

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Keep the Fire Burning

by Mark Sonmor

When I was young, I recall reading an old Native American legend of how fire came to the Indians. According to the story, the only fire on earth was far away guarded by two old, but very powerful, women. This left the Indians cold and miserable. Because of this, Coyote assembled all the animals together and devised a plan. It would take time to accomplish and would involve most of the animals in the forest.

After going to great lengths to make friends with the women and earn their trust, Coyote stole a bit of the fire when the moment was right. He ran as fast and as far as he could until passing the burning stick to Cougar. The old women continued to chase until Cougar passed the firebrand to Wolf. Wolf passed it to Bear; Bear passed it to Squirrel; and finally, Squirrel passed it to Frog.

By this time, the women had caught up and grabbed Frog's tail just as it jumped into the river. Fortunately, the old women couldn't swim and had to watch as Frog swam to the Indians with the last glowing ember in its mouth.

Today, I believe we are in a similar situation. Modern historians would have us believe that modern man is the product of natural processes

and that his place in history is insignificant and meaningless. The majority of museums, universities and scholars leave us "out in the cold" without a sense of place and purpose.

Although modern philosophy is to blame for much of the godless history promoted today, I don't believe it is solely responsible. With each generation, we are increasingly removed from events of the past. As that gap increases, so does the effort required to preserve the truth for our families. Are we willing to let someone else tend the fire – maybe a godless someone else?

Obviously, it would take too much time to read all that history. However, reading ancient works that actually refer to the people and events in Genesis, brings Sunday School stories into startling reality. By moving beyond second-hand references, we become eye-witnesses to

a world of real people who affirm the reality of our Creator and His Word.

If it weren't for individuals like Flavius Josephus, Clement of Alexandria, and Eusebius of Caesaria, we would be out in the cold indeed. Many of these historians compiled their histories from earlier sources and passed them along.

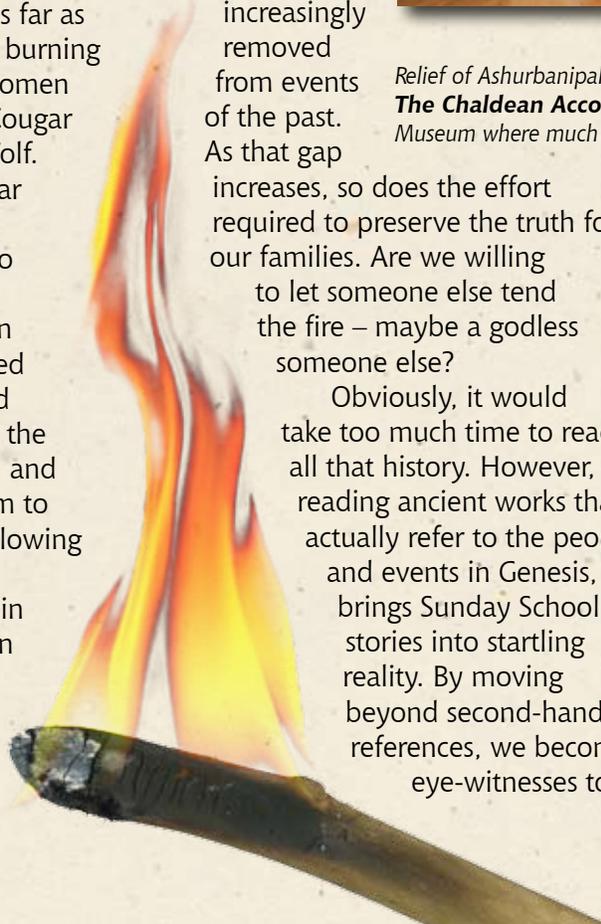
Although many original works have been destroyed over time, a surprising amount still remain. We can, for example, look at clay tablets from the library of Ashurbanipal – one of the Assyrian kings who took Israel into exile.

The translations of many Assyrian tablets can be viewed online at www.archive.org in George Smith's 1876 work **The Chaldean Account of Genesis**. Among other early manuscripts, one can find the works of Josephus, the Jewish historian.

Books like **After the Flood** by Bill Cooper, **Annals of the World** by James Ussher, and Matthew Poole's 1685 **Commentary on the Holy Bible** (included in the **Online Bible**) contain a treasury of references to primary sources and early works. All three are available from AOI and are a good place to ignite the flame of history and begin passing it on. 



Relief of Ashurbanipal hunting lions, a sample page from **The Chaldean Account of Genesis** and the British Museum where much of the Assyrian works are displayed.



Genealogies: There for a Reason by Mark Sonmor

Genealogies are to historians what maps are to travelers. Both provide a framework to construct a mental picture – something to hang your hat on. Known to most scholars as the table of nations, Genesis chapters 10 and 11 contain

Genesis. Based on this supposition, Bill Cooper authored **After the Flood** – a culmination of 25 years of research. Initially, he hoped to find 40% to 50% of the names listed. That in itself seemed too much to ask. What his research showed however, far exceeded

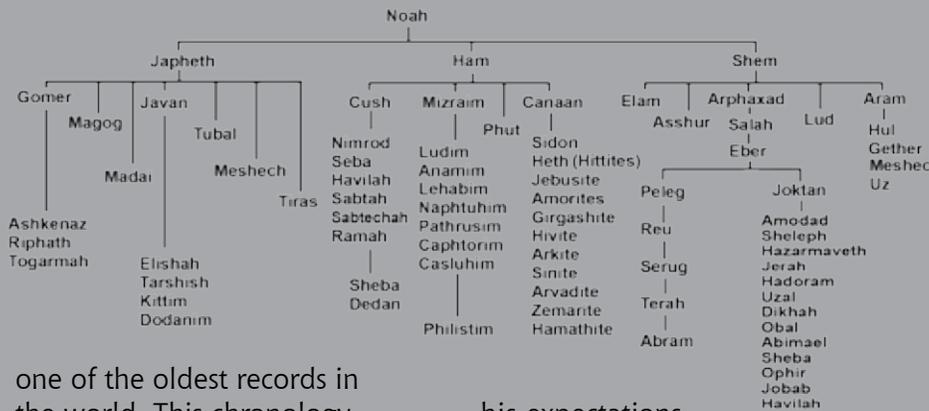
their linguistic derivatives?

Again, the answer is “Yes.” The early British, Celts, Anglo-Saxons, Welsh, Norwegians, and Danes, all traced their descent from patriarchs listed in the Biblical Table of Nations.

Why then, are these records not taken into account by modern scholars? Are they unaware of their existence? No. According to Cooper, it is references to Creation and the Flood that have caused scholars to label them frauds. Believing early monks attempted to Christianize history, modern scholars assert that any early document containing biblical names and events cannot be trusted.

Because of this, Cooper was required to narrow his search to documents written prior to the conversion and influence of Christianity. Did any exist? Did they contain names found in Genesis 10 & 11? Cooper’s painstaking research demonstrates the answer is, “Yes.” For more on his remarkable research, make sure you read his book. **AOI**

Table of Nations - Genesis Chapters 10-11



one of the oldest records in the world. This chronology documents a very specific lineage from the development of Noah and his sons after the Genesis Flood into the early nations of the world. Can it be trusted? Most scholars would question its reliability and many would say it’s mythology.

However, if some of the names in the list could be found in records of other Middle East nations, that would lend a high degree of credibility to

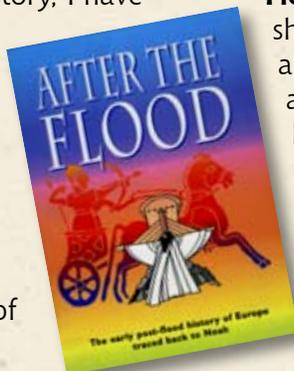
his expectations.

He discovered that, “...every one of their names is found in the early surrounding records of the Middle East.” He says, “...No other ancient historical document of purely human authorship could be expected to yield such a level of corroboration as that!”

Yet, Cooper was not content to stop there. What about the ancient chronicles and genealogies of the people of Europe? Did any of their records contain the same names or

After the Flood

Just imagine if someone approached you and said, “I’m an expert in ancient history, I have access to the world’s oldest manuscripts, and can translate them into English.” Then said, “I’ll teach you about the early records of man and how they affirm faith in God and the Bible for the price of a couple of espressos.”



Would you accept his offer? Would you value his services?

Essentially, that is what Bill Cooper is offering in **After the Flood**. His 25+ years of labor show how early man knew all about Creation and the Flood and how even the earliest Europeans recorded their descent from Noah. These records lend chapters 10 & 11 of Genesis a degree of accuracy that sets them apart from all other historical documents of the

ancient world.

In addition to revealing records which indicate early encounters with dinosaurs, Cooper adds several helpful appendices. These include summaries of the nations descending from Noah’s 3 sons, their geographical dispersion, along with helpful diagrams and sources. This book is an important link to the past and a chance to rekindle the flames of history for future generations.

After the Flood is available from AOI for \$16 + \$3 s/h. **AOI**

Ancient History Affirms the Bible

by Mark Sonmor

When it comes to history, most modern texts tell a similar story: man started as a hunter-gatherer, made tools, began farming, developed language, formed societies, and continues to evolve ever upward. If we assume this premise, however, we are left with a few false implications.

First, if recorded history didn't begin until the early Mesopotamian societies, anything prior is a blank slate. It also implies that early man was ignorant and lacked the desire or awareness to record the events of his time for future generations. Is that true? We know that the Bible tells a different account but are there any extra-Biblical records that lend support to the Scriptures? Take the following quiz and find out.

Test your IQ of ancient history.

- 1. T or F** Scholars have yet to find any mention of Noah's sons outside of the early writings of Middle Eastern countries.
- 2. T or F** Outside of the Genesis account, the evidence would suggest that early man knew nothing of the God of the Bible prior to Abraham and the Hebrew nation.
- 3. T or F** The fact that God created the world went unchallenged until Darwin's time.
- 4. T or F** The book of Genesis stands unique among ancient manuscripts because it asserts a recent creation.
- 5. T or F** As late as the 1600s, it was common for the English to display genealogies of royalty extending as far back as Noah and even Adam.

1. False. While much exists in the way of Middle Eastern manuscripts, engravings, tablets, and compilations of earlier histories, early manuscripts dating to pre-Christian Europe exist as well. According to Bill Cooper, early Europeans kept excellent records tracing their lineage back to Japheth, one of Noah's three sons. To the Greeks he was "Iapetos," and in India, the Sanskrit vedas call him Pra-Japati. To the Romans he was first known as Iupater, then Jupiter. The Saxons, who corrupted his name to "Sceaf," also traced their royalty to Japheth as did the Irish Celts and early Britons.

2. False. Cooper says, "The overwhelming consensus in every major culture throughout the ancient world for which we have records, believed that the universe had been created by a single divine being - even in notoriously polytheistic cultures. In 600 BC for example, the early Greek, Xenophanes said, "...there is one God, greatest among gods and men, similar to mortals neither in shape nor in thought...Always he remains in the same state, changing not at all..."¹ At about this same time in China, philosopher Lao Tzu, acknowledged this about God: "Before time, and throughout time, there has been a self-existing being, eternal, infinite, complete, omnipresent...Outside this being, before the beginning, there was nothing."²

3. False. While early history records little challenge to the belief of creation throughout the ancient world, records indicate the early

Greeks had their own origins' debates when the first materialist arguments were recorded around 540 BC.

4. False. The concept of a billion-year-old earth is a fairly recent idea known as uniformitarianism. This theory was introduced by Hutton and Lyle between the 18th and 19th century. Prior to that, history records quite the opposite. According to Cooper, the early British, Anglo-Saxons, and Irish, kept specific chronologies indicating an age for the earth measured in thousands of years - not millions or billions. Moreover, the Mayans, using a day-count instead of years, began counting in 3113 BC after the world had been destroyed by water. Assuming this refers to the Flood of Noah's day, it is Cooper's assertion

that the Mayan calendar corresponds rather well with the aforementioned chronologies. While Bishop Ussher is maligned for trying to set an exact day for the Creation, it is evident he was not alone in this kind of pursuit.

5. True. Baron Waldstein, a tourist visiting London's Lambeth Place in 1600 is recorded as seeing, "...a splendid genealogy of all the Kings of England, and another genealogy, a historical one, which covers the whole of time and is traced down from the Beginning of the World." Later, at Richmond Palace, he found in the library: "...beautifully set out on parchment, a genealogy of the kings of England which goes back to Adam."³ According to Cooper, such genealogies were immensely popular and fascinating to the general public as well as historians. What happened to them? Rationalists from the 18th century onward successfully replaced history with their anti-Biblical notions and the genealogies fell from popularity. **ADOL**

¹Cooper, **After the Flood**, p.19 quoting from Barnes, 1987, *Early Greek Philosophy*, p.95-97, Penguin Books.

²Cooper, **After the Flood**, p.16, quoting from Lao-tzu, **Tao-te-ching**, p.13, tr. Leon Wieger, Eng. version - Bryce 1991, Lampeter.

³Cooper, **After the Flood**, p.87, quoting from Groos, T.W. **The Diary of Baron Waldstein**, p.61, Thames & Hudson.



Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



Remember those famous movies of the old west? The main villain and his gang have been terrorizing the town.

Nobody stands up to them out of fear. Then along comes the guy in the (frequently) white cowboy hat, who either singlehandedly cleans up the whole mess or motivates the town's people to collectively stand with him.

Creation ministry on the college campus is kind of like that. A huge difference is that we don't come in with our white cowboy hat, we aren't riding on a white horse, and we really can't clean up the whole mess! Sometimes, it seems a good share of the audience is in the villain's camp and we feel

like trying to call in the Texas Rangers.

Frequently, though, it boils down to a few of the chief atheist "gunslingers" trying to "gun" us down with their arguments about some picky detail that might appear to support evolution (that is, if they pull their hat down far enough over their eyes).

Although the "close-minded gang" may not be swayed, a seed is planted! Also, the Christian students on the campus are like the town's people who are relieved to have someone come alongside of them. The important thing for you to remember is that we at AOI need you, our readers, to help us do that. So, if at all possible, please make AOI one of your special giving options in 2012 and pray that many others will do the same. **AOI**

Upcoming Events

(See www.DiscoverCreation.org for upcoming events for India, NE, TX, AZ, KS, etc.)

Get in on the Blog



I am curious to know how many of you readers are also on our Blog site. Just before Thanksgiving I wrote a Blog that we've chosen to include in this issue's Director's Column. Did you read it? If so, drop a quick email with the Subject: I read the Blog! to: Response@DiscoverCreation.org. If not, try to frequent the site and forward on appropriate articles.

Financial Update

Wow! It is the end of the year and AOI finished in the BLACK! This is a huge PRAISE. We feel so thankful for our supporters both in prayer and giving for this blessing. It was certainly a bit scary this fall with staff having to take reduced salaries and also having to eliminate health insurance for those of us who had those benefits. (Each staff individually opted for their own coverage and was accepted before we cancelled.) Our God – the Creator of Heaven and Earth was faithful! We took some steps and He provided the rest through you! We are not out of the woods yet, **but with your continued prayer and generosity** we move on with undiminished ministry into 2012.

Attend our 2012 Creation Mountain Adventure

Start planning now to bring your whole family! Exciting creation teaching and fantastic recreational activities for all ages in the beautiful mountains of Colorado: July 29-Aug 3 or Aug 5-10, 2012! Join us for what many have called "the best vacation of their life!" Check our website, or brochure, and **CALL TODAY** to register.



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