

HONOUR OF KINGS ANCIENT & AMERICAN HISTORY I

*It is the glory of God to conceal a thing:
but the **honour of kings** is to search out a matter. Proverbs 25:2*

*Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:
Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.*

*We will not hide them from their children,
shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,
and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*

*For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers,
that they should make them known to their children:*

*That the generation to come might know them,
even the children which should be born;
who should arise and declare them to their children:
That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments:*

*And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation;
a generation that set not their heart aright,
and whose spirit was not steadfast with God. Psalm 78: 1 - 8*

Acknowledgements:

This book is dedicated to future generations of historians who wish to know God's truth.

I would like to thank the following people:

My grandmother and father, Addie and Larry McCormick, who both gave me a love for history when I was a child.

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All the moms and kids who willingly tested my book and the activities.

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Lastly, I would like to thank my God and King for not only creating us, but also for leaving us such a clear record of history in his Word.

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*Front Cover Photo: "Study the Past" National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.
September 2012 Ellen Gerwitz*

"In "The Past," on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the building, an aged figure with a scroll and closed book imparting the knowledge of past generations "stares down the corridors of time." The words on the base enjoin, "Study the Past." Built by Robert I. Aitken 1933-1935.

ANCIENT HISTORY I c. 3932 BC to c. 1000 BC & American History c. 1500 AD to 1776 AD

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All of the dates given in this curriculum are approximate. It is the author's viewpoint that no time line made by humans can ever be said to be 100% accurate. Data from the King James Version of the Bible was used to create the Bible timeline. The Bible timeline gives us a basic framework of events which can be used to determine the timing of secular events. The Biblical time line is the basis for world history because God created the world and recorded a timeline of events in his Bible. Therefore, all events in history must fit into the Bible timeline.

It is important to know that when determining the dates of world events, most secular historians use the timeline of ancient Egypt as their guideline. This means that the timelines of other ancient nations and events are based on the Egyptian timeline. Some historians would have us believe that the timeline of ancient Egypt is clear and fixed. It is not. There are many unknowns in the Egyptian timeline and therefore it is not reliable as a framework for a world timeline. In fact, even in secular world history, there are four timelines: ultra-short, short, middle, and long. Because of this, the best one can do in determining the dates for secular events before Christ is to make approximate guesses.

The secular dates for this text were determined using synchronisms (events and people that were contemporary). These events and people were then fitted into the Biblical timeline. Overall, the secular timeline used in this book follows the ultra-short timeline, but it does not follow it exactly.

If you choose to supplement this text with outside (and in particular, secular) resources, just be aware that the dates will very likely not match up. You may even find that the extra resources themselves do not agree with each other. The author's recommendation is to focus on the events and their sequence in history, not the exact date they occurred.

HOW TO USE THIS TEXT:

Families with children in grades 1 to 3 are encouraged to read the text to their children and to complete the activities together. Children in grades 4 to 8 may be able to read the text and complete the activities independently. However, parents should review the comprehension questions with them and administer the tests after each chapter. Children in grades 9 to 12 may need additional supplements to this course.

There are two sections in this text. Section one deals with world history from the Creation until approximately 1000 B.C. Section two deals with American history from the 1500s until 1776. This allows the parent to **teach BOTH world history AND American history in the same school year** without needing two separate texts. There are 35 chapters in this book. Parents can allow approximately one week per chapter, although some will require a little less time and others will require a little more time.

Suggested Schedules:

#1 - Teach section one over two quarters, followed by section two over two quarters.

#2 - Teach section one over three quarters, followed by section two over one quarters.

#3 - Teach one chapter of section one, followed by one chapter of section two and so on.

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Preface - What does the word "history" mean? The English word "history" comes from the Greek word **ιστορ-ια**. This word means "inquiry" and comes from another word in Greek which means "judge". Thus, the word "history" originally implied the idea of looking up information and deciding whether it was true or not. We must do the same today when we study history. Each source that we study must be carefully examined and evaluated. With that in mind, the readers of this book must know that the author believes the KJV Bible to be the only 100% accurate source of history. It is accurate because God is the author. All other sources might be accurate, but we must always remember that they can be wrong because they were not written by God.

I. Creation of the World c. 3932 BC

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." This is the very first sentence we read in the Bible. It clearly tells us how this world began. Of course, there are some people who do not believe this, but that does not mean that the Bible's account is not true.



A depiction of Earth from February 2002, view of America. Released in 2010 by NASA. Goddard Space Flight Center Image by Reto Stöckl

Most of you know the record of creation. You probably learned about it from your parents and in Sunday school. Some of you may have read about it yourselves in the Bible. We are going to study the Bible's record of creation because the only correct way to study something is to start at the beginning. And the **creation of the world is the beginning of history**.

Of course, the best way to study creation is to read the first three chapters of Genesis. So, put down this book and find your Bible. Read chapters 1 to 3 in Genesis and then come back to this text. As you read, pay attention to the details the Bible gives us.

Now that you've read the record of creation directly from the Bible, let's look at a very quick summary of what happened.

On day one, God created the heavens and the earth. He also created light and darkness.

On day two, He created a firmament which He named Heaven.

On day three, He created dry land, bodies of water, grass, herbs, and fruit trees.

On day four, God created the sun, the moon, and the stars.

On day five, He created sea creatures and flying animals.

On day six, God created land animals and two humans: Adam and Eve.

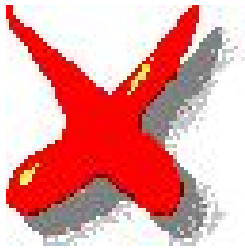
Finally, on day seven, He rested and set aside the seventh day as a day of rest.

God placed the man and woman He created into a special garden called Eden to take care of it. He also placed two trees in the center of the garden called the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam and Eve that they should not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

After God had finished His creation, the devil visited Eve in the form of a serpent. This serpent tempted Eve into eating from the forbidden tree. She shared this fruit with Adam who also ate it. This disobedience to God's command resulted in both Adam and Eve being punished.

As I said before, most of you probably know that record quite well. But, did you know that there are similar stories from many cultures around the world? These are called creation myths. **A myth is a story that is not true.** These creation myths aren't true because the cultures worshipped false gods and changed many of the details of the true account of creation. But, many of them are similar to the creation record in the Bible.

Let's look at a summary of a few of these myths. (I've only included a few of them because it would take a whole book to list all of them.) As you read them, try to find the details that are similar to the Bible's record of creation.



WARNING: MYTHS AHEAD!!!!!!

From the Babylonian culture: The Babylonians believed that the god *Marduk* was the creator of the world. Their creation story is described on seven tablets. Marduk is described as the "Son of the Sun", glorious, radiant, worthy of praise and having many names. Interestingly, his father, *Ea*, is described as the "all-wise" one. In tablet six, according to Babylonian legend, Marduk created human beings and animals. He also built habitations for the other gods.

From the African Bantu tribe, Fans: In the beginning there was nothing but *Nzame*. This god is really three gods in one: *Nzame*, *Mebere*, and *Nkwa*. It was *Nzame* who created the world and brought life to it. While the three parts of *Nzame* were admiring this creation, they decided to create a ruler for the earth. So the elephant, the leopard, and the monkey were created, but it was decided that something better than these had to be created. Between the three of them the gods made a new creature in their image, and called him *Fam* (power), and told him to rule the earth. Soon, *Fam* grew arrogant, he mistreated the animals and stopped worshipping *Nzame*. *Nzame* got angry and brought forth thunder and lightning and destroyed everything except for *Fam*, who had been promised immortality. *Nzame*, in his three aspects, decided to renew the earth and try again. He applied a new layer of earth to the planet, and a tree grew upon it. The tree dropped seeds which grew into more trees. Leaves that dropped from them into the water became fish, those that dropped on land became animals. The old parched earth still lies below this new one, and if one digs deep enough it can be found in the form of coal. *Nzame* made a new man, one who would know death, and called him *Sekume*. *Sekume* fashioned a woman, *Mbongwe*, from a tree. These people were made with both *Gnoul* (body) and *Nissim* (soul). *Nissim* gives life to *Gnoul*. When *Gnoul* dies, *Nissim* lives on. They produced many children and prospered.

From the Mik'Maq (North American Indians): *Gisoolg* is the Great Spirit Creator who is the one who made everything. The word *Gisoolg* in Mik'Maq means "you have been created." It also means "the one credited for your existence." *Gisoolg* is not a he or a she. The Mik'Maq people do not explain how the Great Spirit came into existence only that *Gisoolg* is responsible for everything being where it is today. *Gisoolg* made everything.

Nisgam is the sun which travels in a circle and owes its existence to *Gisoolg*. *Nisgam* is the giver of life. It is also a giver of light and heat. The Mik'Maq people believe that *Nisgam* is responsible for the creation of the people on earth. The power of *Nisgam* is greatly respected among the Mik'Maq and other aboriginal peoples.

Ootsitgamoo is the earth or area of land upon which the Mik'Maq people walk and share its abundant resources with the animals and plants. *Ootsitgamoo* was created by *Gisoolg* and was placed in the center of the circular path of *Nisgam*, the sun. *Nisgam* was given the responsibility of watching over the Mik'Maq world or *Ootsitgamoo*. *Nisgam* shines bright light upon *Ootsitgamoo* as it passes around, and this brought the days and nights.

After the Mik'Maq world was created and after the animals, birds and plants were placed on the surface, *Gisoolg* caused a bolt of lightening to hit the surface of *Ootsitgamoo*. This bolt of lightning caused the formation of an image of a human body shaped out of sand. It was *Glooscap* who was first shaped out of the basic element of the Mik'Maq world: sand.

Gisoolg unleashed another bolt of lightening which gave life to *Glooscap* but yet he could not move. He was stuck to the ground only to watch the world go by and *Nisgam* travel across the sky everyday. *Glooscap* watched the animals, the birds and the plants grow and pass around him. He asked *Nisgam* to give him freedom to move about the Mik'Maq world.

After *Glooscap* stood up on his feet, he turned around in a full circle seven times. He then looked toward the sky and gave thanks to *Gisoolg* for giving him life. He looked down to the earth or the ground and gave thanks to *Ootsitgamoo* for offering its sand for *Glooscap*'s creation. He looked within himself and gave thanks to *Nisgam* for giving him his soul and spirit.

From the Maya in South America: In the beginning were only *Tepeu* and *Gucumatz*. These two sat together and thought, and whatever they thought came into being. They thought earth, and there it was. They thought mountains, and so there were. They thought trees, and sky, and animals. Each came into being. Because none of these creatures could praise them, they formed more advanced beings of clay. Because the clay beings fell apart when wet, they made beings out of wood; however, the wooden beings caused trouble on the earth. The Gods sent a great flood to wipe out these beings, so that they could start over. With the help of Mountain Lion, Coyote, Parrot, and Crow they fashioned four new beings. These four beings performed well and are the ancestors of the Quiché.

From China: *The Three Sovereigns*, sometimes known as the Three August Ones, were said to be god-kings who used their magical powers to improve the lives of their people. Because of their lofty virtue, they lived to a great age and ruled over a period of great peace. The Three Sovereigns are sometimes called the Heavenly Sovereign, the Earthly Sovereign, and the Human Sovereign. There are also five super-human emperors who reigned after the three sovereigns. During the reign of one of the super-human emperors, heaven and earth were said to be separated from each other. During another reign, humans were made out of yellow clay.

From Scandinavia: *Odin* is the All-Father. He is the oldest and most powerful of the Gods. Through the ages he has ruled all things. He created heaven and earth, and he made man and gave him a soul. But even the All-Father was not the very first.

In the beginning, there was no earth, no sea, no sky. Only the emptiness of *Ginnungagap*, waiting to be filled. In the south, the fiery realm of *Muspell* came into being, and in the north, the icy realm of *Niflheim*. Fire and ice played across the emptiness. And in the center of nothingness the air grew mild. Where the warm air from Muspell met the cold air from Niflheim, the ice began to thaw. As it dripped, it shaped itself into the form of a sleeping giant. His name was *Ymir*, and he was evil.

As *Ymir* slept, he began to sweat. There grew beneath his left arm a male and a female, and from his legs another male was created. These were the first frost giants, all of whom are descended from *Ymir*.

Then the ice-melt formed a cow, named *Audhumla*. Four rivers of milk flowed from her and fed *Ymir*. *Audhumla* fed herself by licking the salty blocks of ice all around. By the end of her first day she had uncovered the hair of a head. By the end of her second day the whole head was exposed, and by the end of a third day, there was a complete man. His name was *Buri*, and he was strong and handsome. *Buri* had a son named *Bor*, who married *Bestla*, the daughter of one of the frost giants. *Bor* and *Bestla* had three sons: *Odin*, *Vili* and *Ve*.

Odin and his brothers hated the brutal frost giant *Ymir*, and they killed him. There was so much blood from the slaughtered giant that it drowned all the frost giants except for *Bergelmir* and his wife, who escaped in a boat made from a hollowed tree trunk.

From *Ymir*'s flesh, *Odin* and his brothers made the earth, and from his shattered bones and teeth, they made the rocks and stones. From *Ymir*'s blood, they made the rivers and lakes, and they circled the earth with an ocean of blood.

Ymir's skull they made into the sky, secured at four points by four dwarfs named East, West, North and South. They flung sparks of fire from *Muspell* high into the sky to make the sun, the moon, and the stars. From *Ymir*'s brains, they shaped the clouds.

The earth was made in the form of a circle and around the edge of it lay the great sea. *Odin* and his brothers gave one area, *Jotunheim*, to the giants. They also established the kingdom of *Midgard*, protecting it from the giants with fortifications made from *Ymir*'s eyebrows.

One day, as they walked along the shore of the great sea, *Odin* and his brothers came across two logs. *Odin* gave them breath and life; *Vili* gave them brains and feelings; and *Ve* gave them hearing and sight. These were the first man, *Ask*, and the first woman, *Embla*, and *Midgard* was their home. From them, all the families of mankind are descended.

Below *Midgard* is the icy realm of death, *Niflheim*. Above it is the realm of the Gods, *Asgard*, where *Odin* sits on his throne and watches over all the worlds. *Asgard* and *Midgard* are linked by a rainbow bridge, *Bifrost*. At the center of all the realms is a great ash tree, *Yggdrasil*, whose branches shade the world, and whose roots support it.

As you were reading these myths, did you notice the details that were similar to the record of creation found in the Bible? We have a creator who has three parts (the Trinity) from the Bantu tribe in Africa. We see an all-wise father in the Babylonian myth. From the Mik'maq myth, we are told that man was created from the dust of the earth. The Mayan myth tells us of a creator who wanted creatures to praise him. The Chinese myth tells us that heaven and earth were separated from each other and that the first sovereigns lived for a long time. And lastly, from the Scandinavian myth, we learn that three brothers breathed life into the first man and the first woman.

You might be wondering why are so many creation myths from all over the world are so similar to the Bible's record of creation. The answer is because **they all came from the same source** - the first man and his wife, Adam and Eve. After all, they are the ancestors of everyone who has ever lived. Over time, some of the details were changed, but the basic facts remain the same. Of course, we can also find creation myths that are completely different from the Bible's record, but that just means that all of the details were changed instead of just some of them.

How did these changes happen? Well, it's quite simple really. Have you ever played the game of "Telephone" with your family or friends? In this game, one person whispers something into the ear of the person next to him. That person, in turn, repeats (in a whisper) what he heard to the person next to him and so on. By the time the story reaches the last person, the story is nothing at all like it was when it was started. In the same way, in telling the record of creation to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, some people changed some of the details of the story.

However, there is another reason that some of the details got changed. Let's imagine for a moment that you want to make someone believe that a piece of wood that you have is really an apple. How would you do that? Would you make the wood square or round? Would you leave the wood unpainted or would you paint it red? Would you add a stem and a leaf or leave those details out? Of course, you would form the wood into the shape of an apple, paint it red, add a stem and a leaf, and any other details you could to make it look as real as possible. You might even put it in a bowl with other real apples to make it seem even more genuine. But, underneath all those external details, the apple is really a piece of wood and not a real apple at all.



Apples and Pears - fake or not? by Wendy Merz

The devil does the same thing. When he wants to make a lie seem like the truth, he makes it similar to the truth. He keeps enough of the important details to make it seem true, but by changing other details, he can make sure that people don't learn the whole truth. Remember, he did the same thing to Eve when he asked her about the fruit. He questioned and changed what God had originally said, but he made it sound so much like the truth that Eve believed him.

Comprehension Questions:

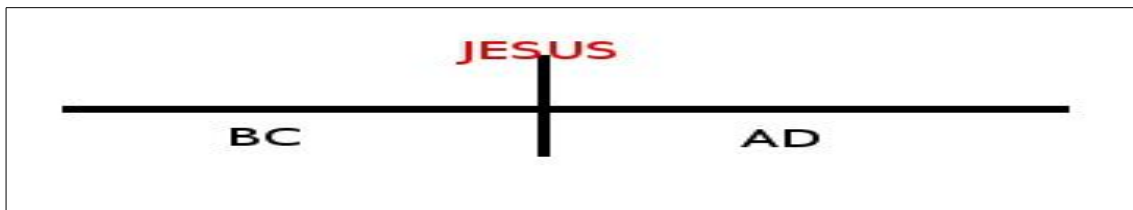
- 1) When did the world begin?
- 2) Who created the world?
- 3) What was the name of the first man and woman?
- 4) What were they commanded not to do?
- 5) Who tricked Eve into disobeying God?
- 6) Why were Adam and Eve punished?
- 7) Who were the ancestors of everyone who has ever lived?
- 8) Why are so many creation myths similar to the record found in the Bible?

Activities:

- 1) Draw pictures representing each day of creation and label the objects in each picture. Explain why the first man and woman were punished.
- 2) Find a short story to read. Have one person in your family read the actual written story. That person should then choose another family member (just one) and tell them the story. Have each person who is told the story repeat it by telling just one other person in the family until you've run out of people. Have the last person tell the story to everyone in the family. Finally, read the actual written story aloud. Compare how different each family member's version of the story is to the original.
- 3) Ask a grandparent or another older relative to tell a story to the whole family about an event that happened in their childhood. Have each member of the family listen to the story and then write down (or tell) what they know about the story. Compare the differences and similarities between each story.
- 4) Find some objects either in your home or at a store that represent real objects. (i.e. a piece of fake fruit, a stuffed lion, a fake plant or tree, etc.) Examine each object. Explain how you can tell that each object is not real.

II. Adam to Noah c. 3932 to c. 2876 BC & The World Before the Flood c. 3932 to c. 2276 BC

Before we begin this chapter, we need to look at the dates in the title of this chapter. Notice that the dates go from a higher number to a lower number. Do you know why? The reason is that we're counting down. For example, when a space rocket takes off, we count down. We say "Three, two, one, blast-off!" We're counting down until the time the rocket takes off. But, what are the dates counting down to? The answer is the birth of Jesus Christ. All of the years that come before Jesus is born are counted down instead of up. We use the letters B.C. to identify these dates. **B.C. stands for "Before Christ"**. So, all the dates we'll be looking at in the ancient history part of this book will be going down. In the future, we'll be learning about history that happened after the birth of Jesus. This history starts at year 1 and counts up. For example, in the year 2011, we had counted 2011 years since the birth of Jesus. We use the letters A.D. to indicate this. **A.D. stands for "Anno Domini"**. This is Latin for **"In the Year of our Lord"**.



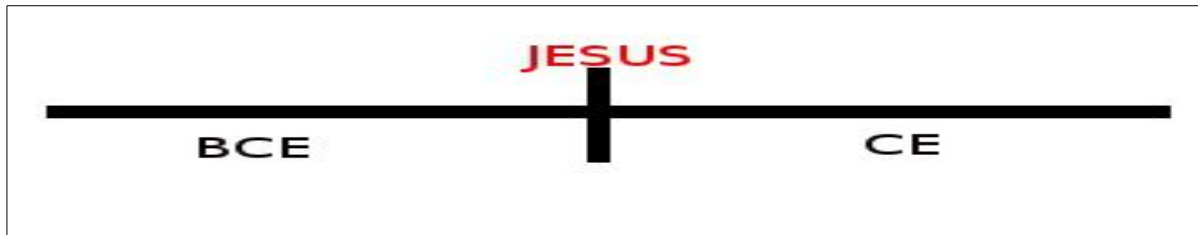
Where did this system of dating come from? Well, about 500 years after the birth of Jesus, a man named **Dionysius Exiguus** lived in Rome. (His name can be translated as "Dennis the Small" or "Dennis the Little.") He was a monk who had been born in Scythia Minor. When he lived in Rome, he was a member of a group called the Roman Curia. This group was responsible for the proper functioning of the Roman Catholic Church. Dionysius spent his time translating many religious documents from Greek into Latin. One of his tasks was to prepare a list of future Easter dates so that the church and its members would know when to celebrate.



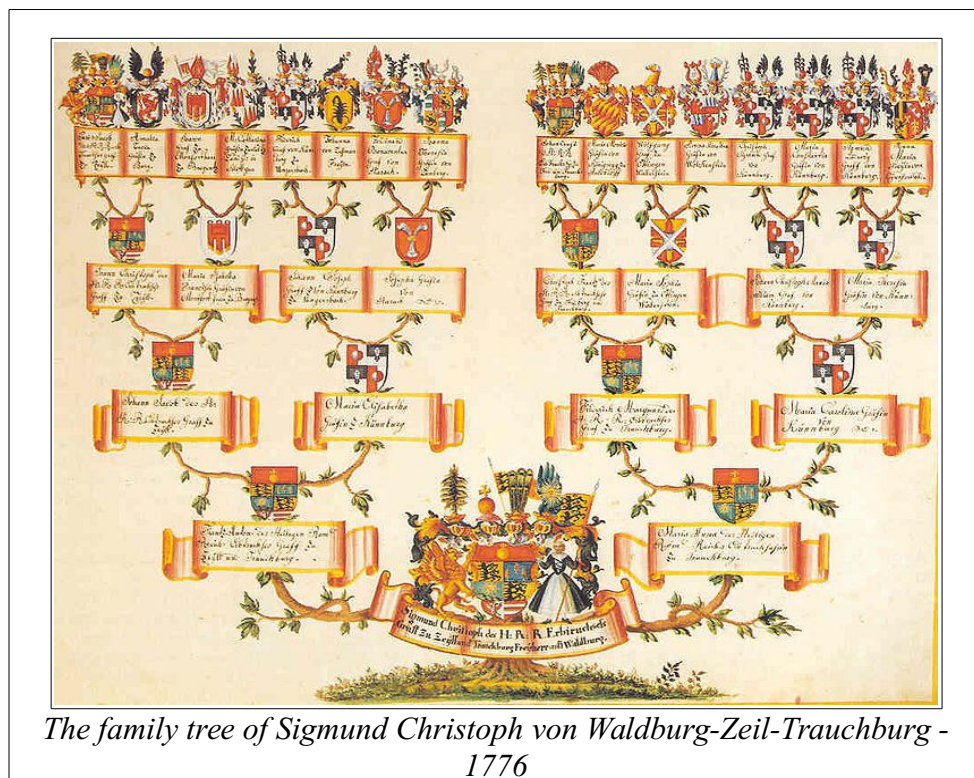
While doing this, he created a whole new system of dating called the "Anno Domini Era." In creating this system, he simply stated that it had been 525 years since the birth of Jesus. But, no one knows how he arrived at that exact number. (We will learn more about the uncertainty of dates in history in a future chapter.) This system of dating became popular in Western Europe about 200 years later when it was used by another man named the Venerable Bede who wrote a book about the history of the church in England.

There is another set of abbreviations for dates which you may see in modern writing or museums. These dates no longer use the system of A.D. and B.C. Instead, they use the acronyms **B.C.E.** and **C.E.** (B.C.E. stands for "before (the) common era" and C.E. stands for "common era.") These terms were first used in English as early as the 1600s A.D. Originally, the letters C.E. also meant "current era" or "Christian era." However, in the middle of the 1800s, Jewish scholars began to

use them to talk about dates that were not part of their Jewish calendar. Of course, the Jews did not believe that Jesus was their Lord. So, over the years, the terms "current era" and "Christian era" were discarded as definitions. Since about 1980 A.D., it has become more and more common to use the terms B.C.E. and C.E. Most people who decide to use them say that are doing it because they don't want to be thought of as religious and they don't want to offend non-Christians. By using these terms, people eliminate the mention of Jesus Christ as Lord and instead emphasize the idea of humans as being more important than God.



In the last chapter, we learned that **Adam was the first man** and **Eve was the first woman**. This means that Adam and Eve are the ancestors of everyone who has ever lived. (**Ancestors** are the people in your family who lived in the past before you were born. Some examples would be your parents, your grandparents, your great-grandparents. etc.) In the Bible, we can read the account of their children Cain, Abel, and Seth. We can also see the family trees of Cain and Seth. Perhaps you have never heard of a family tree. **A family tree is simply a list of the people who all belong to one family.** Here is an example of a fancy family tree from the year 1776.



Before we talk about what the world was like before the flood, let's take a look at the family trees of Cain and Seth so that we can know some of the names of some of the people who lived during this time.

According to our Biblical time line. Adam and Eve were created around the year 3932 BC. The Bible tells us that they had two sons after they were told to leave the Garden of Eden. Their names were Cain and Abel. When they got older, both Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to God. Abel's offering was good. However, something was wrong with Cain's offering. When God told Cain that there was a problem with his offering, **Cain got angry and killed Abel.** As his punishment, God made Cain a fugitive. This means that he had to live apart from other people. Cain was afraid that other people would try to kill him, so God put a mark on Cain so that other people would know not to kill him. You might be wondering who these other people were that Cain was worried about. Well, we read in the Bible that Adam and Eve had more children than just Cain and Abel. So, the other people Cain was afraid of were his brothers and sisters and perhaps their children.

Cain married and had a son named Enoch. Cain also built a city and called the name of the city Enoch, too. When Enoch was grown, he had a son named Irad. Eventually, Irad grew up and he had a son named Mehujael. Mehujael had a son of his own named Methusael. Then Methusael had a son named Lamech. The Bible gives us a few more details about Lamech. He had two wives: Adah and Zillah. Adah was the mother of Jabal and Jubal. Jabal's descendants lived in tents and raised cattle. Jubal's descendants were musicians and played the harp and the organ. Lamech's other wife, Zillah, had a son named Tubalcain and a daughter named Naamah. Tubalcain taught people how to make things from brass and iron. In Cain's family tree, we don't have any information about how old the men were when they had their sons, so we don't know how many years passed from Cain until Lamech and his sons.

Now let's look at another family tree. After Cain killed Abel, **Adam and Eve had another son named Seth.** Seth is important because one of his descendants was **Noah.** Most of you have probably heard of Noah. (He was the man who built a large boat and survived the world-wide flood.) The other thing about Seth's family tree is that God gives us specific ages for each man at certain points in his life. This allows us to construct a time line from Adam all the way to Noah.

Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born. This may seem very old to us, but before the flood, men lived for a very long time. In fact, the oldest man lived to be 969 years old. His name was Methuselah. After Seth was born, Adam lived for another 800 years. This means that Adam was 930 years old when he died. That's a very long time. This also means that Adam was alive to see the birth of many of his descendants. (**Descendants** are all the people that are born into the family of one original man and woman. For example, you and your parents are all descendants of your grandparents.) Now let's learn about Seth's descendants.

Seth had a son when he was 105 years old named Enos.

Enos had a son when he was 90 years old named Cainan.

Cainan had a son when he was 70 years old named Mahalaleel.

Mahalaleel had a son when he was 65 years old named Jared.

Jared had a son when he was 162 years old named Enoch.

Enoch had a son when he was 65 years old named Methusaleh.

Methusaleh had a son when he was 187 years old named Lamech.

At this point in history, everyone from Adam to Lamech is alive at the same time! That's eight generations in one family. When Lamech was 56 years old, Adam died. Adam was 930 years old.

Fifty-seven years later, when Lamech was 113 an interesting event happened to Enoch. **The Bible simply says that Enoch walked with God and was not; for God took him. Enoch was 365 years old when this happened. Enoch did not die like Adam. Instead, God "took him."** After this, when Lamech was 168 years old, Seth died at the age of 912.

Fourteen years later, when Lamech was 182 years old, he had a son named Noah. All of Noah's ancestors (except Enoch who was taken by God) died before the flood began.

Enos died when Noah was 84 years old.

Cainan died when Noah was 179 years old.

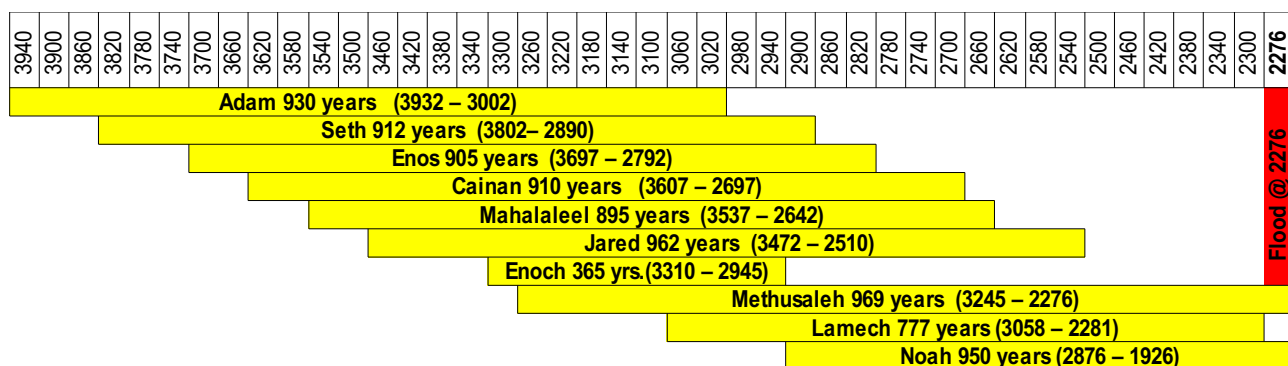
Mahalaleel died when Noah was 234 years old.

Jared died when Noah was 366 years old.

Around the age of 500, Noah had three sons named Shem, Ham, and Japeth. Then, about five years before the flood, when Noah was 595 years old, Lamech died.

The last direct ancestor of Noah, Methusaleh, died just before the flood at age 969. (An ancestor is a person from who you are descended. For example, your father and grandfather are two of your ancestors.)

If that long story seems confusing to you, here is a graph that you can look at that might help you understand who lived at the same time. Noah lived past the flood, of course. But this chart only covers from Adam to the flood.



Now, of course, **these were not the only people born during this time.** Each man listed above had more than one child. In fact, the Bible says they all had sons and daughters. Let's look at Adam as an example. Adam lived for 930 years. That's much longer than people live today. Adam might have had more children than people have today. But, let's assume he just had 5 children and that each of those children had 5 children and so on. By the time of the flood, that would be about 9,765,625 people. That's just under ten million people. (Remember, this number is just a guess because not every man would have exactly 5 kids.) By comparison, the population of the world today is just about 7,000,000,000. That is seven billion people. We don't know exactly how many people lived before the flood, but we do know there could have been a lot of them! Now that you know the possible number of people there may have been during this time and you know some of their names, let's talk about what the world was actually like before the flood.

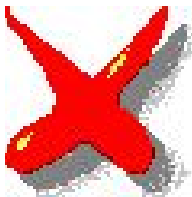
WHAT WAS THE WORLD LIKE BEFORE THE FLOOD?

By reading the early chapters of Genesis, we can learn a little bit about what was happening in the world before the flood. We know that **men had to work hard** to get the land to produce food. (Genesis 3:17-19) We learn that there were both **farmers** and **shepherds** because Abel was a shepherd and Cain was a farmer. (Genesis 4) People were **bringing offerings to the LORD**, so there was worship. (Genesis 4) Clearly there was **violence** and **crime** because Cain killed Abel. And Cain was worried about other people killing him. (Genesis 4) There was **at least one city** called Enoch. (Genesis 4:17) The world had men who were **cattle ranchers**, men who

were **musicians** who played harps and organs, and men who **worked with metals** like brass and iron. (Genesis 4:20 - 22) We know that people were **getting married** and **having children**. (Genesis 5) We also know from the Bible that it **might not have rained before the flood**. (Genesis 2:5) **Animals did not fear men** or probably even each other. (Genesis 7:2) And, it appears that **men and animals most likely did not eat meat** before the flood. (Genesis 9:1-4) Finally, there were also **giants** (Genesis 6:4).

God also tells us that **people were very wicked**. (Genesis 6:5) In fact, they were so wicked that God says that "every imagination of the thoughts of the hearts of men was evil". Think about how many thoughts you think in one minute. Perhaps it's 20 thoughts, perhaps it's 30 thoughts. How many of those thoughts are good thoughts and how many are bad thoughts? Can you imagine what the world would be like if every thought were wicked? Because of this continual evil, God came to two decisions. The first was that men would no longer live as long as they did in the past. Instead, God would limit the length of their lives to about 120 years. The second decision He made was that He was going to destroy the whole world with a flood.

Now that you know what the Bible says about the world before the flood, it might be interesting to see what some of the myths from cultures around the world say about this time. Remember, these are myths, so they are not completely true. But, just like the creation myths, we can see some basic elements of truth in them. As you read them, try to find the details that are similar to the Bible account of that time.



WARNING: MORE MYTHS AHEAD!!!

Sumer: Sumer had eight rulers who lived very long lives. The first ruler was named *Alulim*. He was said to have reigned in *Eridug* and they believed the kingship came down from heaven. During the reigns of these eight kings, the kingdom headquarters changed several times. By the time of the eighth ruler, *Ubara-Tutu*, it was in *Shuruppak*. Then the flood "swept over".

Transylvanian Gypsy: Men once lived forever and knew no troubles. The earth brought forth fine fruits, flesh grew on trees, and milk and wine flowed in many rivers. One day, an old man came to the country and asked for a night's lodging, which a couple gave him in their cottage. When he departed the next day, he said he would return in nine days. He gave his host a small fish in a vessel and said he would reward the host if he did not eat the fish but returned it then. The wife thought the fish must be exceptionally good to eat, but the husband said he had promised the old man to keep it and made the woman swear not to eat it. After two days of thinking about it, though, the wife yielded to temptation and threw the fish on the hot coals. Immediately, she was struck dead by lightning, and it began to rain. The rivers started overflowing the country. On the ninth day, the old man returned and told his host that all living things would be drowned, but since he had kept his oath, he would be saved. The old man told the host to take a wife, gather his kinfolk, and build a boat on which to save them, animals, and seeds of trees and herbs. The man did all this. It rained a year, and the waters covered everything. After a year, the waters sank, and the people and animals disembarked. They now had to labor to gain a living, and sickness and death came also. They multiplied slowly so that many thousands of years passed before people were again as numerous as they were before the flood.

Babylonian: Three times (every 1200 years), the gods were distressed by the disturbance from human overpopulation. The gods dealt with the problem first by plague, then by famine. Both times, the god *Enki* advised men to bribe the god causing the problem. The third time, Enlil advised the gods to destroy all humans with a flood, but Enki had *Atrahasis* build an ark and so escape. Also on the boat were cattle, wild animals and birds, and Atrahasis' family. When the storm came, Atrahasis sealed the door with bitumen and cut the boat's rope. The storm god *Adad* raged, turning the day black. After the seven-day flood, the gods regretted their action. Atrahasis made an offering to them, at which the gods gathered like flies, and Enki limited the number of births to avoid the problem in the future.

Greece: According to accounts attributed to Berosus, the people who lived before the flood were giants who became impious and depraved, except one among them that revered the gods and was wise and prudent. His name was *Noa*, and he dwelt in Syria with his three sons *Sem*, *Japet*, *Chem*, and their wives *Tidea*, *Pandora*, *Noela*, and *Noegla*. From the stars, he foresaw destruction, and he began building an ark. Seventy-eight years after he began building, the oceans, inland seas, and rivers burst forth from beneath, attended by many days of violent rain. The waters overflowed all the mountains, and the human race was drowned except Noa and his family who survived on his ship. The ship came to rest at last on the top of the *Gendyae* (mountain). Parts of it still remain, which men take bitumen from to make charms against evil.

China: The Supreme Sovereign ordered the water god *Gong Gong* to create a flood as punishment and warning for human misbehavior.

Munda (north-central India): *Sing Bonga* created man from the dust of the ground, but they soon grew wicked and lazy, would not wash, and spent all their time dancing and singing. Sing Bonga regretted creating them and resolved to destroy them by flood.

Egypt: People have become rebellious. *Atum* said he will destroy all he made and return the earth to the *Primordial Water* which was its original state.

Did you find any similarities in these myths to the Biblical account? Some main ideas that many stories share are that before the flood people lived for a long time and misbehaved in some way. The punishment for this misbehavior was a flood. Many of the myths tell the story of one man and his family who built a boat and took animals on the boat with them. It's very similar to what happened with the account of creation, isn't it? The original story was told and retold. Over time, the details were changed here and there. But, we can still recognize that they are talking about the same event.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) What does B.C. stand for? What does A.D. stand for?
- 2) What were the names of the first man and the first woman?
- 3) What is a family tree?
- 4) What did Cain do to Abel? Why?
- 5) What was the name of third son of Adam and Eve mentioned in the Bible?
- 6) Why is this son so important?
- 7) What is a descendant? What is an ancestor?
- 8) Did Enoch die? If not, what happened to him?
- 9) Who was the oldest man in the world when he died?
- 10) Were the men listed in the Bible the only men alive during this time in history?
- 11) List three activities that people were doing before the flood?
- 12) How often did the people who lived before the flood have evil thoughts?
- 13) Why do you think other cultures have similar stories about the flood in their myths?

Activities:

1) Create a family pedigree chart (a family tree). Find the FREE chart located on our website (www.honourofking.com) To complete the chart, put your name in line #1. Then your father's name will go into line # 2. Your mother's name will go on line #3. After that, you can add your grandparents in their correct places in lines #4 to #7. If you wish, you can also add birthdates, marriage dates, death dates, and locations for each person on the tree.

2) Draw a picture showing one or two characteristics of the world that existed before the flood.

3) Add together the number of the people in your family currently alive. Start with your parents and your brothers and sisters. Then add the number of uncles and the number of aunts. Then add in your cousins. Lastly add your grandparents if they are still living.

4) Illustrate how quickly a population can grow in each generation by using Cheerios or some other small objects. Clear a large space on your table and make sure it's clean if you want to eat the Cheerios at the end of this experiment! Place one Cheerio near one long edge of the table. This is the first row. About two inches up from the first Cheerio, place five Cheerios in a row with an equal distance between them. (Do not put them all together - make sure they're spread out equally!) This is the second row. Then two inches up from each of those Cheerios, put another five Cheerios above each of five Cheerios in the second row. This is the third row. Continue making new rows until you've reached the other edge of the table.

Your table may look something like this (yours may have more rows):

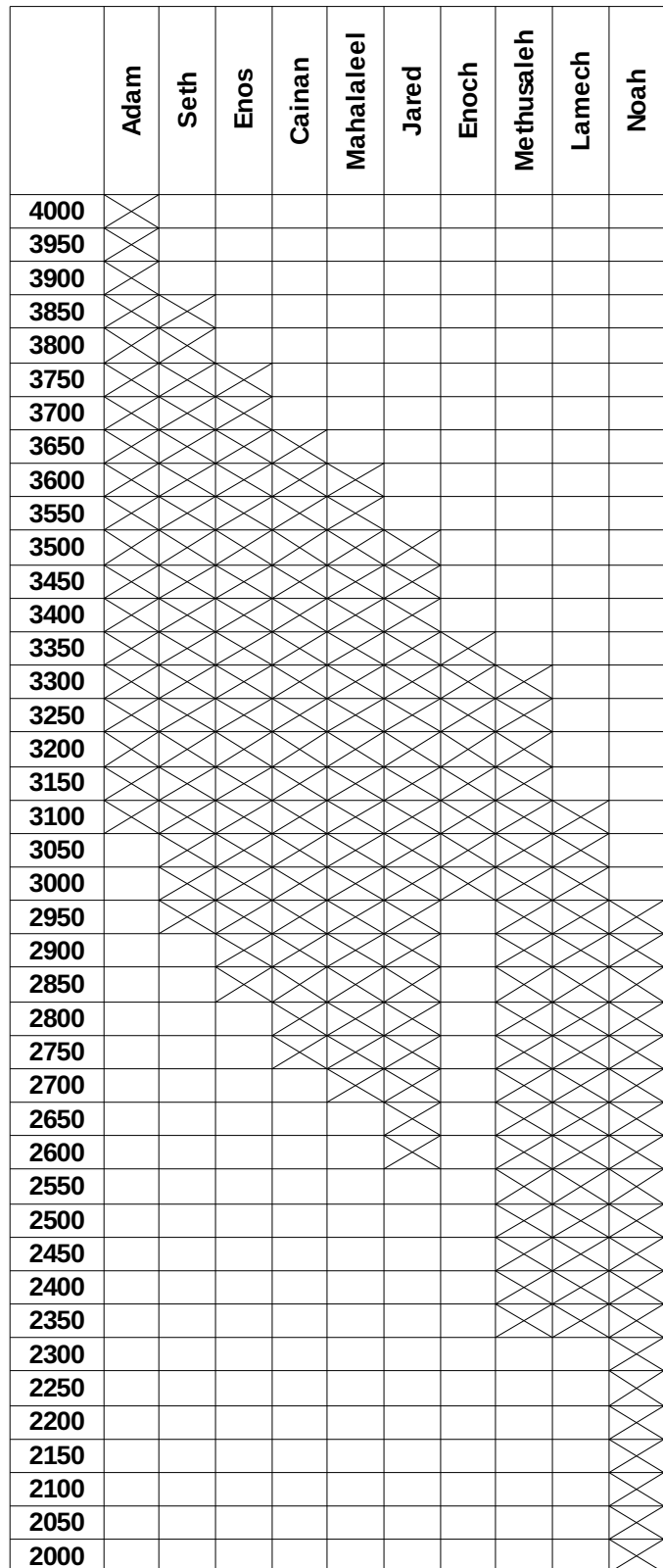
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Count how many rows of Cheerios you have. This will be equal to the number of generations. Then count how many Cheerios are in each row and add them all together to figure out the total population.

5) Practice your graph-reading skills by answering the following questions.

Graph - The Lives of Men from Adam to Noah

1. Who was born first Seth or Enos?
2. During what years were there four men from this family alive?
3. Who had the shortest life?
4. Who had the longest life?
5. Which two years listed had the most number of men from this family alive?
6. Who died first?
7. Who died last?
8. In the year 2600 B.C., how many men in this family were alive?
9. How many men are listed in this graph?
10. How many years does this graph cover?



III. The Flood c. 2276 BC & Noah to Peleg c. 2876 to c. 2175 BC

In the previous chapter, we learned that God had decided to destroy the world because even the thoughts of men were wicked. If we count up the number of years between the creation of Adam and the flood, we find that we have 1,656 years of history. Thus, **the flood happened 1,656 years after God created the world**. Based on the approximate Bible time line found in this book, we can place the flood around 2276 B.C. At this time, **Noah was 600 years old** and had three sons: **Shem, Ham, and Japeth**.

We're going to look at a summary of the flood account here, but the best way to learn about it is to read it directly from your Bible. So, before you read the summary, go find your Bible and read the account of the flood. It can be found in Genesis chapters 6 to 9. When you're done, come back to this book.



Entry of the animals in the Ark (1570) by Francesco Bassano the Younger

All done? Good. Now let's read the summary. The people who lived on the earth were very wicked. **God decided to destroy the world because they were so wicked.** God told Noah that he was going to destroy the earth and the people who lived on it. **He gave Noah instructions to build a boat called an ark.**

In this ark, Noah was supposed to put at least two of every animal. He was supposed to put in more of the clean animals and the

birds. (A clean animal was an animal that could be used for sacrifices and eventually for eating.)

Then God told him to gather all types of food to feed both his family and the animals. God also told Noah to take his family into the ark. In his family, Noah had his wife, his three sons and their wives. Once they got into the ark, God shut the door and it began to rain.

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. In addition to the rain, extra water came up from underground. **The water was so deep that the Bible says it was above the tops of the mountains.** Of course, everyone and everything that was living on the earth died. God allowed the water to remain on the earth for 150 days.

At the end of 150 days, the ark came to rest on mountains. The waters continued to disappear. Forty days after Noah saw the tops of the mountains, he opened the window in the ark. He first sent out a raven and then a dove.

When the dove brought back an olive leaf, Noah knew that the trees were growing again. He waited seven more days and then sent the dove out again. This time, the dove did not come back. Noah knew it was safe to leave the ark. **Noah, his family, and the animals were in the ark for one year and 10 days.**

After they came out of the ark, **Noah built an altar and worshipped God.** God made the promise that He would not destroy the earth again by flood. **The symbol of this promise was a bow in the cloud.** This bow is what we call a rainbow today. God also told Noah that the animals would now be afraid of them and that they could now eat the animals for food. Lastly, God told Noah and his sons to have children and fill up the earth again.

PHILIP DE LOUTHERBOURG: PLATES FOR MACKLIN'S BIBLE



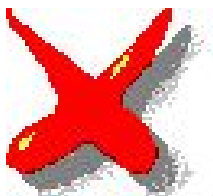
BOWYER BIBLE VOLUME 2 PRINT 289

NOAH'S SACRIFICE

Genesis 8:18, 20

P. J. De Loutherbourg pinxt. J. Hall sculp. Published 1794 by Thos. Macklin, London. Phillip Medhurst apud. Harry Kossuth excudit

Now, just as there were myths from other cultures about creation and about what the world was like before the flood, there are also flood stories from all over the world. Again, let's take a look at some of these stories and look for the similarities. **Remember, every human being that has been born since the flood is related to either Shem, Ham, or Japeth.** And all three of those men were on the ark and experienced the flood. Most likely, they told their children and grandchildren about it.



WARNING: MORE MYTHS AHEAD!!!

Sumerian: The gods had decided to destroy mankind. The god *Enlil* warned the priest-king *Ziusudra* ("Long of Life") of the coming flood by speaking to a wall while Ziusudra listened at the side. He was instructed to build a great ship and carry beasts and birds upon it. Violent winds came, and a flood of rain covered the earth for seven days and nights. Then Ziusudra opened a window in the large boat, allowing sunlight to enter, and he laid down before the sun-god *Utu*. After landing, he sacrificed a sheep and an ox and bowed before *Anu* and *Enlil*. For protecting the animals and the seed of mankind, he was granted eternal life and taken to the country of *Dilmun*, where the sun rises.

Egyptian: People have become rebellious. *Atum* said he will destroy all he made and return the earth to the Primordial Water which was its original state. Atum will remain, in the form of a serpent, with *Osiris*.

Assyrian: The gods, led by *Enlil*, agreed to cleanse the earth of an overpopulated humanity, but *Utnapishtim* was warned by the god *Ea* in a dream. He and some craftsmen built a large boat (one acre in area, seven decks) in a week. He then loaded it with his family, the craftsmen, and "the seed of all living creatures." The waters of the abyss rose up, and it stormed for six days. Even the gods were frightened by the flood's fury. Upon seeing all the people killed, the gods repented and wept. The waters covered everything but the top of the mountain *Nisur*, where the boat landed. Seven days later, Utnapishtim released a dove, but it returned finding nowhere else to land. He next sent out a sparrow, which also returned, and then a raven, which did not return. Thus he knew the waters had receded enough for the people to emerge. Utnapishtim made a sacrifice to the gods. He and his wife were given immortality and lived at the end of the earth.

Chaldean: The god *Chronos* in a vision warned *Xisuthrus*, the tenth king of Babylon, of a flood coming on the fifteenth day of the month of Daesius. The god ordered him to write a history and bury it in *Sippara*, and told him to build a vessel (5 stadia by 2 stadia) and fill it with supplies for himself, his friends and relations, and all kinds of animals. Xisuthrus asked where he should sail, and Chronos answered, "to the gods, but first pray for all good things to men." Xisuthrus built a ship five furlongs by two furlongs and loaded it as ordered. After the flood had come and abated somewhat, he sent out some birds, which returned. Later, he tried again, and the birds returned with mud on their feet. On the third trial, the birds didn't return. He saw that land had appeared above the waters, so he parted some seams of his ship, saw the shore, and drove his ship aground in the Corcyraean mountains in Armenia. He disembarked with his wife, daughter, and pilot, and offered sacrifices to the gods. Those four were translated to live with the gods. The others at first were grieved when they could not find the four, but they heard Xisuthrus' voice in the air telling them to be pious and to seek his writings at Sippara. Part of the ship remains to this day, and some people make charms from its bitumen.

Islamic: *Allah* sent *Noah* to warn the people to serve none but Allah, but most of them would not listen. They challenged Noah to make good his threats and mocked him when, under Allah's inspiration, he built a ship. Allah told Noah not to speak to him on behalf of wrongdoers; they would be drowned. In time, water gushed from underground and fell from the sky. Noah loaded onto his ship pairs of all kinds, his household, and those few who believed. One of Noah's sons didn't believe and said he would seek safety in the mountains. He was among the drowned. The ship sailed amid great waves. Allah commanded the earth to swallow the water and the sky to clear, and the ship came to rest on Al-Judi. Noah complained to Allah for taking his son. Allah admonished that the son was an evildoer and not of Noah's household, and Noah prayed for forgiveness. Allah told Noah to go with blessings on him and on some nations that will arise from those with him.

Did you notice the many similarities? There are many other cultures that have similar stories, but we don't have enough space in this book to look at them all. So, if you want to study flood-myths and their similarity to Bible record further, check out this website:
<http://www.nwcreation.net/noahlegends.html>.

IS THERE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FOR A FLOOD?

Of course, we can also find evidence in science which supports the idea of a world-wide flood. This book is not a science book, but it would be a good idea to tell you just a few reasons why more and more scientists are beginning to believe that there once was a world-wide flood that destroyed everything.

The first piece of evidence we can look at is the large number of fossils that can be found world-wide. Fossils form when the creature is buried deeply soon after it dies. Natural disasters which can cause this type of burying are floods and volcanoes.



This fossil palm leaf (Sabalites sp.) from the Green River Rock Formation is on display in the Fossil Butte Visitor Center.

Speaking of fossils, there are many areas of sedimentary rock that are very level and very large. These rock layers were formed from hardened sediments (bits of rock, clay, dirt, and sand). Some have been reported to be as large as the state of Utah. The interesting thing is that these sedimentary layers have marine fossils in them. These fossils are located in areas that are nowhere near the oceans. For example, large whale fossils have been found in Vermont, Montreal, Michigan, and inland California - all above sea level. Scientists have also discovered marine fossils in mountain ranges such as the Alps, the Himalayas, and the Sierras!

These areas of sedimentary rock could easily have been formed as the result of a world-wide flood. The large amount of water would have picked up rocks, clay, dirt, and sand. As the water level decreased, the rocks, clay, dirt, and sand would have settled into different layers. These sediments could then have hardened into sedimentary rock layers.

If we look for the remains of land animals, it might be a bit harder. However, in many areas of Western Europe, there are caves and fissures (large breaks in rocks) which contain the bones of creatures such as the mammoth, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, horse, polar bear, bison, reindeer, wolf and cave lion. All of the bones are mixed together and are broken at the joints. The bones show no signs of teeth marks or weathering. People think the bones may have floated to these locations and then settled into the cracks and caves as the water went down.

If you'd like to see more reasons why scientists are beginning to believe that there really was a world-wide flood, check out these websites:

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n4/geologic-evidences-part-one>

http://www.earthage.org/EarthOldorYoung/scientific_evidence_for_a_worldwide_flood.htm

<http://www.sentex.net/~tcc/humfoss.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/saf/1207/features/noah.htm>

<http://www.unmaskingevolution.com/18-flood.htm>

<http://nwcreation.net/lycklama/flood.htm>

(Note: Most websites are either secular and therefore anti-flood or Christian and usually pro-flood. Finding a site which simply presents the evidence is a bit hard to find.)

HAS ANYONE FOUND THE ARK YET?

People have been trying to find Noah's ark for many, many years. However, so far, no one has succeeded in proving that they have actually found it. In fact, no one can even agree on exactly which mountain it landed on. In the Bible, it says the ark landed on the "mountains of Ararat". Some people believe that means Mt. Ararat as it exists today. Still others choose another mountain called Mt. Judi (but no one knows exactly which mountain that is). One problem we encounter when trying to locate a historical site is that the names change over time. Throughout history, many people have built monuments and shrines in various locations that they believe were related to Noah's ark and Noah himself. However, we have no concrete evidence that the ark itself still exists. And if it does, apparently, God has not yet seen fit to allow us to discover it.

WHAT HAPPENED TO NOAH AND HIS DESCENDANTS?

So, did Noah and his sons fill up the earth again? Well, eventually. All three sons did begin to have children and those children began to spread out a little bit. **Of course everyone spoke the same language because they were all related to Noah and his three sons.**

We can see in Genesis chapter 10 that after the flood, Japeth had 7 sons and that 2 of those sons had children, Ham had 4 sons and 2 of those sons had children, and Shem had 5 sons and 2 of those sons had children.

Shem's family was just a bit bigger than the other two families because one of those sons had already become a great-grandfather by Genesis chapter 10. We can get a sense of the approximate amount of time by looking at Shem's family tree. From the time of the flood to the birth of one



*Descent of Noah from Ararat - 1889
by Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky*

of Shem's descendants named Peleg is 101 years. Why is Peleg so important? Well, it's because the Bible says that in his days the earth was divided or split up. We'll learn more about this dividing of the earth in the next chapter.

For now, let's look at the family trees of Noah's three sons. We'll begin with Japeth. After the flood, Japeth had seven sons (*Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meschech, and Tiras*). Gomer and Javan had sons by the time the earth was divided. Gomer had three sons (*Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah*). Javan had four sons (*Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim*).

Ham is another son of Noah. After the flood, Ham had four sons (*Cush, Mizraim, Phut, and Canaan*). Several of Ham's sons had children by the time the earth was divided. Cush had six sons (*Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, Sabtechah, and Nimrod*). Remember the name of Nimrod because we will talk about him later. Nimrod may have had a son named Asshur. Ham's son Ramaah had two children (*Sheba and Dedan*). Ham's son Mizraim had seven sons (*Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, Pathrusim, Casluhim, and Caphtorim*). Ham's son Canaan had two sons (*Sidon and Heth*).

Shem is another son of Noah. Shem had five sons (*Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram*) after the flood. His son Arphaxad was born two years after the flood. By the time the earth was divided, Aram also had four sons (*Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash*). At the age of 35, Arphaxad had a son named Salah. Salah grew up and at age 30 had a son named Eber. When Eber was 34 years old, he had a son named Peleg. He also had another son named Joktan. **And it was during Peleg's life that the Bible says the earth was divided. In fact, the name Peleg means "division".** We'll learn more about Peleg in a future chapter.

One last interesting fact about these men is that, in addition to the fact that they were **having children at a much younger age** beginning with Arphaxad, **they were also living much shorter lives** compared with the men who lived before the flood. Shem lived to be 600 years old. Arphaxad lived to be 438 years old. Salah lived to be 433 years old. Eber lived to be 464 years old. Peleg only lived to be 239 years old.

So what did Noah and his three sons do after the flood? Well, first we know that the whole group journeyed east and found a **plain in the land of Shinar and decided to live there**. Noah became a farmer and planted a vineyard. During this time period, Noah drank too much wine and was lying in his tent with no clothes on. Ham came in and saw this and told his two brothers. Shem and Japeth went in backwards and covered their father with a piece of clothing. From this account in the Bible, we know that all of them were living rather close to each other at this time.

Do you remember Nimrod, one of Ham's grandsons? Nimrod is described as a mighty hunter before the LORD. The Bible tells us the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calnah in the land of Shinar. We'll learn more about Nimrod and his kingdom in the next chapter.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) How many years were there between the creation of the world and the flood?
- 2) How old was Noah at the time of the flood?
- 3) What were the names of Noah's three sons?
- 4) Why did God decide to destroy the world?
- 5) What did God tell Noah to build?
- 6) How deep was the water during the flood?
- 7) How long were Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark?
- 8) What did Noah do when he got off the ark?
- 9) What did God say He would never do again?
- 10) What was the symbol of that promise?
- 11) How many languages existed in the world right after the flood?
- 12) What does the name Peleg mean?
- 13) Where did Noah and his family settle right after the flood?
- 14) What two things were men doing at an earlier age than they did before the flood?

Activities:

1) Did you know that the colors in a rainbow are always in a particular order? The order is red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. You can remember this order by thinking of the name Roy G. Biv because those are the first letters of each of those colors. Draw a picture or diagram of a rainbow and make sure to put the colors in the correct order.

2) Make your Own Rainbow

Materials needed:

- a round glass jar or drinking glass with smooth sides filled with water
- a mirror small enough to fit inside the jar or glass
- a table
- a room with light-colored walls
- a flashlight

STEPS TO FOLLOW:

1. Place the mirror inside the glass jar and tilt it slightly upward.
2. Put the glass on a table.
3. Turn off the lights and close the curtains.
4. Turn on the flashlight and point it towards the mirror. A rainbow should appear on the wall. If it does not, try changing the angle of the mirror or the flashlight.

3) Make A Sedimentary Layer Model

Materials needed:

- scissors
- ruler
- 2-liter plastic soda bottle
- 2 cups (500 ml) of tap water
- 1-quart (1-liter) jar with lid
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) each of flour, dry rice, & dry red beans (pinto beans work well)

STEPS TO FOLLOW:

1. Cut away the top 4 inches (10 cm) of the soda bottle. Keep the bottom section and discard the top.
2. Pour 1 cup (250 ml) of water into the bottom of the bottle.
3. Put the remaining 1 cup (250 ml) of water into the jar, then add the flour, rice, and beans. Secure the lid and shake to thoroughly mix the materials.
4. Pour the contents of the jar into the bottle.
5. Observe the initial appearance of the contents of the bottle, then make observations every 20 minutes for 1 hour and again in 24 hours.

4) There is a man in the Netherlands who has built two large-scale replicas of Noah's ark. You can find information about it online. With your parents, search the term "Johan's Ark" using Google. Many other people have built smaller models of the ark and tested them in water. Again, search online to see videos of these tests, especially on YouTube under "Model Ark Stability Experiments".

If you want to make your own SIMPLE model of Noah's Ark, you can buy a piece of 2x4 wood. Cut from it a piece of wood that is one and a half foot long. Place the piece of wood so that one of the 4 inch sides is completely in contact with the work surface. Add a narrow strip of wood along the top by nailing or gluing on the strip if you'd like.

Once this model is made, you can then purchase a waterproofing product if you wish. (If not, that's okay. But the "ark" will last longer if you actually take the time to waterproof it.) Fill the bathtub with water and place the wooden model ark in the water. Move the water around and see what happens to the boat. Of course, since ours is just a small model, it might not be as stable as the larger, more accurate models, but it will give you an idea of how Noah's ark might have moved in the water.

IV. Tower of Babel & A Divided Earth

c. 2175 BC

Let's talk about Nimrod, Ham's grandson, a bit more. He was one of Noah's descendants whose kingdom began at a place called Babel. Have you ever heard the name Babel before? If so, you might already know the things we are going to learn in this chapter. If not, then you are about to learn more about the history of the world.

After the flood, God told Noah and his family to have a lot of children and to fill up the earth. They did begin to have children, but it appears that they did not want to spread out and fill up the earth. Instead, they decided to stay in one area **called the Plain of Shinar**. Most historians believe that Shinar was located between the Tigris and Euphrates River in what is modern day Iraq.

We know that everyone spoke the same language after the flood. In fact, the Bible says they were of one language and one speech. The word language here means a tongue or dialect. The word speech is a bit different. It means sayings, words, business, acts, and speech. Why are there two different words? Because everyone in the world not only used the same words, but they also used them in the same way. Their words were the same and the way they used them was the same.



Tower of Babel c. 1600 by Marten van Valckenborch

Sometime after they settled in Shinar, they began making bricks. A common method of making bricks back then was to form mud into squares or rectangles in a special mold and then let the sun bake (or burn) them. Soon, they decided to build a city and a tower with those bricks. **They wanted this tower to reach to heaven and they wanted to be famous for making this tower.** You might wonder why they wanted to make this city and this tower.

Well, the Bible says that they did it because they did not want to be scattered throughout the earth. In other words, they were disobeying God's command to fill up the whole earth.

The Bible says that God came down to see this city and tower that the people were building. When he saw what they were doing, He knew that if He didn't do something to stop them, the people would soon be as wicked as the people who lived before the flood. So, what did God do?

He made them speak different languages. People called this tower the **Tower of Babel**. Babel was the name of Nimrod's kingdom, too.

Let's think about this. Let's imagine you and your family are in the kitchen making 100 cakes for a party. If your mother asked you to get some eggs from the refrigerator, you would know exactly what she wanted. But, imagine what would happen if, right in the middle of making the cakes, your mother started speaking Spanish and your father started speaking French and you started speaking Japanese. Would you know what your mother wanted you to get or to do? Of course not. Would the cakes get finished? Maybe, but the three of you couldn't do the work together very easily.

That's what happened to the people who were building the city and the Tower of Babel. They suddenly couldn't understand each other. So, when one person asked for some new bricks or a tool, the person he was talking to did not understand what he was saying. What did they do? Well, each group of people who spoke the same language gathered together and decided to move to a new location. This accomplished two things.



The Lord confounds the languages of all the Earth - illustrators of the 1728 Figures de la Bible, Gerard Hoet (1648–1733) and others, published by P. de Hondt in The Hague in 1728

First, the people were spreading out and filling the whole earth. Second, because they spoke different languages, it was not as easy to work together to rebel against God. The name of this place was called Babel. **The word *babel* means "confusion".** And that's just what happened there - a confusion of languages!

DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

We know that the Bible tells us that God gave people different languages during the building of the tower of Babel to prevent them from finishing the tower. He also did it so that people would begin to move into other parts of the earth. We can learn this from the Bible's account of the Tower of Babel.

It should not surprise you to learn that there are also many myths from cultures around the world that explain why and how we have different languages today. Most of these myths have two themes in common. **They involve a flood or catastrophe and they involve punishment for wrongdoing.** This book will not list any of these myths here, but if you want to learn a little bit about them, you can look at this website:

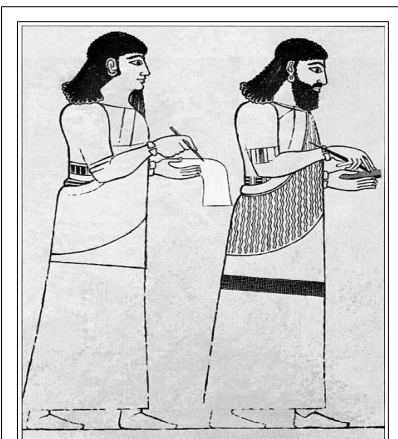
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythical_origins_of_language.

Perhaps you are wondering how many languages God created at the Tower of Babel. Well, the Bible doesn't give us the exact number. However, language experts today say that we have approximately 7000 languages in the world. Of course, many of these languages are used in very small areas by very few people. **The people who study languages and their history are called linguists.** Linguists are curious about how languages are related to each other and how they change over time. In their studies, linguists have categorized the world's languages into a few hundred language families or groups.

Let's look at an example of one of these language families. Spanish, French, and Italian are all called Romance languages. They all developed from a base language called Latin which was spoken in Rome. They are all part of one language family called Indo-European. Thus, these three languages have similar words. For example, the word for *month* in Spanish is *mes*. In French, it is *mois* and in Italian, it is *mese*. You should be able to see the similarities in these three words. Remember, that's because these three languages are all part of one language family.

In Arabic, however, the word for *month* is *shahr*. In Finnish, it is *kuukausi* and in Vietnamese it is *thang*. Each of these three languages belongs to their own separate language family. Can you see how different they are?

Scientists believe that there must have been one, original language that gradually changed into the different language families we have today. However, even though they have tried for many years, linguists are unable to find proof that all the world's modern languages come from one, original language.



Assyrian scribes - Hugo Rydén, Gunnar Stenhag, Dick Widing: Litteraturen genom tiderna. Kortfattad litteraturhistoria för gymnasieskolan. Stockholm 1982.

Do you know why linguists can't find **one, original language** that all modern languages developed from? It's because it **doesn't exist**. When God changed the people's languages at the Tower of Babel, He created brand-new languages that weren't similar to each other in any way. He did that to make sure that they would not be able to understand each other.

A fascinating fact is also seen when it comes to the development of written language. The three earliest written languages known are Sumerian cuneiform, Egyptian hieroglyphs, and the Indus Valley script. In the Indus Valley script and Egyptian hieroglyphs, we can see a gradual development from a few hundred symbols to thousands of symbols. However, in Sumerian, it is the opposite. Sumerian begins with thousands of characters and eventually simplifies the language down to about 400 characters.

We can see the development from words as pictures to a real alphabet that had letters with sounds in the Sumerian and Egyptian written language. Why were all three civilizations developing their own written language around the same time? Because they had all just been given a new language to speak

and they did not have a writing system to go along with it. Thus, they used pictures and symbols to communicate at first and eventually developed letters in an alphabet.

For more information on this topic, check out this website:

<http://www.krysstal.com/langfams.html>

WAS THE TOWER OF BABEL JUST A TOWER?

It is also possible that the Tower of Babel was not just a normal tower to try to reach God. Instead, it might have been **a tower for worshipping a false god**. We don't know exactly which false god they might have wanted to worship, but we have another story from a Babylonian myth about the building of a tower which was built to honor the false god Marduk.

On the next page are a few lines from the sixth tablet of the Babylonian account of creation. Notice the description of molding and using bricks to make a place of worship. They also want to put their "lord" Marduk on top of this shrine as his dwelling place. You'll also see that they want to make the building very high. (There are a few words in these lines which you need to know the meaning of to completely understand it. They are listed after the myth along with their definitions.)

The Anunnaki opened their mouths
And said to Marduk, their lord:
"Now, O lord, you who have caused our deliverance,
What shall be our homage to you?"

Let us build a shrine whose name shall be called
'Lo, a chamber for our nightly rest'; let us repose in it!
Let us build a throne, a recess for his abode!
On the day that we arrive we shall repose in it."
When Marduk heard this,
Brightly glowed his features, like the day:
"Construct Babylon, whose building you have requested,
Let its brickwork be fashioned. You shall name it 'The Sanctuary.'"
The Anunnaki applied the implement;
For one whole year they molded bricks.

When the second year arrived,
They raised high the head of Esagila equaling Apsu.
Having built a stage-tower as high as Apsu,
They set up in it an abode for Marduk, Enlil, and Ea
In their presence he was seated in grandeur.
To the base of Esharra its horns look down.
After they had achieved the building of Esagila,
All the Anunnaki erected their shrines.
The three hundred Igigi all of them gathered,
The lord being on the lofty dais which they had built as his abode,

-From Tablet Six of the Enuma Elish - the Babylonian Creation Myth (Lines 47 to 70)

Definitions:

Anunnaki - Babylonian gods who were ruled by Marduk

Apsu - the name of Ea's sacred dwelling place which was full of peace and was made by destroying the god of water (who had the same name as the dwelling place) who existed before heaven and earth

Marduk - the false god known as the "son of the sun"

Ea - Marduk's all-wise father

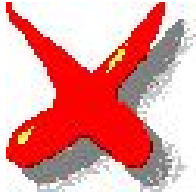
Enlil - the false god of the wind and breath

Esagila - the name of the tower they built which means "house of the raised head"

Esharra - the firmament

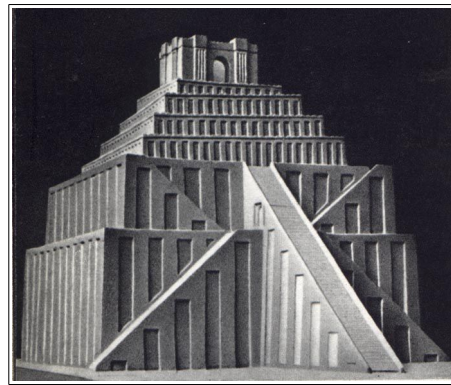
So, were the people in Genesis 11 building this type of tower? No one knows for certain, but since the Babylonian myth has so many similarities to the Bible account, we can guess that they were building a similar tower. Even if they were not similar towers, we have still learned that towers of this type were used to worship false gods.

It should not be a surprise to you to learn that there are tower myths in many different cultures as well. Just as we did for the creation and the flood, let's look at a few of these myths. Pay attention to details that are similar to those found in the Bible's accounts.



WARNING: MORE MYTHS AHEAD!!!

Sumer: In a Sumerian myth called Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta, a man named *Enmerkar* built a very large tower to worship a false god. (The Sumerians called this type of tower a ziggurat. **Ziggurats were Sumerian temples.**) Enmerkar was building this ziggurat in *Eridu* and wanted *Aratta*, who apparently was a king in another land, to provide materials for its construction. Sometime during its construction, Enmerkar asked the god *Enki* to let the people speak in one language again so that they could all talk to Enlil in one language.



Sumerian ziggurat

Central American Cultures: A myth from Mexico says that a giant named *Xelhua* was one of seven giants rescued from a great flood. After the flood, *Xelhua* built the *Great Pyramid of Cholula* to reach and attack heaven. The gods destroyed the pyramid with fire and also made the builders speak different languages so they could not understand each other. (Note: This account was told by a 100 year old priest at Cholula to a Dominican friar named Diego Duran who lived from 1537 - 1588 AD shortly after the conquest of Mexico by Spain.)

Another native tribe in Mexico called the Toltecs believed that men multiplied after a great flood. They soon built a tall "*zacuali*" (tower) in case another flood happened. However, something happened that caused their languages to be changed and each group moved to a different part of the earth. (Note: Recorded by the native historian Don Ferdinand d'Alva Ixtilxochitl who lived from c. 1565 - 1648 AD.)

The Tohono O'odham Indians who lived in the southern part of Arizona and northern part of Mexico taught that *Montezuma* escaped a large flood. After this flood, he became wicked and tried to build a house which could reach heaven. However, the Great Spirit destroyed it with lightning.

Africa: When David Livingstone met with some Africans who lived near Lake

Ngami in 1849, he learned they had a story similar to the tower of Babel. However, in this story, the builders' heads got "cracked" when the building platforms fell.

The Lozi tribe in Africa had a myth which told the story of wicked men who built a tower of masts to get to the Creator-God *Nyambe*, who had fled to Heaven on a spider-web. However, the men died when the masts collapsed. The Ashanti tribe who also lived in Africa had a similar story, except for the fact that in their story the tower was built of "porridge pestles" instead of masts. (A pestle is a heavy object shaped like a small baseball bat which is used to crush a substance to a powder.)

The Kongo people of Africa told a story about men who stacked poles or trees to reach the moon. These men failed in their attempt.

The Karen people of Burma have traditions of the story of creation, the flood, the tower of Babel and the confusion of languages. In their tower of Babel story, they say that their ancestors came to their current location after leaving a great pagoda (temple) in a different land. The languages were confused and so they separated themselves from the other tribes in the area.

South Pacific and India: In the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific, one of the local tribes has a story about the languages of men being confused after they tried (and failed) to build houses which reached heaven.

The Tharu tribe of Nepal near northern India has a similar story which was recorded in a census taken in Bengal in 1872 AD.

In the beginning of this chapter, we mentioned the name of **Nimrod**. For hundreds of years, historians have been trying to find a connection between Nimrod and the names of different rulers they have found in ancient records. Why is Nimrod so important? Well, the Bible calls him a **"mighty hunter before the LORD" and he is also said to have built many cities including Babel and Erech.** (Another name of Erech is Uruk).

There are many different theories as to which ruler is actually Nimrod. However, none of them have ever been proven. Nimrod stories also exist in many cultures as well, although he is known by different names. The one thing that almost all of them have in common is the fact that Nimrod was rebellious. Many of them name Nimrod as the leader of the effort to build the tower of Babel as well.

The Bible does not tell us who led the people to build the tower of Babel. However, we do know that Nimrod's kingdom began at Babel, so he must have been connected to it in some way. In the end, it doesn't really matter who had the original idea. It's enough to know that it happened and that it caused new languages and new settlements across the world.

THE DIVISION OF THE EARTH IN THE DAYS OF PELEG

In Genesis 10:25, it says, "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." For thousands of years, people have been trying to decide what the Bible meant when it said that the earth was divided in the days of Peleg. Some people believe that it refers to the division of languages that happened at the Tower of Babel. Some people think it might refer to the fact that people moved to different parts of the earth after the Tower of Babel. Still others believe that the actual earth itself was physically split into different land masses.

When trying to answer this question, one should look carefully at the words used in the Bible to describe the division by language and the division of Peleg. First, in both the beginning and the end of chapter 10, **the Bible tells us that the land was divided among the descendants** of the three sons of Noah by their languages. This word divided is *parad* in Hebrew and it means "to separate" or "to divide". However, when we look at the word divided that refers to the event in the days of Peleg, we can see it is a different Hebrew word. This word is *palag* in Hebrew and it means "to split" or "to divide". In fact, this word is where Peleg got his name from!

Notice that the division by tongue is defined as *to separate* and the division in Peleg's life is defined as *to split*. What is the difference between *to separate* and *to split*? Well, although they are similar, if you look at a dictionary, the definitions given for the verb *to separate* imply a division into groups or parts with some sort of barrier between them. But, the definitions given for the verb *to split* involve cutting, tearing, and chopping.

Clearly, the two words are different. We know that the people of the earth were separated from each other at the Tower of Babel. But, what happened during Peleg's life? We do not have an exact answer. But whatever it was, it was more than just the division of languages. It is possible that it means the land was split apart into different sections.

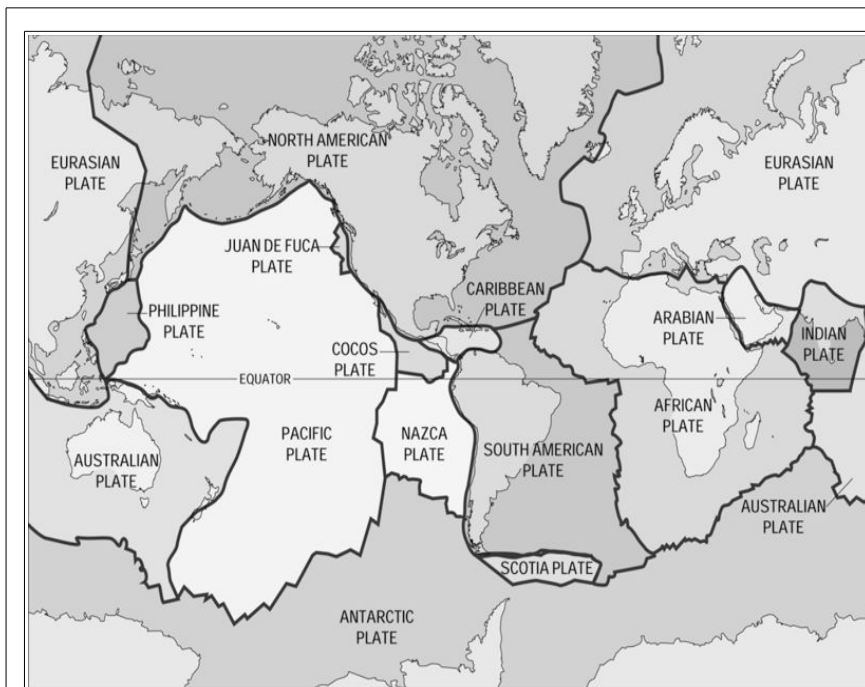


Plate Tectonics - United States Geological Survey

Scientists have discovered that the earth is divided into individual moving pieces that they call plates. **The study of these moving pieces of earth is called plate tectonics.** These plates of the earth are always moving. Some of the plates are moving away from each other and others are moving towards each other. For example, the plate that holds North America is moving away from the plate that holds Europe.

Of course, these plates aren't moving very fast today. They only move at the rate of about 1 inch per century. This means that at some time in the past the continents were closer together than they are today.

In fact, it is possible that before the flood the land was all together one piece. In the first chapter of Genesis, God tells all the water to be gathered together into one place and calls it Seas. The dry land was called Earth. In addition, scientists have discovered evidence that suggests that at one time all the continents of the earth were one large piece of land. During the flood, the Bible says that the fountains of the deep were broken up and that water came up out of them. This could have created cracks or separations in the earth's surface. In fact, many creationists (scientists who believe in creation) feel that the separation actually occurred during (or as a result of) the flood.

Those same cracks would continue to exist after the flood and the separate plates would continue to move the land over time. We don't know how fast the plates moved in the past, but it is possible that during Peleg's life the divisions between the pieces of land finally got wide enough that people could no longer easily cross them. Or perhaps there was a rather large movement of the plates during Peleg's life.

There are no accounts in the Bible or myths from other cultures of any large-scale, catastrophic event like a huge set of earthquakes happening soon after the flood, so we can only assume that this physical splitting of the earth was a fairly gentle or slow process that did not cause a big disruption to life on earth other than to make sure that people settled in different areas and stayed there. However, it does seem that it was significant enough that Peleg was named for it.

The important things to remember from this chapter are that the **people tried to build a tower at Babel and they were stopped when God confused their languages and caused them to separate from each other.** This separation caused the start of new civilizations around the world. In the following chapters, we'll look at these civilizations and how they developed.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) Where did the people decide to settle after the flood?
- 2) How many languages did they speak right after the flood?
- 3) What did the people decide to build?
- 4) What reason does the Bible tell us for this decision?
- 5) What were similar buildings of this type used for?
- 6) Why was building this object wrong?
- 7) How did God decide to punish them?
- 8) What does the word Babel mean?
- 9) What is a ziggurat?
- 10) Who was Nimrod and what did he do?
- 11) What are the two themes that most myths about the creation of different languages have?
- 12) What is a linguist?
- 13) Can the languages in the world today be traced back to one, original language?
- 14) What is the study of the moving plates of the earth's crust called?

1) Choose five nouns from the English language. Now choose five languages (i.e Spanish, German, French, Norwegian, Romanian, etc.) Using a dictionary or the internet, look at the five nouns and find out what the words for them are in the other languages. See if you can find any similarities in the nouns.

3) To understand a little bit about how the concept of plate tectonics works, gather the following items:

- 1 can of chocolate frosting
 - 1 box of graham crackers
1. Take five to six graham crackers and break them into squares.
 2. Remove the lid and foil cover from the can of chocolate frosting. Heat the can in the microwave on high for 30 seconds and then stir with a knife. Heat the can for another 30 seconds and then pour it onto a large cookie sheet.
 3. Place the squares on top of the soft chocolate frosting with their sides touching.
 4. Begin to put pressure on just one of the plates and move it slightly in one direction. Observe what happens to the other pieces of graham crackers around it.
 5. Now choose two graham crackers and push them apart.
 6. Lastly, choose two other graham crackers and push them together.

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V. Ancient Near East Civilizations I

Before we begin our look at the main civilizations that began to develop after the flood and the Tower of Babel, we need to know a little bit about the world time line and how historians have calculated the historical dates and information. You might be surprised to learn that dates in history cannot be stated with 100% accuracy and even historians don't always agree on exactly which year events really happened. However, historians can give us some good guesses for the dates of specific events. They use many methods to determine these dates.

One method that historians use to gather information is by reading written documents. These written documents might be letters, official records, lists of kings, stories, inventory lists, etc. The type of written document that historians prefer the most is called a primary source. A **primary source** is one that was written by the person who actually experienced or saw the event himself.



Astronomer - 16th or 17th century

Another method is by studying **astronomy**. In astronomy, some events repeat themselves regularly (i.e. comets, orbits of planets, solar and lunar eclipses). Because people have been studying astronomy for many years, we have records of these events. When historians read about an astronomical event in a written record, they can compare it to the astronomical record of events and determine an approximate date.

Four other methods used to get information about the past are **archaeology**, **paleontology**, **geology**, and **seriation**. Archaeology is the study of civilization based on objects and other structures left behind by people. Paleontology is the study of fossils. Geology is the study of rocks and their various layers. The last one, seriation, is a method which tries to determine a date by assuming that similar objects must be from a similar time period.

While all of these methods can provide some possibility of arriving at the truth, they all have flaws which means they can also produce mistakes. Let's quickly examine some of the weaknesses found in these methods.

Written documents are invaluable. From them, we can learn many things. However, we either have to trust that the person who wrote it was telling the truth or we have to verify his information via other facts and data. Even if we were to assume that all the information contained in a written document was accurate, there are still other problems. First, not all written documents contain a date. Even if they do contain a date, we cannot always place that date exactly in the time line of history. This is because the people that lived before the birth of Jesus did not begin counting down from the date of creation. Instead, they counted the number of years a king reigned or the number of years in between major events.

In other words, each city or kingdom had its own time line and did not worry about making it fit with other kingdoms' timelines.

Let me give you a modern example. Let's say that your great-great grandfather was the president of our country for eight years. Your grandfather was a governor and was in office for 25 years. Your father worked in a church for 16 years and you were born when your father was 30 years old. When your great-great-grandfather was 50 years old, there was a bright comet in the sky that appears every 20 years. And the year your grandfather turned 65, there was a solar eclipse. Can you tell me what year all of your ancestors were born based on this information? Of course not! That's often what it's like trying to get information from a written source in history.

Person	Job	Length of Job	Age at your birth	Major Event	Age at Major Event
Great-great Grandpa	U.S. President	8 Years	??	Bright Comet	50
Grandpa	Governor	25 years	??	Solar Eclipse	65
Father	Church Employee	16 Years	30	??	??

In addition, we have learned that the names of places and people have changed over the centuries so it is sometimes difficult to even determine who or where we're reading about. The next problem is that many of them are written in ancient languages and must be translated. It is true that there are many people who have learned how to read these languages, but even they sometimes find words which they do not understand. Some people even disagree about how to read certain words. Finally, in many cases, we only have parts of the document. All of these factors often make it difficult to get the whole story from the written document.

When looking at astronomy, there are two factors to think about. First of all, the records we have of astronomical events do not continue back all the way to the beginning of time. Secondly, in order to rely on astronomical data for dates, we must assume that the rate of the astronomical events has not changed at all over time. For example, it takes our planet 24 hours to rotate one time today, but we do not know if this was always true in the past. Even if the rate of events has remained the same, historians must use a powerful computer to calculate potential dates in ancient history. And these dates are not always exact because the astronomical event might have happened on different dates in several different years.

The other four methods rely on the position of the objects, rock, or fossils to determine a date. In all of these methods, there are factors that can be interpreted in many different ways. In fact, there are disagreements over the actual dates that get chosen. Even in the study of just one civilization, the historians don't all agree. For example, in Egyptian history, there are three sets of established dates in addition to a few other alternate chronologies. Which one is accurate? Probably none of them. But, there's no way to know for sure. As we can see, putting exact dates on an event in history is almost impossible.

What does this mean for those of us trying to study history chronologically? **It means that there is no way to be 100% sure of the actual date of events in history.** In fact, the earliest date that most historians agree upon does not occur until approximately 600 B.C. That leaves almost 3,500 years of dates which are definitely uncertain!

So, the best we can do is to put together a general sequence of events as they happened in history. We cannot assign specific dates to any events in history. Thus, this next section will be covering events around the world that occurred between the flood and approximately 1500 B.C. We will be focusing more on what the cultures were like and the major events that happened rather than trying to determine specific dates.

There are **two main civilizations** in the Ancient Near East to study. The first one is Sumer. It was located along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in what is now part of the country of Iraq. The second one is Egypt. It was located along the Nile River. Some of the same land is still part of the modern day country of Egypt.

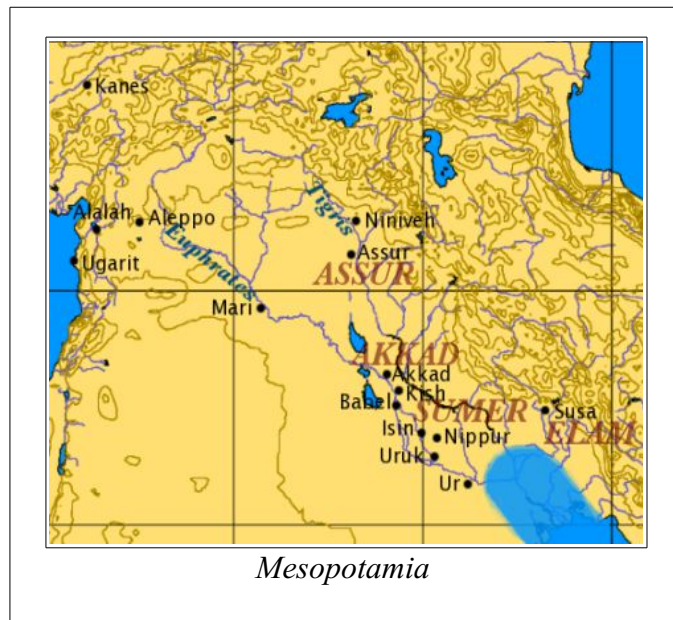
SUMER C. 2276 B.C. TO 1975 B.C. - FROM THE FLOOD TO SARGON OF AKKAD

One of the first civilizations to appear after the flood was located in Sumer. This civilization existed in an area that we call Mesopotamia. **Mesopotamia means "between the rivers"**. It is located between the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** Rivers.

Some of the important Sumerian cities that were built after the flood were Kish, Uruk (Erech), Kish, Ur (Urim), Nippur, Lagash, Mari, Akkad, and Isin. You must understand that even though we call all the people who lived in all of these cities Sumerians, each city was completely independent in its government from the other cities. They were Sumerian because they lived in Sumer, not because they all belonged to one Sumerian nation. They called their country "the civilized land" and themselves "the black-headed people."

The Sumerians are often credited with the invention of many items. However, if you realize that Sumer was the first civilization that existed after the flood, it is obvious that they would be the first group of people to use an object or do an activity. They were the only civilization that existed. So, while some history books will tell you that the Sumerians invented things like chariots and writing, this book will not.

Let's think about this logically. We know that Noah, his three sons, and their wives were the only people on the ark. And we know that there was an entire civilization that existed before the flood. That civilization must have had technology and quite possibly even a method of writing. When the flood came, Noah and his sons had enough knowledge to build an ark.



They took the knowledge they had and their memories of the previous civilization into the ark with them. When they left the ark a year later, they still had that knowledge and taught it to their children. And who were their children? The same people who started the Sumerian civilization. And it was those same people who first used a wheel or wrote down words after the flood. That's why many historians give them credit for "inventing" those things.



List of gods in order of seniority: Enlil, Ninlil, Enki, Nergal, Hendursanga, Inanna-Zabalam, Ninebgal, Inanna, Utu, Nanna. Sumerian cuneiform script clay tablet, Sumer, c. 2400-2200 BC, 1 tablet, 4.7x4.4x1.7 cm (approx. 2 x 2 x 1 inch)

The Sumerian language is often called **cuneiform**. This word means "wedge-shaped". But, there are other languages who also have wedge-shaped writing and that writing is also called cuneiform. The Sumerians themselves called their language "**eme-gir**" which means "**native language**" or "**noble language**."

The Sumerian language can be read because it was carried on by later empires in Akkad and Babylon. Even though people stopped speaking Sumerian around 1700 BC, it was still studied and learned in written form. This continued until just before the birth of Christ. This fact has allowed us to learn a lot about the Sumerian civilization.

THE SUMERIAN KING LIST

The **Sumerian king list** is a list of the kings of Sumer and its many different cities. It was not written by one person or even at one time. Instead, it was written and copied by many different rulers of many kingdoms. Often, the king list was used to prove that the current ruler had the authority to rule the area.

There are about 9 different sources used by historians. Each source has parts of the Sumerian king list. By looking at all of them, historians have been able to put together an almost complete list of kings. These kings are then divided into groups of kings called **dynasties**. However, many of the dynasties ruled at the same time from different cities. So, we cannot read the Sumerian king list as a chronological document. (The word **chronological** means "arranged in order of time of occurrence.")

Let me give you modern example. Let's look at the family tree of King George VI of England.

George VI	(56 years)
HM Queen Elizabeth II	(85 years)
HRH The Prince of Wales	(63 years)
HRH The Duke of Cambridge	(29 years)
HRH Prince Henry of Wales	(27 years)
HRH The Duke of York	(51 years)
HRH Princess Beatrice of York	(23 years)
HRH Princess Eugenie of York	(21 years)
HRH The Earl of Wessex	(47 years)
Viscount Severn	(3 years)
Lady Louise Windsor	(8 years)
HRH The Princess Royal	(61 years)
Mr Peter Phillips	(33 years)
Miss Savannah Phillips	(0 years)
Mrs Zara Phillips	(30 years)
HRH Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon	(71 years)

(continued on next page)

Viscount Linley	(50 years)
The Hon Charles Armstrong-Jones	(12 years)
The Hon Margarita Armstrong-Jones	(9 years)
Lady Sarah Chatto	(47 years)
Master Samuel Chatto	(15 years)
Master Arthur Chatto	(12 years)

Can you determine from the information above how many years of rulers we are talking about? Of course not. There is not enough information to figure that out. What if we were to look at the list as a chronological list? We would assume the total number of years would be quite high. In fact, if we added up all the years, we would get approximately 700 years. That's a long time! However, the list above actually begins with the birth of George VI in 1895 and continues until the birth of Miss Savannah Phillips in 2010. That's only 115 years in all, not 700 years as we had guessed.

It's the same with the Sumerian king list (and other king lists). We don't have enough information to determine actual dates. Instead, we have a list of names and numbers of years. In addition, we sometimes learn a little bit more such as nicknames or relationships to previous rulers. But, it's still not enough information to really construct an accurate time line.

According to the Sumerian king list, there were eight rulers before the flood who supposedly had very long reigns in these five cities: Eridu, Bad-tibira, Larsa, Sippar, and Shuruppak. Let's read what the Sumerians wrote in the first part of their king list.

Eight Rulers of Kish Before the Flood

"After the kingship descended from heaven, the kingship was in Eridug. "	
In Eridug, Alulim became king.	8 sars (28,800 years)
Alalngar	10 sars (36,000 years)
"Then Eridug fell and the kingship was taken to Bad-tibira."	
En-men-lu-ana	12 sars (43,200 years)
En-men-gal-ana	8 sars (28,800 years)
Dumuzid, the Shepherd	10 sars (36,000 years)
"Then Bad-tibira fell and the kingship was taken to Larag."	
En-sipad-zid-ana	8 sars (28,800 years)
"Then Larag fell and the kingship was taken to Zimbir."	
En-men-dur-ana	5 sars & 5 ners (21,000 years)
"Then Zimbir fell and the kingship was taken to Shuruppak."	
Ubara-Tutu	5 sars & 1 ner (18,600 years)
"Then the flood swept over."	

You may have noticed the words "sars" and "ners" on the list above. A **sar** is 3600 earth years and a **ner** is 600 earth years. The Sumerians used a base of 60 instead of a base of 10 as we do today. Their system of counting was a bit complicated and it was easy to make mistakes. So, we really don't know exactly how many years these kings reigned or lived in terms of our modern method of counting.

Now we are going to look at the names of the rulers for the kingdom of Kish from the flood until Sargon of Akkad. Remember, the list also gave us the names of the eight rulers who lived before the flood and each of those rulers was given a very long reign of thousands of years. What is interesting is that if you look at the rulers that come directly after the flood, there is a great decrease in the number of years they are given. This is very similar to what we see in the Bible. From Adam to Noah, we see men with very long lives. After Noah, however, the life span decreases quite a bit.

Remember, we do not completely understand the Sumerian counting system, so we cannot know for sure exactly how long these people ruled or lived in terms of our modern method of measuring years.



Colossal spear inscribed with the name of "Lugal, king of Kish". Copper, Early Dynastic II. Found in Telloh, ancient city of Girsu. Excavated by Ernest de Sarzec; gift of Sultan Abdul Hamid (Louvre Museum)

Rulers After the Flood in Kish

Ngushur	1200 years
Kullassina-bel	960 years
Nangishlishma	670 years
En-tarah-ana	420 years
Babum	300 years
Puannum	840 years
Kalibum	960 years
Kalumum	840 years
Zuqaqip	900 years
Atab (or A-ba)	600 years
Mashda- "the son of Atab"	840 years
Arwium - "the son of Mashda"	720 years

It was sometime during this first group of rulers that Peleg lived and that the earth was divided. After this point, we begin to see different cities, languages, and countries. Let's take a look at the early king lists for the city of Kish. During the reign of these kings, other rulers were establishing their kingdoms in different cities.

1st Dynasty of Kish

Etana - "the shepherd, who ascended to heaven and consolidated all the foreign countries"	- 1500 years
Balih- "the son of Etana"	- 400 years
En-me-nuna	- 660 years
Melem-Kish - "the son of En-me-nuna"	- 900 years
Barsal-nuna - ("the son of En-me-nuna")	- 1200 years
Zamug - "the son of Barsal-nuna"	- 140 years
Tizqar - "the son of Zamug"	- 305 years
Ilku	- 900 years
Iltasadum	- 1200 years
En-me-barage-si	- 900 years
Aga of Kish - "the son of En-me-barage-si"	- 625 years

2nd Dynasty of Kish

Susuda "the fuller"	- 201 years
Dadasig	- 81 years
Mamagal "the boatman"	- 360 years
Tuge	- 360 years
Men-nuna "the son of Tuge"	- 180 years
(Enbi-Ishtar)	- 290 years
Lugalngu	- 360 years
Kalburn "the son of Mamagal"	- 195 years

3rd Dynasty of Kish

Kug-Bau (Kubaba) "the woman tavern-keeper, who made firm the foundations of Kish"	- 100 years
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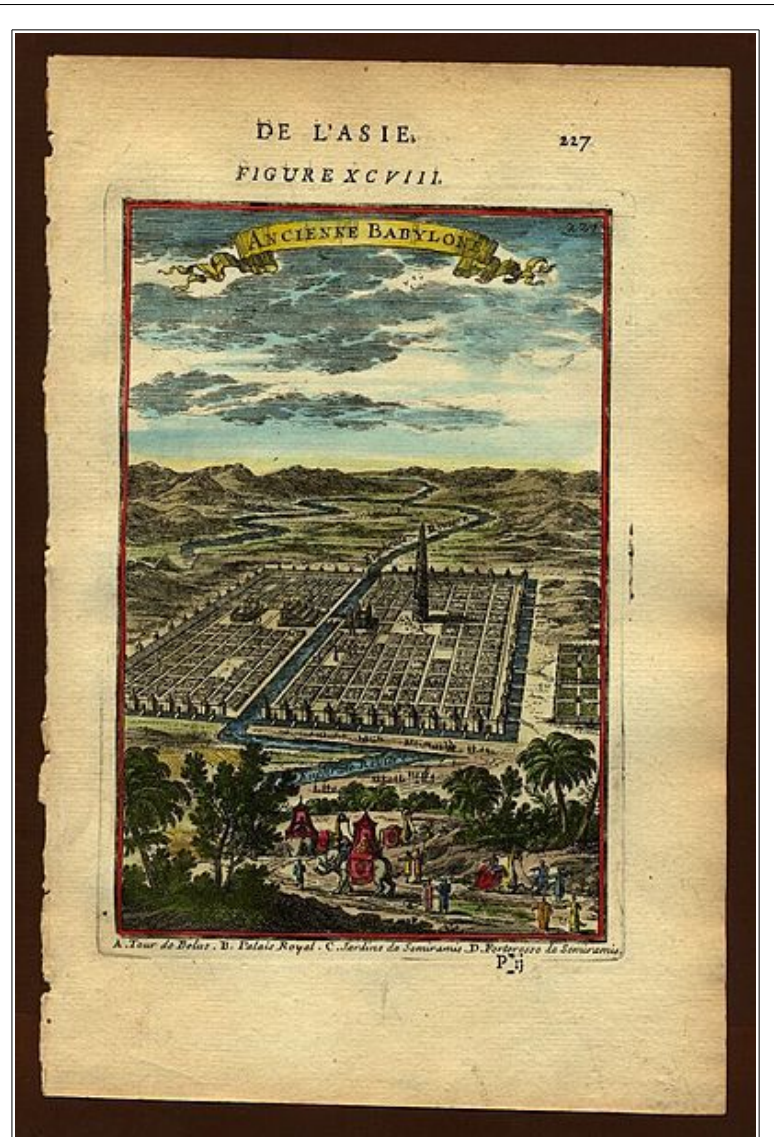
4th Dynasty of Kish

Puzur-Suen "the son of Kug-Bau" - 25 years
Ur-Zababa "the son of Puzur-Suen" - 400 or 6 years
Zimudar - 30 years
Usi-watar "the son of Zimudar" - 7 years
Eshtar-muti - 11 years
Ishme-Shamash - 11 years
Shu-ilishu - 15 years
Nanniya "the jeweller" - 7 years
Lugal-zage-si - defeats Lagash
Sargon of Akkad - 56 years

Remember, Kish was not the only city that existed during this time either. A few other important cities were Uruk (Erech), Kish, Ur (Urim), Nippur, Lagash, Mari, Akkad, and Isin. There were other smaller cities as well. And each of these other cities had their own lists of rulers.

Let's visit one of these independent cities and see what life was like. As we travel towards the city, the first thing we come across is a **canal**. This canal marks the border between this city and the other cities around it. We also see **stone markers** which mark the outer borders of the city in addition to canal. As we get closer, we can see **large fields of wheat**. These fields are watered with large irrigation ditches. The water comes from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Each year the entire city must work together to keep the ditches open enough so that enough water comes in to grow food. Looking around, we also notice **several large herds of animals** being cared for.

Facing towards the main part of the city, we notice a very tall building. It is taller than any of the other buildings in the whole city. This is the **temple** and it is considered the most important building in any Sumerian city.



View of ancient Babylon, Description de L'Universe (Alain Manesson Mallet, 1683)

Each city has its own god or goddess along with a king (**lugal**) or priest (**ensi**) to govern it. We will learn more about the temple when we arrive inside the city. As we move closer, we notice that there are no walls surrounding the city.

Entering the actual city limits, we quickly realize that this city is very crowded. The whole city is just under 1/2 square miles in size and has about 10,000 citizens. This is about as crowded as New York City is today! Of course not every city was the exact same size and the size of cities changed over time. Most of the **people seem to live inside the city** rather than out on the farms. Walking down the main streets, we notice that most of the families live in their own houses. These houses (and all the other buildings in the city) are **made of a mud brick**. Some houses are small and others are big. Many of them have small gardens to one side along with patios. On a few of the streets, there are houses being torn down and rebuilt because the mud bricks are falling apart after many years.

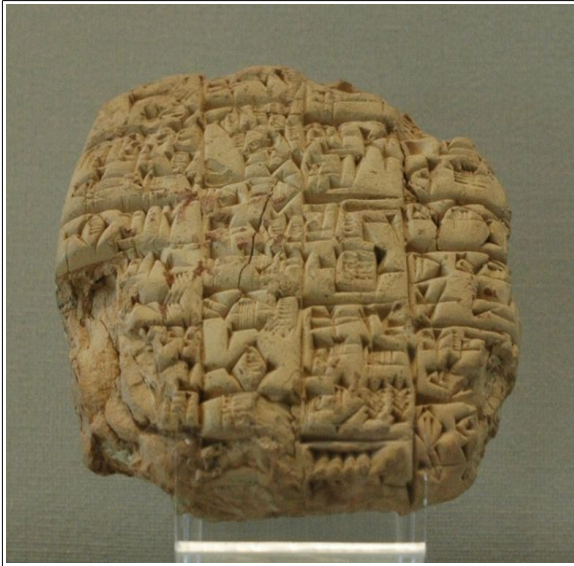
Continuing our tour, we notice many men engaged in a variety of different jobs. We remember that we saw **farmers** working out in the fields and **hunters** heading out to find some meat as we came into the city. In the city, we see **potters, metal workers, carpenters, masons, shop owners, and construction workers**. We do not see any women working at these jobs. Instead, we see them tending to houses, children, and their families' needs.

After turning the corner, we realize that we have come to the street that leads to the temple. The temple is the tallest building in the city. There is a lot of activity happening around the temple. Of course, the temple is the place where the **people come to worship their gods**. But, the temple also seems to be the place where **everyone comes to conduct business**. There are many people discussing business as well as accepting shipments of foreign products. Meanwhile, priests are also working in the temple and on its property.

After leaving the temple, we ask someone for directions to the **palace**. When we arrive, we see a large building with high walls. Normally, average citizens are not allowed inside the palace, but we have an invitation to visit. Inside the first palace wall, there is another taller wall. Between these two walls is a hallway or corridor that surrounds the entire palace. After we pass the second wall, we enter a large courtyard with no ceiling. On each side of this courtyard, there are doors leading to other rooms. As we explore, we find over 50 rooms of various sizes and shapes. We find bedrooms, living rooms, kitchens, bathrooms, storage rooms, and meeting rooms. Each is filled with furniture suitable for a palace. Of course, a king must have an army, so we also find rooms to store weapons and house soldiers.

Leaving the palace, we decide to complete our visit by seeing the **house** of an average citizen. When we get to the house, we find a door that leads into a central courtyard. This courtyard is not as big as the palace's courtyard, but it serves the same purpose. We also notice that there are doors on each wall of the courtyard which lead to other rooms. Just like the palace, there are bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, and a few storage areas. The furniture is simpler than that of the palace, but we see chairs, tables, beds, and other decorative items such as pots. The main living area of the house is in the courtyard. Stepping through one door of the courtyard, we enter into the small garden (or yard) connected to one side of the house. This small area contains a vegetable garden and space to walk and relax. This garden also happens to have a small pool for decoration.

While speaking to the owners of this house, we learn a bit more about their lives. We find out that this family is a middle-class family. The father works as a goldsmith. Most of his business involves making ornaments for the temple and jewelry. They **own a few slaves** which were captured in battle and then sold to the family. One of their slaves has decided he wants to purchase his freedom so he has been working hard to save up the money to do so. When he leaves, the family will purchase another slave to take his place.



Letter sent by the high-priest Lu'enna to the king of Lagash (maybe Urukagina), informing him of his son's death in combat. Clay tablet, found in Telloh (ancient Girsu).

One of the children tells us that in just 5 lunar months, he will be old enough to begin attending a school for scribes. (A **lunar month** is the amount of time between one full moon and the next full moon.) This son tells us that he wants to learn to be a scribe because scribes are always able to get a job that pays a good salary. **Scribes** are the only people who can read and write in the city and people must rely on them for every kind of record. Becoming a scribe will take at least three or four years of training. When asked why, the young man explains that he will have to memorize over 1,000 symbols (pictures) and then learn how to combine them to write Sumerian.

The mother of the house explains that she spends her time managing the servants, taking care of the children, and teaching her daughters various skills they will need when they become wives. She feels very lucky because her husband does not believe in having more than one wife. Many of her neighbors feel differently and have several

wives. This mother is glad that she does not have to share her house with other women and their children. And since she has both a husband and a son, she will always be taken care of.

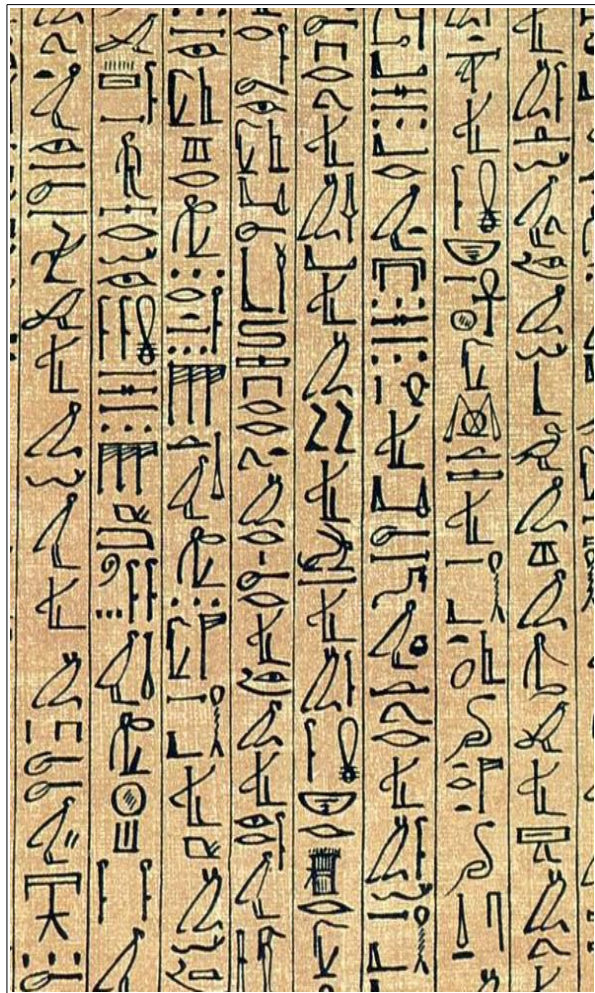
Leaving the house, we head towards the city's border. As we get closer, we can hear the shouts of men getting louder and louder. Soon, we can see a large group of soldiers approaching the city to attack it. They are from a neighboring city that wants to be in control of the city we just visited. If they succeed in conquering the city, their king will become the one that controls most of the trade and other business in the region known as Sumer. Perhaps we should stop our visit now so we don't get captured and sold into slavery ourselves!

As you can see, the cities of Sumer were similar to our cities in some ways and different in other ways. The city-state of Kish and most of the other cities in Sumer were eventually conquered by a man called **Sargon of Akkad**. We will learn more about him later on in this chapter.

ANCIENT EGYPT C. 2200 B.C. TO 1800 B.C.

Ancient Egypt seems to have a similar history to Sumer. They had a list of ten extraordinary rulers who lived before the flood. Then after the flood, we see one city appear followed by several other cities in later years. Each of these cities had their own groups of rulers which were called dynasties. We also see the development of a written language in the form of **hieroglyphs**. The first hieroglyphs were pictures which represented words. Eventually those pictures came to represent letters. There were 24 letters in the Egyptian alphabet. Each of these letters was a consonant. They did not write the vowels in their words. The word hieroglyph in Egyptian means "**god's words**" because the Egyptians say that their god Thoth invented the language.

Historians figured out how to read Egyptian with the help of artifacts such as the **Rosetta Stone**. This stone was written in 196 B.C. by order of King Ptolemy V. It was a decree from the king to re-establish the rule of the Ptolemy dynasty in Egypt. This stone had three sections containing the same information, but each section was written in a different language. The three languages used were Ancient Greek, Demotic Script, and Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyph. It was re-discovered in 1799 A.D. by a French soldier in Napoleon's army named Pierre-Francois Bouchard.



*Cursive hieroglyphs from the Papyrus of Ani,
an example of the Egyptian Book of the Dead -
British Museum*

Twenty three years later, another Frenchman named **Jean-Francois Champollion** (who was a teacher) announced that he had deciphered the Egyptian text. This allowed them to begin to learn how to read other documents from Ancient Egypt.

Most modern **Egyptologists** (people who study ancient Egypt) date the first Egyptian dynasty to around 3000 B.C. They also assume that the lists of Egyptian dynasties are chronological. However, this may not be the case. When we look at the first 11 dynasties, we can see that they represent four different cities. It may very well be that some of these dynasties ruled at around the same time in different cities. There are even a few historians who believe that dynasties 7 & 8 do not even actually exist, but were instead summaries of the first six dynasties. No one knows for certain.

In any case, here is a list of the first eleven dynasties, the number of years they are believed to represent, and the city they ruled from. Remember that these number of years are just guesses!

1st Dynasty	150 years	Thinis
2nd Dynasty	120 years	Thinis
3rd Dynasty	75 years	Memphis
4th Dynasty	110 years	Memphis
5th Dynasty	150 years	Memphis
6th Dynasty	164 years	Memphis
7th & 8th Dynasties	100 to 150 years	Memphis
9th & 10th Dynasties	Unknown number	Herakleopolis Magna (Heracleopolis)
11th Dynasty	140 years	Thebes

Even though we don't know exactly when these dynasties ruled, we do know a little bit about some of the events that happened during their reigns.

The first major event in Egyptian history is the **unification of Upper and Lower Egypt**. **Upper Egypt** is located in the **southern portion** of the country and **Lower Egypt** is located in the **northern portion** of the country. (The reason for this is that the Nile River runs from south to north towards the Mediterranean Sea. So, the southern part where the river begins is the upper part and the northern part where the river ends is the lower part. In addition, the upper part of Egypt is higher than the lower part of Egypt. This is why the Nile River runs from south to north. The water is flowing downhill.) Lower Egypt contains the Nile Delta.

Most historians believe that the unification of Egypt occurred sometime during the first two dynasties. During the first dynasty, we have evidence that when a ruler died, many people and animals were killed and placed into his tomb with him. The Egyptians believed in life after death and the ruler, who was called a king, wanted plenty of servants and animals to be available to serve him after death. This practice was discontinued in the 2nd dynasty. In place of the actual people and animals, kings placed statues that represented the people and the animals. These statues were called **shabtis** and later on **ushabtis**.

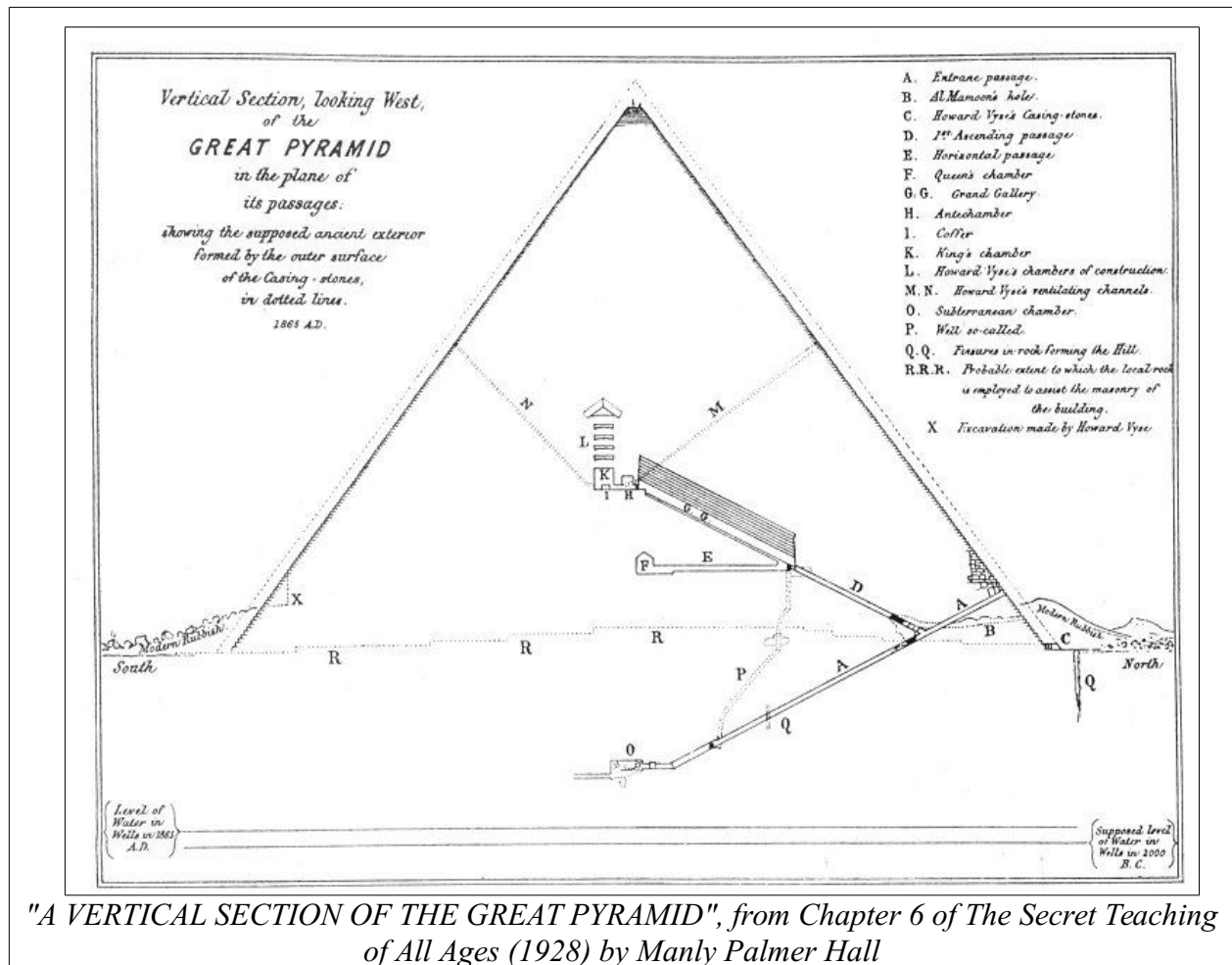


Steplike pyramid of Djoser in Sakkara

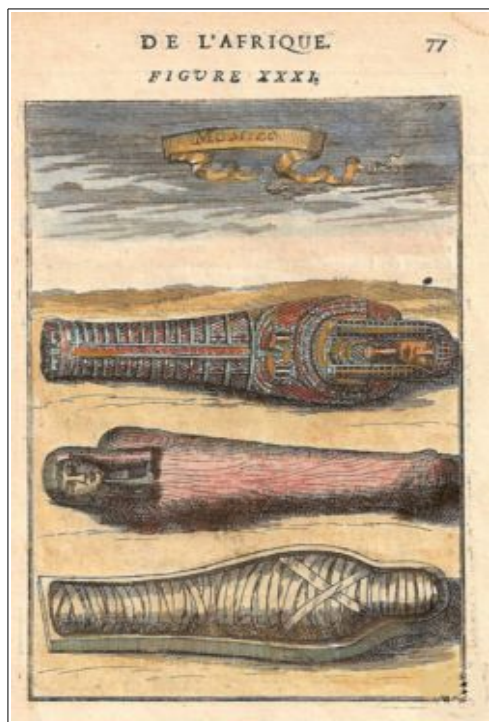
The next period of Egyptian history is called the **Old Kingdom**. This consists of **dynasties 3 to 6** and sometimes includes dynasties 7 and 8. This period of Egyptian history is called "**the age of the Pyramids**" because the second king of the 3rd dynasty built the first pyramid during his reign. This pyramid is called the **Step Pyramid**. It looks very much like a Sumerian ziggurat! The king that built this pyramid was named Djoser. Djoser also moved the capital of Egypt from Thinis to Memphis.

The 3rd dynasty established the first use of a vizier. A **vizier** was the highest official position in the Egyptian government after the king. (Joseph from the Bible was a vizier to a king of Egypt in the book of Exodus, but this happened during a later dynasty.)

During the 3rd dynasty, various sections of Egypt which were called **nomes** were brought under the power of the king of Egypt. The rulers of these nomes were forced to become governors. In fact, the king was considered to be so powerful that the Egyptians began to consider their king a god. They believed that the king was responsible to make sure the Nile flooded each year so they could grow their crops.



During the 4th dynasty, many of the most famous ancient pyramids were built. The biggest one is called the **Great Pyramid of Giza**. It was built by a king called Khufu. The pyramids were built to be the grave site of the king and his family. The pyramids also contained items needed by the king or queen after death. This could include statues of servants and animals, food, boats, clothing, games, and anything else the king wanted to take with him into the afterlife. The pyramids usually had several levels and rooms to store all the objects. Pyramids also usually had several false passageways so that the king's body and belongings would not be stolen.



Jean Manesson Mallet: Description de l'univers, De l'Afrique, Figure XXXI - Paris 1863

Bodies were **mummified** and placed inside of special coffins. **Mummification** involved drying out the skin with sand and special chemicals so that the body would be preserved. On the outside, the pyramids were often covered with a white limestone. However, if you look at the pyramids today, most of the white limestone has been removed. All we can see is the plain, light-brown stone which was used for the inner layers.

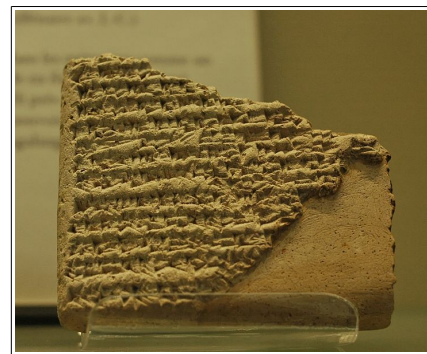
In the 5th dynasty, a king named Userkaf made some changes that weakened his kingdom. Civil war broke out as regional governors (called **nomarchs**) began to rebel. The rulers of the 5th dynasty did not have enough power or money to defeat the rebellious governors. In fact, **the 4th dynasty had spent so much money and resources building the pyramids that the 5th dynasty was quite weak**. Near the end of the 5th dynasty a period of long drought occurred. When the 6th dynasty began, it had to contend with two other dynasties - one in Thebes and one in Herakleopolis Magna. These were the 9th & 10th dynasties, and the beginning of the 11th dynasties. The Old Kingdom ends with the 6th dynasty.

The next period in Egyptian history is called the **First Intermediate period**. This period in history consists of the time between the 6th dynasty and the 11th dynasty.

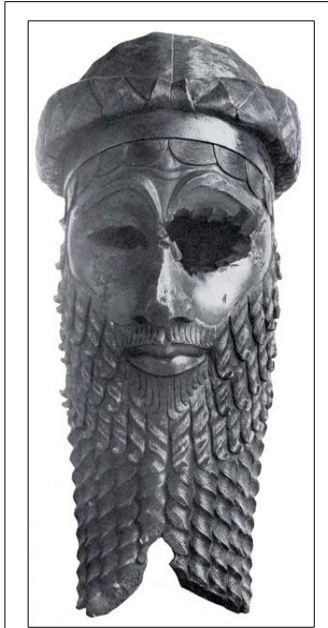
If the 7th and 8th dynasties did exist, they ruled after the 6th dynasty at the same time as the 9th, 10th, and 11th dynasties. During this time, there was a lot of fighting between the kings in the north and the kings in the south. Eventually, the kings of the south who ruled from Thebes conquered the kings from the north who ruled in Herakleopolis Magna. This happened during the reigns of the 4th and 5th kings of the 11th dynasty. This is the end of the First Intermediate Period. We will continue our study of ancient Egypt in a future chapter.

AKKADIAN EMPIRE @ 1975 BC TO 1890 BC

Earlier in the chapter, we read about a ruler of Kish named **Sargon of Akkad**. Sargon is an important figure in history because he is first ruler we know of who ruled many nations from one central capital. No one knows exactly where Sargon came from nor how he became king. He was described as being the **cup-bearer of Ur-Zababa**, the king of Kish. We also have a story which describes king Ur-Zababa as being afraid of a dream which Sargon had. Ur-Zababa tried to kill Sargon, but did not succeed. Eventually, Sargon became king and ruled from the city of Kish.



Clay tablet relating the birth of Sargon and his quarrel with king Ur-Zababa of Kish. Louvre Museum Paris



Bronze head of a king, most likely Sargon of Akkad but possibly Naram-Sin. Unearthed in Nineveh (now in Iraq). In the Iraqi Museum, Baghdad. Height 30.5 cm.

As soon as he became king, he started **conquering other neighboring cities**. The first city he attacked was Uruk. Uruk had a king named **Lugal-zage-si** who is also listed on the king list as a king of Kish. Lugal-zage-si had conquered other cities and had quite an empire in his possession at the time of Sargon. Lugal-zage-si and his Sumerian army fought hard when Sargon attacked. But, in the end, they lost and Sargon captured Lugal-zage-si. He brought Lugal-zage-si to Nippur. Sargon described himself as bringing Lugal-zage-si "in a dog collar to the gate of Enlil." After this, Sargon continued towards the east to conquer other cities. Some cities were so completely destroyed that people said even birds could not find a place to roost! Soon, **Sargon had conquered all of Sumer and had a very large empire. He became known as Sargon the Great.**

Sargon had a very large group of men who worked under him to manage this large empire. These men, as well as Sargon himself, were from Akkad. They spoke a different language than the Sumerians did. This language, called **Akkadian**, was soon established as the **official language** of the land. People everywhere learned to read, write, and speak it. In fact, they even adapted Sumerian cuneiform to the new language. The only area in which **Sumerian was still used was in religious settings**. Sumerian was the language of the temples and used in the worship of false gods. In fact, Sargon was a big supporter of the Sumerian religion. He even called himself a "anointed priest of Enu"!

Historians believe that Sargon ruled for about 56 years. During his reign, he traded with many far-away places. He was in contact with other kingdoms of the Near East. He was quite a wealthy and powerful king who ruled a very large territory. We know a little bit about his family as well. His queen was named Tashlutum. He also had at least four sons and one daughter. Two of his sons, Rimush and Manishtishu, ruled after his death. His daughter, Enheduanna, became a priestess who wrote many ritual hymns which were used for many centuries in Sumerian temple worship following her death.

Life during the empire of Sargon was quite similar to what it was in the Sumerian city we visited earlier. The only main difference was that there was now one ruler for all of the cities instead of individual rulers. When Sargon died, much of his kingdom revolted. His son, Rimush was able to stop most of the rebellion and keep the kingdom intact. However, he did not live long and his brother, Manishtishu, took his place.

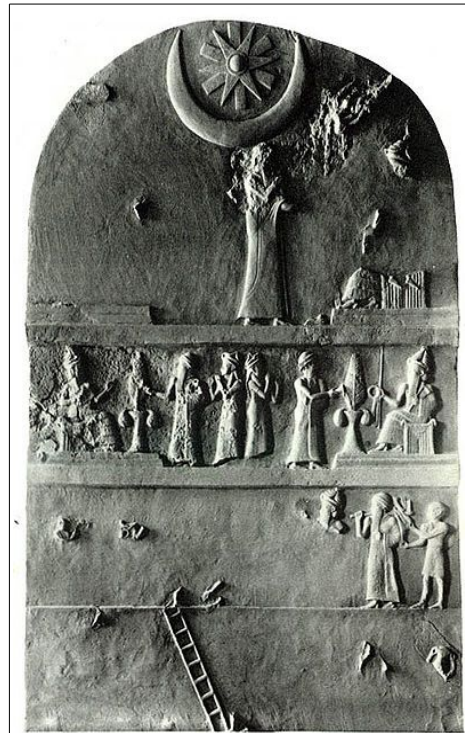
After the reigns of Sargon, Rimush, and Manishtishu, another ruler came to power. His name was **Naram-Sin** and he was the grandson of Sargon. Five more rulers followed him. The last one was named Shu-Durul and he was conquered by the Gutians. The Gutian ruler's name was Tirigan. However, he only ruled for a very short time before he was conquered by Utu-hengal of Uruk. Another powerful dynasty in Sumer called Ur III began shortly after this. This dynasty was started by a ruler named **Ur-Nammu, who was the governor of Ur**. Ur-Nammu started the 3rd Dynasty of Ur. It was probably during this dynasty that Abraham was born. Let's take a closer look at this ruler and his dynasty.

Historians think that Ur-Nammu reigned for 18 years. As was common back then, each year had a name. Years were usually named after an important event that occurred during that particular year. Historians have discovered 17 of Ur-Nammu's year-names. They are listed below so that you can see what kinds of names were typically used by kings. We do not know if all of these years are listed in order.

Year Ur-Nammu (became) king
 Year in which Ur-Nammu the king put in order the ways (of the people in the country) from below to above
 Year Ur-Nammu made justice in the land
 Year in which the son of king Ur-Nammu was chosen by means of the omens as the en-priest of Inanna in Uruk
 Year in which the city wall of Ur was built
 Year in which the king received the kingship from Nippur
 Year in which the temple of Nanna was built
 Year in which the en-priestess of Nanna was chosen by means of the omens
 Year the canal 'A-Nintu / water of Nintu' was dug
 Year in which the high-priestess of Iszkur was chosen by means of the omens
 Year Gutium was destroyed
 Year in which the temple of Ninsun in Ur was built
 Year in which the temple of Enlil was built
 Year in which the canal 'en-erin-nun' was dug
 Year in which the chariot of Ninlil was made
 Year in which the god Lugal-bagara was brought into his temple
 Year after the year in which the god Lugal-bagara was brought into the temple

Ur-Nammu is credited with two main accomplishments. The first one was helping to create a new empire. He and other leaders of the cities of Sumer rebelled against the Gutians who had conquered Akkad. After they won their freedom, the governor of Uruk (Erech) named Utu-hengal declared himself king. However, he was only king for a short time. When he died, Ur-Nammu, who was the governor of Ur (Urim), became king of Sumer. Ur-Nammu quickly established his empire which consisted of all of the city-states of Sumer.

This large empire required an organized system to keep everything running smoothly. This need probably led to **Ur-Nammu's second accomplishment - writing a law code**. This code was not really a list of laws, but instead a list of punishments. For example, if you broke a window by throwing a baseball into it, your parents might say that you would have to do some chores to earn some money to pay to fix the window. The codes of Ur-Nammu were similar to that. Ur-Nammu's code is the oldest written law code that exists today. It was written in the Sumerian language. Even though it is called the Code of Ur-Nammu, historians don't know for sure if Ur-Nammu wrote the code or if his son, Shulgi, wrote it.



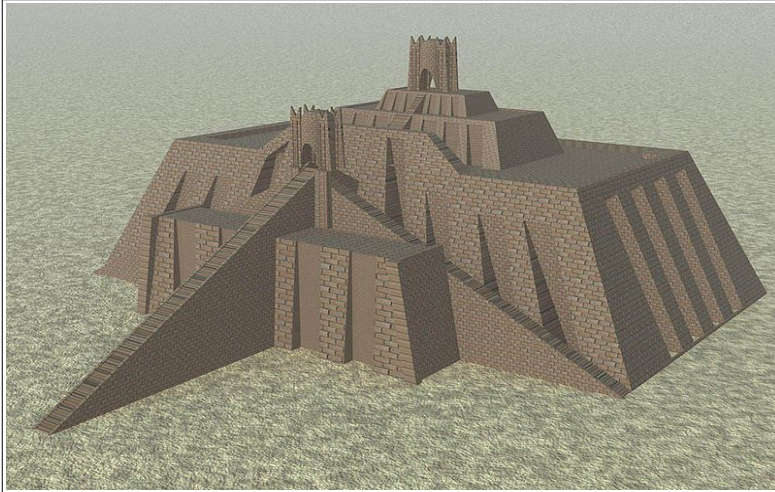
Stele of King Ur-Nammu depicting deities handing the king signs of power. University Museum. Philadelphia.

Originally, when parts of the code were found, only five of the laws could be translated. However, later on, other copies were found and now we can read about two-thirds of the laws. Most of the crimes were punished with fines, but a few serious crimes such as murder and robbery were punished by death. The laws are introduced with these words:

"...After An and Enlil had turned over the Kingship of Ur to Nanna, at that time did Ur-Nammu, son born of Ninsun, for his beloved mother who bore him, in accordance with his principles of equity and truth... Then did Ur-Nammu the mighty warrior, king of Ur, king of Sumer and Akkad, by the might of Nanna, lord of the city, and in accordance with the true word of Utu, establish equity in the land; he banished malediction, violence and strife, and set the monthly Temple expenses at 90 gur of barley, 30 sheep, and 30 sila of butter. He fashioned the bronze sila-measure, standardized the one-mina weight, and standardized the stone weight of a shekel of silver in relation to one mina... The orphan was not delivered up to the rich man; the widow was not delivered up to the mighty man; the man of one shekel was not delivered up to the man of one mina."

Here are a few examples of Ur-Nammu's laws:

1. If a man commits a murder, that man must be killed.
2. If a man commits a robbery, he will be killed.
3. If a man commits a kidnapping, he is to be imprisoned and pay 15 shekels of silver.
4. If a slave marries a slave, and that slave is set free, he does not leave the household.
5. If a slave marries a native (i.e. free) person, he/she is to hand the firstborn son over to his owner.
6. If a slave escapes from the city limits, and someone returns him, the owner shall pay two shekels to the one who returned him.
7. If a man knocks out the eye of another man, he shall weigh out $\frac{1}{2}$ a mina of silver.
8. If a man has cut off another man's foot, he is to pay ten shekels.
9. If a man, in the course of a scuffle, smashed the limb of another man with a club, he shall pay one mina of silver.
10. If someone severed the nose of another man with a copper knife, he must pay two-thirds of a mina of silver.
11. If a man knocks out a tooth of another man, he shall pay two shekels of silver.
12. If a man appeared as a witness, and was shown to be a perjurer, he must pay fifteen shekels of silver.
13. If a man's slave-woman, comparing herself to her mistress, speaks insolently to her, her mouth shall be scoured with 1 quart of salt.
14. If a man flooded the field of a man with water, he shall measure out three *kur* of barley per *iku* of field.



Digital Reconstruction of the Great Ziggurat of Ur based on a 1939 drawing by Leonard Woolley, Ur Excavations, Volume V. The Ziggurat and its Surroundings, Figure 1.4

After winning his freedom from the Gutians, Ur-Nammu focused on re-building roads and erecting other buildings in cities all across his empire. **One famous building that he built is the Great Ziggurat of Ur.** You can see a digital reconstruction of it in the image to the left.

Death of Ur-Nammu

Ur-Nammu died in battle while fighting against the Gutians. His death was described in a Sumerian poem. Some of the words of the poem are not readable, but we can definitely understand the sadness that is expressed in the poem.

"The wise shepherd does not give orders any more. in battle and combat. The king, the advocate of Sumer, the ornament of the assembly, Ur-Namma, the advocate of Sumer, the ornament of the assembly, the leader of Sumer, lies sick. His hands which used to grasp cannot grasp any more, he lies sick. His feet cannot step any more, he lies sick. After seven days, ten days had passed, lamenting for Sumer overwhelmed my king, lamenting for Sumer overwhelmed Ur-Namma. My king's heart was full of tears, he bitterly that he could not complete the wall of Urim; that he could no longer enjoy the new palace he had built; that he, the shepherd, could no longer his household (?); that he could no longer bring pleasure to his wife with his embrace; that he could not bring up his sons on his knees; that he would never see in their prime the beauty of their little sisters who had not yet grown up."

Ur-Nammu was followed by four more rulers. But, eventually the 3rd Dynasty of Ur and the kingdom of Akkad came to an end when it was conquered by the kingdom of Elam.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) What were the two main civilizations that existed in the Ancient Near East?
- 2) What does the word Mesopotamia mean?
- 3) What was the tallest building in a typical Sumerian city?
- 4) What is a scribe?
- 5) What was Sumerian writing called?

- 6) What was the first major event in ancient Egypt?
- 7) What is another name for the Old Kingdom in Egypt?
- 8) What was the name of the pyramid that Djoser built?
- 9) What is a vizier?

- 10) What is the name of the biggest pyramid?
- 11) What is mummification?
- 12) What caused the downfall of the 5th dynasty of Egypt?
- 13) What was the Rosetta stone?
- 14) Who was Sargon of Akkad?
- 15) What language did Sargon speak?
- 16) How was the Sumerian language used after Sargon conquered the land?
- 17) Who was Ur-Nammu?
- 18) What famous building did Ur-Nammu build after he became king?
- 19) What is Ur-Nammu credited with writing?

Activities:

1) <http://www.virtualecrets.com/sumerian.html> - Use this website to see what Sumerian cuneiform looks like. For hands-on practice, try writing some Sumerian cuneiform on a piece of play-dough or clay.

2) Draw a map of a Sumerian city-state. Include the following on your map: city wall, farmland, a ziggurat, a palace, narrow winding streets, government buildings, courtyards, and homes of the different social classes.

3) Build a pyramid using sugar cubes.

Materials:

Either 200 + sugar cubes or 200 white styrofoam squares

Cardboard for base

Glue

Spray paint

Step 1 Dab a bit of glue on one side of a cube and glue it to the cardboard. Make a square by using ten cubes across and ten cubes down.

Step 2 Make a another layer of cubes using only nine cubes on each side. Place the second row cubes about three centimeters in from the first row

Step 3 Continue the third step with only eight cubes on a row, then seven and so on untill you reach the top.

For those who want to make a more realistic pyramid, check out this website:
<http://www.hirstarts.com/pyramid/pyramid.html>

4) Be an archaeologist! Using legos, have a sibling or a parent create a SMALL house on a base measuring approximately 5 by 5 inches. Place the base inside a larger, very wide container with high sides. Have your parent pour play sand over the top of the structure. Once it is completely covered, you can begin to use a small brush (like a paintbrush) to begin to sweep away the sand and a flat popsicle stick as a shovel. Be careful not to break any of the building in the process. Continue brushing and scooping away the sand until the entire building has been excavated. When finished, break the Lego house into pieces and put them into a bucket of warm water to wash away any remaining sand.