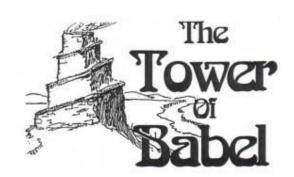
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TOWER OF BABEL?

We have been back in the Middle East in search of the remains of history's most infamous building – the Tower of Babel.

If our suspicions are confirmed, there will eventually be a major announcement coming out of the area.

We tell the story of this intriguing search.



Jonathan Gray
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Part 1

THE NOAH'S ARK LINK

"Don't go," Allen warned. "It's too dangerous. People disappear."

But how deeply I longed to go in and document what was there! After all, this was the place of our roots – of all of us, on this planet. This was an important find. This is where it all began. I just had to go in there and record it.

You see, at the time there was a war raging between the Turks and the Kurds. Outsiders caught between the two sides had already been kidnapped, arrested, killed. Or they just plain vanished. Never heard of again.

But my colleague Trevor Prestige and I committed all to our Maker and decided to take the risk. What lay in there was worth it – if we could bring out the evidence.

INSCRIPTIONS AND RUINS

Ararat, in eastern Turkey, was the stepping-stone between the old world and the new post-Flood world.

The names of many, if not most, towns, villages and landmarks of the Ararat region, stem from words or phrases connected with some aspect of the Flood, the landing, or the lives or deaths of family members after the Great Flood.

One of the first this century to draw attention to this was Colonel Alexander Koor, of the White Russian army.

Koor drew several maps of the region. On them he circled various locations with the words:

THIS AREA SHOULD BE SEARCHED.

There are perhaps 50 or more archaeological sites in the Ararat region which have never been investigated, such as the ruins of ancient villages, towns, buildings, tombs and caves.

A few have taken up the challenge. Up in this wild mountain area, one amateur archaeologist was led by his Kurdish guide to a boundary marker which bore a very ancient inscription. It pictorially showed mountains in the vicinity which are still identifiable. And it portrayed the Ark as resting near them. You will find a picture of this rock and its inscription in my book *The Ark Conspiracy*.

Further down the valley, near the village of Kazan, he discovered a most ancient ruined house, with walls three feet thick, now partially buried in alluvial silt. One wall, now recorded on video tape, was inscribed with the sequence of the Flood events. Beside the house were two grave sites. From the markers it could not be misunderstood as to who was buried here.

THE FIRST CIVILISATION

If the Ararat mountains were, as the book of Genesis insists, the landing place of the Ark after the world Flood, then this is the very place where the first civilisation, and therefore the earliest archaeological sites, should be found.

Until early in the twentieth century, when driven out by the Turks, the Armenians dwelt in this area. The Armenians trace their ancestry to Hiak, the "Son of Targom (Togarmah), a grandson of Noah." (Moses Chorenensis, 1.4, sec.9-11) They claimed to have inhabited the Ararat region since that time.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The few searches undertaken in this area have yielded incredible surprises.

- * In 1969, on a small hill called Korhan, two Americans, Cumming and Hewitt, discovered a magnificent shrine with walls ten feet thick, a 30 foot high altar, an ancient cemetery with inscribed tombstones, a 5 foot diameter grinding mill, and other buildings. So remote is the area that even the mountain folk seldom venture there; no outsider would even consider it.
- * In 1967, the remains of Altin Tepe were found. Its walls were over 30 feet thick. Blocks of granite weighing 40 tons were skilfully raised to a height of 200 feet (20 stories) and then fitted together. The luxury here was "unreal". Furniture was decorated with gold and silver; bronze bed and table legs were carved into animal feet.

Rulers and compasses were used in executing elaborate drawings for frescoes.

* Significantly, it is in the vicinity of Ararat that we find the first known indications of cities built according to specific plans.

EARLIEST SITE OF METAL WORKING - JUST A FEW MILES FROM NOAH'S HOME!

It was from the mountains of Ararat that the news went out to this world concerning the discovery of remains that matched the dimensions of the biblical Ark of Noah. Subsequent excavations led to an announcement by Turkish authorities that the ancient survival vessel had been found.

My teams were involved in follow-up expeditions to the 25 expeditions led by the recognised discoverer, Ron Wyatt.

One of the most exciting discoveries at the site of Noah's Ark was the large amount of metal found in the remains of the vessel.

A few miles from the site of the Ark, in the Araxes Valley, is a vast complex of extremely ancient stone fences radiating outward from an ancient stone house. The house, which had walls 3 feet thick, is now partially buried in alluvial silt. In front of this house, Wyatt found a pair of tombstones which had markings on them indicating that they were the graves of Noah and his wife. (Details of this find are in my book *The Ark Conspiracy*.)

A nearby wall was inscribed with pictures of the sequence of Flood events.

I have been into that valley, known as the Valley of Eight, several times. With my own eyes, I have seen some of the remains, coated with time. There is no doubt that it all happened exactly as the Scriptures say.

Just across the dirt road (to the south) is the village of Kazan, in which a large number of the anchor stones can be seen.

Behind the complex of fences, house and grave markers (to the north) is a very ancient stone altar located upon a ridge between two hills.



On the north side of that ridge of hills is the Araxes River – and across the river is the site of Medzamor. Here, within a few miles of Noah's home, is what has been termed "one of" the oldest, if not "THE" oldest metallurgical factory site in the world! Analyses of copper found there showed **14 different alloys**, including tin, lead, antimony and zinc.

The centre was sophisticated. Clay pipes were found inserted into the furnaces, as well as phosphorus brickettes, used in the smelting of cassiterite to obtain tin.

Here vases and objects made of all the common metals have been found. Fourteen varieties of bronze were smelted for different purposes. Medzamor also produced metallic paints ceramics and glass. And the Medzamor craftsmen were mouth-filters and gloves, as do modern craftsmen. The factory is believed to have had more than 200 furnaces.

Medzamor was the industrial centre of this early post-Flood period. Ore was brought in and the finished products distributed to all other areas.

Several pairs of tweezers have been unearthed here. The steel used in the tweezers was of an exceptionally high grade. The tweezers were like eyebrow tweezers, that enable chemists and watchmakers to handle micro-objects which they cannot manipulate by hand. The manipulation of such micro-objects implies the use of microscopic lenses.

A 3 storey astronomical observatory was erected nearby.

SOPHISTICATED FROM THE START

Archaeological sites are excavated to discover the **sequence** of materials; those found directly above virgin soil with nothing below them represent the earliest occupation level. At Medzamor, **the earliest phase** yielded bronze slag. This discovery continues to puzzle archaeologists. Why? Because it has been assumed (from the evolutionary theory) that man progressed very slowly through various stages of knowledge – firstly the discovery of fire, then the invention of the wheel, then cultivating crops and domesticating animals, and then, much later, the knowledge of metals and metallurgy.

But here is evidence that man appeared "on the scene" from the start with tremendous technological knowledge, producing an alloy (bronze) which requires tin and sometimes includes zinc for increased hardness.

French journalist Jean Vidal reported in Science et Vie of July, 1969:

"Medzamor was founded by the wise men of earlier civilizations. They possessed knowledge they had acquired during a remote age unknown to us that deserves to be called scientific and industrial."

How few people today have heard of this early post-Flood complex!

MANGANESE

We mentioned GLASS. "Glass making also flourished at Metsamor, as indicated by six types of metallurgical material, including zinc and **manganese**, alloyed in different ways to make different colours." (Charles Burney and David Lang, *The People of the Hills*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1971, p.110)

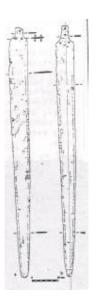
Interestingly, ballast samples from the "hull" of the Ark formation on Cudi Dagi have been tested showed over 85% manganese!

The findings at Medzamor show that a procedure undoubtedly taught by the Flood survivors was continued here.

EARLIEST RIVETS

In our investigation of the Ark site, we also noted We have noted the use of very large rivets in the structure. It seems reasonable to expect that Noah

and his sons would also have passed the usage of rivets on to their descendants. And that is exactly what the evidence shows. At Amiranis-Gora, north of the area of the Ark, a cemetery revealed pottery with "knobs along the top of the shoulder.... [that] seem to imitate rivets." (*The People of the Hills*, p.67)





But should there be any doubt, another very puzzling group of artefacts came to light in 1974 and 1975.

A Turkish antiquities dealer brought the objects to the Adana (Turkey) Museum, giving first one and then another explanation of their origin. It is known for certain that he did obtain them in the region and that they date to very near the third or early 2nd millennia BC. Among the artefacts are numerous copper knives, swords, chisels and axes. One interesting feature is that two of the swords are almost 36 inches long, "...which would have been difficult to wield with one hand". (*Anatolian Studies* – Yearly Journal – The British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara)

But the feature that interests us now is the fact that these have been dated to **very early** times by the archaeologists, and the craftsmen used **RIVETS** to attach the handle! In fact, on all of the knives **rivets** were used.

NAKHICHEVAN FOUNDED BY NOAH?

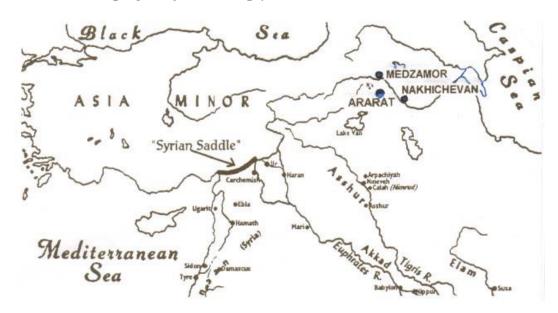
The Ararat Plain, or Araxes Valley, is about 80 to 90 miles long. It begins a little west of Ararat and extends through present-day Iran into the old U.S.S.R. This valley appears to be the general area through which Noah's family expanded, and since the Ark (the region of Noah's home) is in the

vicinity of the western portion of this plain, the general direction of expansion would naturally have been to the east.

Near the eastern end of this valley is a town called Nakhichevan. Numerous Armenian traditions ascribe the founding of Nakhichevan to Noah. While Noah and his wife most likely continued to maintain their home at Kazan, "the place of eight", until their death, nevertheless it does seem logical that as the patriarch of the family, Noah would have travelled with his younger family members as they explored the region in search of suitable areas to establish new settlements, then returning to his own home.

Therefore, the traditions that state that he founded Nakhichevan could be based on actual fact.

Here's the map again, just to keep you orientated.



Another evidence which gives credence to the idea of Noah's family expanding eastward along the Araxes River is the fact that **the other very early metallurgical centre was at Nakhichevan!** (*The People of the Hills, p.54*) There is no doubt that the immediate descendants of Noah would be those who had the earliest knowledge of metallurgy and employed it from the beginning.

BUT WHERE ARE ALL THE EARLY METAL OBJECTS?

It is often assumed that because metal objects are not found at early sites, that the people who lived there didn't have metals. But metals were a

precious commodity for a very long time, and some are valuable even today.

When people moved, they left their pottery behind because it was easy to make a new batch after they reached their new location and it was too bulky to take with them on long journeys.

But metal implements would be considered very valuable and would therefore be carried along when people moved. The metal could also be reshaped into new items. Therefore the absence of metal objects in early abandoned sites is to be expected. Even in 586 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, he collected all the metal objects as spoils of war (2 Kings 25:13-17).

IT ALL BEGAN IN TURKEY

After the Great Flood, mankind began in this region. Noah's descendants were born there. Their advanced knowledge came from Noah and his sons, who carried it from the pre-Flood world. And from this region, mankind spread across the face of the earth.

Evidence indicates that this Araxes Valley is the "original home from which this culture subsequently expanded in all directions." (*The People of the Hills*, p.44)

Ararat sits in a most unique position on the globe, only hundreds of miles from the very centre of the world's geographical land masses.

There are no geographical barriers to hinder migration from Ararat to any land around. The usual barriers – mountain chains, oceans or deserts – are absent. Dispersion in any direction could take place easily.

No place on earth is so uniquely suited as a starting place from which to replenish the earth.

Could it be coincidence that Noah's Ark landed so near to the centre of the world's land mass in the ideal location from which the earliest migration could occur?

CIVILISATION BEGAN IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

Something else of significance. After the Great Flood, civilisations developed FIRST in the **mountain areas**.

"Summarising the work of many eminent authorities on the subject, R.J. Braidwood and B. Howe (*Prehistoric Investigations in Iraqi Kurdistan*) concluded that genetic studies confirm the archaeological finds and leave no doubt that **agriculture** began exactly where Thinking Man had emerged... in the Near East. There is no doubt by now that agriculture spread all over the world from the Near Eastern arc of **mountains and highlands**." (Zecharia Hitchen, *The Twelfth Planet*. Avon, New York, 1978, pp.6-7. Emphasis mine)

In every instance, the plants and cereals basic to human survival and advancement and a variety of fruit bearing shrubs and trees kept coming out of the Near East and spread from there to Europe and other parts of the world. One might mention our familiar apples, pears, olives, figs, almonds, pistachios and walnuts, for example.

"It was as though the Near East were some kind of genetic-botanic laboratory, guided by an unseen hand, producing every so often a newly domesticated plant.

"The scholars who have studied the origins of the grapevine have concluded that its cultivation began in the mountains around northern Mesopotamia and in Syria and Palestine... No wonder. The Old Testament tells us that Noah 'planted a vineyard' (and even got drunk on its wine) after his ark rested on Mount Ararat as the waters of the Deluge receded. The Bible, like the scholars, thus places the start of vine cultivation in the mountains of northern Mesopotamia." (Sitchen, Ibid.)

(I shall make a slight correction to Sitchen's statement. The Bible does not state that the Ark landed on Mount Ararat, but **upon the mountains** of Ararat – a range of mountains, Genesis 8:4. The difference is important, for one wishing to view any surviving remains of the Ark.)

This area possesses a "special fertility" (*The People of the Hills*, p.35) which is indicative of the special provisions the Creator made for the first family in re-establishing life on this planet.

PLANT FOODS CAME FROM SEEDS BROUGHT ON THE ARK

Noah took on board the survival vessel plant life as food for both people and animals (Gen. 6:21). And when they left the Ark, they began to sow the seeds that would produce food. And archaeological evidence fits this scenario perfectly.

"Paleo-botany had provided evidence illuminating the earliest stages of the cultivation of emmer and einkorn wheat and two-row barley, with subsequent mutations resulting in improved strains; but still **the problem of the ultimate geographical sources** of the wild grains found in the earliest excavated settlements **awaits solution**..." (*The People of the Hills*, p.4)

"Even more important than the different varieties of timber available for building were the species of edible plants. Of these of course the most important are the cereals, but also the most problematic because of **the unsolved questions of their origins.**" (Ibid., p.10)

The unsolved questions are only in the minds of researchers who neglect to take into account the Great Flood – and world that preceded it.

EARLIEST GRAINS ALREADY HIGHLY SPECIALISED

Something else. Scholars are unable to explain how the EARLIEST grains were already uniform and highly specialised. As Sitchen elaborates:

"There is no explanation for this botanogenetic miracle, unless the process was not one of natural selection but of artificial manipulation.

"Spelt, a hard-grained type of wheat, ... is the product of 'an unusual mixture of botanic genes,' neither a development from one genetic source nor a mutation of one source. It is definitely the result of mixing the genes of several plants.

"Modern scholars have no answers to these puzzles, nor to the general question of why the mountainous semicircle in the ancient Near East became a continuous source of new varieties of cereals, plants, trees, fruits, vegetables, and domesticated animals." (Sitchen, p.414)

I shall now give you the facts that solve this mystery.

HELP FROM NOAH?

The ancient Gilgamesh Epic and the 3,400 year old Book of Jasher both tell us that pilgrimages were made to the house of Noah to learn the ancient wisdom. It seems reasonable to conclude that Noah and his aids were constantly cultivating and refining strains of plants to help the dispersing population cope with the greatly reduced capacity of the new, impoverished world.

PLANTS FROM THIS CENTRE

It was in Anatolia (Turkey) that many plants were "re-born" – planted there by Noah and his family from pre-Flood seeds. And from there carried to the various parts of the world.

"Anatolia is situated at the meeting of three principle zones of distribution of plants: these are the so-called Euro-Siberian zone (Europe, Russia and Siberia), the Irano-Turanian zone (the steppes of central Asia, Iran and central Anatolia) and the Mediterranean zone... Recent work has shown a large percentage of plants which are endemic, that is, confined to Turkey: this is particularly true of the Taurus ranges, where the Irano-Turanian and the Mediterranean zones meet." (*The People of the Hills*, pp.9,10)

This last statement is particularly exciting. It tells us that in the general region of south central Turkey – the Noah's Ark region – there is a large number of plants that are found ONLY there!

This suggests that some of the original plants Noah brought from the pre-Flood world never made it past the region of the Ark and Babel. When the time came that the groups left the area, it looks like they took with them only the major grains and staple plant foods, leaving behind a variety of plants whose beginnings were in the pre-Flood world.

NOAH'S FRUITS STILL GROW IN THE COLD CLIMATE

Apples, plums, apricots, peaches and mulberries are common in the eastern highlands. They thrive in spite of the severe winters.

Noah planted grapes (Gen.9:20). Vineyards are usually found in warm climates, certainly not in regions with winters as dreadfully cold as is eastern Turkey. Yet the vine is at home here... even today.

"IN THE MOUNTAINS"

Scholars who ignore the Flood of Noah find themselves facing this dilemma: Why did agriculture first appear not in the fertile and easily cultivated plains and valleys, but **in the mountains** skirting the low-lying plains?

Why, one asks, would farmers avoid the plains and confine their sowing and reaping to the more difficult mountainous terrain?

You may have guessed the answer by now. But I shall hint at it by asking another question: Could it be that the low-lying lands were, at the time when agriculture began, **uninhabitable**? It seems plausible that the low-lying areas were not yet dry enough following the Great Flood.

It would be many years before the valleys and plains would dry off sufficiently so that the people could come down from the mountains and settle the low-lying plains of Mesopotamia.

And do you know, we actually have an answer in Sumerian texts. They state that cultivation, first undertaken in the hill country, was possible by keeping the floodwater at bay, but was ultimately extended to the lowlands.

You see, the Great Flood holds the key to this mystery. Believe the record of the world Flood and of the survivors landing in the mountains of Ararat (Gen.8:4), and the mystery evaporates.

Part 2

THE NIMROD CONSPIRACY

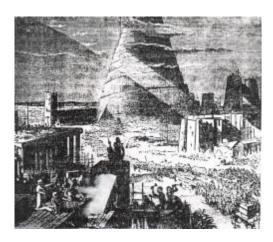
The First Dispersion of mankind was from the Ararat region of modern Turkey.

For Noah's family, the time eventually came when a large group decided to leave the Araxes Valley. Travelling westward, the people set forth until they came to a plain, which they decided to call home. We don't know how many or who were included in this group which built Babel except that we know Nimrod was one of them; that he was considered "a mighty" man and "a great hunter" and therefore, we believe, was the leader of the group; whether from the start or after they arrived, we do not know.

THE TOWER

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

"And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven: and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:1-4)



The "tower of Babel" is a very important subject, even though the account given in the Bible consists of just a very few verses. The discoveries of the past 150 years have shed tremendous light on the biblical account and have shown how completely accurate it is. But the one thing that can "pull it all together", so to speak, is the subject we shall now discuss.

Almost every civilisation on earth has had its version of the Great Flood story, but what evidence is there of the Great Dispersion of Noah's family across the face of the earth? What evidence is there that the great division of languages – their "birth", so to speak – occurred at Babel?

For a long time we have been interested in searching for the location of Babel, but the other projects dominated our time so completely that we never had the opportunity to follow up on it. But recently, we have begun field work, searching for the remains of the infamous tower.

"FROM THE EAST"

You will notice that the biblical narrative tells of the exodus of a group of people from the area first settled by Noah and his descendants after the Flood. "...as they journeyed **from the east**, they found a plain in the land of Shinar: and they dwelt there" (Gen.11:2)

We accept the biblical narrative as the final authority. And what this passage tells us is that the people who left the area of Noah's Ark travelled **to the west**. Common sense adds the additional information that they travelled along a river – a water supply for the people as well as their flocks and herds would have been an absolute necessity. It seems that the migrants began their journey at the beginning of one of the mountain streams that was a tributary of the Euphrates River near the area of the Ark, and followed it to the west until they came **to a plain**.

Topographical and flight maps of the region show where the Euphrates River exits the mountainous region – roughly a 250 mile journey from the region of the Ark. And there, where the mountains end, one finds a tremendous plain! Another route they could also have taken would have brought them to the same plain but by an easier and more direct path. This second route would have taken them in a south-west direction for about 140 miles until they reached the west side of Lake Van. From there, they would have travelled along a river about 50 miles through a mountain pass, to exit onto the vast plain. Here they could travel west until they reached the Euphrates. These are the only two natural east-west routes across Anatolia. Which route they took, we may never know. However, both would have brought the group to the same general area.

Put yourself in their place. Once they found this massive plain, would they have travelled further, if that region already contained all the natural resources that they would have needed, which it did? (We shall discuss these later.) Could this be the biblical "plain in the land of Shinar" where they settled?

On the map, you will see the location of Ararat (the Ark region) and in the centre is a black dot, which marks the spot where the mountains end and the plain begins. Could this be where Babel was located?



SPEED OF POPULATION GROWTH

After the Flood, Noah and his family became the total world population. Those eight people must have felt a deep sense of being alone. Surely they had a great longing for children. That they started to fulfil that longing right away is indicated by the fact that the first recorded post-Flood birth was in the year after they came out of the Ark. (2 yrs inclusive – Gen.11:10)

Several factors would have favoured a rapid population growth:

- 1. The Table of Nations in Genesis 10 suggests that **large families** must have been normal. Sixteen sons are listed for Noah's 3 sons. Since each boy had a wife, Noah's 3 sons must also have had about an equal number of daughters for a total of, say, 32 children, or just under 11 per couple. Eleven sons are listed for Canaan and 13 for Joktan. How many daughters they had, is of course, unknown. From these examples it seems reasonable to suggest that the average family had at least 10 children.
- 2. **Longevity** also favoured rapid population increase. Given the facts of the book of Genesis, it would not be unreasonable to suggest a low mortality for at least the first 200 years after the Flood. Also,

according to Genesis 10, the time span from the birth of one generation to the next (not the length of life) averaged 30 or so years, or about 3 generations per hundred years.

With 3 couples to start (Noah's 3 sons Ham, Shem and Japheth, with their wives), each couple having ten children, and having their first child at 30, the following would have been the result:

Generation	Yrs after Flood	Population
3 begins	60	800
4 begins	90	4,000
5 begins	120	20,000
8 begins	210	2,500,000

On this result, the yearly average population growth would have been a little over 5.5 percent.

A MODERN EXAMPLE

An example of rapid population growth (mainly from births) from Canadian history, may be of some interest.

"In the conquered province of Quebec, the people multiplied with astonishing celerity. In 1760, their numbers were approximately 60,000, and in 1790, 160,000, an increase in one generation of about 166 percent, about 5 percent annually. The birth rate after the conquest seems to have been higher than before it; in 1770 it had reached the astronomical figure of 65 per 100. After all, there was land and food for all." (A.R.M. Lower, Canadians in the Making, 1958, p.113)

The conquest spoken of was the British conquest of Canada in 1759 and 1760.

The increase mentioned was wholly or mostly due to births. After 1759 there was very little immigration for quite a few years.

RAPID CHANGE

The fact of a person dying without having children back in ancient times was so rare that the Bible makes mention of one in 1 Chron.2:10. It appears that the earth, the animals and the people were blessed with a special fertility at that time in order to facilitate the renewing of life on the planet. Of course, we don't claim our figures are accurate, but they give an

idea of how slowly the repopulation of the earth would have begun, and then how suddenly it began to increase.

By the time Abraham went to Canaan, just 427 years after the Flood, we know that the different nations were already established in their lands.

"A PLAIN IN THE LAND OF SHINAR"

The term "land of Shinar" has been interpreted to mean only the area far to the south of the Turkish plains – the area of Babylon. But, in fact, we have no firm evidence of the boundaries of this "land of Shinar". Akkadian cuneiform texts mention "Shanhara" as being in northern Mesopotamia, west of Nineveh, the same mountainous region that is today called "Singar". The Amarna Letters (Egyptian) also mention a land called "Shanhar" which is also in northern Syria. These examples are in the same general region as our suggested site. In fact, the name may even today still be reflected in a road sign for a town we discovered very close to here. In Turkish, "C" is pronounced "Ch". This town in southern Turkey is on the edge of the giant plain which we were discussing earlier – and our Turkish helper told us it is pronounced "Shinar" ("Chinar")!



The next biblical mention of Shinar occurs at a much later date: "And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god" (Dan.1:2).

Since this above passage refers to the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar's time, we know where it is located, which is far south of this region. Therefore, there are several possibilities to consider: perhaps "Shinar", like "Mesopotamia", referred to the land between the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Since the Tigris begins east of our site, it would therefore be included in it; or perhaps in Daniel 1:2 it refers to the region (Babylonia) that was dominated during Daniel's time by the people (Chaldeans) who came from the more northerly region.

BAKED BRICKS AND "SLIME"

"And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar." (Gen.11:3)

They built the city and tower of Babel with baked brick and used "slime" for mortar.

In 1995, when I first explored the region and examined a very large tell, I took samples of the baked brick and the mortar. The very black mortar consisted of a mixture of sand and tar (bitumen/asphalt) which hardens when dried.





Since this is a petroleum product, we must enquire: Did this area have a supply?

The 1985 *Encyclopaedia Brittanica* states that the only oil fields in Turkey are in Ramana (west of this site) and Gaziantep (east of this site), both less than 100 miles away. The latest revision of the flight map shows oil wells in the immediate area, and the pipeline between Gaziantep and Ramana follows directly under the region.

In our 1995 expedition, we saw working oil derricks in the immediate vicinity.



The presence of oil here, about 4,000 years after the time of Babel, indicates that an ample supply of bitumen most likely could have been obtained by the builders of this infamous city and tower. In fact, it may have been a major reason for selecting the area.

"LET'S BUILD US A CITY AND MAKE US A NAME"

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Gen.11:4)

The command had been given to Noah's family: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Gen.9:1). Yet, in the passage concerning Babel we learn that when the time came that the mass of people set out from the Ararat region, they all congregated together to build ONE city in order to AVOID being scattered "upon the face of the whole earth".

They also wanted to "make US a name". Evidences of ancient history all point to the fact that these earliest of people had, for the most part, rejected the true God, the Creator. By the time of Abraham, just a little over 400 years after the Flood, even HIS family was not completely faithful to God and combined their worship of Him with that of idols: "And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus said the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood (Euphrates River) in old time, even **Terah, the father of Abraham**, and the father of Nachor: and they **served other** gods." (Joshua 24:2)

Yes, the people wanted their OWN name, and they received it as we shall later see. But it wasn't what they had in mind.

ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE

"And the Lord said, Behold the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." (Gen.11:6) The implication is that the people at Babel possessed tremendous knowledge. I dare say that the ziggurats and cities at Babylon and Ur in lower Mesopotamia reflect nothing of what these people were capable of. Even the pyramids of Egypt, which are even today a great engineering feat, probably can't compare to whatever was begun at Babel.

"...nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

What could this mean? What were they capable of doing? I Don't know. But there is evidence that man after the Flood possessed tremendous knowledge. (See our book, *Dead Men's Secrets*) I suspect that had the people remained united and of one language, with the pre-Flood knowledge that they possessed, they would have reached a level of technological advancement in just a matter of years that is equal to or beyond that which we have reached only in the last 100 or so years. There are evidences that the earliest peoples in this region possessed very advanced technical knowledge, to the puzzlement of modern archaeologists and scholars.

The only thing that prevented a very advanced civilisation from soon erupting was, in my opinion, the lack of personnel and the fact that for many, many years after the Flood, they had to concentrate on breeding the animals and cultivating crops to sustain their lives. When the time came that these things were established, the people could concentrate on other things. And with every great mind on earth together in accord and of one language, we cannot imagine what they could have done. We have been "brainwashed" with the idea of early man being primitive and animal-like, but the evidence does NOT show this to be the case.

MISTAKEN POPULAR THEORIES

When we study the archaeological journals and reports, we must be careful to separate the physical evidence from the opinions of the excavators or those writing the reports. They all too often assume that first came the cave-man, then fire, etc. And they assign dates to archaeological sites based on these assumptions.

But think about this! If a rocket scientist suddenly found himself in a world that has just experienced a global disaster, with little but a barren landscape of renewing plant and animal life, would we expect to find or build launch-pads? If America were covered in dirt and archaeologists one day dug it up, would they date the fancy, modern homes of today as from the same time period as those in Papua New Guinea jungles that have no plumbing or electricity? I suspect they would place thousands of years between them.

The point is, when mankind left their first home near Noah and the Ark, they had knowledge. What they didn't have were the ready-made resources.

THE CREATOR INTERVENES

Once again, God intervened. It seems to me that He has a timetable for world events, which He controls. When mankind had reached the point of almost complete apostasy, He sent the global Deluge. When mankind again embarked upon a path SO SOON, that was contrary to His plan, He intervened in a manner that caused them to comply with His command to "replenish the earth".

Nimrod persuaded the people that they could find security without God if they stayed together under his rule. Babel was a project of clear-cut defiance.

There was an urgency about being connected. They conceived a plan for a united world government. Oppressive and cruel laws were planned by Nimrod and his henchmen. Had they gone unchecked, they would have demoralised the world in its infancy.

The symbol of their defiance – the tower of Babel – was already reaching high above the plain.

Then it happened. Many factors were involved. But, in brief, there was a catastrophic interruption to their plan.

The population at this time would be anywhere from 4,000 to 25,000.

THE LANGUAGE CONFOUNDED

"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city... Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." (Gen.11:7-9)

The name of the first city that they built was called "Babel", which means, simply, "Confusion" or "Mingled" ("babel" is translated to read "mingled" 37 times in the Bible). The people wanted to "make US a name", and they did. Imagine the scene – this city of certainly thousands of people working side by side, building not only their city, but this massive tower, the first ever built after the Flood, whose design was to extend up into the very clouds of "heaven". (The fact that they chose this design may imply that they knew about similar pre-Flood structures.)

Workmen at the top called for materials to those down below, who called to those below them, etc., etc., until the request reached the bottom. Then, the materials were passed up until they reached the workmen at the top.

But then, something occurred that no one expected – They no longer could understand each other. Maybe the ones next to each other could understand one another, but those below them only heard gibberish when the next call came for materials. The scene must have been one of chaos. It is impossible to imagine what it must have been like. All we are told is that at some point after this "confusion" of languages, they ceased work on the city and were scattered "abroad upon the face of all the earth".

Later, we shall examine the totally compelling evidence which shows that it was indeed this very area that the different languages originated.

Part 3

LANGUAGES AND THE DISPERSION

Building the tower was a case of clear-cut DEFIANCE of God. In the first place, God had promised never to send another universal Flood; the tower builders said God had lied (and they decided that to protect themselves from another Flood they should build a great tower whose top would reach above the deepest flood waters.) In the second place, the Flood had destroyed only evil persons; God Himself had protected the faithful. The tower builders were saying that they would live exactly as they pleased, and would protect themselves. God was superfluous.

LANGUAGE CONFOUNDED

God met the challenge as only He could.

Very quickly, the rebels discovered that they could not communicate with one another. There was a multiplication of the languages (by miraculous means, I believe), so that people were unable to speak with one another. Family groups were not able to get on with other family groups. People now wanted to get away from each other. The inevitable result was that those who understood each other moved off together.

So began the DISPERSION from the Mesopotamian plain in all directions across the super-continent.

"LANGUAGES BIRTH" EVIDENCE

Imagine a town where suddenly many, many different languages were spoken. In the confusion, what would you do? Firstly, everyone would find those who speak their own language. Then decisions would be made about what to do next. It would be almost impossible to continue planting, harvesting, building, with those whom you can't communicate with. Especially back then when there were no translators.

The next step would most likely be to find a separate place to live. You'd need room to raise your crops; fields for your flocks; and space to build a permanent settlement. Some language groups may set out and settle 25 miles from the original town; others would have to travel 100 miles or

even more before they could find a suitable location. As time passed, the land nearby would already be taken and new groups would have to travel further and further away to find a suitable location. Some might be more ambitious and travel much, much further – perhaps 1,000 miles away. But, as with all things, there would remain remnants of many, many of the original language groups in the general area.

And today, nowhere else on earth can you find so many different tongues being spoken in such a small area: "Many ancient races and tribes still inhabit the Caucasus [the mountains above Noah's Ark which form the northern barrier of the Araxes plain] and the Armenian plateau of eastern Anatolia. As many as fifty different languages and dialects are spoken in this vast and, in parts, inaccessible region." ("Legends of the World", edited by Richard Cavendish, 1989, p.137) "Strabo informs us (Book XI,5), that no less than seventy Dialects were spoken in the country, which even then was called the Mountain of Languages." ("The New Learned History" encyclopaedia, 1922, col VIII, p.6,743)

The further one travels from this area, the fewer languages we find being spoken in an area (with the exception of cases of immigration, such as in the USA and Australia). This evidence alone is sufficient to show where the languages began.

And on December 1, 2003, more news broke. Auckland University (New Zealand) researchers Russell Gray and Quentin Atkinson stunned academics around the world by tracing the origins of the English language to Turkish farmers. Their research was published in the British journal *Nature*. So again, Turkey was shown to be the origin of languages. (See our new book, *The Corpse Came Back*, Chapter 5.)

WHAT ABOUT "WRITING"?

The evidence also indicates that it was a number of years later before the fully formed systems of writing were developed. And therefore the only written records after the Flood begin several centuries later.

Eventually they would begin to figure out each other's language, but this would have taken time.

When true writing systems were organised, many times they contained bilingual inscriptions, or the same message written side by side in two or more languages, which indicates the presence of numerous languages in the area.

"In Anatolia, at least, the ethnic and linguistic situation seems to have been exceedingly complex... Although few, if any inscriptions are available for this region before the rise of the Hittite empire, about 1800 (B.C.)... there were certainly a great variety of languages and cultures functioning within a comparatively small area. Tablets from the Hittite archives at Boghaz Keui are written in at least 17 different languages, several of which cannot be related to any known linguistic stocks." ("The Tree of Culture", Ralph Linton, 1955, p.314).

Here we have proof that within a few hundred years, there were people capable of translating "at least 17 different languages"!

LANGUAGE GROUPS

The Table of Nations (Genesis 10) gives us a photo-start breakdown of the language groups which were formed into nations at the time of the Babel dispersion (Gen.10:31).

The figure given in that table of anything up to 46 basic language groups is not unrealistic in regard to the active language groups in the world today.

From these originals, the languages of the earth have developed. Of course, there are now thousands of languages, but there is a definite grouping of them (Aboriginal, Sino-Tibetic, Dravidian, etc., etc.). Careful study of these basic modern language groups shows that they are not in excess of the number allowed for in Genesis 10.

While the biblical story of the confusion of tongues and the forced worldwide dispersion from Babel is commonly ridiculed by skeptics, there is certainly no better explanation for the origin of the different families of languages. Evolutionists are unable to account for even the origin of human language itself.

NO EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE

No society is known at any point in history which did not have a fully developed language. ("Encyclopaedia Brittanica", 15th ed., Macrop., vol.19, p.1033). Even today's so-called "primitive" tribes possess the most complex, sophisticated languages. We find no support at all for any kind of evolutionary development of language. Certainly there has been much change, but not in a simple-to-complex sequence. This is most significant.

If anything, the evidence clearly shows that languages have become simplified out of a more complex past. We see indications of deterioration after a previous higher level which hints at catastrophic events.

As far as we know, there is no sign that any language spoken today has had a shorter history or a slower development than any other.

WORLDWIDE TRADITIONS OF THE BABEL TONGUES CONFUSION

The native Mexican chronicler, Ixtilxochitl, in his *Relaciones*, records an ancient Toltec tradition that the descendants of the Flood survivors built a "zacuali" (tower) of great height. After this, their tongues became confused and, not understanding one another, they went to different parts of the world. The 7 families who spoke the Toltec language set out for the New World. They wandered 104 years over large extents of land and water. Finally they arrived at Huehue Tlapallan in the year One Flint, 520 years after the Flood.

Other peoples, such as the Chaldeans, and Hindus and the Chiapa of the Americas, to name a few, were discovered with a tradition which not only agrees with the Scripture account of the manner in which Babel was built, but with the confusion of tongues and the subsequent dispersal.

From ancient Sumer comes a passage in *Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta*: "The whole universe, the people in unison, To Enlil **in one tongue** gave praise." ("*The Sumerians*", S.N. Kramer, 1970, pp.284-5) While "Enlil" was the "god" to whom "the whole universe" gave praise, another ancient Sumerian text says it was "Enki" (sometimes called "the son of Enlil") ("*Larousse World Mythology*", 1965, p.58) who was responsible for the "confounding of the languages": "Enki... **Changed the speech in their mouths/brought contention into it/Into the speech of man that [until then] had been one."** ("*The Pentateuch in its Cultural Environment*", G.H. Livingstone, 1974, p.144)

There are Australian Aboriginal tribal legends which appear to be corrupted memories of the events up to and including the time they separated from the other peoples at Babel. These legends include the "dispersion of the tongues" which occurred at Babel.

THE DISPERSION OF THE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Geneses 10:10 includes some more information on Nimrod and his kingdom: "And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar."

Where were these cities?



Nimrod was the son of Cush, who was the son of Ham. The Cushites were those who settled in Egypt, Arabia, and Ethiopia. But Nimrod's cities that were "the beginning of his kingdom" were in "the land of Shinar", which we discussed earlier. In the next Scripture, we learn that it was FROM this area which contained Nimrod's cities which Asshur, a son of Shem, LEFT to found HIS cities: "Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, And Resen between Nineveh and Calah." (v.11,12)

The chronology of the Bible indicates that the direction of travel was FIRST from the original home near Noah's Ark to the plain of Shinar; THEN, from this area (where Nimrod's kingdom had its start), Asshur went OUT to found his cities.

This indicates that Nimrod's first cities were between Babel (or in the vicinity) and wherever Asshur's cities were located.

On the map, you can see that our location of Babel is in the plain on the

banks of the Euphrates, within miles of the beginning of the Tigris. Asshur, it appears, simply began to follow the Tigris, leaving the immediate area of Babel in south-central Turkey, and founded his cities to the east.

Our conclusion is that none of Nimrod's cities have been accurately identified. The peoples who settled the later (well over 1,000 years later) city of Babylon and the region further south were NOT Cushite, as Nimrod was. And since the Cushites settled in Egypt, Arabia and Ethiopia, it seems most likely that they travelled NOT down along the Euphrates, but instead along the Mediterranean coast through Canaan which is the most direct route to these places. Also, Canaan was inhabited by the Canaanites, likewise descendants of Ham. So it makes more sense that those of the same family would tend to migrate together, even if they didn't speak the same language.

And, since Nimrod was a "leader", it makes sense that the Cushites would have tended to follow him, at least for a while; then, along the way, finding land they liked in Canaan, they settled while the others kept travelling south.

Since the Cushites ended up in Egypt, Arabia and Ethiopia, it seems likely that he ended up in that region as well. After all, the cities listed as being his are said to be "the BEGINNING of his kingdom" – SO WHERE ARE THE REST?

The ancient civilisation that exhibited the strongest evidences of Nimrod, his wife, and his son Tammuz, is Egypt – where he was worshipped as Osiris (the martyred god) and Horus (the reincarnation of Osiris).

But the bottom line is that we have no positive evidence as to the location of his cities – simply because it seems likely there was no writing system of that time left behind to record the facts.

DATE OF THE DISPERSION

Latest research places the dates of the Flood at 2345-2344 BC and that of the Babel dispersion at about 2244 BC. And let me assure you, the facts of archaeology do not demand those dates to be earlier. Donovan Courville has shown this clearly. ("The Exodus Problem", 1971)

From her research, Mary Nell Wyatt suggests that the Babel event was around 150 to 175 years after the Flood (2198-2148 BC), based on how long it may have taken to have enough people. She considers that the

people were at Babel for a number of years before the confusion of languages occurred – and that the "dividing of the earth" occurred a number of years after this.

In two ancient records - the Bible and the Book of Jasher - a man named Peleg is linked to this "dividing". And since since the chronologies show Peleg as having died in about 2008 BC – 340 years after the Great Flood - it had to have occurred by then at the latest. But our timing for the Babel event is only a rough estimate, based upon other figures that are known. The only absolute number of years from the time of the Flood which the Bible gives relating to these events relates to the death of Peleg.

Independent calculations by the noted anthropologist linguist, Terrence Kaufmann, support this general period of time in a remarkable manner. A study was undertaken in the language of the Maya of Central America. Norman Hammond reports:

"It is accepted that all Maya languages derive from a single extinct ancestor, known as proto-Mayan, and the antiquity of this ancestor has been estimated by a technique known as glottochronology or lexicostatistics, developed and applied to Mesoamerican languages by the late Morris Swadesh. The basic assumption (not universally accepted by linguists) is that over a given period, say 1,000 years, all languages will change to approximately the same extent, in this case 14%: two languages of common parentage, separated for 1,000 years, will each have changed 14% of their vocabulary, and since the same words need not have been changed in each language, they will in fact share 74% of cognate, related words (74% being 86% of the 86% remaining unchanged in each language), according to the calculations of Terrence Kaufmann. Thus the Mayan language family began to break up from the common proto-Mayan before 2000 BC, and retains a common 26% - 35% of cognate words: the linguistic reconstruction suggests that the Maya came into existence as a separate entity more than four thousand years ago, and recent archaeological work not only confirms this, but indicates an even greater antiquity for the Maya as a cultural entity." (Norman Hammond, "Ancient Maya Civilization", 1982, pp.92,93)

In *The Corpse Came Back*, we provide evidence of a massive splitting of the continental areas which occurred rapidly in historical times, as a consequence of the violent disruption of the earth's crust in the aftermath of the Great Flood. This, we believe, occurred AFTER the confusion of languages when the people had left Babel and travelled to the various parts of the world. This would result in isolating different groups of people, as well as animals, on continents and islands, thus accounting for the survival of some unique species (isolated from predators but wiped out elsewhere)

in places like Australia, New Zealand and the Galapagos, that are found nowhere else on earth. This would also account for the separation and isolation of many races.

And since the Deity's purpose in "dividing the earth" (according to the records) was to ensure that the population continued to spread around the earth instead of migrating back to one central location, it makes sense that it would not have taken place until sufficient numbers of peoples had spread to the various locations.

Part 4

THE CIVILISATIONS THAT FOLLOWED

We cannot even imagine what the world was like around the Ark's landing place when the animal kingdom was reintroduced to the earth. It must have been terrifying at times, especially after the animals had grown in numbers. As families grew, it would have been necessary to build their homes in groups where they could protect themselves and their domesticated flocks and herds from the rapidly increasing numbers of predatory animals.

The wild animals were multiplying faster than the people. Predators such as lions and tigers, for example, reproduce in litters, having 6 or more young at a time, with very short gestation periods, compared to people and domesticated animals like cattle, sheep and goats, who generally produce only one or 2 offspring at a time with much longer gestation periods.

NEED FOR PROTECTION

It would be extremely important for families to remain together for mutual protection and that of their flocks and herds.

Ancient sites in Turkey have revealed large stone walls which, in the absence of any evidence of invaders, could only have been for protection from the wild animals. Also many ancient homes have been found which had no doorway but were entered through the roof by ladders which also could have been for this purpose.

The Asikli site is a good example. Asikli, a 15 metre (15-foot) high mound, stands on the western side of present-day Turkey's Konya plain, to the south-east of the town of Aksaray.

Here, entry and exit to the dwellings was via holes in the roof.

In various ancient sites, some houses were built side by side almost as one single unit, with doors entering a central courtyard with a single exit to the outside.

Also many buried their dead below a stone slab under the floor of their houses; this could very well have been to protect them from being dug up and eaten by animals. Man has long recognised the necessity of preventing

animals from acquiring a taste for human flesh. A good example of this is the "man-eating tigers" of which we hear occasionally.

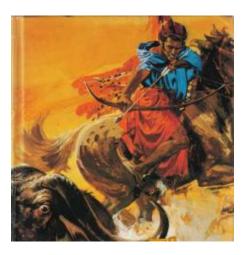
At Asikli, the dead were buried beneath the rooms' floors. They were interred complete with their jewellery. One woman has been found adorned with necklaces of beads, semi-precious stones and copper. (This is one of the very earliest known examples in the world of the use of metallurgy.)

The rapid growth of the predators must have made life very dangerous for the first, straggling populations. The situation was still the same 800 years later when the Israelites were entering their promised land:

"I will not drive them [the Hivite, the Hittite and the Canaanite] out from before thee in one year, **lest the land become desolate**, and the BEASTS OF THE FIELD MULTIPLY AGAINST THEE." (Ex.23:29)

NIMROD THE HUNTER

"And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord." (Gen.10:8,9)



I believe Nimrod established himself as the great "protector" of the people as he hunted down and killed these fierce animals. And this would have given him great influence and power among the people. It was he who **gathered** the people together and **organised** them to fight the wild and ferocious beasts.

There is a great deal of evidence of animals in the region which are no longer found there (hippopotami, elephants, cave bear, hyaena, and so on). These were not pre-Flood fossils; they were post-Flood animals.

Nimrod emancipated the people after the Flood from their fear of the wild animals. His prestige grew. He became the leader in secular affairs. He was ambitious. So it was that Nimrod built a city of houses and surrounded this city with a high wall and gathered the people therein. Thus the people were protected and Nimrod was able to rule over them.

PAGANISM IS BORN

If Nimrod had simply delivered the people from the fear of wild beasts, that would have been fine. But not content with this, he now set out to deliver them from the respect of God.

Nimrod wanted to be the "shining star" – the supreme one. And we shall explain how this was accomplished.

One early type of idol found all through the area is the "mother goddess of fertility". After the Flood, first and foremost in importance among the people would have been procreation – having children, as well as rapid growth in supply of animals and crops. Also, there is early evidence of nature worship, such as the sun and moon.



Everything was dependent on the sun for life. The moon was perhaps looked upon as pertaining to the seasons for planting, etc.

Interestingly, the early pantheons of "gods" consisted of EIGHT – the same number of people who came through the Great Flood and founded the new world. To these eight "gods" were assigned separate attributes of the true God. But things expanded from there. Thus the concept of ancestor worship entered the new pagan religious system.

In fact, some of the very concepts that originated with Nimrod have remained through the ages and their influence can be found in almost every religion of today.

HOW COULD THE PEOPLE TURN FROM THEIR ORIGINAL FAITH SO QUICKLY?

The evidence available on this subject indicates to us that Nimrod was the person who developed the concept of the sun god – and, in fact, claimed to be the god, himself.

How could this happen?

Let's reflect back to their situation. Mankind was "beginning again", so to speak.

So long as the people remained around Noah in the Araxas Valley, they were exposed to the knowledge of the true God. But life was hard. Before the Flood, when mankind had first been placed upon this earth, it was perfect. Now, after the disastrous Flood, the entire face of the earth was harsh and rugged. Plants had to be cultivated, animals had to be bred and cared for. Everything had to be re-established under the harshest of conditions.

Hearing and re-hearing the story of the Flood and the wickedness of mankind which had brought about the Flood, it appears that in time, the majority of the people wanted to get away from Noah and his God, and "make US a name".

It appears that they also wanted a "new god", or religion, or at least accepted it quite readily. Noah's God couldn't be seen. The people decided they wanted something **visible**, even if only in a stone statue or in the physical presence of the sun.

Of course, the Creator (Noah's God) had "ruined" the world – first with a destructive world Flood, and now, for hundreds of years, the climate resulting from that cataclysm was wet, cold and largely sunless. This aftermath of the Flood would persist for centuries.

But the sun – now, **that** was warm and cheery – why couldn't that be their god? After all, it gave LIFE to everything, didn't it? And so SUN WORSHIP began to take root.

So it was that Nimrod – and later powerful leaders – could get the people to do **anything** they wanted by convincing them that they (the leaders) were, as it were, "god in the flesh", or at least the god's chosen representative on earth. And that they MUST obey this "god" (or "god's representative").

AFTER BABEL: TO THE REGIONS BEYOND

As we have researched and pored over the archaeological journals, there is one concept which we keep coming across in reference to the EARLIEST SITES. It is in regard to the surprising (to them, not to us!) extent of TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE possessed by these peoples.

You must remember that today it is taught that man began as an apelike critter who stumbled across fire after a lightning strike. He then progressed to man-like, but was extremely primitive, hunting with crude stone implements, eating the flesh off the bones because he had no pottery or utensils. And then one day he suddenly began to plant crops and raise herds.

I suggest you keep this in mind when you read archaeological reports; and totally disregard the dates they assign to different sites.

We will be wise to concentrate ONLY on the evidence – and what it alone reveals.

NO EVIDENCE THAT CIVILISATION EVOLVED FROM PRIMITIVE STATE

For example, they have excavated sites in central and eastern Turkey which show absolutely NO evidence of evolving from a primitive civilisation through the various stages to that of a people who possessed advanced technical knowledge.

"In these centres, up to now, no trace of an older civilization has been discovered.... A great problem remains unsolved. How are we to account for the fact that in these regions these [supposed earlier primitive cultures] have left no traces whatsoever?" (Raci Temizer, "Museum of Anatolian Civilizations", 1969, p.52)

DIVERSITY BETWEEN SETTLEMENTS

After Babel, there were obviously groups that left the region entirely, and some that settled in the immediate and nearby regions. Individual abilities within each group would now be limited; some groups would have those experienced in metallurgy, some in pottery, some in art, some in construction, and so on. Thus we must expect to find some diversity in the earliest settlements.

And that is precisely what is found.

However, this has caused puzzlement to the archaeologist who continue to try to date each site based on the premise that man had uniformly evolved through various stages.

We have already noted that at some sites the people built their homes with no doors – they were entered via ladders. Catal Huyuk, about 150 to 200 miles west of the Babel region, is another good example of this. Was this perhaps as protection from the wild animals?

Other sites revealed houses with very thick walls entered through doors. And here we see the diversity that suddenly arose when the people were divided by the language barrier.

Everyone, it seems, has a theory on how something should be done. And each group now had no choice but to do it the only way they knew how – for they no longer had access to that great "pool of knowledge" that man had once possessed when all spoke the same language.

And these homes were **not** primitive. Common building practices included wooden frames with mud-bricks then plastered with lime. Many times they show evidences of having been replastered many, many times, much as we would paint our homes when they begin to flake.

The pottery, which is used as a basis for dating, has also thrown a wrench into the works. It is baffling to the established view, because these early sites display much variation in their styles and decoration.

At one site, when archaeologists reached the earliest level, they found almost no pottery. This led them to believe these people were primitive and used no eating utensils. But then, they discovered carbonised wooden dishes and vessels, along with basketry.

The styles of pottery vary from site to site, considerably. Some are made without straw, while some are made with straw. Some are one colour,

some are another. Some have beautiful multi-coloured designs while some have none, or simply geometric designs drawn into the clay without any colour at all.

If traditional interpretations were correct, this would mean that each site represented a different time period in the evolution of mankind.

Yet these same sites present some very obvious similarities which show that they existed during the same time period.

For example, **almost all** (except some of the small villages) show evidence of **metallurgy**, which is also quite puzzling to archaeologists. Concerning one site in southern Turkey this statement is made: "The perforation of large objects like maceheads presented no difficulty; but it was another matter with **the drilling** of some of the stone beads, including those of obsidian, which have **perforations too fine for a modern steel needle. It is quite uncertain how this was achieved....**" (Burney & Lang, *The People of the Hills*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1971, p.21)

VERY ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE

The bottom line is this: In the regions extending out from south central Turkey (our site for Babel) the archaeological evidence reveals very early villages and towns whose earliest level (on virgin soil) presents concrete evidences of people who possessed very advanced technical knowledge. "...recent, revolutionary finds have left no doubt that it is in the Southern regions of Central Anatolia that Neolithic civilization achieved its greatest progress." (Raci Temizer, p.18)

THE GREAT "POOL" OF KNOWLEDGE DIVIDED UP AMONG THE PEOPLE

Archaeologists have designed their own little system for dating the age of sites that they excavate. These systems are based on the premise of evolution and the idea that man gradually progressed from an ape to a primitive hunter, to a crude agriculturalist, then on to a farmer who domesticated animals, and so on.

But that is **NOT** WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS! In fact, when simple, factual evidence is removed from the theories that are presented with it as fact, a very clear picture emerges.

The evidence shows that when man first appeared in north-eastern Turkey, he appeared with very advanced knowledge. This is evidenced by the sophisticated metallurgy of the region, as well as the completely developed masonry and construction techniques.

But for a moment, we must consider another aspect of the confounding of the languages. While the population as a whole possessed a wide variety of knowledge and abilities, when they suddenly were cut off from one another by the language barrier, they would no longer have access to the great "pool" of pre-Flood knowledge. Each language group would have only the knowledge and abilities of those within their own group.

Therefore, we would expect some to excel in metallurgy while others excelled in animal husbandry or crop cultivation. Some groups would have people who were talented artists while others would have those who were knowledgeable in engineering and construction.

From this point on, we would expect more diversity in the early settlements – even in those relatively close to one another.

Traditional archaeologists and paleontologists, not believing the biblical account but instead assuming evolution, classify these various groups of people who may excel in one aspect and display a total absence of another.

Those who mainly hunted (using spearheads and arrowheads of flint, etc) but did little or no farming are classified as "Paleolithic" or stone age. But 20 miles away another settlement that farmed and had domesticated animals are classified as "Neolithic", as though they were thousands of years later than the other group.

One group whose pottery was painted nicer and with more colours than their neighbours whose pottery-maker wasn't an artist and whose designs were crude were dated perhaps 1,000 years after the second group. But, in fact, these folks all lived at the same time.

This situation can be distinctly seen in the region of our suggested Babel site, the area of south-eastern Turkey. Some settlements had round houses, while others were rectangular. Their pottery varied – some displaying great artistic flair, while others were sensible and usable, but not works of art.

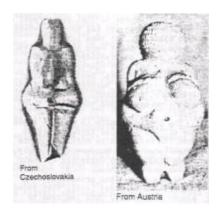
ART AND RELIGION

These early settlements demonstrate some very interesting features. For one, there is no evidence of invaders. It appears that they lived here for a while and then simply disappeared, packing up and leaving.

But there are evidences that indicate where at least some of them went. In all of the early sites there have been found strange, grotesque figures of a woman, some standing, some sitting, some with animals, some with children. The indication is that she represents the "mother goddess of fertility".

This concept is represented in the other early religions by the Egyptian Isis, the Assyro-Babylonian Ishtar, the Phoenician Astarte, the Iranian Ashi, the Greek Amphrodite and the Roman Venus, to list a few. But by the time these others appear, they are in an organised system of gods and goddesses. This early goddess found in Turkey (see below, in a figure found at Catal Huyuk) is the original from which the others developed.





It is easy to understand that once Noah's offspring began to slip from the worship of the Creator and fell into paganism, one of their biggest concerns and focal points would be that of fertility.

Remember, they started out on an earth devoid of everything – animals, crops and people. Their survival depended upon crops and animals, and of

course they wanted a large family. The more children, the more to help with the work and the things that had to be done.

And the fact that these figures are found in all of the early settlements indicates that "she" was a common "goddess" among the people prior to Babel. The homes and pottery might differ, but the good old "goddess" is always identifiable.

We know that after the early peoples left Turkey, they eventually scattered all over the world. Since the archaeological evidence shows that these early settlements were not destroyed or conquered by a foreign people, the logical explanation is that at least some of them headed south, north, west and east, taking their "mother goddesses" with them.

MIGRATED WITH MUCH ORIGINAL KNOWLEDGE

Here is something quite startling to adherents of the traditional view. These dispersed groups, in their traditions, cherished the memory of biblical events, such as the garden of Eden; the temptation by the serpent medium; and the expulsion of our first parents. They also shared in common the racial memory of a global Flood. And not only that. World racial memory also supports the biblical account of the Tower of Babel, the sudden language confusion and the dispersion that resulted. These events are recalled in numerous and widespread traditions.

But the scattered branches of mankind understandably have no knowledge of the later events recorded in Scripture – those events which occurred AFTER they were separated from one another.

Does that tell us something?

Oh, and another thing. The dispersed groups also knew about animal sacrifices that foreshadowed a promised divine World Rescuer who was to come – and His violent death as a sacrifice for mankind. As well as His ultimate victory over the serpent. The various races knew these things and taught them to their children.

This explains why most religions (now degenerate) involved animal sacrifices and gave special honour (or abhorrence) to snakes.

All these are part of the evidence that the Bible basis of history is true.

HOW SOME SOCIETIES BECAME PRIMITIVE

In a remarkably short time the Hamitic branch of mankind (the coloured races) had established beachheads of settlement in every part of the world. Many of the dispersing groups were plunged into an "instant stone age" through loss of metal technology (or loss of its easy availability).

With little or no technology when they arrived (but with knowledge they had brought), they used stone or whatever was handy. Top priority was survival. But as time passed and survival was secured, and they had time to sit down and work again with metals, they did so.

To a modern archaeologist this might appear as development of culture, whereas it was really just an expression of culture, now that the question of survival had been settled.

So, on the evidence, it is **not** necessary to assume that men developed over long periods of time. Around the world, men could be at different levels of technology at the same time – just as they are today. AND THE EVIDENCE FOR THAT IS VERY, VERY STRONG.

ASSHUR LEFT NIMROD'S FIRST KINGDOM TO FOUND HIS KINGDOM

Asshur is stated to have founded Nineveh, Rehoboth, Calah and Resen. On the Tigris River, south-east of where we believe Babel was, are the remains of an extremely large ancient city identified as Nineveh. The written evidences show this to have been the name, and it seems likely that this is correct. Whether the city identified as Calah is correct cannot be proven.

There is something that we must take into consideration. We know that when the colonists first arrived in what were to become the United States, New Zealand and Australia, they named their new towns and rivers after those they knew in England.

We know that Noah and his family named two of the rivers near them after two of those they knew from the pre-Flood world, the Tigris and the Euphrates. Ancient cities were many times named after the person, or head of the family, who first settled there. And later, sometimes they would be named after the gods of the city, who were "deified" ancestors. Therefore, if someone founded a city and then left it to go somewhere else, it is possible that whoever moved into that city gave it a new name. These are all possibilities which must be taken into account.

For this reason, we remain unsure about Asshur's cities, with the exception of Nineveh. However, there is evidence, which we shall next discuss, indicating that the cities in the region later called "Babylonia" were founded by Asshur ("Assyria") or at least his descendants.

BABYLON WAS NOT NIMROD'S CITY

Next, we must note that the city of "Babylon" (of over 1,000 years after the dispersion from Babel) and its region "the land of the Chaldeans" mentioned in the Old Testament (beginning with 2 Kings 17:24 through to the end of the Old Testament) is NOT the same city or kingdom Nimrod founded. The city and the region later called Babylonia was actually founded by the Assyrians:

"Behold the land of the Chaldeans; this people was not, till the Assyrian founded it for them that dwell in the wilderness: they set up the towers thereof, they raised up the palaces thereof; and he brought it to ruin." (Isa.23:13)

The earliest inscription referring to Babylon appears on the Sargonic text of Sar-kali-Sarri and reveals that the Hebrew word is a Semitic pronounciation of the Hurrian word, "Papil/Papal" (New International Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology, Zondervan, 1983, p.245)

In the Sumerian records, its oldest name was "ka-dingir", which meant "gate of god" in Sumerian.

We then learn from the ancient inscriptions that Babylon was, at its beginning, NOT the capital of a powerful nation but a provincial centre under the so-called Third Dynasty of Ur (located far to the south near the Persian Gulf). It next became the nucleus of a small Amorite kingdom called the "Dynasty of the Martu" – the famous Hammurabi was the sixth king of this dynasty. And from there, Babylon was conquered again and again by different people.

To state it plainly, the land later called Babylonia was founded by the descendants of Asshur ("the Assyrian"), who left the area of Babel and travelled south-east along the Tigris, building Nineveh and the other cities mentioned in Genesis 10:10.

"Babylonia" was called "the land of the Chaldeans" when King Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar (a Chaldean) defeated the **Assyrians** in the battle for Babylon and took the throne there in about 626

BC. (Jack Finegan, Archaeological History of the Ancient Middle East, Dorset Press, 1979, p.124)

With him began the supremacy of the "Chaldean" empire which took over Babylon.

WHERE WERE THESE CHALDEANS FROM?

The evidence shows that the Chaldeans' homeland included the area of south central Turkey, because inscriptions have been found which tell that both Nebuchadnezzar (second king of the Chaldean empire) and Nabonidus (last king of the empire, whose son Belshazzar was co-regent in Babylon) built temples to "Sin", the moon-god in HARRAN, about 80 to 100 miles south of our site for Babel in Turkey. Inscriptions also show that Nabonidus and his mother were both FROM Harran.

With reference to the term "Chaldees", the Urartuans or those from the greater Ararat region in Turkey, called their collection of gods "khaldis" and their supreme god "Khaldi".

WHY THE BELIEF THAT BABYLON WAS BABEL

The reason why it has been assumed that Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon was the original Babel is because "when the Jews were carried captive into Babylonia, they were struck with the vast magnitude and peculiar character of certain of the Babylonian temples, in one or other of which they thought to recognise as the very tower [of Babel] itself." (William Smith, *Smith's Bible Dictionary*. Fleming H. Revelle Co., reprinted 1979, p.68, under subject "Tower of Babel").

THE MAJOR CIVILISATIONS AFTER BABEL

When we investigate the fabulous ancient remains found in Egypt, Sumeria and the Indus Valley (the latter in present-day Pakistan), we discover things that cannot be explained except by the biblical account. These things have been forgotten – eliminated from most publications except perhaps the original excavation reports or other obscure books and papers.

What follows may surprise you.

Part 5

THE MAJOR CIVILISATIONS AFTER BABEL

After Babel, we know that the people began to migrate to the different regions of the world.

Discoveries during the past century or so have shown that the EARLIEST and MOST ADVANCED civilisations were along the fertile rivers of THE MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST – areas that were once lush and beautiful, but today are desolate, barren desert regions.

ONE MAJOR CENTRE: DESTROYED IN A FEW MOMENTS

One very advanced early civilisation leaves us no evidence whatsoever except ashes and shapes.

The Canaanite cities of the Jordan region – Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities of the plain – were without doubt a most important centre in the ancient world, for they were attached by 4 kings of entire nations with their armies. Now that we know where they were located and their sizes, we know that they rivalled the early great cities of Egypt and Sumeria in all ways. Sadly, we cannot look upon their homes and temples except to view the ashen shapes.

THREE "INSTANT" CIVILISATIONS

Archaeology has revealed three major civilisations that sprang up from "nowhere", so to speak. They were highly civilised, had governments, possessed vast technology and a fully developed writing system.

We believe there is no room for doubt that these were the three earliest large civilisations formed just after Babel.

What we have discovered in their ancient remains is evidence that these people were highly intelligent and far more advanced than those civilisations that followed them.



The locations of the 3 earliest civilisations after Babel can be seen as the blackened areas on the above map.

DEGENERATION FOLLOWED

The evolutionist teaches that things evolve into "higher" or better states. However, the laws of nature show that everything degrades into a chaotic state. There's a saying that we begin to die the moment we are born. Well, that's the way with all things.

Mankind began to lose knowledge the moment he was "born" after the Flood. And we would have degraded into a complete loss of technical knowledge and ability except for the divine assistance provided in fulfilment of prophecy: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the **time of the end**: many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall be increased**." (Dan.12:4)

It is my belief that we are now in that time – and is it just a coincidence that the VAST majority of achievements in technology of every kind has been made in the past 200 years?

For those who want to know the Truth, there can be no denying what the evidence shows: everything happened exactly as the Bible said.

THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

When the numerous groups left Babel, just as when they left their original homes near Noah, they had to follow a river or coastline as much as possible. Following the Euphrates or the Tigris to the delta region near the Persian Gulf, then following the coastline east thru' present-day Iran into present-day Pakistan, we find the Indus River. Along this valley has been found evidence of a very advanced, very unique civilisation that sprang up

suddenly and existed at the same time as earliest Sumer – a unique civilisation built by those who left Babel.

Today, this Indus region, north-west of modern India, is not a pleasant place. Except for the narrow strip of green along the river where artificial irrigation systems have been built, this is a forbidding, sandy desert, 120 degrees F. in the shade in the summer. It is one of the last places on earth one would expect to find the remains of cities. Yet, all along this river, a civilisation stretched 1,000 miles in length, covering more than twice as large an area as ancient Egypt or Sumer.

The most famous of its discovered cities, Mohenjo-Daro, was a PRE-PLANNED city.

Some of the houses are so well preserved that they could be occupied today, and use made of the bathroom as well as the irrigation and drainage services.



The city lacked neither grandeur nor comfort. It contained a most ingenious and complete drainage system.

"The brick conduits, arranged under the streets, received the efflux from pipes placed in each house, and were linked to stone sewers. At intervals these sewers were supplied with cesspools which were easy to clean, while it was only necessary to move a few bricks to clean out the small drains in the streets if they became blocked up.... They constructed a whole system of water mains which collected the water from the rain falling outside the city and distributed it via ingenious brick conduits which conducted it to wells in each house.... These water mains fed the bathrooms. Each house possessed its own – and they were much the same as those still in use in India today." (Marcel Brion, *The World of Archaeology*, 2 Vols. MacMillan Co., 1959, Vol. 1, pp.97-98)



An arched drain at Mohenjo-Daro... still waterproof

In some houses, a built seat-latrine of Western-type is included on the ground or first floor. And they had a most modern approach to waste disposal.

I suspect that this advanced knowledge of waste-disposal, and so on, came from one who had expert knowledge of the subject, after living with 7 other folk over a year in a survival vessel filled with animals of every kind!

EVERYDAY ITEMS

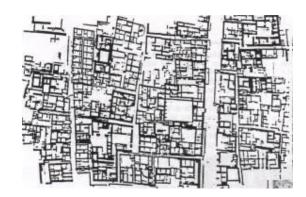
These people fashioned elaborate jewellery, augur drills, household utensils, toilet outfits, coins, dice and chessmen.

In one house archaeologists uncovered lipstick. "This stick, one end of which is worn – to whose lips was it last applied five thousand years ago? – lay on a small low table beside vases of kohl (eye make-up), flasks of perfume, hairpins and bronze razors." (Brion, Vol 1, p.113)

They even had cats and dogs in their streets. A brick found in the city of Chanhu-Daro bears the imprint of a cat's foot slightly overlapped by that of a dog. When the brick was laid out to dry prior to going into the kiln, the cat must have whisked across the bricks at a high rate of speed, followed by the speeding dog, which is evidenced by the deep impress of their footpads.

ONLY ONE ANSWER MAKES SENSE

The archaeologists and scholars tell the tale themselves, of this civilisation that seemingly "came from nowhere":



Layout of Mohenjo-Daro

"A civilisation as complex as that of the Indus Valley does not spring fullblown out of nowhere. But that is exactly what appears to have happened at Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. They are cities built from scratch. The archaeologists of the future will have to account for this mysterious improbably breakthrough of civilization in the Indus Valley, circa 2500 B.C." (James Mellaart, *Earliest Civilizations of the Near East*. Thames and Hudson, London, 1965, p.107)

Well, the answer, to this mystery is simple, and, in fact, the ONLY answer. The pieces of the puzzle of mankind will never fit except in the context of the biblical account.

EGYPT

The world has been fascinated with ancient Egypt for the past 200 years, and due to the abundance of artefacts, much is known about this early civilisation.

However, as usual, for the most part the evidences have been "explained" in light of men's theories instead of the eyewitness biblical account and the true picture has been distorted.

For example, when "king lists" have been found, they have been construed to be a continual list – one after another – when, in fact, it is now known that different kings ruled at the same time in different parts of Egypt. Because of this error, scholars proclaim that the Egyptians go back to the time PRIOR TO the Great Flood.

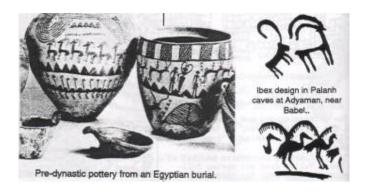
WHERE THEY CAME FROM

It is the earliest period of Egypt that is the least known, but it is from these evidences that we find the information which relates to "where these people came from".

Most of the evidence of this earliest period comes from burials, which have revealed that Egypt's earliest inhabitants were also highly civilised and in possession of technical knowledge. Although their earliest cities have not survived to tell their tales as have those of the Indus Valley, we have learned from their earliest burials that they had boats, wore elaborate jewellery, make-up and clothes of woven fabric, ate with ivory spoons, and worked in gold, silver and lead, to mention just a few.

The earliest object ever found made of **laminated** wood (plywood) (other than the deck timber from the wreck of the Ark) was in early Egypt – "a coffin whose sides were made of six thin superimposed layers of wood with the grain alternating as in modern plywood". (Jean-Philippe Lauer, *Saqqara*, p.99)

Their common point of origin is again found. Below is seen some pottery from a pre-dynastic Egyptian burial. Note the ibex (goat with long, curved horns) on the Egyptian vase. Now note the smaller picture of an ibex from the Palanh caves near Adyaman (a little west of Babel).



Their common point of origin? The region of Babel.

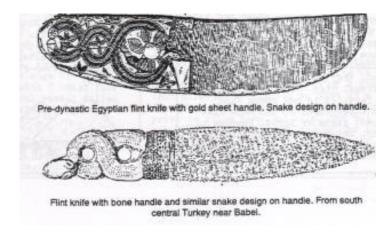
Another similarity is seen when compares some Egyptian pottery with the design found on pottery in Arpachiyah, north of Nineveh and east of the Tigris. The design of storks or herons in Mesopotamia is virtually identical to the design of ostriches on the Egyptian vase.

Such **repetition** and usage of animals in designs are SHARED FEATURES that didn't just "evolve" independently among these very separate early civilisations.

These were designs, themes and motifs used when the people were one, united in language and purpose.

After Babel, when they went their separate ways, they carried with them the methods and themes of design used by their families when they lived at their original home in Anatolia.

Another, more impressive, similarity is seen in the knives shown below. The first knife, found in a pre-dynastic Egyptian burial, is made of flint with a gold sheet handle. But of importance is the "snake" design on the handle. Now compare with the second picture of a knife, also from a burial, also made of flint but with a bone handle. And where did this second knife come from? It came from south central Turkey, in a male burial at Catal Huyuk, near Babel.



SUMERIA

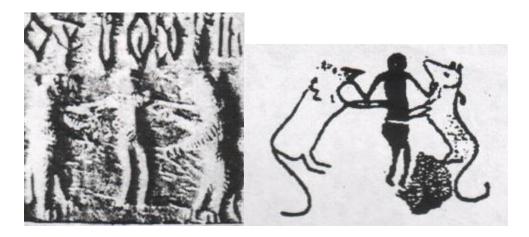
The appearance around the SAME TIME of Sumerian civilisation was likewise sudden, unexpected and "out of nowhere".

"H. Frankfort (Tell Uqair) called it 'astonishing'. Pierre Amiet (Elam) termed it 'extraordinary'. A. Parrot (Sumer) described it as 'a flame which blazed up so suddenly'. Leo Oppenheim (Ancient Mesopotamia) stressed 'the astonishingly short period' within which the civilisation had arisen. Joseph Campbell describes its appearance as "with stunning abruptness". (Zecharia Sitchen, *The Twelfth Planet*, p.49)

LINKS BETWEEN THEM

These civilisations were contemporary with each other. We know this because engraved seals of Indus Valley manufacture have been found in Sumerian cities dating from the time of Sargon (just before 2000 BC). On

the island of Bahrain off the east coast of Saudi Arabia are found seals of the Indus Valley designs, along with those of Sumer.



That the three civilisations had a common origin is illustrated by the seal from the Indus Valley with the "lion-slayer" (Nimrod, the great hunter) holding two lions (or perhaps tigers) at bay, one on each side. The same theme of the "lion-slayer" is seen in the very earliest times of pre-dynastic Egypt. In this drawing from a tomb, we see the typical pose of the hero with the two lions, one on each side or in each hand.

What is so very clear from studying the themes and designs on the earliest objects and artefacts is that certain events took place PRIOR to the dispersion of the people from the Babel area – and these things are found in the artwork of each of the earliest civilisations.

From there, we can see how all the early pagan religions and earliest myths began with the same concepts, such as the "lion killer" and the "earth" of "mother goddess". After this, however, they begin to develop their own peculiarities and distinctions – the result of being separated by the language barrier.

KNOWLEDGE POSSESSED BY THE EARLIEST PEOPLE

In our book *Dead Men's Secrets* we have catalogued more than a thousand of the incredible exhibits from the lost cities of the dead. Some of these are almost unbelievable, yet they existed or still survive.

We shall touch on just a shadow of these.

OPTICAL LENSES AND EYEGLASSES

Encyclopedias and history books tell us that telescopes, microscopes and eyeglasses are an invention of the last 400 or 500 years.

Yet there is evidence that early man had these devices long, long ago.

Archaeologist Layard tells of finding a glass "lens of considerable power" along with two glass bowls in a chamber of the ruin called Nimroud. It is planoconvex, 1½ inches diameter and 9/10 of an inch thick, giving a focus at 4½ inches from the plane side. (*Nineveh and Babylon*, ch.viii, pp.16,17)

Pliny (born c.43AD) wrote that in his day "artificers used emeralds to assist the eye, and that they were made concave the better to collect the visual rays". (*Hist.Natur.*, lib. Xxxvii, c.v.) He adds that Nero used such glasses when he watched the fights of the gladiators.

Pythagorus (6th century BEFORE Christ) "sought to contrive **instruments that** should **aid hearing** as effectually as optic glasses and other contrivances aided sight." (John D. Baldwin, A.M., *Prehistoric Nations*, Harper & Brothers, 1869, p.179, citing Iamblichus, who wrote of the life of Pythagorus)

Plutarch speaks of mathematical instruments used by Archimedes "to manifest to the eye the largeness of the sun". Archimedes lived during the time of Alexander.

These are just a few of the many, many references to optical lenses. In fact, it appears that these were so common and everyday that little was thought of the importance of writing about them.

But, in time, knowledge of these devices grew less and less until it was lost – until man "reinvented" the idea more than 1,000 years after the last historical mention of them.

CONSTRUCTION

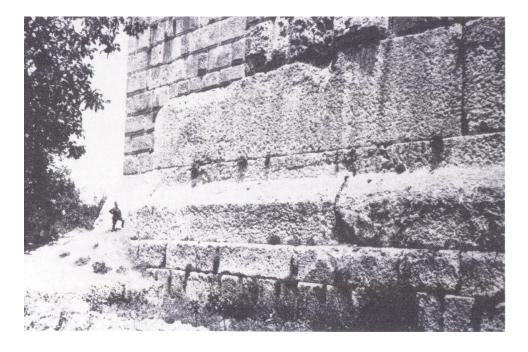
Near the edge of the mountains of Lebanon, over 700 metres (2,300 feet) above sea level, is Baalbek. Nothing is known of this site prior to the time the Romans came in and built magnificent structures over the existing remains. But it is those earlier remains which are so astonishing.

In the photo below is seen a hewn stone which measures 68 feet by 14 feet. Note the man standing by it and the one lying atop it. Today, with our sophisticated engineering methods, it is doubtful that we could even lift

Such huge stones.



But these early builders not only chiselled them out; they MOVED them!



In this other picture is the ancient foundation of a building at Baalbek which the Romans built upon much later. Note the size of the man standing on the left side, about 1/3 up from the bottom. Three great stones in this foundation measure 63 feet by 13 feet by 10 feet (20 metres by 4 metres by 3 metres) and were placed above the sub-structure which measures 23 feet (7½ metres) above ground.

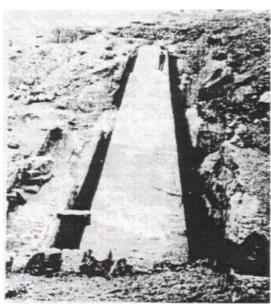
Whoever built this structure had engineering abilities beyond our wildest dreams.

This is an example of the pre-Flood knowledge passed from Noah and his sons to their descendants after the Flood.

And as time passed, man LOST much of this knowledge and ability.

Though several hundred years later, the huge towers of rock erected by the ancient Egyptians are still a feat that puzzles engineers today.

Pictured below is an obelisk at Aswan which was never finished due to flaws in the granite near its centre. Though these have been found in numerous sizes, this one measures 137 feet tall and would weigh about 1,170 tons.



Ancient dry-cell batteries, models of flying craft, computerised mechanisms and so many other surprises are emerging from the most ancient civilisations, that the mind reels. These cannot be explained by conventional evolutionary theories.

TRUE MODEL OF HISTORY

The Bible contains a model of human history. The biblical framework of history is essentially complete – from the time of Creation to the time of Jesus Christ.

It explains where all the time is, in human history. It gives mathematical documentation. If, as now appears from archaeological research, it is a valid historical document, then it is truly the yardstick by which the time framework of all ancient world history can be measured. Including, as well, the history of China, Australia, the United States and EVERY other country.

Part 6

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

In October of 1990, Ron Wyatt and Richard Reeves first visited the region of southern Turkey above the Syrian border where the Euphrates River exits the Taurus Mountains.

Richard wanted to visit Nemrut Dag, the mountain burial site of the Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes (62-32 BC) in order to examine the vast array of pagan statues there. Nemrut Dag is located at the edge of the Taurus Mountains in the region Ron wanted to search for Babel, so off they went.

After examining Nemrut Dag, the two made note of a large "hill" which looked like a "tell" away in the distance. (A "tell" is the remains of an ancient city or village covered in soil.) They felt that this one should be explored. However, pressed for time, they left for Israel. They decided that they would return as soon as possible to explore more.

In August, 1991, they returned to Turkey, accompanied by Dr Allen Roberts and Marv Wilson, to make an application to excavate the remains of Noah's Ark. After meeting with officials and receiving a verbal approval, they were told that the written permit would be issued the next "working day", which would be 4 days later due to a Turkish holiday. So they decided to use that time in looking for any trace of the Tower of Babel while they waited. Unfortunately, they were taken hostage by terrorists on their way to the region, and held for 21 days.

After this ordeal, the search for Babel was put "on hold".

THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

It was 4 years later before any of the team would consider returning to this still dangerous region.

In October, 1995, I entered the area with my wife Josephine. Ron had faxed a map with some suggested spots to explore. We hired a driver and eliminated one of these spots. Eventually we came upon an enormous tell, where we spent time surveying the remains and took samples of the brickwork cemented with pitch. A spear head so big that it had to have

been used by a giant-sized hunter, was discovered in the remains. Samples of pottery were also taken. They were covered in elaborate designs.

On November 30, Ron, his son Ronny and Bob Murrell returned to the same area.

On June 3, 1997, I came back for further work.

THE GENERAL LOCATION OF BABEL: IT MUST BE SUITABLE

To most of us, picking a location for a city may sound like an easy task. But let's think about a few things.

First of all, there were no supermarkets back then; when people chose a site, even BEFORE they began building, they had to first make arrangements for food. This meant planting crops that could be harvested as soon as the supplies they brought with them were exhausted.

They also had to immediately find pasture for their animals and settle them into the land with shepherds.

They needed to build shelter to protect themselves both from the weather and the predatory animals. I imagine this took a little time, perhaps a month, maybe more.

So we know this about the site of BABEL. It needed to have plenty of pasture land, plenty of land to cultivate crops, and, of course, a water supply.

ONLY THEN could anyone set about the business of building a city. Also, to do this, they had to find natural resources. We have already mentioned that there was a supply of ASPHALT (bitumen) in the region with which to make mortar, as required at the site, according to Gen.11:3.

They needed to also find sources for metals and to establish a metallurgic centre. They needed to plan the site, making sure that it had an adequate water supply.

IS OUR LOCATION FOR BABEL A "SUITABLE" LOCATION?

Yes on all counts. It is still today a very fertile region, producing the same size giant cabbages we noted near the Ark site.

There is an immense area of land suitable for pasturing animals. And it is level and well-watered. It is near the Euphrates.

It still contains petroleum products 4,000 years after Babel, which tells us that there was plenty of "slime" available for the mortar.

And it is a plain – level. Perfect for building a city - except for one thing. If they built the city on the alluvial soil of the plain along the river without going down to bedrock for the foundations, the structures could shift and sink, causing great damage and instability. One would think that this knowledge had been passed on to them, but perhaps it hadn't been. In fact, one legend states that after the languages were confounded and the people left Babel, God sent lightning which broke off the top 1/3 of the tower, while the lower 1/3 sank into the plain, leaving the middle 1/3 intact and above ground. Of course, this is a legend.

TWO SEGMENTS

Most of the very old traditions about the tower at Babel tell how a portion of it was struck by lightning and fell to the ground.

If this was factual, we might hope to find a "tell" which displayed evidence of such. And there was a "tell" much larger than the others seen in the area. This "tell" did have two segments — one that appeared to be structured and relatively symmetrical, like a city; it was much taller than the other "tells" in the area; and the other segment was right next to the first, graduating downward in size away from the main section like a pile of blocks that fell outward and were covered in dirt.

Climbing this "tell", one noticed a section where a small excavation had been (not recently) done. This allowed observation of the internal structure. Since this was on the uppermost portion of the "tell", it was either the topmost level of many levels built on the same site, or it was a very ancient site which had very, very high structures within it.

BRICK, BURNED THOROUGHLY (FOR STONE) AND SLIME (FOR MORTAR)

The first thing that was noticed was a section of extremely old baked-brick wall. The bricks were very large -70 cm by 70 cm (c.28 inches by 28 inches), and a little over $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. As far as one could find, these were considerably larger than the largest baked bricks found to date.

The mortar between the bricks is black asphalt or tar mixed with what appears to be sand.

So far these things agreed with what we are told about the construction of Babel.

This section of structure is angled upward, not straight like a vertical wall.

IRON

A small piece of metal was found at the site. Upon examination it was discovered to be 2 flat pieces of metal welded together. And it was iron. Examination by electron microscope would be scheduled for a later date.

METALLURGY NEAR BABEL

We know that highly sophisticated metal-working was done near Noah's home (see Update No. 19, pp.5-7). But when the group left for Babel, we would expect that they too "set up shop" right away. And the evidence absolutely confirms that this is exactly what happened.



A few miles east of the black dot on the above map (the general location of where we believe Babel was located), on the banks of the Tigris River, is Diyarbakir.

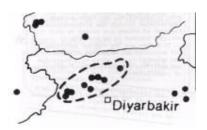
And here is found another very ancient metallurgical centre:

"Early metalworking in the region of Diyarbakir ('Copperland')... is indeed suggestive, and needs investigation." (James Mellaart, Earliest Civilizations of the Near East. Thames & Hudson, London, 1965, p.120)

And the importance of this? Here we come upon the **earliest instance of metallurgy** in the region. It is no coincidence that these **earliest sites** are found NEAR NOAH'S HOME – AND NEAR BABEL.

SOURCES OF COPPER

The early metallurgy throughout the region is very impressive evidence of a technologically advanced people who just suddenly appear on the scene. Where did they get their copper?



This map shows that in the immediate area of our site for Babel are located a large number of ancient copper mines.

So many mines being exploited in one region is good evidence of a very large population being here at one time. The time these early mines were operated could only have been the time of Babel – because after the dispersion from there, the settlements in the area are too small and too scattered to have supported such extensive mining operations.

ABRAHAM'S FAMILY LIVED IN TURKEY, JUST SOUTH OF BABEL

In the Genesis record, the next biblical event relates to Abram (Abraham) the progenitor of the Israeli and Arab nations.

The **place names** in this part of Turkey have preserved the history of the region **close to Babel**.

There is evidence of Abraham's family living in this region.

1. **Serug:** Abraham's great grandfather

2. **Nahor:** Abraham's grandfather (as well as a brother)

3. **Terah:** Abraham's father

The Bible says Abraham was living in **UR** of the Chaldees (called **URFA** today). This is within 100 miles of Babel.

Receiving a call to go southward to Canaan, he and his family set out IN THAT DIRECTION, stopping in **HARAN** (**HARRAN**) about 35 miles south of Ur, where Abraham's father dies.

The evidence shows conclusively that Abraham's family settled in the region a little south of our site for Babel, in the area of the Euphrates "loop" and the tributary, the Balikh River.

- 1. **SARUGI** (**SERUG**, Abraham's great grandfather's name), today called **SURUC**, or **SARUGI**, is located halfway between the Euphrates and Harran.
- 2. A town called **NAHURU** (**TIL-NAHIRI**), which commemorates the name of Abraham's grandfather **NAHOR**, as well as a brother, is known from both the Cappadocian tablets and the Mari texts to be in the same region.
- 3. The name of Abraham's father, **TERAH**, is preserved at **TIL-SA-TURAH**, the "ruin of Terah" in the Balikh Valley.

"What is remarkable is that all these geographical names are found in the district of Haran – according to the Biblical traditions it is precisely in this region that Abraham's family stayed." (Roland De Vaux, *The Early History of Israel* (translated). Westminster Press, 1971, pp.195-196)

The Turkish people of the area are convinced that the patriarchs either founded these cities or took them over and renamed them after they moved in.



When you examine the map, there are two places called UR – one in Iraq, the other in Turkey.

Since Abraham moved from UR to HARAN to CANAAN, it seems conclusive that the UR from which he was called was the one in today's Turkey, near HARAN. This was also near BABEL. And this fits with the Scripture which says that TERAH, Abraham's father, was an idol worshipper. They moved from UR to HARAN, because HARAN was **on the way** to Canaan, their eventual destination.

In northern Syria, in 1975, the archives of ancient Ebla (a city 150 miles south of Haran) were discovered. This city existed during the time of Abraham. And mentioned in the Ebla texts, uncontested, are cities whose names reflect Abraham's relatives: "Phaliga" (Peleg); "Til-Turakhi" (Terah); "Nakhur" (Nahor); and "Haran". NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THEY MENTION "UR IN THE REGION OF HARAN".

BABEL "ON THE WAY" TO CANAAN

Eventually Canaan was settled by the Hebrews, Abraham's descendants. And here King Solomon began to erect a magnificent Temple in Jerusalem. Solomon's wisdom, as well as his fame, attracted worldwide attention.

The splendour of Solomon's Temple would defy comprehension. Nowhere on the face of this planet did a structure of such size and beauty command the awe of man. Travellers from many lands would travel great distances just to set eyes on this Temple.

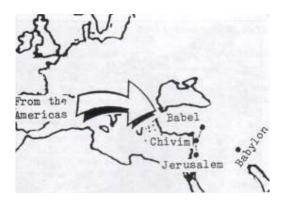
In this context, an ancient document of the Maya people of Central America throws some light on the location of Babel.

Around 1000 BC, Votan, the first historian of the Maya, recorded that he made four or more visits to his ancestral home of Chivim (present-day Tripoli in Syria).

On one of these trips he visited a great city wherein a magnificent Temple was in the course of erection (thought by the researcher Ordonez to have been Jerusalem).

And here is the interesting bit: **En route**, he visited a place where men had erected a TOWER which had been intended to reach heaven, an object defeated by the SUDDEN CONFUSING OF THEIR LANGUAGE.

Again, look at the map.



The place often speculated as the site of Babel (near Babylon in Iraq) is by no means "en route" to Syria or Jerusalem, if you are travelling from the Americas. But our Babel site in Turkey can be said to be "en route".

PLANS FOR CONTINUED EXPLORATION IN THE BABEL REGION

Whether or not the Tower itself can ever be identified, the facts already demonstrated through the archaeological research of others are enough to show the biblical account to be accurate.

In Turkey and the regions extending out around it are evidences of people who appeared on the scene with knowledge and abilities rivalling that of thousands of years later.

Part 7

THE LATEST

THE TOWER

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

"And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven: and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Gen.11-4).

The record goes on to explain how God interrupted the enterprise by suddenly confusing their speech, so that the rebels left off building the tower and went off in different directions according to the new language divisions.

Popular theories speculate that the Tower of Babel was located in what we today call Iraq, near what later became Babylon. However, biblical and other evidence locates that event on the plain of Mesopotamia in south-east Turkey. This is where both the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers come out of the mountains onto the plain to flow south.

RECENT SEARCHES

In October, 1998, at our home in New Zealand, Ron, Marty Plott, Josephine and I sat reflecting on the infamous tower. I brought out a portion of an ancient giant club head we had found on a tell in the area.

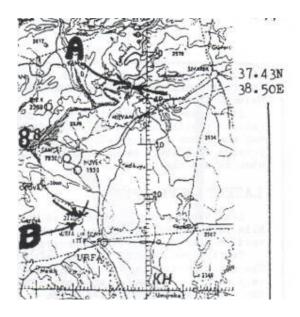
Ron commented, "I have never said this to anybody, but I believe I saw a vision of the Tower of Babel when I was flying over the area in a plane."

Several years earlier, Ron had been on a flight over the Euphrates river plain in south-eastern Turkey. The plane was coming in to land at Diyarbakur.

Ron did not know whether he physically saw it or whether it was a "vision". But "there was the Tower". Sitting in the plane, he looked out of the window and there it was, rising up toward him – and hollow in the middle.

In October, 1995, Ron planned to join Josephine and myself in Turkey to search for this "tower". He had already been back scouring the countryside for it; he had even hired a light aircraft to zigzag him over the area – but was unable to find it.

We came in first and began exploring. Then by phone Ron told us that due to an unexpected surgical operation he would be unable to join us for a while. He faxed us a map on which he had marked two crosses. The most westerly "x" marked the spot where he thought he had (in reality or in vision) seen the tower.



The first "x" led us to an area of land that no longer existed! The recently constructed Ataturk Dam now flooded the area. We were stumped! We saw a road disappearing under the water. Locals told us that a whole village marked on the map was now drowned by the waters.

Meanwhile, Ron had been looking at an alternate site in the area – and I had identified still another site. Both of these ruins were large. At the site we found, there were still in position a partly exposed wall of baked bricks mortared with bitumen. This matched the description in the Babel story of Genesis 11:3.

SATELLITE PICTURE

A satellite picture of the area appeared to confirm that indeed something was in this area. Better than that, it looked like a large tower with a hole in the top! It did not look like a natural formation.



It was possible to obtain a GPS fix (global positioning by satellite) and a map where Ron again pointed out the precise spot where he had been flying when he saw the "tower".

LATEST DEVELOPMENT

A few months after our expedition, another group led by Elin Berglund of Norway went to the spot to have a look. Elin reports:

"We followed Ron's map, and the GPS. The map didn't fit with the landscape very much. Of course we understand that the Ataturk Dam has changed a lot in the area, because several roads went right out in the water. The GPS-position showed us a spot on land, and we travelled around in the area for two days to look for it, but could not find anything that looked like a tower. We asked a local man. He recognised the structure, but told us it was under water but we could not believe it (I didn't), because the map showed something else and so did the GPS, at that time.



"Well, we were very close and the GPS didn't show any exact position, because we didn't have the last digits to the longitude and latitude. The area we had to search was two times a nautical mile (1,852 metres). After some time we finally gave up.

"In October, some of us went back together with a group from Norway. This time Erling Skaar, the Tonheim brothers and I were studying the new maps together with the old. We found out that the whole area we thought we were walking upon the last time, was not on the new maps. It was all under water! All of it, together with the big tower that was on the plain."

My friend Aaron Sen, who was with that group, takes up the story:

"IT'S OUT THERE"

"We located the nearest village and talked to one man. One group member from Sweden (Elisabet Baum) spoke a little Turkish; that was invaluable. We showed this man a drawing of the Tower and his reaction seemed very genuine. Looking at the drawing, the village folk consistently pointed in the same direction, and all said that it was now underwater.

"So we drove in that direction and found a little house 100 metres from the edge of the water. We asked the man living there about the Tower and showed him the pictures. He too pointed out to the water.

"He went down to the shore with us and told us more about the tower. He said the tower was very high.

"We were told that about ten years ago the Turks built a dam and flooded the whole area. One of the tourist guidebooks for Nemrut Dagi also confirmed this, and added that several ancient archaeological sites had now been lost forever."

Elin concurs. "He also told us that the tower was made of burned bricks and with bitumen (asphalt) in between. I was pointing to the oil pumps close by, and he confirmed that the material between the bricks came from oil. He also told us the same as Ron, that it is hollow, with a hole from the top and down.

"He himself had been inside, and he told us about the colours there. He also seemed to say it was inscriptions in there (but that was after I showed him some, and I am not sure about what he said; he just nodded his head). He also pointed at the nearest top and said it was of that size or used to be that size."

"IT WAS SCARY"

Aaron had his wetsuit and underwater camera with him. "So we asked if the man could take us out in a boat, and if he could get us right above the site. He said he could. He sent some of his boys to come with a boat and we set off.

"When he said we were right above the site, I jumped in and looked below the surface. It was extremely scary! I don't know what I was scared about as there was no danger at all, but looking under the water I could not see a thing. It was all just murky green. I wouldn't let go of the boat! I took a rock from the boat and dropped it, and lost sight of it after about two seconds! It just got past my feet, so visibility was about 6 feet I guess.

"Anyway, after telling myself that Indiana Jones would never be scared (!!) I convinced myself to let go of the boat and swim around. However I could not even see a dark patch where the Tower should have been. And I had no air, so we returned to shore.

LOWEST IN AUGUST

"Anyway, the man said that in August the water is the lowest and the top half of the Tower is exposed. We checked that with the Dam authority and they confirmed it, as they open the dam and let the water out in July. So hopefully someone will be there in August and visit the site with a good video camera and underwater equipment."

Elin Berglund has been busy searching literature and the Internet to find something about the place. As she says, "There must have been someone who has been writing about this tower or taken pictures. But I have not been able to find anything yet. It seems to be a lot of old cities and temples going under water when the waters were increased in the area and there has been a lot of salvaging operations in the areas further down the Euphrates River. But I cannot find anything so far about this tower."

THE IRONY OF IT

An interesting thought:

Why did they build the Tower of Babel?

One of the reasons was to avoid a new Flood. Well, now it may be totally flooded....