

A True History According to Holy Scripture

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CHAPTER 3

THE POST-FLOOD WORLD

The Tower of Babel

The Flood was a devastating blow to all mankind. Only righteous Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives lived through this catastrophe. Satan had been able to deceive all this earth's human inhabitants with his wiles and false teachings. The world had gotten so ugly and sinful that God was grieved in His heart to see His children so miserably unhappy. He would start over with Noah's family! But God gives man free moral agency to obey Him or not, and it was not too many years before Satan and his henchmen would be busy again with their cunning arts.

God gave us the beautiful rainbow set in the heavens to assure us that never again would God use floodwaters to destroy mankind. I'm sure that all those who came through the Flood would warmly welcome this great sign. Today, we look upon this glorious sign as a beautiful sight in the sky without thinking too much what it meant to those who have experienced a great flood! After the Flood, which lasted about one year, Noah's Ark came to rest on some of the high hills in the mountains of Ararat. Several archaeologists claim they have found the fossilized remains of this enormous boat. Several interesting photographs and articles are available on the world-wide-web:

<http://www.wyattmuseum.com>, <http://noahsark-naxuan.com>, and <http://www.anchorstone.com> to mention three. Perhaps God is going to give man one last witness and chance to repent before the terrible day His Son returns to this earth! By the way, the name of the city where Noah first settled after the Flood is called Naxuan (which means Noah's capitol) according to some archaeologists. It is located high in the mountains of Ararat.

Of course, what would any intelligent man do after the Flood? Build a shelter for his family and begin to farm for food! That is exactly what Noah and his three sons did. Many years passed as the three sons and their wives produced sons and daughters to replenish the earth's population (see Genesis 10 for the complete list of several generations). All listed, the three sons had sixteen sons among them. No girls are mentioned. So one has to speculate: how many daughters would you guess they also had? Generally speaking, around the world there are approximately as many females as males. War takes more males than females, though, but of the billions of human beings today, the division between boys and girls is about 50/50. So I speculate that Noah had sixteen grandsons and sixteen granddaughters. They intermarried to produce more children from their sixteen families. If they, in turn, had sixteen children each, we would have two hundred fifty six children in the next generation. These people were living long lives, but nowhere as long as their forefathers before the Flood. I think you can see that before too many more generations, the population of the earth would be quite large.

Let's take a close look at Noah's progeny as recorded in Genesis 9:18-21:

“And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan. These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread. And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.”

Yes, Noah made a mistake. Perhaps anxious after many years of building the ark, suffering through a yearlong flood, then resettling his wife and family in a brand-new unfamiliar territory, he began to grow foodstuffs, including grapes for wine. Grape growers will tell you that it takes many years to get a good crop, with careful pruning every year, because grapes only grow on one-year old growth. How long this took after the Flood? We are not told. But Ham did have four sons, one of whom was named Canaan who by the time of Noah’s drunkenness may have been a teenager or in his young adulthood. Whatever he did to Noah was so terrible that it is not even mentioned in scripture, but he was cursed by Noah to be a servant of servants to his brethren (verse 25). This man had a large family and much progeny who were to become a thorn in Israel’s side when they entered the Promised Land!

Much of Ham’s line was very wicked, particularly two of his sons Cush and Canaan. Probably the worse of all humans born after the Flood was Noah’s great-grandson Nimrod. See Genesis 10:8–10:

“And Cush began Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord And the beginning of the his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.”

Nimrod

Bible scholars have thought that the name “Cush” means black, or burnt, implying that this son of Ham was of the black, or dark, race. His brother Phut has been considered the father of the central African races, while his brother Mizraim supposedly settled in the Goshen area of Egypt. Cush himself is the father of the Ethiopians who settled in southern Egypt. His brother Canaan was probably of swarthy appearance. Why is this important? Because, according to the great writer Alexander Hislop, author of *The Two Babylons*, Nimrod was considered of the black race too.

What the Bible does not reveal is that Cush married a white woman named Ashtoreth or Ishtar, a very important woman in early Egyptian history, who is more commonly known as Semiramis. This was indeed a wicked woman. Not only did she marry Cush and have a son Nimrod, but with these people began a great false religion! We read its story in Revelation 17:1–6:

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whole that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornications: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY,

BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

Satan is very clever. He knows that it is in human nature to want to worship someone or something. He reasoned that if he could fulfill that need in a false way, he would be able once again to deceive all mankind. His goal? If he can cause every man, woman, and child to fall into sin and not ever be converted to the truth, then there would be nobody to judge him! But he does not realize even today that many have overcome him, repented of their sins, and turned to the Righteous One Jesus Christ for salvation. And lest we forget, remember that Jesus Himself was able to overcome all the devils' temptations and is today fully qualified to judge Satan! Just how deceived can somebody be?

Revelation 17 is talking about a worldwide great false church! Nimrod, a wicked great-grandson of Noah, married his own mother, but fortunately had no children. Finally, in the twenty-seventh year of Nimrod's reign, Shem, the righteous son of Noah, tracked Nimrod down in Italy (the current name of this territory) and killed him. Shem also drove his wife Semiramis into hiding in the land of Goshen for some thirty years. This is covered in greater detail in Dr. Herman L. Hoeh's *Compendium of World History*. While in hiding, Semiramis had relations with Asshur, a son of Shem, which produced a fair-skinned son whom she named Horus (Egyptian name) or Gilgamesh (Babylonian name). She then proclaimed him as Nimrod reborn!

Many unbelievable details are found in Alexander Hislop's book mentioned above. I would encourage all readers to obtain a copy of this book from your library or bookstore. It is well worth reading, even though somewhat pedantic and tedious in style. I've included a few quotes from this book to whet your appetite:

“In Egypt, the Mother and the Child were worshipped under the names of Isis and Osiris. In India, even to this day, as Isi and Iswara; in Asia, as Cybele and Deoius; in Pagan Rome, as the Great Mother, and the babe at her breast, or as Irene, the goddess of Peace, and the boy Plutus in her arms; and even in Thibet, in China, and Japan, the Jesuit missionaries were astonished to find the counterpart of Madonna and her child as devoutly worshipped as in Papal Rome itself; Shing Moo, the Holy Mother in China, being represented with a child in her arms, and a glory around her, exactly as if a Roman Catholic artist had been employed to set her up” (pages 20–21).

“The original of that mother, so widely worshipped, there is reason to believe, was Semiramis, already referred to, who, it is well known, was worshipped by the Babylonians, and other eastern nations, and that under the name of Rhea, the great Goddess ‘Mother.’

“It was from the son, however, that she derived all her glory and her claims to deification. That son, though represented as a child in his mother's arms, was a person of great stature and immense bodily powers, as well as most fascination manners. In Scripture he is referred to (Ezek. viii. 14) under the name of Tammuz, but he is commonly known among classical writers under the name of Bacchus, that is, ‘The Lamented one.’ To the ordinary reader the name of Bacchus suggests nothing more than revelry and drunkenness, but it is now well known, that amid all the abominations that attended his orgies, their grand design was professedly ‘the purification of souls,’ and that from the guilt and defilement of sin. This lamented one, exhibited and adored as a little child in his mother's arms, seems, in point of fact, to have been the husband of

Semiramis, whose name Ninus, by which he is commonly known in classical history, literally signifies ‘The Son’” (pages 21–22).

“Now, this Ninus, or ‘Son,’ borne in the arms of the Babylonian Madonna, is so described as very clearly to identify him with Nimrod... ‘Ninus, the most ancient of the Assyrians kings mentioned in history, performed great actions’” (page 23).

“...and Cush [father of Nimrod] is generally represented as having been a ringleader in the great apostasy [with his wife Semiramis]...Cush, ‘the son of Ham,’ was the ‘Divider of the speeches of man’ [because, as we shall see, it was during his rule that the languages were divided after construction of the Tower of Babel]” (pages 25–26).

“If the founder of Babylon’s glory was ‘The mighty Hunter,’ whose name, even in the days of Moses, was a proverb—(Gen. x. 9, ‘Wherefore, it is said, Even as Nimrod, the mighty hunter before the Lord’)—when we find the ‘Archer’ with his bow and arrow, in the symbol of the supreme Babylonian divinity, and the ‘Archer,’ among the signs of the Zodiac that originated in Babylon, I think we may safely conclude that this Man-horse or Horse-man Archer primarily referred to him, and was intended to perpetuate the memory at once of his fame as a huntsman and his skill as a horse-breaker” (page 42).

“I have already noticed the fact that Nimrod, as the son of Cush, was a negro. Now, there was a tradition in Egypt, recorded by Plutarch, that ‘Osiris was black,’ which, in a land where the general complexion was dusky, must have implied something more than ordinary in its darkness. Plutarch also state that Horus, the son of Osiris [son of Semiramis, after Nimrod’s death, by Asshur], ‘was of a fair complexion,’ and it was in this way, for the most part, that Osiris was represented” (page 43).

This is just a hint of the beginnings of a great false church or religion started first by Cush and Semiramis, then “perfected” by Nimrod. It was of a pure rebellion motive that drove this family into apostasy. They provided all the rites, initiations, drink and sex that mankind loves to satisfy his carnal nature. But when man is called by God to repent, and turn to Him, he can and will abhor this sinful way of life and turn to obedience to the Almighty God. As Revelation 17 goes on to show what is going to happen to this great false religion. It is not a pretty sight. Read the end of the chapter!

Many other titles have been given to Cush, Nimrod, Horus, and Semiramis. We will cover more of this in chapter 8.

Tower of Babel

What many people do not realize is that the wild animal population after the Flood greatly increased while mankind slowly grew. Animals have the ability to mature in just a few years, then reproduce, while mankind requires some twenty years or so to be mature enough to have progeny. Nimrod was a great savior to the inhabitants, a great hunter of all these wild animals threatening man. He, along with his mother-wife, built walls around all the cities for protection. Most pictures and statutes of Semiramis show her with a turret-shaped crown to honor her idea of walled cities. This great show of defiance by Cush, Nimrod and Semiramis led to the construction of a great tower from which they could rule the earth! We read about this in chapter 11 of Genesis, and what God did to slow this rebellion of man and limit his imagination:

“And the whole earth was of once language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them

thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime he they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth" (Genesis 11:1-9).

In Genesis 10:8-10 we confirm that it was Nimrod, son of Cush, who authored, with his father's help, this city of Babel. We will learn more about Cush and Nimrod in chapter 8. According to Dr. Hoeh, in his thesis *Compendium of World History*, this city and tower were abandoned after only two years of construction. With so many different languages thrust upon the builders, they were forced to find their own language group, then re-group and migrate to a different land. Dr. Hoeh starts his world history with this event which he dates as 2256 B.C.E. to 2254 B.C.E. In terms of A.M. dating, we will discuss this event and the beginning of the First Dynasty at Thinis with Ham's son Cush as the first Pharaoh of Egypt!

But let us return to the story of the righteous line of Shem, Noah's youngest son.

The Righteous Line of Shem

1658 A.M., Arphaxad

Genesis 11:10-11: "These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the Flood [two years after the beginning of the Flood, as previously proved]: And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters." According to Dr. Hoeh in his *Compendium of World History*, Shem continued as an Administrator and Priest of Shinar for over three hundred years, as well as being one of the Egyptian pharaohs for a short period of time!

1693 A.M., Salah

Genesis 11:12-13: "And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah: And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters."

1723 A.M., Eber

Genesis 11:14-15: "And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber: And Salah lived after he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters."

1757 A.M., Peleg

Genesis 11:16-17: "And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg: And Eber lived after he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters." Genesis 10:25 has this interesting comment on Peleg: "And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; *for in his days was the earth divided*; and his brother's

name was Joktan.” This is referring to the great division of languages after the Tower of Babel fiasco. We can date this *division* between 1757 A.M (Peleg’s birth) and 1996 A.M. (Peleg’s death).

1787 A.M., Rue

Genesis 11:18-19: “And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu: And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters.”

1819 A.M., Serug

Genesis 11:20-21: “And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug: 21. And Reu lived after he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters.”

1849 A.M., Nahor

Genesis 11:22-23: “And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor: And Serug lived after he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.”

1878 A.M., Terah

Genesis 11:24-25: “And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah: And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and began sons and daughters.”

Terah, the Father of Abram

How do we understand Abram’s year of birth? In Genesis 11:26-27 we read of the children of Terah:

“And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran: and Haran begat Lot.”

These sons of Terah were not triplets, since the authors of the Bible use the term “twins” when they mean multiple births of two children. Unfortunately, the term “triplets” does not appear in the Bible. See Genesis 25:24 for the story of the birth of the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah, Esau and Jacob: “And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.”

But let’s not get ahead of the story. Isaac was, of course, Abraham’s son in his old age of 100. So, when was Abram born? Though he is listed first, this does not mean he was born first. So it is with the three sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Japheth was actually the elder, while Shem was the youngest. Shem is listed first because he was the righteous son of Noah. Terah’s first born was when he was 70 years old, as the Scripture plainly states. As a matter of fact, we can determine when Abram was actually born. We shall see from the next Chapter that Terah was 130 year old when his youngest son Abram was born! He, too, is listed first because Abram was the righteous son!

2008 A.M., Abram

In the last verse of Genesis 11 we read: “And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.” Chapter 12:1-4 clearly show us that Abram was 75 when his father Terah died.

We have moved through the tumultuous post-Flood years, which saw large population expansions in Mesopotamia and Egypt. More will be written about this in chapter 8. But now we have come to the birth of a truly remarkable man, Abram, who was eventually to receive unconditional promises, which include the coming of one of his future progeny, Jesus Christ!