

Walking Through The Bible. Part One; Adam And Noah

The Bible says the wisest, most impressive and profound things in the simplest language. There is a lot we can learn by studying the first five books of the Bible. Some might say, "Oh, that is just the Old Testament." That is a terrible attitude. Jesus and the apostles consistently quoted from the Old Testament. It gives us the history of our very being. To disregard the Old Testament scriptures is close to blasphemy; Jesus said so in John 10:36. It's like saying we don't trust the early prophets, like Abraham and Moses; don't want to know our past; don't want to know the history of creation; don't want to know the history of the Jewish people – where, as it is written – salvation has come from the Jews (John 4:22). It's like saying God's word is not reliable, and Jesus Himself said scripture cannot be broken, cancelled, annulled or set aside (John 10:35). Every word is pure; every word is God breathed (2 Timothy 3:16). Every word in the first five books was written down as God instructed Moses (Exodus 17:14; 24:4 & 7; 34:27; Numbers 33:2). Every word in the whole Bible is the inspired, authoritative word of God from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21. We must not regard the Old Testament as being unimportant. It was all Jesus and the apostles had and they did alright with it. There are spiritual lessons to be learned from the Bible, but there are also history lessons. Lessons that line up with our modern day scientific knowledge and technologies.

The Bible is a living story. It is about good and evil, love and hate, slavery and freedom but above all, it is about the worship of one God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It is the greatest story ever told and the Bible is backed up by archaeology. Jerusalem is one of the oldest and holiest cities on earth; holy to Jews and Christians. Jerusalem is where Jesus lived, where He overturned the tables in the temple, where He died, where Christianity began and is the capital of Israel. Jerusalem, both ancient and modern is a real place. Jerusalem was initially called Salem (Genesis 14:18) and wasn't given the name of Jerusalem until after Moses time (Joshua 10:1).

Our aim is to make the Bible alive in the minds of people. The Bible should not be just a book that gathers dust while sitting on a shelf. The Bible is real. The stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not just stories written on a few pages. They are real events that happened to real people, and the sites where the events took place are still there for people to visit. We can touch the ground where God created Adam, where Abraham walked, the mountain where Noah landed and we can still see the caves where a few of the Israelites were buried. Stories, like rivers give life and the Bible characters were once as alive as we are today. They worked, walked, ate, talked, had children and grandchildren, just as we do today.

Part One: Adam and Noah.

The Bible didn't happen before time and place. The imagery of creation as the earth emerged from a watery chaos (Genesis 1:2), and even some of the ancient words themselves, come from Mesopotamia; like the word 'water' in English, is identical in sound to the ancient word. This connects the Bible to the world around the writers and introduces God to the earth. In Genesis chapter 1, the Bible tells us God created the world and everything on by speaking it into existence. What is interesting about the Garden of Eden, was that it was surrounded by water, with four rivers emerging from it. The Bible puts the Garden in a particular time and place. According to the Jewish calendar, we are close to the 5,770th year since creation. That was the time of creation. Read the sermon on this website titled, "How long has mankind really been on earth?" You will be able to see that the Jews have got the timing right.

The place where creation happened is subtly shown in the scriptures. We can see where the Garden of Eden once was (the word Eden means 'delight'). We can see Mount Ararat. We can see the terrain the Bible describes. The Bible is alive. The site of the Garden of Eden was extremely different to what that area is like today. In Genesis 2:5 & 6 we read that there was no rain, but a mist, or a heavy dew went up from the ground and watered the whole face of the earth. Back then, there would have been no snow, no hail, no sleet, no freezing conditions, no storms, no hot sun to burn, just absolutely perfect living conditions. The mountain tops would not have been covered with snow like they are today. Deserts like the Sahara, did not exist. Those areas were lush with vegetation. That fact has been proven in the deserts in the middle of Australia, where bones of mega fauna have been discovered in abundance. The dinosaurs lived on that thick, lush vegetation. No animals ate meat until after Noah's ark and they didn't need to. The vegetation was created to provide the animals with all the food they needed. That was before sin brought about changes in our weather. There was no rain until Noah's Ark was built and ready to go, 1,056 years after creation (Genesis 7:6). After the flood, everything changed. That is when the first seasonal cold and heat was recorded (Genesis 8:22). The plants could no longer provide protein for the carnivores and they were forced to eat meat.

The first words spoken in the Bible were spoken a long way from Jerusalem, Israel's capital. That happened in what is now South-Eastern Turkey, near the start of the rivers Euphrates and Tigris. The other two rivers mentioned in Genesis 2:10 to 14 are the Pishon and Gihon. The four rivers started as one major river that watered the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:10) then divided from there into the four rivers. If we look at an atlas, we can see that the source of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, is in the mountains of what is now Eastern Turkey. Let's repeat that. The rivers begin their flow from the top of the mountains in Eastern Turkey. If we think logically, since the rivers begin there on the mountains, and we know the rivers flowed out from the Garden of Eden, we can deduct that the mountain was where the first Garden was planted by God (Genesis 2:8); in the mountains of what is now Eastern Turkey. The Garden of Eden was once situated somewhere up on the mountains. Keep in mind that the mountains would not have been cold or snowy. The climate was perfect back then. That is putting modern day mapping in an atlas, hand in hand with the ancient record of the Bible, the book of truth.

The first river named in Genesis 2:11 was Pishon or Pison. It flowed around the whole land of Havilah which is possibly modern day Georgia, Armenia and the Northern Iran area. Some people think Havilah is Arabia, but that is too far away to be the logical site because the river flowed from Eden. The River Pishon could have changed course, but it could not have dried up because it is fed from the mountains as are the other three rivers. Since Noah's flood, the mountains have had snow every winter and the melting snow would have kept the rivers flowing. If the rivers had begun from a spring they could have dried up, but not from a mountain because of the annual melting snow. If we look at an atlas, we can see where the four rivers mentioned in the Bible, begin. The rivers still flow from that one mountain range; Euphrates and Tigris which flow south, one river flows north west and the other flows east. Are the two unnamed rivers the Pishon and Gihon? We can only guess because these places were named after Noah's flood, not before, and after the courses of the rivers would have changed.

Gihon flows around the whole land of Cush (Genesis 2:13). Cush was the son of Ham and his tribe were known as the coastland peoples (Genesis 10:5) and they spread in their lands. Cush was the father of Nimrod (Genesis 10:8). It is possible that the land of Cush was once Western Turkey and the Gihon river flowed out into the waters now called the

Black Sea. That matches the description of the 'coastland peoples'. Hundreds of years later, the tribe of Cush spread south to Ethiopia because that is also called the land of Cush in the Hebrew language. The Cushites certainly spread, because there is an area in Afghanistan still called Cush.

The Tigris river is the one flowing east of Assyria (modern day Syria) (Genesis 2:14). If we follow the Tigris, we can see that it flows from Eastern Turkey, down through Eastern Iraq, then down to the Persian Gulf. This whole area is east of Syria, just as the Bible says. The fourth river is the Euphrates (Genesis 2:14). The Euphrates flows from Eastern Turkey, west to Syria then meanders back east to Iraq, then meets up with the Tigris in southern Iraq, near where Babylon once was, then it flows out to the Gulf. We can look up these facts about the rivers in any modern atlas. Both the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are mentioned in Genesis, which was written about four thousand years ago. As they have done for thousands of years, the rivers still flow through the Mesopotamian Plain, both carry silt down from the mountains, making the whole area fertile and excellent for growing crops, and both rivers help irrigate the land, just as they have done since the Garden was created. The rivers give life.

Whatever the name is now, this whole area was once called Mesopotamia. Archaeology has shown that people started to cultivate the land in that area first, because that is where human life began. The name of Adam, the first man, or Adama in Hebrew, means earth because we come from the earth. Genesis 2:7 says Adam was formed out of the dust of the ground. That dust would have been taken from Mesopotamia – a real place. And because Adam is the father of all humanity, we 'carry' the dust from the Garden of Eden around with us as we populate the earth. The same essential chemical elements that are in the earth, are also in humanity and we need to ingest most of these elements daily if we are to remain healthy. This scientific fact was not known until recently, but thousands of years ago, the fact we are made up of the soil of the ground, was recorded for us to learn and believe. That is proof that what is written in the scriptures is true. Some of the chemical elements in our bodies are iron, calcium, copper, zinc, magnesium, manganese, oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, sodium, selenium, fluorine, chlorine, iodine, cobalt, lithium, aluminium, silicon, lead, bromine and all of these are in the soil. See how the Bible is real and is alive?

Before the fall of Adam, there was no rain as we read before. After Adam sinned, he was told he had to sweat and toil in order to grow food, so it wasn't until after the fall of man that farming began, and archaeology says it began in Mesopotamia, right where Adam was expelled from the Garden (Genesis 3:23 & 24). It wasn't until after Adam sinned that he began to eat plants of the field (Genesis 3:18). Before that Adam and Eve ate mostly fruit and greens (Genesis 1:30; 2:9). No person or animal ate meat until after Noah's flood (Genesis 9:3 & 4). Even before Egypt, the ancient areas of Sumeria and Babylon were the first two recorded cities to have writing. The first written accounts of creation didn't happen just anywhere, they happened in the place that God chose, in the ancient land of Mesopotamia. God chose the time to create, He chose the method and He chose the land where it all took place. It really happened. Adam was a real person, he really lived, he really did have many sons and daughters (Genesis 5:4), although only the first three sons were named in the Bible; Abel, Cain and Seth. Keep part of the area of ancient Mesopotamia, now known as Turkey, in the back of your mind and we will return to it later.

Noah's Ark.

God saw that the intent of a man's heart was only evil (Genesis 6:5). The flood story took place in what is now a Kurdish zone, in South Eastern Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Mount Ararat will always be identified with the story of Noah's Ark. Where was the ark built? Noah lived in Mesopotamia. It was a fertile area and the ark was built out of wood; tons of it, taken from trees grown in that fertile area. To waterproof the whole ark, it was covered with bitumen inside and out (Genesis 6:14).

How did Noah build such a big ark? The ark would have been about the size of a football field and three storeys tall; about half the size of the Titanic. The ark was built without using any metal nails, screws or rivets. The Lord told Noah to make for himself an ark (Genesis 6:14) and he had 120 years to do it (Genesis 6:3). Noah did all that God had asked him to (Genesis 6:22). The scriptures don't say the local people helped Noah build the ark, but they probably mocked him. Why would he be building a boat so far from the sea? They would not have comprehended that when it was ready, they would all die when the judgement of God came upon them. They were degenerate and had lost their true direction (Genesis 6:12). Enoch had warned the people (Jude 1:14 & 15). Noah had preached to them (2 Peter 2:5). God's Spirit had been striving with them (Genesis 6:3) yet they had rejected God. Although they were wiped out in the flood in judgement, God's mercy still shone through to them because after Jesus died, he went to these same people and preached to them in Hades, the waiting place of the dead, to give them a chance of salvation (1 Peter 3:19 & 20; 4:6).

How could Noah have gathered all the various species of the animals and keep them in one place long enough to put them on the ark? Noah's challenges would have been great. He had to have the ark built; he had to collect enough food to feed his family and the thousands of animals for over a year; he had to round up two pairs of animals for breeding (Genesis 6:19 to 21), then the Lord told Noah to round up seven pairs of clean animals for breeding (Genesis 7:2). Noah had to gather seven pairs of every type of bird (Genesis 7:3), and Noah had to collect all these thousands of breeds in just seven days (Genesis 7:4). There is no doubt that God would have helped Noah do what he was asked. Although the Bible doesn't say so, for Noah to gather all these animals in such a short time, God must have brought these animals to Noah. That would not have been a hard task for the Lord, after all, He created them. One theologian suggested Noah would have had about 3700 mammals, 8600 birds, 6300 reptiles and rodents. During the time on the ark, the animals would have generated about 600 tons of manure. The Bible doesn't say if it was regularly cleaned out or not, but one can imagine the dreadful smell inside the ark. The Lord had told Noah to make rooms, stalls, pens, coops, nests, cages and compartments inside the ark (Genesis 6:14). It was possible that Noah organised the animals by housing birds and rodents on the top deck, big cats on the middle to one side, rhinos and cattle on other side and elephants and giraffes in between and the lower floor would probably not have had animals because of the manure. Whales, dolphins, fish, hippos, crocodiles, otters, sharks and other sea creatures would have stayed in the water and not gone into the ark. They probably gorged themselves on the deceased humans and animals for the twelve months the earth was flooded, so that the ground was 'cleansed' for when the ark landed. Dinosaurs and mammoths would have been around then too. Like all the other animals, most would have died during the flood. The ones that were rescued and later left the ark, would have found their food source gone and the climatic conditions so vastly changed, they died out after the flood. In the book of Job, a huge animal with a tail like a cedar tree roamed the earth in Job's time. The description of that same animal matches that of a dinosaur (Job chapters 40 and 41).

Where did all the water come from? It was already there. Remember the whole earth was once covered in water (Genesis 1:2) and God separated the water from the dry land (Genesis 1:6 to 10). In Genesis 7:11 & 12 we see that the fountains opened up and the windows of heaven were opened. Geysers and pouring rain, non-stop for forty days and nights flooded the earth. The whole earth was flooded too, not just the Mesopotamian area, and everything on the earth died (Genesis 7:18 to 23). For five months the whole earth remained flooded (Genesis 7:24). After another five months the ark landed on top of Mount Ararat and six weeks after that Noah opened the door and could see that the earth was still drying. A further six weeks later, Noah left the ark with his family and let the animals go in families out of the ark (Genesis 8:19). All up, Noah and his family were in the ark for one year and ten days (Genesis 8:18). Mount Ararat is the first place named in the Bible that can be located with any certainty. Mount Ararat is a perfect volcano, 17,000 feet high and is higher than anything around it; the highest mountain in Middle East. It would have been the first piece of land that emerged out of the water when the flood waters began to subside. The worldwide flood can be easily proven because fossils of sea creatures have been found on top of mountains. Archaeologists have proven that the sphinx in Egypt was once completely submerged in water. The so-called ice age that brought about extreme changes in tree rings all around the world, were not a result of an ice age – the changes were due to the flood. There was no ice age – that is a lie told by evolutionists.

Could a wooden ark survive thousands of years to the present day? Pieces of wood have been found on Mount Ararat thousands of years old. Pitch or bitumen preserved it. The story of the ark is still alive on the mountain top to this day. Genesis 8:20 says after Noah got off the ark, he built an altar to God and sacrificed burnt offerings on it. Remember this piece? “Keep part of the area of ancient Mesopotamia in the back of your mind and we will return to it later.” Here is something to think about: Mount Ararat is in Turkey, not all that far from where Garden of Eden once was. Noah had lived in Mesopotamia which was in visual range of the mountains, so God helped Noah’s ark land on familiar ground, close to where Noah and his family had once lived. Noah probably spent all his life looking at the mountain and may have even climbed it. If we think about it, the ark could have come to rest anywhere on the earth because the flood was over the whole earth, but the Lord made sure Noah and his family were safely returned home. There was no motor, rudder or keel to steer the ark, so the Lord must have sailed Noah home. Everything would have been different after the flood of course, but it was still home. See part two of this series; Abraham to Jacob.

Amen and God bless you.

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