be characterized by abuse, forced servitude, polygamous marriages, and general misery. Modern man would attempt to relieve the curse by feminist ideals, government welfare, easy divorce, access to abortion, abortifacient forms of conception control, aberrant forms of sexuality, and the destruction of the family. This short-circuiting of God’s judgments would only increase misery in the earth. Only the redemption of the Savior of God could relieve the curse of the fall, and relieve women of that incipient spirit of rebellion and the consequences of it.

Next, for the man, God brings the curse:

*“In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;*

*For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)*

While the woman was assigned to childbearing in pain and heartbreak, the man would take on primary responsibility for the material sustenance of the home. God cursed his life with increased burdens, thorns and thistles, and frustration. Men would also attempt to circumvent the curse by avoiding work and responsibility, often preferring a life of drunkenness, diversions, sports, games, and sex without consequences. This also would prove disastrous for civilizations that attempted it.

This became the feral state for men and women after the Fall. Without external constraints from civil government and God’s judgments, human society would quickly destroy itself. This is what occurred nine generations after the Fall.

The Promised Seed

When the Lord God announced His curse on the serpent (Gen. 3:15), He promised a Seed that would crush Satan’s head. The Seed would come from the womb of the woman. God also instituted a virulent enmity between Satan and the righteous seed—an enmity that would perpetuate throughout history (ref. Rev. 12). Obviously, Satan would not wish his head to be crushed, and he considered the Seed of the woman from the very first as a threat to his own existence. The Serpent would stand ready to kill the Seed of the woman from the very beginning, always encouraging the tribes of the earth to the practices of abortion and infanticide.

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel. (Genesis 3:15)*

Sometimes referred to as the proto-evangelium, this prophetic announcement comes as the first revelation of the salvation of God and the Savior of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Right away, God promises to save the world ruined by the devil and sin. He would be true to the promise.

The Destiny of the Serpent

Whereas the Serpent is almost always assumed to be a snake, actually the Hebrew word for serpent (*nachash*) rather more broadly denotes a reptile.

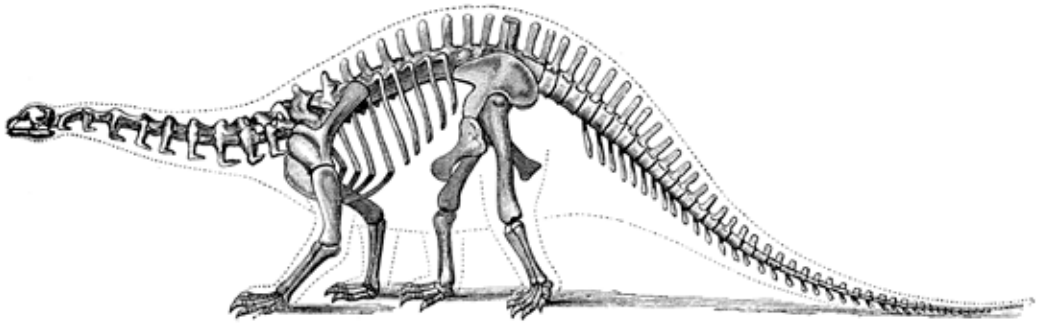
Modern man discovered the remains of dinosaurs for the first time in the 1600s, but it wasn't until the 1820s that scientists like Robert Buckland started categorizing them as dinosaurs. As paleontologists pieced the bones together, they soon discovered these to be walking and flying lizards, or snakes walking around on legs. Unlike lizards and crocodiles, these ancient reptiles were endowed with quite different hip bones. These creatures walked using legs protruding directly out from under the torso or body trunk, instead of waddling like a lizard or a crocodile.

Modern scientists have so far failed to identify any definitive explanation for the disappearance of these ancient walking and flying reptiles. They offer a few far-fetched theories for the cause of their extinction, suggesting for example that an asteroid dropped on the earth and selectively destroyed these large reptiles. But God's Word leaves no doubt as to why the dinosaurs disappeared. Though the curse may have taken centuries to be fully realized, unlike their reptile predecessors, lizards and crocodiles would have to drag their bellies and heads close to the ground ever after, according to God's pronouncement.

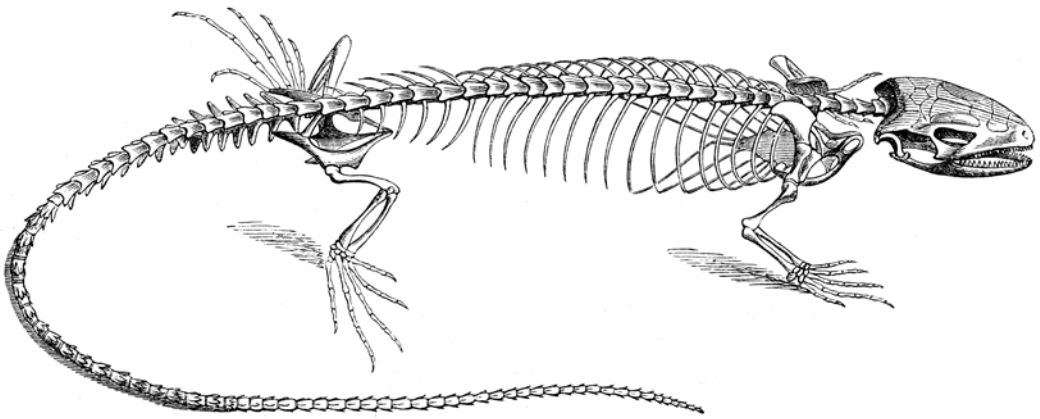
Evolutionists present an old-earth paradigm of origins in which they claim dinosaurs went extinct 80 million years ago. Therefore, they say man and dinosaur never lived together upon the earth.

Yet, well before the 1600s when modern man began piecing dinosaur bones together, there were a great many depictions of dinosaurs and references to dinosaurs in ancient history. Ancient pictures and statuary presented man and dinosaur in the same scenes. These artifacts are largely ignored by the scientific community today, because of their stubborn commitment to a presuppositional framework that disallows all biblical explanations. Their eyes are blinded by a godless, materialistic, evolutionary worldview. Several examples will suffice for this overview.

First, comes this textual source from Sumeria, one of the earliest civilizations after the Flood. A mythic poem called the "Legend of Etana" recites how an eagle caught the young of a serpent and fed them to its eaglets. When



Brontosaurus—hip bones oriented for vertical walking



Lizard skeleton—hip bones oriented for waddle walking

the serpent returned to find his nest empty, we learn something interesting about him.

*The serpent cast down [the food] before [his young].
He glanced around. [His young] were not there!
With his claws he [scrapes] the ground;*

*[The dust of his nest covers] the sky.
[The serpent ...] weeps,
His te[ars] flowing [before Shamash]²*

Here is a serpent with claws—something very different from a snake!

Archeological research on almost every continent has identified multiple examples of dinosaurs depicted in ancient art. Important people of the ancient world added a signature to a document by pressing a cylinder seal bearing an image (or logo) into soft clay. The cylinder seal MNB1167 found in the French Louvre museum was discovered in Iraq and dated



Cylinder seals depicting dinosaurs (c. 2000 BC)

to the Uruk Period, less than a century after Babel. The image depicts creatures that archaeologists prefer to call “long-necked lions” or “serpopards.” These, of course, are dinosaurs. The bodies of these creatures depicted in the image look like the Apatosaurus.

Another example of men depicting dinosaurs in artwork is the Palestrina Mosaic from ancient Italy. These artistic renderings were found on the floors of a Roman temple to Fortuna about 35 kilometers east of Rome, and date from the Hellenistic Period about two centuries before Christ. The mosaic depicts hunting and fishing scenes near the confluence of the Blue and White Nile Rivers in Africa. One of the animals depicted has a Latin label, naming it a “crocodile leopard,” or what plainly appears as a velociraptor.

A third example is the Muktinath Temple in Nepal. While the temple dates to the tenth century A.D. or earlier, the latest upgrade was consecrated in A.D. 1815 by Queen Subarna Prabha. Located on a wall of the temple are 108 “dragon-headed” fountains which pilgrims seek out to “cleanse” themselves. The heads are variously described as dragons or bulls. The head resembles the skull of a “ceratopsid” dinosaur. The first ceratopsid dinosaur skull, a Triceratops, was not identified by



Dragon-Head fountain in Muktinath Temple, Nepal compares with Triceratops skull

modern science until 1887, which was seven decades after the latest date this fountain could have been built.

What may be concluded about the relationship between humans and dinosaurs? The extinct reptiles today are primarily walkers and flyers. Present-day reptiles like turtles, crocodilians, snakes, and lizards, move along with their bellies on or close to the ground. Real live creatures called dragons were known and feared up until the Late Middle Ages. Very likely, the extinction of the dinosaurs in history corresponded with the expansion of the Christian faith throughout the world. Christ has crushed the head of the metaphorical Serpent, the devil himself, when He rose from the dead 2,000 years ago.

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:9)

God's Plan of Blood Atonement for Adam's Sins

When God judged Adam and Eve and cast them out of the Garden of Eden, He also provided a means of salvation for them.

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. (Genesis 3:21)

First, He made clothes from animal skins for them so they would not be naked. This implies that sacrificial animals had to be slain so that their skins could provide a covering for the nakedness and sin of Adam and Eve.

Unlike the Book of Exodus which explained in great detail how to sacrifice animals, Genesis does not specify when God instructed Adam how to sacrifice animals for atonement for sin. But it appears that God showed Adam the first animal sacrifice when He gave them leather clothes.

Later, when Noah boarded the Ark, God instructed him to take seven pairs of the clean animals and only one pair of the unclean animals. Since man was not given animal flesh to eat until after the Flood, the clean and unclean cat-

egories were not referring to food. They were referring to sacrificial animals. Instead of killing Adam and Eve for their sin, which they fully deserved, God killed an innocent animal and clothed them with its skin. Their nakedness was covered by the blood sacrifice.

The principle of blood sacrifice continued during the period of the patriarchs from Adam through Moses. “Clean” male animals without blemish were assigned to sacrifice. The animal’s blood was poured out on the earth, and its fat and flesh burned on the altar.

The bloodshed and sacrifices symbolized man’s need for atonement. The sacrificial animal died in the place of the man for his sins. This pointed to the future coming of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God without blemish, pure and undefiled, to serve as a sacrifice for sin and to take away the sins of the world.



Abel brings a blood sacrifice to God



CHAPTER II



The Pre-Flood World

(3584–2348 BC)

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. (Genesis 4:1-2)

Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden, and the entrance was guarded by cherubim and a flaming sword. Thenceforth God barred them from any more access to the tree of life (and eternal life). Shortly thereafter, Eve gave birth to Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:1-2). Most likely, Eve’s childbearing years extended for 130 years and longer. Her third son, Seth was born 130 years after God created Adam. Evidently, Adam and Eve had received God’s covenant word concerning the Seed of the woman. For she acknowledged her first son, Cain, as having acquired him “of Yahweh God.” Yahweh is the Hebrew rendering of the word translated “Lord” in the Old Testament.

Man severed his relationship with God by breaking the covenant, and soon thereafter desecrated human relationship with one another by committing

murder and other sins. This is the story of Cain found in Genesis chapter 4. Cain killed his brother Abel, and then wandered east of Eden as a vagabond in the earth.

The First Murder on the Earth

Cain and Abel brought their offerings to God. Cain brought grain, while Abel brought the firstborn lambs of his flock. God did not respect Cain's offering, and the text does not elucidate the reason. Perhaps the Lord God had already demonstrated the need for blood sacrifice, by providing animal skins as clothing for Adam and Eve when they were expelled from the garden.



God warned Cain of his envy towards Abel, but he took no heed, and murdered his younger brother in the field.

At this time, only the family jurisdiction was in place, as instituted by God at creation. There were no police officers or magistrates available on earth to rightly administer justice. Since God would not allow the family to execute divine vengeance upon the criminal, he extended grace to Cain, placed a mark of protection upon him, and issued the warning:

“Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.”
(Genesis 4:15)

This was intended to restrain personal vengefulness and anarchical killings prior to the worldwide Flood. By what we call “Common Grace,” God restrains men from doing evil, and maintains some level of peace and order in the earth. The ungodly live together in peace, at least for a generation or two. Unbelieving parents show love to their sons and daughters. Those who may have no access to divine revelation retain enough truth and knowledge to design beautiful buildings and create works of art. Common Grace allows the sinners and the saints to live together on Earth. This is how God preserves the world from destroying itself.

Instead of responding to God’s mercy in repentance, Cain took the mark of God’s protection as a sign of entitlement.

*Then Lamech said to his wives:
“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!
For I have killed a man for wounding me,
Even a young man for hurting me.
If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”* (Genesis 4:23-24)

Cain is the prototype of a world without God. First, man isolates himself from human relationships. He kills his brother and becomes a vagabond in the earth. He builds a city, preferring anonymity to meaningful community, and he seeks power over others as a primary value.

Cain's great, great, great, great, great grandson, Lamech, became the world's first polygamist. This preference for multiple spouses is an interruption of God's plan for human relationship and true intimacy. Pagan kings and chieftains gain power by multiplying wives, and thereby curse marriage with strife, competition, coldness, and distance. From the beginning, God intended for the two to become one. Man's misconceived system of polygamy made it impossible for the three or two to become the one flesh, as God had ordained the marital relationship.

To make matters worse then, Lamech committed murder out of personal vengeance. His threat recorded in Genesis 4:24 is the first example of human tyranny. He positioned himself as more severe than God by a factor of seventy-fold. The ungodly rule by severe threats, torture, and cruelty, and this would mark unnumbered tyrannies among tribes, nations, and empires for the next 6,000 years. The tyrant studies to exercise his rule with more severity than God Himself. He squelches all Common Grace and brings more misery to the earth. The Lord Jesus Christ would turn Lamech's pronouncement on its head, to be sure that mercy triumphs over judgment. If Lamech would avenge seventy-seven-fold, Jesus would have His followers forgive those who sin against them seventy times seven—a 490-fold forgiveness.

*Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."
(Matthew 18:21-22)*

The Third Son

And 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." And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord. (Genesis 4:25-26)

Cain's murder of Abel also spelled out a strong enmity between the descendants of Adam who would follow God, and those who would follow the

devil. Adam and Eve would still look to God for the promised Seed, whom Eve referred to as “another seed.” Evidently, Adam and Eve must have believed the Seed of the woman would indeed crush the head of the serpent and save the world from evil. This Messiah would come through Seth’s line. In fact, Seth becomes the lineal male ancestor of every person born on earth since the Flood.

Josephus, the Jewish historian of the 1st Century, recorded that Seth and his sons were the first astronomers to chronicle their discoveries for the benefit of future generations.

[Seth and his sons] were the inventors of that peculiar sort of wisdom which is concerned with the heavenly bodies, and their order. And that their inventions might not be lost before they were sufficiently known... they made two pillars: the one of brick, the other of stone; they inscribed their discoveries on them both, that in case the pillar of brick should be destroyed by the flood, the pillar of stone might remain, and exhibit those discoveries to mankind...¹

The “Prediluvian” world (before the Flood) had not yet suffered the same effects of the Fall which are experienced in today’s world. Environmental conditions must have been of such optimal levels that men would live for over nine centuries. No doubt, women carried on their child-bearing for hundreds of years at a time, and the productive working life of a man may have extended up to four to six hundred years. Early humanity was no primitive caveman, as they are construed by evolutionists. About 800 years after creation, Lamech’s sons Jubal and Tubal-Cain were smelting bronze and iron, and making musical instruments. Prediluvian progress in technical skill and knowledge must have achieved much higher levels than modern unbelieving anthropologists would suggest.

King Solomon wrote:

*That which has been is what will be,
That which is done is what will be done,
And there is nothing new under the sun.
Is there anything of which it may be said,
“See, this is new”?
It has already been in ancient times before us.*

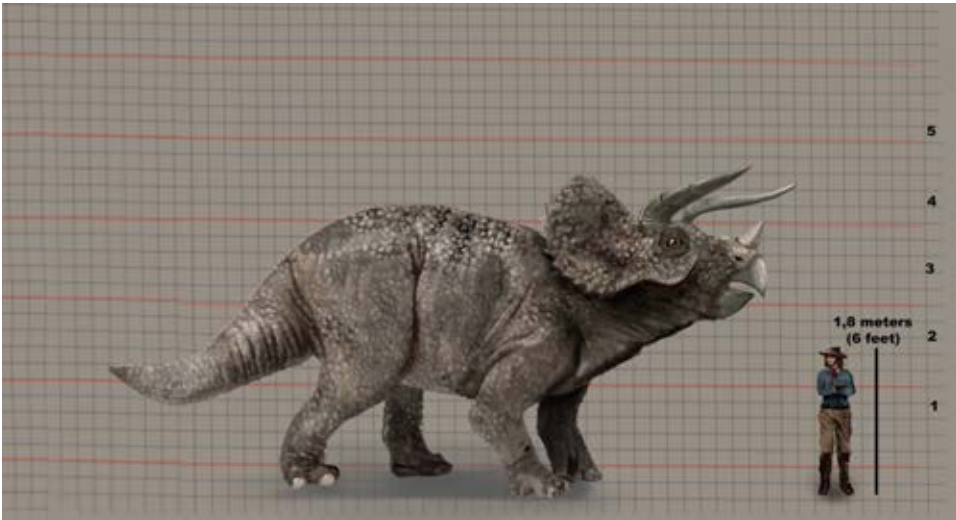
*There is no remembrance of former things,
Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come
By those who will come after. (Ecclesiastes 1:9-11)*

Modern man assumes he has reached the apex of human knowledge and that all who came before were primitive. However, for Noah to build a wooden vessel 157 meters in length, he would have needed sufficiently advanced technology such as sawmills and cranes, as well as industrial supplies of sealants and other materials. Could it be that Prediluvian society achieved higher levels of technology than what is available today?

Prediluvian man may very well have been more intelligent than modern man. Given much longer life spans, most likely these people were stronger psychologically, physically and emotionally—capable of far more achievements than the average person born today. Paleontological research confirms that Prediluvian animals were enormous. Dinosaurs grew to 150 feet in length, weighing as much as 100–200 tons. The rhino-like Paraceratherium could



Prediluvian dinosaurs were the largest of God's creatures.



The rhino-like Paraceratherium could grow to 16 feet high and 24 feet long.

grow to 16 feet high and 24 feet long, eight times the size of the average African rhino. The glyptodont was a giant armadillo that weighed two tons. Fossils of 1-meter long snails and 2-meter long dragonflies have been uncovered.

The Prediluvian Calendar

The strongest evidence for the intelligence and advanced abilities of Prediluvian Man comes from the construction of Noah's ark, as well as the development of the annual calendar. The biblical account of the Genesis Flood encodes dates in three different formats: solar days, lunar dates, and non-lunar months of 30 days. For the first ten months in the ark, Noah counted lunar months as 30 days in length (Gen. 7:24, 8:4).

Prior to the Flood there must have been 360 days in a year and exactly 30 days in a lunar month. This also means that the full moon must have appeared in the same position for each month of the year. This may be the root source for the twelve constellations of the Zodiac, which were called the "houses of the sun and moon."



Geometry was the invention of Adam and Seth

The 360-day year also provided 360 degrees for a circle. As the pre-Flood observers watched the night skies each night, the starry background appeared to be moving a single degree each 24-hour period for a 360-day year. This also explains the origin of the sexagesimal number system used by the later Babylonians. While the modern world uses a decimal system (1–10), the Babylonians counted in powers of 60. 60 times 60 equals 3,600—the same number as ten years of 360 days. This period of time known as a “sar” or “saros” is still used in both the Persian and Chinese calendars today.

Noah’s Flood broke the heavenly clock, as it were. The release of the flood waters from under the earth lowered the surface of the earth. The effect of this contraction of mass would be similar to a figure skater pulling her arms close to her body as she spins faster and faster. The Flood must have caused the Earth’s rate of spin to increase, adding five days and six hours to the Earth year. The Earth’s rotation speed increased which would have added an extra five and a quarter rotations of the earth for a single orbit around the sun, which makes up a full year.

Nearly all the early civilizations accepted twelve months of thirty days in a year of 360 days for their calendar year. These include the Sumerians, Egyptians, Chinese, Mayans, and the Romans. The problem was that in the post-flood world, the tropical year was 365 days and a little less than 6 hours. If they used the old calendar then their years would slowly drift against the seasons. For example, the Roman New Year, January 1, was originally on the Winter Solstice. Due to several centuries of not using leap years properly, the Winter Solstice drifted back to December 22nd.

The Return of Cain and the Descent into Evil

Men began to call upon the name of Yahweh in the days of Enosh (about 310 years after the Creation). This suggests that God had withdrawn from mankind because of the corruption of man. Cain went east into the land of Nod and built a city named Enoch after his firstborn son. The Bible doesn't tell us what happened to Cain after that, but the fact that it records six generations of his descendants must mean that his line eventually came back to the region where the line of Seth was living.

Ancient Indian records refer to Cain as "Atri" and report that he returned to Adam's abode, and then introduced idolatry about 420 years after Creation.² The Chinese, Hindus, and Babylonians agree that the line of Cain ruled in some manner for about 511 years while Adam was still living, and after his death, they had an uncontested rule for another 725 years until the Flood. These three numbers add up to the 1,656 years recorded from Adam to the Flood in Scripture. Jewish tradition also confirms that as Cain's line came to rule, the line of Seth retired to mountains closer to the Garden of Eden to escape the cruel tyranny developing.

Cain's murder of Abel introduced violence and bloodshed, which later grew to fill the earth, as recorded in Genesis 6. Before the Flood, there was no civil magistrate to punish crime and no immediate consequences for evil actions such as murder and rapine. Moreover, longer lifespans enabled even more wickedness among the bad seed or the line of Cain.

The Terrible Nephilim and their Reign of Terror

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose... There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. (Genesis 6:1-2, 4)

The sixth chapter of Genesis records that the “Bnai Elohim” or “sons of God” saw the daughters of men and took as wives “whomever they chose,” which implies a lack of consent by the women. Three words are used to describe the offspring that come out of these terrifying unions. These were the “Nephilim,” which means “big bully” or “imposing tyrant.” They were the “aggressive, violent warriors” upon the earth, and powerful men of renown, whose reputation would be spoken of for a thousand years. These were the men that brought unspeakable evil upon the earth.

Both Jewish and Christian scholars have long debated the meaning of this passage and the identity of the “sons of God.” The older view which seems to have been universally held by ancient cultures was that angelic beings came down and took human women and produced gigantic hybrid offspring with them.

2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 1:6 refer to the fallen angels:

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 1:6)

Ancient traditions recall the Nephilim as demigods. For example, the Babylonian Gilgamesh was alleged to be “two-thirds divine and one-third human.” However, the majority view among Christians since the time of Christ has

been that the “sons of God” refers to the descendants of Seth marrying the daughters of the line of Cain. Here is the scriptural reference to the Nephilim:

There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. (Genesis 6:4)

Cain’s legacy is further developed in verses 11 and 12 of Genesis 6. The earth became corrupted and filled with violence. The mixed marriage produced a tremendous cultural strength and virile character capable of bringing about extreme violence and evil in the earth. No doubt, great empires were formed with a great deal of power residing with one or several extremely evil dictators in charge. Something similar to this occurred in the 20th Century when dictators in China and Russia were empowered for the extermination of hundreds of millions of people. Given that the Nephilim hybrid occurred by the intermarriage of the righteous line of Seth into the wicked line of Cain, any synthesis or apostasy between the righteous and unrighteous must be extremely dangerous. The outcome was nightmarish—a bad seed and a ruinous effect on the whole world.

The violence was so severe that the Lord God committed Himself to destroying the entire earth with the millions or billions of humans living on it. He gave Noah 120 years to build the ark. What happened to those who were calling on the Name of Yahweh? What happened to Seth’s righteous line at the end, when only Noah was left? Did the Nephilim-initiated worldwide genocide include the substantial portion of Seth’s line? Was Noah’s father, Lamech, murdered by the Nephilim, since he died at an earlier age than the other pre-Flood patriarchs? Lamech must have been a man of faith and prophetic gifting, in that he named his son “Noah” or “rest” – in expectation that the world would find rest one day from the strife and violence. Methuselah died at 969 years of age in the year of the Flood, possibly killed by the Nephilim as well. Of the righteous line, only one man and his family was left standing by the time of the Flood.

Assuming longevity prior to the Flood equated to an improvement in physical health and an improved ability to bear children for women, the birth rate would have been as high as 29 children per couple. That would equate to 33

billion people in the world by 2518 BC, almost all of whom died in the flood (with the exception of Noah and his family). If the average woman had twelve children (only twice the birth rate of the present world without birth control), there would have been 140 million people in the world by the time of the flood. Whatever the case, the salvation of the world was resting on one father and one family of eight by the time of the Flood. God promised that the Seed of the woman would bring salvation to the world. As God destroyed the world in water, the promise was still hanging on one very thin thread. From a human perspective, the odds of one family surviving a worldwide flood would have been very slim indeed. God saved one family from a watery grave. But more importantly, the Lord was determined to save a Seed—the promised Savior who would come through Noah’s son, Shem. Thanks be to God, the Seed survived and that Seed would redeem the world from sin and death.

The Religion of Cain

Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage. (Deuteronomy 4:15-19)

Satan opposes God at every step. Whatever God says to do, or not do, Satan will work on getting men to do the opposite. In the pre-Flood world, God had not revealed the majority of His law, as later revealed through Moses. But He did give the dominion covenant in which He directed both animals and men to be fruitful and multiply, “each according to its own kind.” Man was to rule over the created world, not worship and serve it—as was the case with the

idolatrous nations of the earth. The deification of man led to the deification of everything else in the created sphere.

While the Bible does not elucidate on the religion of Cain, per se, some scriptural evidence points to Nimrod and his followers attempting a return to the ways of Cain after the Flood.

Pagan religions of the Ancient Near East, where Noah's descendants settled, universally retained several key elements. First was ancestor worship. These wayward souls, turning away from God, would worship their ancestors as gods—especially the first woman, Eve, as the “Mother Goddess.” Second, these religions took just the opposite view of Scripture and interpreted the eating of the forbidden fruit as the moment of “enlightenment.” This was the moment at which mankind became as wise as the serpent. Thus, false religions would align with Satan himself in open defiance against God. The serpent was usually taken as the “good guy” with the pagans. Thirdly, men would worship powerful, yet visible entities such as the sun, moon, and stars as gods. Also, almost all primeval religions turned sexual immorality into a virtue and



Ancient Egyptian goddess, presented in the body of a snake (at the Temple of Edfu) c. 200 BC

a religious rite. Ancient temples were outfitted with priestesses who served as prostitutes in the worship of the gods. They built ziggurats, pyramids, and high places with temples—sometimes leaving a virgin girl in the temple overnight with the intent that she should conceive a child of the god. Here was a Satanic counterfeit for God’s plan of redemption in the earth.

Sexual Immorality Leads to Violence and Bloodshed

The violation of the 7th Commandment usually introduced social instability, violence, and bloodshed. Whether in primitive or modern societies, sexual sin inevitably resulted in abortion, infanticide, or child exposure—where babies were left outside to die. The abandonment of children in the ancient world was extremely common. Moses was not the first baby placed in a basket

in the river. Sargon of Akkad, who reigned the century before the life of Moses, also claimed to have been abandoned in a basket in the river as a child.

The breakdown of sexual-ity and marriage also brought about a chaotic social situation—fatherlessness, increased criminal activity, a breakdown of character, and a spiraling effect through the generations. According to the law of God given to Moses, children born out of wedlock could not become citizens of Israel for ten generations (Deut. 23:2). Such measures applied pressure on women to ascertain that their children were born within the bonds of marriage.



A mother goddess statuette from Canhasan, which is an archaeological site in Türkiye.

Prophetic Warnings Concerning the Worldwide Flood

Both Scripture and Hebrew tradition include records of prophets sent by God to warn the people of the earth concerning the coming Flood. Interestingly, both the Chinese and Indian calendars begin with the Saptarshi Era or the Grand Cycle, beginning 828 years after Creation, or 3176 BC. This turns out to be exactly halfway between Creation and the Flood, and about a century before the death of Adam. Josephus mentions in the Antiquities concerning “Adam’s prediction that the world was to be destroyed at one time by the force of fire, and at another time by the violence and quantity of water.”³ The Chinese and Indians may have initiated their “calendar countdown” from this first prophetic word from Adam.

After him, Enoch was the next prophet:

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” (Jude 1:14-15)

Enoch named his son Methuselah, whose name is believed by some scholars to mean, “his death shall send [it].” According to the Masoretic Text of the Bible and the Jewish traditions, Methuselah died seven days before the Flood. The prophecy contained in the old man’s name was actually fulfilled. The fact that Methuselah lived the longest of any recorded person in the history of the world (969 years), demonstrates God’s mercy and willingness to extend as much time as possible for mankind to repent of their sins before bringing His judgment on the world. 2 Peter 2:5 also refers to Noah as a preacher of righteousness—another indication of God’s mercy extended to a wicked world.

The Mystery of Noah’s Wife

Noah, the preacher of righteousness, “found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” But what about his wife? Was she of the line of Seth or the line of Cain, or of some other unbelieving line? By the time of the flood (and the death of Methuselah), Noah is the last man “righteous before God” left on the earth

The foundation deposit of a temple in Sumeria, built by Lugal-kisalsi (c. 1840 BC), a king of the Second Dynasty of Uruk and a contemporary of Isaac, contains an inscription that reads:

Noah was remembered by different names among the many nations dispersed from Babel. Most of them preserved the root of his name. For example, Noah's name in Hebrews is rendered Nu-Ach. But in Sumerian, his name was given as Ah-Nu, sometimes shortened to An.

The image displays a fragment of ancient Egyptian papyrus bark on the left, featuring several columns of hieroglyphs. On the right, a diagram illustrates the deciphered text, organized into a grid of six rows and four columns. Each cell in the grid contains a hieroglyph, with some cells containing multiple characters. The hieroglyphs are arranged in a way that corresponds to the original fragment, with some characters appearing in multiple columns. The diagram uses a grid of black lines to separate the individual characters and groups of characters, facilitating the reading and interpretation of the text.

38

[Lamech] was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah. (Genesis 4:21-22)

But why would Noah marry a woman from the line of Cain? The fact that Noah had no children until he was 500 years of age is a strong indication of the state of affairs at the time. He was the last righteous man on earth, and there must have been few, if any, women left that would qualify as a godly wife. Yet, without a posterity for Noah, there would be nothing left to repopulate the earth after the Flood. Could it be that Naamah resonated with her father's "song of vengeance" and rejection of the Creator? Did Naamah respond to Noah's preaching and profess true faith, or did she bring the heritage of Cain's line into the post-Flood world? The Scriptures are silent concerning this.

What is clear from Scripture is that the heart of man in his fallen condition was already "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9). His feet were already "swift to shed blood" (Rom. 3:15). While God demonstrated His tremendous mercy and outstanding patience to a fallen world for a thousand years, His judgment would come at last. The world desperately needed a reset and a restart. But in judgment, He showed mercy. He still kept His promise and saved a Seed through Noah and Shem. He saved a family in the Flood, so as to save the world through the Seed.

And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth." (Genesis 6:13)



Artist rendition of Flood cataclysm

CHAPTER III



The Worldwide Flood

(2348–2347 BC)

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. (Genesis 6:5-8)

There is no event more talked about in all the ancient historical records across the various cultures around the world than the global Flood. For obvious reasons, this would have to be an extremely memorable event. The entire world population was wiped out, and only eight people survived, from which emerged every tribe and nation on earth. The stories differ in specific details, but they all point to the same thing—a worldwide flood of unimaginably catastrophic proportions. Thus, any historical survey worth anything must include some reference to a worldwide flood. Every history book should recognize this event as pivotal to all of world history.

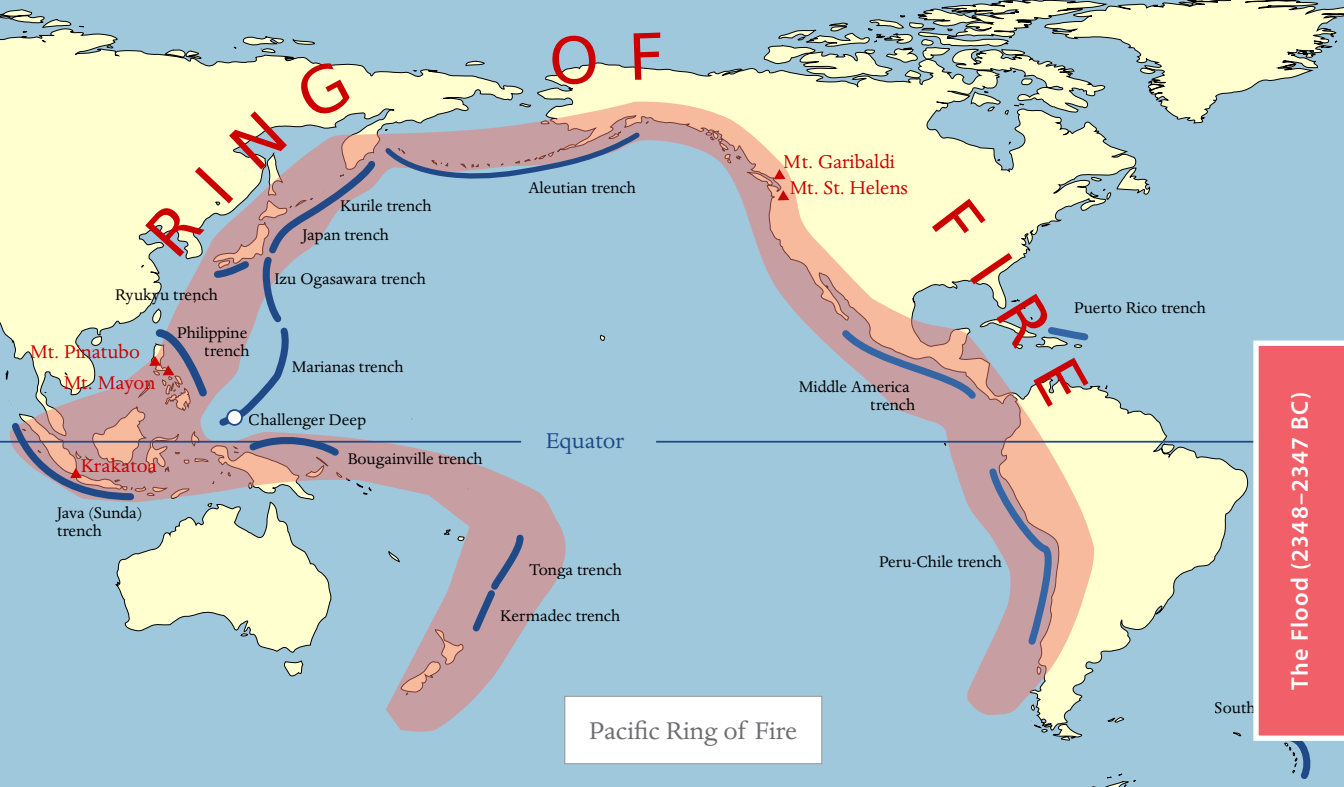
While it may be a chore to siphon out the fable from the facts in ancient records, still all history relies on eyewitnesses and contemporary recorders. Yet modern histories taught in almost every public educational institution in the world today will skip over this major historical record. Modern men, and any and all men who are at enmity with God, will refuse to face the fact of God's judgment. They steadfastly reject any notion that God is concerned with His moral creatures, or that He will bring judgment upon the world for their unrepentant lives. In his second epistle, the Apostle Peter offers a helpful explanation why modern historians and scientists would obfuscate all records containing the worldwide Flood.

Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying,

“Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:3-7)

Covering one's eyes or burrowing one's head into the sand cannot produce a proper view of history and the reality surrounding human existence. God brought the Flood upon the ungodly in the 24th Century before Christ, and He will bring a judgment of fire once more at the end of history.

Mercifully, the Lord God revealed the coming Flood to Noah 120 years before it happened. This gave the man of God ample time to build an ark for the salvation of his family and preservation of the land animals. Scientists estimate that there were about 16,000 animals needing shelter in the ark. There would have been far fewer animal species on the earth before the multiplication and diversification that has played out over the subsequent 4,500 years. Assuming that some, if not most, of the animals taken aboard were still immature, there would have been plenty of room to house them, with about half of the space in the ark unfilled according to scientific calculations.¹ Calculations for the size and weight of the largest dinosaur of the sauropod family (after 14 months



of residing in the ark), put the beast at 220 kilograms—about the size of a small horse.

The ark was about 510 feet long (155 m), 80 feet wide (24 m), and 50 feet high (15 m). To compare with modern shipping containers, trailer trucks can haul about 250 sheep at a time. Noah's enormous vessel could have accommodated about 450 of these trailers, or about 120,000 sheep.

Before the rains came, God brought the animals He intended to preserve into the ark. Noah and his family entered the ark, and the Lord shut the door as a symbol of His personal involvement in the salvation of the family. The rain fell for forty days and nights, in what must have been a tremendous world-wide deluge. Waters broke out from under the earth's surface, and a water layer located in the atmosphere above emptied on the earth.

Most likely, the earth's surface cracked along the Pacific Ring of Fire, which happens to be the location of 90% of the world's earthquakes and all of the most powerful volcanoes in recorded history. If flood waters poured out like a gigantic geyser on this side of the earth, this would have provided some protection for Noah's ark, which presumably was located on the other side of the globe.

Moreover, the eruption of waters from under the earth's crust may very well have been the source of comets (the gigantic ice balls that barrel through this solar system). The enormous explosion of water and other volcanic material out of the earth may also explain why 30% of the near side of the moon is covered by maria magma, and only 2% of the far side (the dark side) has the same magma made of plagioclase. This is the most common and abundant mineral found in the earth's crust. Scientists have recently verified that the Tonga Volcano of January 21, 2022, pushed material 93 miles upwards into outer space, evidently exceeding escape velocity of 25,000 mph (11.2 km/s).²

The cataclysm was no accident, nor was it some natural disaster traced only to natural causes. God did it. He judged the world for the violence and wickedness men had brought upon the world; and millions of men, women, and children died in the deluge.

Now the flood was on the earth for forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. So He destroyed all living



Dove returned with an olive leaf—a sign of renewed life.

things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. (Genesis 7:17-24)

Noah and his family stayed in the ark for about a year. After eight months, mountaintops appeared in sight, surfacing as high as 14,000–18,000 feet (as in the case of the Ararat mountain range). Over the next several weeks, Noah released a dove three times. On the second round, nine months after the Flood began, the dove returned with an olive leaf in its mouth—a sign of renewed life. Vegetation was growing again on the hills. God had not abandoned the world. This would be essential for feeding man and animals as they exited the ark.

Evidence of the Worldwide Flood

The most convincing argument for a worldwide Flood comes from the scriptural record in both Old and New Testaments. The worldwide extent of the Flood is underscored by the explicit statement of Genesis 7: “The waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth, and all the high hills that were under the whole heaven were covered” (Gen. 7:19-20). The wording could not have been made more clear—this was a Flood that covered the entire globe.

The physical or geological evidence for a worldwide Flood should be obvious—at least to those who accept God’s authoritative revelation and interpret the evidence from a biblical worldview perspective. Fossils of sea creatures are found on mountaintops all over the earth. How did they get there?

In 1987, a team of unbelieving scientists discovered whale fossils high up in the Andes Mountains. How did whales climb 5,000 feet up these mountains? Even unbelieving, evolutionary scientists had to conclude that this “South American mountain chain rose very rapidly from the sea.”³ Fossils of cephalopods have been found high up in the Himalayas—a good distance from the Indian Ocean and miles above sea level. In 1998, a Japanese researcher chipped out a brachiopod shellfish fossil just six meters below the peak of Mount Everest, the highest point on earth—ultimate proof that Noah’s flood covered the highest peak in the world—29,000 feet (8,880 m) above sea level.⁴ There

is only one reasonable explanation for all this: a worldwide Flood in which great reservoirs of water were released from below the earth's surface. How might these tremendous mountain ranges have formed so rapidly, and in the process, encapsulated marine fossils within the layers of sedimentation? Some extraordinary catastrophe of biblical proportions must have been unleashed on the world.

Psalm 104 explains in detail how the mountains formed during the worldwide Flood:

*Bless the LORD, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great:
You are clothed with honor and majesty...
You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
The waters stood above the mountains.
At Your rebuke they fled;
at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.
They went up over the mountains;
They went down into the valleys,
to the place which You founded for them. (Psalm 104:1, 6–8)*

Creation scientists propose that the waters would have risen about 3,500 feet (1,067 m) in depth, covering the highest mountains on Earth at the time. As the volcanic rock began to cool, the floodwaters would have drained off the mountains, leaving behind billions of dead animals, fossilized into the strata.

Fossils usually form under extreme catastrophic conditions, such as a flood or volcanic eruption. However, the universal presence of fossils all over the world points to a large cataclysmic event that impacted the whole globe at one time. Even the tracks of some animals crawling along were rapidly encased in sediment and preserved to the present day.

After almost two centuries of examining the fossil record contained in rock strata around the world, scientists have never identified evidence of gradual change or evolution of one particular kind of animal into another. The fossil record is static. Each animal is fully formed and no evidence of any creature changing into another kind of organism by millions of iterations are to be found. When scientists point to a few intermediate forms (for example, something halfway between a reptile and a bird) in the fossil record, whatever they suggest is wildly hypothetical and a host of other interpretations may be taken

to the data. Each distinct animal kind created by God either disappeared after the Flood, or the same organisms are present on the earth today. There are also some kinds of animals that have gone extinct since the Flood, including various species of dinosaurs, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Creation scientists have concluded that of the 1,398 air-breathing animal kinds aboard the ark, 772 of them have gone extinct.⁵

The billions of fossils buried in rock layers all over the earth testify loudly to the severe judgment God brought upon the earth for man's sin. Men and women gave way to unrestrained violence, abortion, infanticide, the killing of the elderly, and other murderous tendencies. These fossils testify to the holy, almighty God's outlook and response towards such wicked behavior.

And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth." (Genesis 6:13)



Fossil embedded in rock

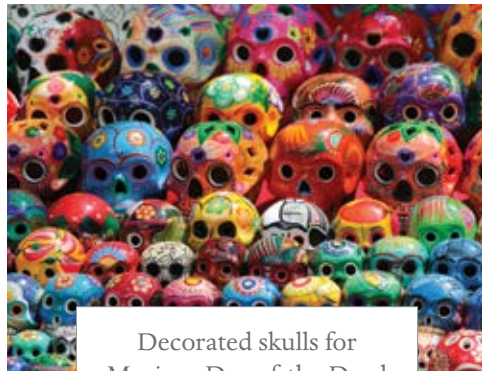
The Day of the Dead

After the Flood, the tribes of the earth turned against God, refused to repent for their own sin against Him, and generally refused to celebrate His salvation provided to Noah and his family. Instead, the world inaugurated an event called “The Day of the Dead.” They took the side of their dead relatives, upon whom God had sent His judgment.

For example, the Egyptians would place the coffin of Osiris (the god of death and the afterlife) into a boat and, according to Plutarch, the god was sent to float on the waters on the seventeenth day of the month Athyr (around November).⁶ Similarly, the Japanese construct little boats for the Bon festival celebrated in mid-August, in which the “dead spirits” of departed relatives are ushered back to the sea. The Hindus also perform a ceremony called Shraddha during Pitru Paksha (in September) for the benefit of the souls of ancestors. This ceremony takes place near a river or other body of water. The ancient Assyrians commemorated the dead during the month of Arahsmna (between mid-October and mid-November). The Aztecs and other native Americans also celebrated the Day of the Dead in the fall of the year, as far back as 1000 BC. To this day, most Mexicans will celebrate the Día de Muertos between October 31st and November 2nd. While the Flood may be long forgotten in the minds of most celebrants, the point is always to honor the dead. Sometimes death itself is celebrated and skeletons are worshiped. The original pagan holiday honored the dead lost in the Flood. Prior to the Flood, relatively few people had died of natural causes since most lived over 900 years. The mass deaths of millions or even billions of people no doubt left a strong psychological impression upon the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Flood Stories

An event that rearranged the crust of the earth and disrupted the solar system would have been



Decorated skulls for
Mexican Day of the Dead

difficult to forget on the part of the eight survivors and their progeny. Oral reports would have passed from one generation to the next for millennia afterwards. Noah and his sons lived for another 400 years after the Flood to tell the tale. And, not surprisingly, flood legends are found in almost every indigenous (native) culture in the world. However, oral traditions are notorious for the rapid loss of accuracy in the details. Many ancient cultures relied on oral methods until they developed their own written languages. Nonetheless, the basic elements of the story survived over thousands of years; and with almost every account, the Flood was understood to have been a worldwide event.



Spirit Boat used in Japanese Bon Festival (celebrating the Day of the Dead)

Although flood legends from various cultures are helpful in offering secondary evidence of the Flood, only the Bible can be trusted for its perfect accuracy because this is the very Word of God. Furthermore, the section of Genesis that relates the Flood story appears to have been notarized by Shem, Ham, and Japheth, who were eyewitnesses to the event.⁷ The following table illustrates the general agreement among these traditions.⁸

To further substantiate the historicity of this key event, the earliest written accounts of the Flood are found in the oldest human writings ever discovered—the Sumerian King’s List and the Instructions of Shuruppak from Mesopotamia, both of which date to around 2300–2200 BC. Moreover, the oldest detailed Flood story is found in the Eridu Genesis Cuneiform tablet (dated around 1600 BC). This ancient record explains the original Creation and the names of the first pre-Flood cities: Eridu, Bad-Tibira, Larak, Sippar, and Šuruppak. Although set in a polytheistic religious framework, the story presents the Flood as lasting only seven days and “sweeping over the cities,” destroying mankind. The tale completely subverts all revelation concerning the true and living God, Who is behind it all. The amoral gods, as related in the story, were irritated by excessive noise produced by mankind. They responded

by destroying the earth with a flood. Noah is named Ziusudra, and he is commended for saving the “small animals and the seed of mankind.”⁹

Several years ago, the British Museum obtained an ancient Mesopotamian “Ark Tablet” dating from about 1900 BC (a little over 500 years after the Flood). The cuneiform tablet included instructions on how to make an ark. Illustrated as a round coracle, the ark was dimensioned 230 feet in diameter and 20 feet in height. A subscription included an account of how wild animals entered the ark two-by-two. This is one of the earliest written references to the world-wide Flood on record.

Dating even earlier than the Ark Tablet, the *Epic of Gilgamesh* tells the Flood story as well. Fragments bearing parts of the epic tale have been found dating back to around 2100 BC (about 300 years after the Flood). The fullest known version was written by a Babylonian scribe somewhere around 1300 BC. The story relates a horrible, tangled account of false gods, demigods (half-gods), and sexual sin, like most of the ancient

Elements of the Flood Story	% of Stories Retaining the Element
A favored family saved	88%
Forewarning provided	66%
Cause of Flood is man’s wickedness	66%
Catastrophe is only a Flood	95%
Flood of global proportions	95%
A boat is the means of survival	70%
Animals saved	67%
Animals play a part	73%
Survivors land on a mountain	57%
Birds sent out	35%
Rainbow mentioned	7%
Survivors offered a sacrifice	13%
Specifically eight persons saved	9%

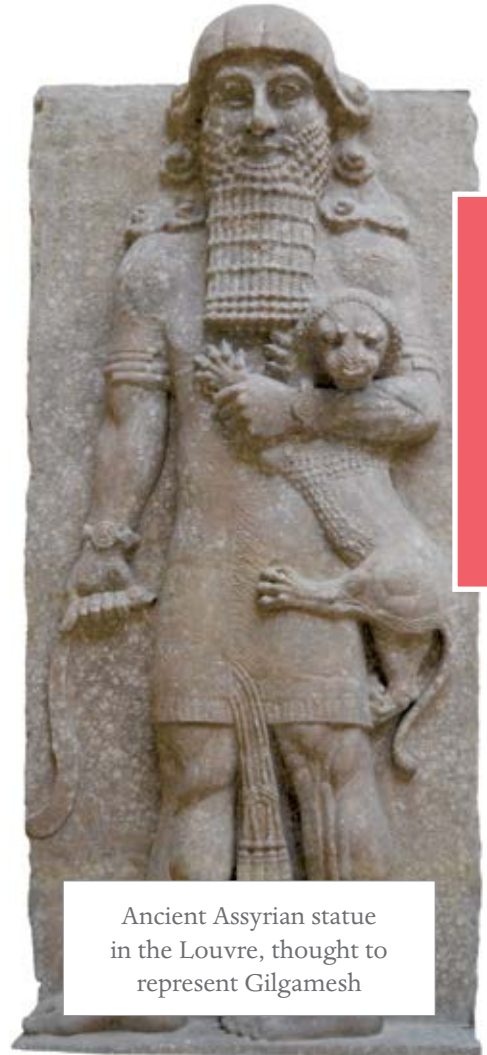
pagan myths that followed. The story's main protagonist, Gilgamesh, also appears in the list of kings, and it appears that he was a real character in history. In his travels, the protagonist meets up with Ham (Utnapishtim) and his wife. This very well may have been the tangent point at which the epic touches real history. Ham most likely lived for five centuries after the Flood, as in the case of Shem, his brother.

Assuming a birth rate of about six per family (for the first seven post-Flood generations), Noah would have been alive to see 3,250,000 of his progeny. However, these people would have been distributed into small tribes and city-states by the time of Noah's death in 2100–2000 BC.

The *Epic of Gilgamesh* relates a story where the hero goes on two journeys. On the first journey, he went to the mountain where the Anunnaki gods had lived, and there he killed a guardian named “Huwawa.” After his return to Uruk, he went on a second journey in search of everlasting life, where he encounters a character who survived the worldwide Flood in an ark. Ham passed along a revision to the Flood story where Yahweh God had been replaced by deified ancestors as “gods.”

This flood story still retained most of the elements of the biblical Flood.

The details get a little murkier with the oral traditions from the more far-flung tribes on the earth. Siberian tribes remember a flood that lasted seven days. Here the animals and a few people were saved by climbing on logs. The Eskimos of Orowingnatak, Alaska, record that “a great inundation, together with an earthquake, swept the land so rapidly that only a few people escaped in their skin canoes to tops of the highest mountains.”¹⁰ Tanzanian African



Ancient Assyrian statue
in the Louvre, thought to
represent Gilgamesh

The Flood (2348–2347 BC)

The Flood (2348–2347 BC)

Tablet containing the *Epic of Gilgamesh*

tribes record two men who escaped in a ship from a flood that covered the mountaintops and specimens of each kind of animal were saved.¹¹ The Tehuelche tribes of Patagonia, Argentina, tell of a very wicked and violent people whom the sun-god chose to eliminate by sending a tremendous storm. Every person and land animal was killed in the deluge. The sun-god released a dove which then returned with several blades of grass in its beak. While the tribes of the earth may not share much in common, the remarkable thing is that all of them retain essential elements of the single event to which every person on earth is connected by heritage. The fact that they retained the story for a period of 4,500 years points to the ultimate significance of the event in world history.

When the mountain man, “Wild” Bill Hickok, encountered the Pawnee tribe on the American plains, he heard another Flood story which tied in the Nephilim, or the pre-Flood giants, which he included in his memoirs.

While we were in the sand hills, scouting the Niobrara country, the Pawnee Indians brought into camp some very large bones, one of which the surgeon of the expedition pronounced to be the thigh-bone of a human being. The Indians claimed that the bones they had found were those of a person belonging to a race of people who a long time ago lived in this country; that there was once a race of men on the earth whose size was about three times that of an ordinary man, and they were so swift and powerful that they could run along-side of a buffalo, and, taking the animal in one arm, could tear off a leg and eat the meat as they walked. These giants denied the existence of a Great Spirit, and when they heard the thunder or saw the lightning they laughed at it and said that they were greater than either. This so displeased the Great Spirit that he caused a great rain-storm to come, and the water kept rising higher and higher so that it drove those proud and conceited giants from the low grounds to the hills, and thence to the mountains, but at last even the mountain tops were submerged, and then those mammoth men were all drowned. After the flood had subsided, the Great Spirit came to the conclusion that he had made man too large and powerful, and that he would therefore correct the mistake by creating a race of men of smaller size and less strength. This is the reason, say the Indians, that modern men are small and not like the giants of old, and they claim that this story is a matter of Indian history, which has been



“Wild” Bill Hickok recorded the flood story from Pawnees

handed down among them from time immemorial. As we had no wagons with us at the time this large and heavy bone was found, we were obliged to leave it.¹²

Chinese lore also includes many flood legends, and the Miao tribe presents the most complete picture—connecting the Creation of the world to the Flood. The story begins “on the day God made the heavens and the earth.” The legend speaks of a pre-flood people, the first of whom was called “Dirt” because he was made out of the dirt, and a woman who was made out of the man.

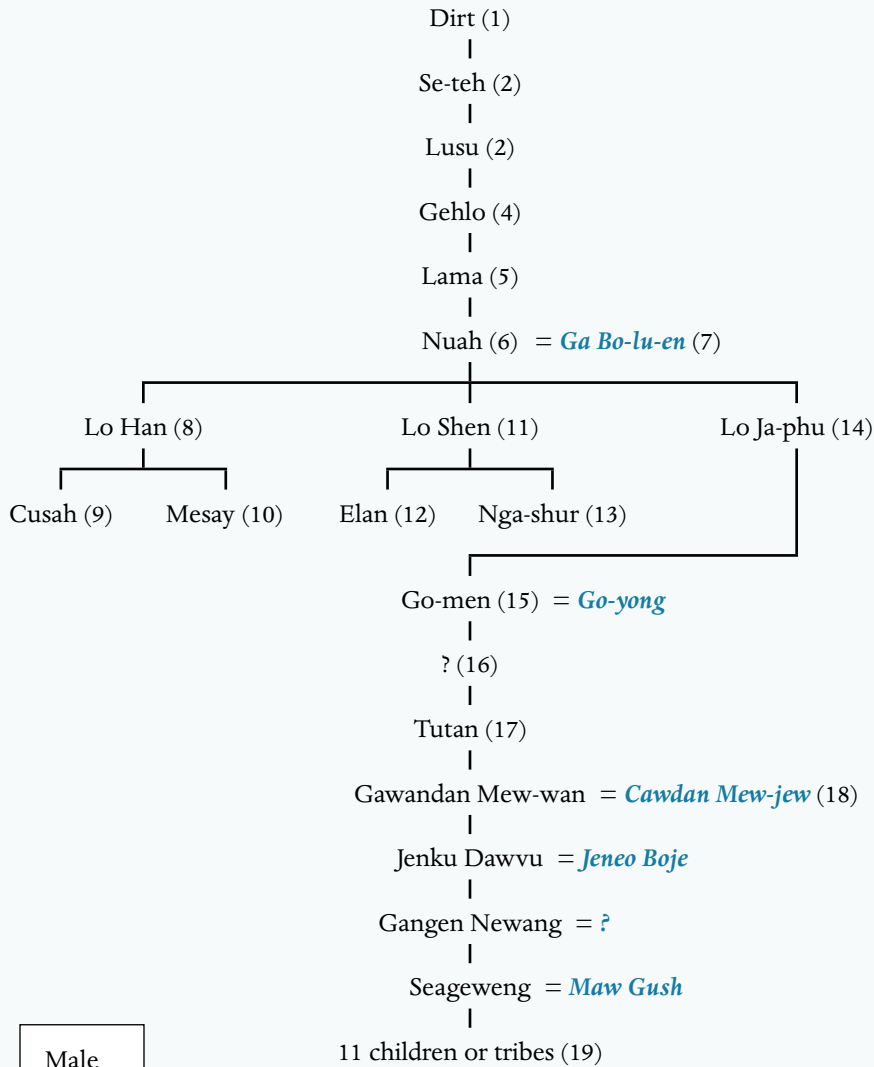
Concerning the worldwide Flood, the Miao legend explains the cause of it, sticking closer to the biblical rendition:

These did not God’s will nor returned His affection. But fought with each other defying the Godhead. Their leaders shook fists in the face of the Mighty. Then the earth was convulsed to the depth of three strata. Rending the air to the uttermost heaven. God’s anger arose till His Being was changed; His wrath flaring up filled His eyes and His face. Until He must come and demolish humanity. Come and destroy a whole world full of people.

船 = 舟 + 八 + 口
Boat Vessel Eight Mouth (People)

洪 = 氵 + 共 (井 + 一 + 八)
Flood Water Total Together Earth Eight

The Descent of the Miautso People of China



The Flood (2348–2347 BC)

So it poured forty days in sheets and in torrents. Then fifty-five days of misting and drizzle. The waters surmounted the mountains and ranges. The deluge ascending leapt valley and hollow. An earth with no earth upon which to take refuge! A world with no foothold where one might subsist! The people were baffled, impotent and ruined, despairing, horror stricken, diminished and finished. But the Patriarch Nuah was righteous. The Matriarch Gaw Boku-en upright. Built a boat very wide. Made a ship very vast. Their household entire got aboard and were floated, The family complete rode the deluge in safety. The animals with him were female and male. The birds went along and were mated in pairs. When the time was fulfilled, God commanded the waters. The day had arrived, the flood waters receded. Then Nuah liberated a dove from their refuge, Sent a bird to go forth and bring again tidings. The flood had gone down into lake and to ocean; the mud was confined to the pools and the hollows.

There was land once again where a man might reside; there was a place in the earth now to rear habitations. Buffalo then were brought, an oblation to God, fatter cattle became sacrifice to the Mighty. The Divine One then gave them His blessing; their God then bestowed His good graces.¹³

The Miao tribes have also traced their lineage to Japho and Gomen—most likely Japheth and Gomer, son and grandson of Noah. The genealogy that was retained by this tribe is remarkably similar to the biblical record.¹⁴

Several Chinese characters still in use today by both the Japanese and the Chinese recall the story of the worldwide Flood. For example, the Chinese character for a boat is composed of the pictograph for eight, the pictograph for mouth (or people), and the pictograph for a vessel. Also, the character for flood includes the pictograph for water and the pictographs for together, earth, and eight. These characters were developed as early as 1000 BC.

If there was one historical event in the ancient world of which all secular (extra-biblical) historians may be certain, whether they be primitive oral traditionalists, modern secularists, or Christians alike, that event would have to be the worldwide Flood. Other historical events do not receive universal coverage in the oral and written records. For example, the far-flung tribes of the Americas never reported on the Egyptian pyramids, the Akkadian empire, the discovery of silk in China, the destruction of Sodom, or the drowning of

Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea. But concerning this tremendous act of God's judgment upon the earth, there is to be found a remarkable unity among historical traditions. The reason is obvious. All the peoples of the earth have descended from this family—Noah, his wife, and their three sons. Surely, all the peoples of the earth should testify of God's mercy, and to the salvation of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth in the ark. But the hearts of men have turned away from God. The descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth almost immediately forgot the salvation of God and neglected to give Him the glory for it. Likewise, modern man has worked over time to purge all memory of the worldwide Flood and replace it with a naturalistic, evolutionary scheme.

Now more than ever, all should take heed. For when the Son of God came the first time, He came on a mission to save the world. But His second coming will be for judgment, and this second coming will appear suddenly, as in the days of Noah.

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:36-39)

Section 1 Prayer

Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones,
Give unto the Lord glory and strength.
Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name;
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
The God of glory thunders;
The Lord is over many waters.
The voice of the Lord is powerful;
The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,
Yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes them also skip like a calf,
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
The Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth,
And strips the forests bare;
And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood,
And the Lord sits as King forever.
The Lord will give strength to His people;
The Lord will bless His people with peace. (Psalm 29)

Timeline Review 1: The Prediluvian World

