

Lesson 16 “Confusion” – The Great Dispersion

*"Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. And it came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there."
(Genesis 11:1-2)*

Leaving the Ark

Where they settled—The most ancient people leaving written, historical records were inhabitants of that valley (the Sumerians), followed by the Nile Valley of Egypt and other near-Eastern areas.

What they did—Within 100 years, built cities, making brick for stone and using tar for mortar. Built a tower that probably acted as an artificial mountain with a miniature temple at the top of the Tower.

Who they were—Intelligent, yet foolish, men! Their forefathers built cities, herded livestock, played musical instruments, made tools of bronze and iron (Gen. 4:17-22) and built the unsinkable Ark! The builders' sin was immense pride which led to open rebellion against God, declaring independence of Him. A common language enabled the rebellion.

Did It Really Happen?

Expected evidence through archaeology, written records, and language studies that all people have migrated from that area and similarities of cultures in civilizations spread thousands of miles apart, including histories that contained traces of the Creation, Fall, and Flood.

All people have migrated from Shinar

Ice Age land bridges connected England to mainland Europe, Asia to North America, and the Malaysian Straits to New Guinea and perhaps Australia. Travel on foot, by wagon and by boat. Most civilizations appeared about the same time, only a few thousand years ago. We find ziggurats (or, variations of the same shape, i.e. pyramids) in nearly all the ancient civilizations around the world! Just as expected!

How long ago?

All recorded history in the past several thousand years only. Before that is purely speculation. Man is the only reliable recorder of history, and people were already writing on clay tablets and scrolls (books), inscribing with an iron stylus on lead, and engraving in rock slabs (Job 19:23-24). Truly verified archaeological datings (based upon written records, not radiocarbon dates) do not predate the Flood ~3000-2500 BC. Illogical if men have been living around the world for hundreds of thousands of years!

How did it happen?

Genesis 10, the Table of Nations, is called "an astonishingly accurate document," unique. After the languages were confused, people who spoke the same language likely formed into groups—the "families" growing larger, separating into new families that traveled farther, their languages gradually changing as well as their lifestyles. Each family group learned how to survive in the land where it had migrated. Many of these early nations kept an accurate record of their beginnings down the centuries, writing down the names of their founding patriarchs, providing us with a surprising link between the ancient post-Flood era (Genesis 9-11) and the rest of recorded history.

Japheth, the Oldest, and His Kin

Japheth's 6 sons headed north to Europe & western Asia, 1 headed east to Persia and India—Gomer, Magog, Javan, Tubal, Meschech, and Tiras. Trace these names and recognize them as ancestors of the

Indo-European peoples, classed by common languages spoken in most of Europe, India, Pakistan and parts of western Asia. Gomer's sons formed the Celtic and Germanic language families which included Irish, Welsh, Breton, Italic (forerunner of Latin, French and Spanish), German, English, Dutch, Slavic and Baltic languages. Javan's families formed the Greek language group. Madai's languages were spoken in Iran and India. Some of Shem's and Ham's kin fit into this language group as well.

Japheth's Clan—North by Northwest

- Gomer's name preserved in Cimmeria (Crimea) north of the Black Sea and to Germany.
- Son Ashkenaz: first in Armenia (their tribe, the Askuzas, called Scythians by the Greeks), and the Germanic peoples (Jews identified Ashkenaz w/Germany (German Jews are called the Ashkenazi) and Denmark (Anglo-Saxons) & the northern islands. Also, the western shores of the continent (the Gauls) plus the British Isles (the Irish Celts)
- Magog, Meschech, and Tubal formed the nations around the Caspian and Black Seas all the way to Russia including the Scythians who mixed w/Ashkenaz's descendants.
- Recorded ancestries (predating Christianization) of the early Britons, Irish Celts, Anglo-Saxons, Danes and Norwegians all include their descent from Noah through Japheth. The early Britons recorded (58 surviving manuscripts) their ancestors to be from Asia Minor (and that they traveled by sea, stopping at various countries along the way before reaching the shores of England). The Irish Celts have king lists that go back to Noah through Japheth via Gomer and Magog; the earliest Irish Chronicles insisted the people were of Scythian stock—the associated name *Scot* being a Greek and Saxon conversion from Scythian. The Saxons considered Japheth, whom they called Scaef, the son of Noah, to be the founder of the European nations and traced their own ancestry through Gomer.
- Galatia in Asia Minor was populated by a migrating colony of Gallic Celts whose relatives had spread to France (Gauls) and to the British Isles. Confirmed by archaeology.
- The Miautso People of China claim descent from Japheth through Gomer (recorded as recited ancient couplets) before Christian contact. Surprisingly accurate accounts of Creation, Fall and Flood (w/names of Noah, his wife and sons) + a graphic account of Babel and the confusion of tongues resulting in nations spreading out, encircling the globe.

Japheth's Clan—East by Southeast

- *Madai's* grandkids became the Medes + early inhabitants of Iran, from whom came the Aryans who migrated to India. *Japheth* is preserved as Pra-Japati (Father Japheth), the reputed ancestor of the Aryans, worshipped as lord of creation for those descended from him.
- Indus civilization (~2600-1900 BC) flourished in what is now Pakistan and western India. The culture was very organized and largely unmilitary. Built efficient cities, not elaborate, out of baked bricks. Practiced millet cultivation similar to that done in Africa (common source?)

Japheth's Clan—Northwest by West

- *Javan's* group went to Turkey, continuing west to Greece, Cyprus, Rhodes and eventually Spain (the Mediterranean Sea once known as Sea of Tarshish, Javan's son) and NW Africa. *Javan* became Ionia which = Greece. His son Elishah is preserved in the name "Hellas" which came to be applied to Greece as a whole (Hellenism, Hellenic) and is probably perpetuated in the Greek paradise, the Elysian Fields.
- *Japheth* is preserved in Greek literature as Iapetos, son of heaven and earth, father of many nations, esp. Greeks. The ancient Romans kept his name as Iu-Pater, Father Jove, which became Jupiter.
- *Tiras's* kids settled Thrace; they were ruddy, blue-eyed and always tipsy!

Shem, the Middle Son

Shem's 5 Sons headed east, north and south from Babel—Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

- *Elamites* settled east of Babel, later merging with the Medes to form the Persian Empire.
- *Asshur's* name is preserved in his descendants, the Assyrians, whose culture also included the Hamites (Nimrod and company). Unfortunately, Asshur was one of the earliest men to be deified and worshipped by his descendants—leading to idolatry.

Shem's Clan—North & Central

- *Arphaxad*—in Assyria, the earliest known settlement is 4 miles east of ancient Nineveh. Father of the Chaldeans, and his descendants were adept astrologers, magicians, and mathematicians.
- Son, *Eber*—name is preserved in his descendants—the Hebrews. (Was Hebrew the original language? It is likely that it was!)
- Arphaxad's grandson, *Peleg*, may have been born shortly after the time of the dispersion. According to Genesis 11:25, "in his days the earth was divided" which combined with Genesis 10:5, 32 clearly refers to a linguistic and geographical division.

Shem's Clan—North & Central

- *Lud* is historically associated with the Lydians, in Asia Minor, who were reputed archers and spoke an Indo-European language.
- *Aram's* sons became the Arameans, equivalent to Syrians. Their language was adopted as the trade language for the ancient world, commonly spoken even among Jews in Jesus' day. Some Arameans migrated to Arabia where Job later lived.

Ham and His Kin

Ham's 4 sons stayed central or headed south and west—Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

Ham—West & Southwest

- *Cushites* migrated south to Arabia, then crossed the Red Sea into Ethiopia.
- *Mizraim*—the Egyptians, and possibly was the founder of Egypt's first dynasty, Menes.
- *Put* is identified with North Africa west of Egypt, including Libya.
- *Canaan*—in and around the land of Canaan and in Asia Minor (the Hittites, from son Heth).

Ham's Clan—East by Northeast

Some perhaps migrated later to the Far East. Two sons—*Heth* and *Sin*—the most likely to have become ancestors of the Oriental peoples. Similarities between the Hittites & the Mongolians, carrying with them the art of smelting and casting iron plus the breeding and training of horses. Native Americans have their ancestry in the Mongolian people (share 4 genetic markers).

- The Biblical Hittites were known to the Sumerians as Khittae and to the Assyrians as Khatti which may be the origin of Cathay (oriental).
- Biblical and secular references to a people in the Far East named "Sinim", "Sinae" suggesting some of the descendants of Canaan's son Sin migrated eastward. The Assyrians knew the Biblical Sinites as the Siannu. China/Chinese people have always been identified by the prefix "Sino-" (e.g., Sino-Japanese War). Scientists found a distinct genetic difference between people living in northern China from those living in southern China. Just as expected!

Onward to America

- 3,000 years ago, the first civilization developed in the Western Hemisphere—the Olmec culture in Mexico and Central America. Coincides with the Chinese Shang Dynasty's fall to enemies,

forcing thousands of refugees to flee across the "Eastern Sea." 100 ancient Chinese language symbols are seen embedded in motifs decorating Olmec art! Common elements of the two societies: transportation skills, worship of earth and ancestors on similarly built mounds, human sacrifice, veneration of the same animals, and art carvings. Just as expected!

- It's believed that humans migrated across a land bridge that connected Asia with what is now Alaska. That land bridge disappeared when the sea level rose following the last ice age. From Alaska south were 2 corridors free of ice. Migration campsites indicate they had boats and did offshore fishing. The animals had preceded them by several hundred years so hunters provided meat.

A Corrupted Witness to the Truth

"We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn to the living God. In the past, He let all nations go their own way. Yet He has not left Himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain, crops, plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." (Paul, Acts 14:15-17)

It is highly possible that pagan man was indeed aware of God and of His attributes, and that this awareness had existed and flourished for centuries without exposure to the Scriptures.

Flood Legends

People spread out, took the story of the Creation, Curse, and Flood with them. There are >300 flood legends that predate contact with outsiders (especially missionaries). Found in almost every culture around the world, 30 of them in writing.

- 66% say that the Flood was caused by the sinfulness of man
- 95% say that the whole world was covered by water
- 86% say that there was a favored family told to build a boat to save the animals

From Mexico—Toltec Indians of southern Mexico (Ham's great-grandkids) tell of first world lasting 1,716 years, destroyed by a great flood covering the highest mtns. A few escaped in a "toptlipetlocali" (closed chest). After, these men built a very high zacuali," (great tower) to provide a safe place if the world was destroyed again. Languages became confused, so different language groups wandered to other parts of the world. Toltecs started as family of seven friends + wives who spoke the same language. Crossed great waters, lived in caves, and wandered 104 years southern Mexico—520 years after the great flood.

From British Isles—The Irish Chronicles tell of Creation and the Flood being recent and historical, dated historical events by counting the years since the Creation (4000 BC). Early Britons believed in a recent creation and flood as well.

From Denmark—Anglo-Saxon chronicles record 5200 years from Creation until the year AD 6. The epic poem *Beowulf* contains many references to Genesis 1-6 (including Cain, giants and a flood) with an abrupt cutoff at that point. Saxons (Japheth's great-grandkids) brought it to England from Denmark. Beowulf (historical person) descended from Saxon kings who claimed their ancestry from Japheth.

From China—Creation, the Fall, and the Flood preserved in ancient Chinese characters (combine pictographs to form new ideas):

- "to forbid" (combines 2 trees and to command, God)
- "to sacrifice" (ox + sheep + unblemished + spear)
- "righteousness" (lamb + me, with the lamb placed over the me)
- "boat" (vessel + 8 + person)

The characters (found on ancient bronzes) were well-established (before 800 BC) and already used by other oriental countries before Christians influenced China

One Blood, The Biblical Answer to Racism

The Bible never talks about races but about tribes/nations. There is only one race—mankind! Modern concept of "race" is based on evolution; used by man to divide people, justify social stratification. Everyone has the same color from the skin pigment "melanin" but not the same intensity. Some just have more of it. Inbreeding produces dominant characteristics we call "racial."

From The Great Dispersion, a repeated pattern emerges: 1) Tribe moves to a new area, 2) Sets up temporary camp w/shelters made of stones, hides, sticks or caves, and 3) Determines support-capability of area. Remains of these living zones suggest to evolutionists a "stone age culture" but actually reflect only a very temporary situation. As soon as material for ceramics and metals could be found, the "stone age" at the site was succeeded by a "bronze age" or "iron age."

One people, several tribes — where Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon fits!

Bones of a man with massive features, heavy brow ridges, rickets and arthritis found in Germany—called Neanderthal, sketched as stooped-over brute—cave man; bones that looked more normal found in France—called Cro-Magnon. Over 200 skeletons found in Palestine, Iraq, NW Africa, throughout Europe. Those found in northern/western Europe are generally more Neanderthal-like than those found in southern Europe, northern Africa, or western Asia.

- *Fully Human*—walked upright (stood ~5'7"); used tools, built houses, contained fires in hearths; wore body ornaments, constructed and played musical instruments, and painted on cave walls; had religious rites and ceremonially buried their dead. They had a simple culture but NOT an animal culture. "Neanderthal" features—heavy brow ridges, teeth crowding forward, deterioration of the chin, excessive wear on the teeth, arthritis, thick skulls—are features of very old people. Both groups were fully human. The heavy brow ridges and sloping forehead found in Neanderthal skeletons are found in people living today. Neanderthals would probably go unnoticed if dressed in modern clothing, especially football gear.
- *Japheth's grandkids*—migrating from the Tower of Babel. Some reached Europe first during the worst part of the Ice Age (~14°F colder than today), perhaps Gomer's group. Others went south then crossed the Mediterranean Sea at the Rock of Gibraltar to live in northwest Africa, perhaps Javan's group?
- *Affected by Ice Age*—Living in caves with little sunlight, wearing heavy clothes, and eating a poor diet results in arthritis and rickets (a deforming bone disease caused by lack of vitamin D) lead to a stooped over walk.

Dinosaurs and History

Dinosaurs got on the Ark, got off the Ark, and subsequently died off. Lots of animals have died out from this earth. After the Flood, animals spread out—by land, by swimming, by riding vegetation mats (examples on handout). The dinosaurs spread out as well. All the nations of antiquity wrote about dinosaur-like animals they called dragons. The Biblical writers, inspired by God, wrote about creatures described by the Hebrew word *tanniyn* which was translated "dragons" in over 20 passages until this century. Dwelled in different types of habitats and were various sizes (Isa 34:13; Micah 1:8; Malachi 1:3). Modern translators choose not to use "dragon"; use jackal, whale, serpent, etc. but the Hebrew word means "dragon" or "monster", not jackal.

Leviathan—"water monster"

- A sea dragon in Isaiah 27:1, Psalm 74:14. Psalm 104:24-26 says *leviathan* initially created to frolic in the sea. Something happened; the description doesn't sound like frolicking!
- Described by God Himself in Job 41:1-34 as a living, fearsome, fire-breathing monster who lived in water and on land, had huge teeth, whose scaly hide could not be pierced with sword or spear,

was absolutely without fear and could not be trapped or domesticated. Neither whales, sharks, nor crocodiles fit this description. The description possibly fits that of a marine reptile or dinosaur called *Kronosaurus*.

- Fire-breathing—Some dinosaur skulls have 2 chambers in them, particularly the duck-billed or crested ones, similar to the bombardier beetle's two chambers for chemical mixing to produce smoke.

Dragon legends, art & historical records

Evidently the dinosaurs gradually died out or were hunted to extinction. Their existence has been preserved for us by people all over the world through the many legends of dragons, the descriptions of which closely resemble dinosaurs. Faded and/or embellished memories of real human encounters with dinosaur-like animals have been drawn, written about and told about since the beginning of recorded history on every continent. Flying reptiles have also been seen and described in written form by respected writers (Herodotus, Aristotle, Strabo) in ancient Egypt, Ethiopia, India and Arabia.

- *Ireland*—In the 10th century, an Irishman wrote of his encounter with a large beast with "iron" nails on its tail that pointed backwards and a head shaped like a horse. *Stegasaurus*?
- *Scandinavia*—A Scandinavian legend describes a reptile-like animal that had a body the size of a large cow covered w/scales; two long, strong back legs; two very short front legs; with very large jaws; could leap like a frog. Perhaps a T-Rex!
- *France*—The city of Nerluc, France was renamed in honor of slayed dragon that was bigger than an ox, and had long, sharp pointed horns on its head. *Triceratops*? In 1856 France, a flying reptile was blasted out of a tunnel and died. It was studied by a scientist, declared to be a *pterosaur* with a 10' wingspan.
- *Americas*—Ancient Native American drawing found in a Grand Canyon cave looks very much like an *Edmontosaurus*. The ancient Incas sketched creatures that look just like *Triceratops*.
- In the 1500's, a European scientific book listed several animals, which to us are dinosaurs, as still living, though relatively small and extremely rare.
- *British Isles*—More than 80 places recorded encounters w/men, women and children. Not just Loch Ness. Many written accounts include detailed descriptions of skin and scale colors, refer to multiple witnesses and creatures spitting poisonous venom at its victims. One was "vast in body, with a crested head, teeth like a saw, and a tail extending to an enormous length." It liked to eat sheep, and shepherds; local archers tried to kill the beast, unsuccessfully, due to its impenetrable hide.
- *Wales*—flying reptiles common until recently, country folk predicted weather for centuries by their movements. Ancient carving of a local lake-dwelling giant reptile w/large paddle-like flippers, long neck, small head. Flying reptiles considered as bad as foxes for poultry so were routinely killed.
- *Saxons, Beowulf, & 3 Monsters*—1) Flying reptile (matches a *pteranodon*), 2) Sea dragon (harbor menace, on Viking ships), and 3) Land monster (grendels) larger than humans; bipedal w/small, puny forelimbs (T-rex?); growled angrily; slayed with his mouth or jaws—swallowing the body of its victims rapidly in large gobbles! A nocturnal, solitary hunter, approaching human settlements and waiting silently in the darkness for his prey to fall asleep. Danes employed a giant watcher to watch for the approach of grendels! A large carved stone in an old Saxon church (early England) shows such a creature biting the necks of other quadrupedal creatures. Danes hunted and killed marine reptiles hanging around harbors.

It is reasonable to consider the earth to have been created in 6 days in a perfect state, affected by the curse and death after creation, then completely reshaped by a global Flood and repopulated by Noah's descendants—all less than 10,000 years ago.