
Major Historical Events

The Bible: Old Testament

Introduction

This study consists out of three parts.

In this study I'll discuss ~

- **Study I: The Creation,**
- **Study ii: The Flood and**
- **Study iii: The Tower of Babel.**

Through my *method of research* we will look at the major **historical events** in the Old Testament concerning, the ***Creation, the Flood, and the tower of Babel.*** I'll make use of - direct - translations out of **Hebrew & Greek** in order to proof true Biblical, ***historical, grammatical and literal*** meaning of words and phrases as seen in their original text or tongues.

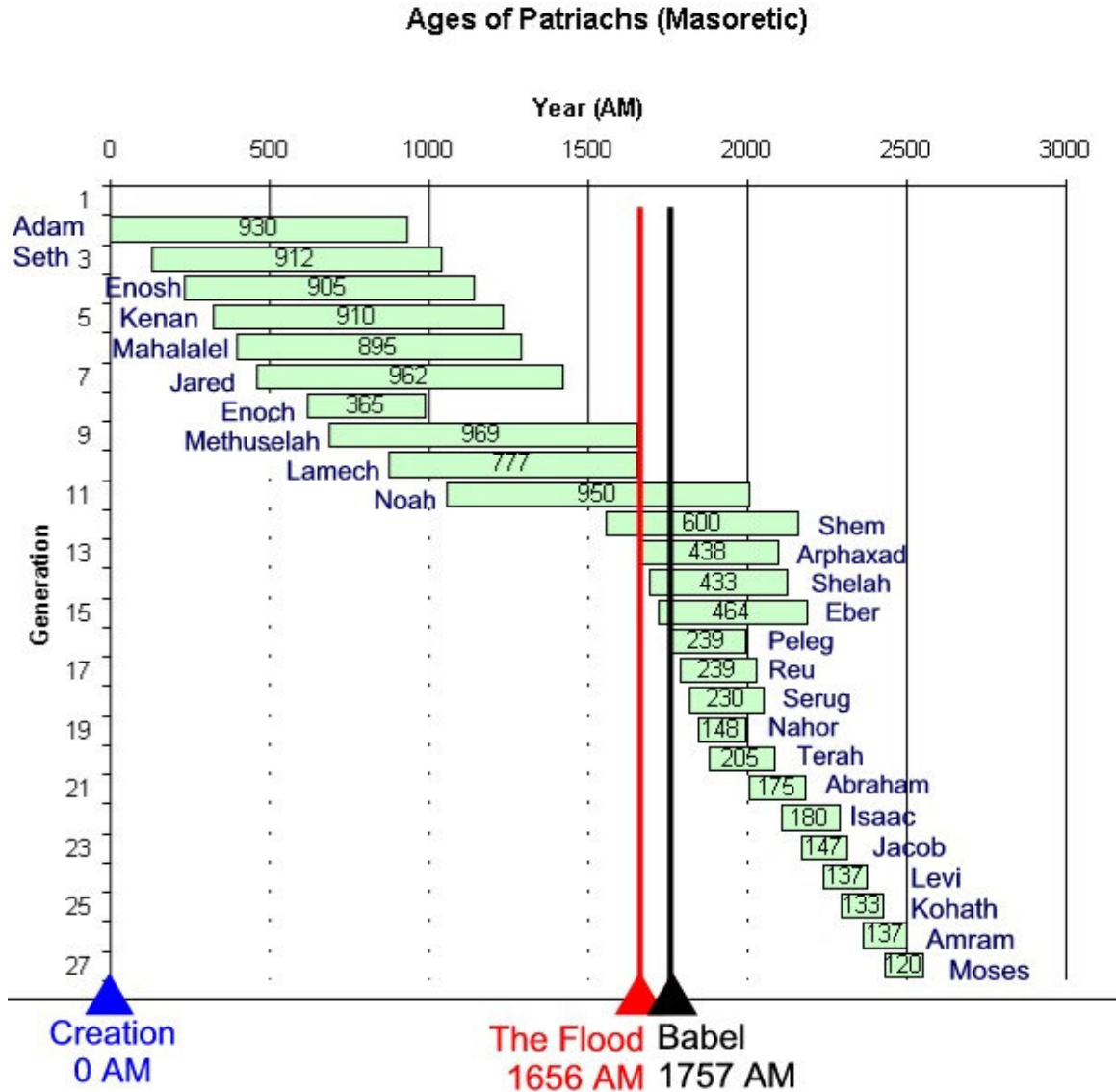
We'll also have a look at **historical timelines** to understand, or to "*slot in*" these historical events and **periods** in order to have a better understanding of the **ages of the patriarchs and their generations during these historical moments.**

Aims of the Study

The aim of this assignment will be **to explain the who, what, where, when, why and how - questions** to the reader from a **Biblical - historical perspective** and the **sequence** and **causes** of the ***Creation, the Flood and the Tower of Babel*** as seen in Genesis, the first book of Moses.

The Creation, the Flood and the Tower of Babel
 The Old Testament : Major Historical Events

Chart of Major Historical Events



[ANSWERSINGENESIS]

Historic refers to **records**: - like a recorded line of Kings, State-Presidents, Pope's etc...[people who have something in common]
Above are the **historic record** of people who lived during the major historical events of **The Creation, the Flood and the Tower of Babel**. The word of God gives us a **true account of historical moments** since the creation of man.

THE CREATION,

Who is the creator of the creation?

From a **philosophical point** of view there are **four possibilities for the creation** ~ [the origin of man]

- (i) There was **nothing** now there is **something**.
- (ii) Everything began with a ~ **impersonal something**.
- (iii) There was, is and will always be **dualism**
- (iv) **Everything began with a ~ personal something**

First notion: It's quite clear that it never stood a chance, ~ if you draw a circle [which contains everything in it],..... "and there is nothing", ~ truly ***enable you to have nothing, you have to remove everything, and the circle as well.***

Second notion: This notion of thinking is held by a lot of modern Eastern and Western people. **Everything happens per chance.** "*there is no meaning*" – **there is no value.**

Third notion: This notion never stood a chance as we will always try and find a unity. With dualism, the one is always at the expense of the other. It's a win-loose situation all the time.

Fourth notion: This is a Judeo-Christian position. **It begins with a *personal Trinity*.** There is, was, and will always be love and communication between them. "**Love and communication have intrinsic value**" – especially when we look at the **purpose** of the **creation of man.** ~[hand-out:Origin of man, A Coeman,Lecturer,Lewende Woord]

Description of important words.

Who is the "Personal Trinity"?

The personal Trinity is a **tri-unity of persons** ~ The **Father**, the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit**. [called aTrinity] ~ *PTC, introduction to theology*

The Creation
Old Testament: Study i

Explanation of words:

“**Theism**”~The believe in a **supernatural** power(s) god or gods.

“**Christian theism**”~ The position of **ONE** personal **God**.

[According to PTC, introduction to theology “There is one God who is **self revealed** in **three persons**: The **Father** ,the **Son** ,and the **Holy Spirit**. These are **three eternal distinctions in one divine being**”]

We say:

“**Everything** began with a ~ **personal something**” = **God**

"In the beginning **God** created the heaven and the earth" [Gen1:1 NIV]

According to the KJV "Aside from Genesis , there is **no other writings** that inform us of the **events predated Moses**. In Genesis it is made clear that **all things were designed and created by God** and continue to operate within his boundaries of His purpose.

When did God create the earth?

The first word written in my Bible on page 1 says: "**GENESIS**" - the Hebrew name was *b re shith*, **meaning " in the beginning"** Clearly this means the start of all things!

According to Kent Hovind ~ creation Science Evangelism:

God begins Life: 6000 yrs ago [based on Usshers’s chronology]



"In **the beginning** **God** created" Gen 1:1

The Creation. Old Testament: study i

When was the Beginning? Jesus said in Matthew 19:4 and Mark 10:6 that the creation of Adam and Eve was “**the beginning**”

According to Kent Hovind ~ “by comparing Acts 13:20-21, 1 Kings 2:11, 11:42 and other dates given in the Bible and known History, **it becomes obvious** that the Bible teaches that **Adam was created 6000 years ago**” [also see 1 Cor 15:45 & Rom 5:11-14]

Young earth & Old earth Creationists ~ have, and always will argue their points of view, however, in my opinion, that is **not the most important issue.**

The point of the creation story **is not which theory of the creation is correct** with regards to **when God** created, but rather that we as human beings have **meaning**, because **before creation God was there** and **in Him we find our purpose and meaning.** [handout Lewende Woord: 2nd yr A Coeman]

How did God Create?

Description of words:

"bara" ~ **This Hebrew word is used to signify brand new creation!**

Let us start at the **beginning**... "*rhemati theou... me ek phainomenon to blepomenon gegonenai*" ...intended as an insertion of **creation out of nothing!** ~ Wycliffe Dictionary of Theology

Creation out of nothing - ex-nihilo (1) life -as in animals (2) material - "Big Bang" (3) **human life - a living soul (Adam)**

- **The Biblical sequence of creation is supernatural!** (and not always understandable for the 3-pound human brain!)
- **In ordinary language it was a miracle.** Creation was by direct act of the Creator and **not by natural process** without purpose. [meaning...everything began with a impersonal something]
- *Creation took place in the beginning* and **was finished and complete** - "*God saw....and it was very good*" Genesis 1:31

The Creation.

Old Testament: study i

Creation was not spread out over a major portion of the supposed evolutionary vast time history of the universe.

- **Creation** was caused by **the Word of the Creator**. The Creator **spoke** things **into existence**. Description of the word: "**Uni-verse**"~ [Latin]: Uni = single & Verse = spoken sentence.

In Genesis 1 we read of the Biblical **sequence of events** that took place after **God's spoken WORD...** "And God said" **...statements** to follow:

And God said: *[spoken sentence]*

Day1: "Let there be light" **Day 2:**"Let there be firmament" **Day 3:** "Let the waters gathered..."Let dry land appear..."Let the earth bring forth... " **Day 4:** "Let there be Lights..."**Day:5** "Let the waters bring forth abundantly..." **Day 6** "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind.... "

And the astonishing result after these Godly statements?....
..."**and it was so**" ~ Gen 1

"for **He spake** and **it was done**"~ [Psalm 33:6,KJV]

Still Day 6: [The purpose of the Creation]

According to me the main purpose of the creation was... "**MAN**"

And God said, "**Let us make man in our image**" - (God is Spirit, and so are we!)

Why does God use plural form, "Let us make man in our image"? ~ "one view says this is a **reference to the Trinity** – God the Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit – **all whom are God**"

Another view for the use of plural wording ~ is to denote majesty. Kings traditionally used this form when speaking of themselves.

The Creation.

Old Testament: study i

The General Account & Detailed Account of Creation

According to *Albert Coeman* –Lecturer, Lewende Woord Bible College – it's however important to note that Genesis 1 is a general account of the creation whereas Genesis 2 is written in a detailed account.

Explanation:

According Genesis 1 (first account) man and woman **are alike** the direct creation of God. [Gen:1: 21-25]

According to Genesis 2 (second account) “**man was first** brought into being, by being formed **from the dust** of the ground, and that **woman** is taken from the man by a **special** arrangement which resulted in completeness of being” [Genesis 2:7,21-25]
~[handout Lewende Woord: 2nd yr A Coeman]

Take note that according to the **first account MAN** is closely related to **animals** ~ the beast of earth, cattle, and every thing that creepeth on the earth [KJV]

However, with the **second account**, the **animals are true** to their **own kind!**

It's further emphasized **three times in one verse** that **man is created by God**. [Genesis 1:27]

Man is different ~ Also it's important to emphasize that God created man~ in the image of God. Thus, man is different from the animals and the rest of the creation.

According to the **detailed account** in Genesis 2:20 we see that **NO** suitable mate was found for man.

We also see in Genesis 2:16-17 that God had **communion with man** ~ clearly this indicates **that man has personality like God** ~ but the distance or **gap** between God and us is **the area of finiteness**.

All **animals, machines or plants** differ from the All Mighty God in the area of both finiteness and personality!

The Creation.

Old Testament: study i

Why did God create?

The importance of a relationship.

For us as humans **to be one** with God is **meaningless** if there is **no relationship/intimacy** between God and us.

Free will

Any relationship is on itself **meaningless** if there is **NO choice!**

To be “All in all”

To allow God to be all in all, we allow **God’s character** to reflect through us ~ **at all times**. We allow God to be **100% in control** if *we do things as God would have done it*~ **God gets the glory**, and we can only achieve this by **allowing God to do it through us**. [*allowing... is to choose = free will = meaningful*]

Image of God

It's important to realise, and emphasize that **man** was made **in the image of God**. God is Spirit (John 4:24), therefore **this ‘image’ can't** have anything to do with **man’s physical form**.

Humans have a spiritual dimension.

This means that they can *communicate with God* and receive answers to prayer. **God's intention!** [intimacy between man and God]“ **God created man** with an inherent **moral responsibility** to be like God in conduct” [Lev 11:44-45, 1Pet 1:16 & Mat 5:48]

No animal worships God ~ or gives any kind of evidence of having moral concern or consciousness, for spiritual behaviour. "***Spiritual qualities are not things that can be seen, even in the fossil record***" However, we all know that the **spiritual dimension of man includes belief in life after death**, and this is often shown by evidence of religious **burial ceremonies**.

[Russel Grigg –answersingenesis]

The Creation: Summary and conclusion Old Testament: study i

Scripture comparisons [for purpose of creation]

“Everything comes **from Him**; Everything happens **through Him**;
Everything ends **up in Him**. Always glory! Always praise! Yes.
Yes. Yes.” ~MSG [Rom 11:36]

“**When everything and everyone is finally under God’s rule**,
the Son will step down, taking His place with everyone else,
showing that **God’s rule is absolutely comprehensive--a perfect
ending!**” ~ MSG [Col 15:28]

It is clear that after reading these verses that **God’s ultimate
purpose is to be all in all !**

Another way according *Albert Coeman* of stating this is ~ that **after
the *marriage between Christ and the Church in heaven* ~
Christ & Church are one. ~ *the ultimate purpose of God***

From Genesis to Revelation.

- “Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife. **They become one flesh**” ~ [Gen 2:24]
- “Let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give him the glory! The **Marriage of the Lamb** has come; **his Wife has made herself ready.** ~ [Rev 19;7]
- “The Angel said to me, “Write this: **'Blessed are those invited to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.**” He added, “These are the true words of God!” ~[Rev 19:9]

Summary and conclusion:

*Everything began with a personal something, a Trinity where **Love and communication have intrinsic value**”. We are created as relationship beings and, just as there are a relationship of love and communication between the Trinity,~ [*the Father, the Son-Jesus Christ & the Holy Spirit*] ~ **God wants an intimate relationship** between **Him** and the crown of His creation ~ “**MAN**” . We can only find our true meaning, and eternal life in knowing God. If we allow God to be all in all in our lives we become **ONE** with God just as the **Church and Christ** will become one in heaven.*

The Flood
Old Testament: study ii

The Flood.

WHY WAS THERE A FLOOD?

[reasons for the flood according to the Bible]

THE FOUR MAJOR REASONS: [Genesis Chapter 6].

1. 'The **wickedness** of man was great in the earth' (v. 5).
2. 'Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only **evil** continually' (v. 5).
3. 'The earth was filled with **violence**' (v. 11).
4. 'The earth...was **corrupt**; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth' (v. 12). (All the people on earth had corrupted their way.) [Noah's Flood-Why?- Russel M Grigg]

“GOD was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; **it broke his heart**” – Gen 6:6 The Message.

It's clear that God's **main purpose** was to **destroy all the earth's wickedness** – the only possible way was through a major-**worldwide** flood.

OBEDIENCE, DISOBEDIENCE & WARNINGS.

[God always gives warnings – before judgement]

The key verse: “Noah **did everything** just as God commanded him” Gen 6:22

“Noah is described as 'a just man', 'perfect in his generations”, who 'walked with God', and who 'found grace in the eyes of the Lord' (Genesis 6:8-9); he was also 'a preacher of righteousness' (2 Peter 2:5).

“Perfect”/ Tamiyim: according the KJV – Hebrew Dictionary means – *“without blemish, complete, full, sound, without spot”*
[KJV –Study Bible, redletter edition 1991, p125]

The Flood

Old Testament: study ii

According to *Russel Grigg*, answering genesis, “From this it is very reasonable to conclude that his **messages**, perhaps preached from the platform of the partially completed Ark, **included warnings of the coming judgement** and invitations to his listeners to avail themselves of the one means of escape, which he was constructing”

NO HOPE FOR REPENTANCE.

According to Gibbs, *John Calvin* commented, “It [the whole earth] was not overwhelmed with a deluge of waters **till it had first been immersed in the pollution of wickedness**...that wickedness was too deeply seated in their hearts, to leave any hope of repentance”

Gen 6:5 “GOD saw that human evil was out of control. People thought **evil, imagined evil--evil, evil, evil from morning to night**”

CORRUPT VS. VERRY GOOD

- Biblical record states: '*And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was **corrupt***' (Genesis 6:12).
- This is a frightening contrast to God's statement when he had finished creating the heaven and the earth, namely:
- '*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good***' (Genesis 1:31).

NOT FIT FOR LIFE TO CONTINUE.

- *Take note*, this was only **the tenth** generation from Adam – yet, the human race had become so **wicked, evil, violent and corrupt** that it was not fit to go on living.

The Flood

Old Testament: study ii

WHO HAD TO DIE IN THE FLOOD?

Description of “man”

“**Man**”- refers to human-beings – “So God created man in his own image....male and female He created them” [Gen 6:27 NIV]

And the LORD said, “I will destroy **man** whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them” [Gen 6:7 KJV]

And GOD said, “I’ll get rid of my ruined creation, make a clean sweep: people, animals, snakes and bugs, birds--the works. I’m sorry I made them.” Gen 6:7 The Message.

Who survived?

“....**only** Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark.”
Gen 7:23 MKJV

Only **Noah and his family had regard to the wrath of God**. Eight people boarded the Ark in faith, and were saved. [Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their three wives] -

Who died?

“**And every living thing** which was on the face of the earth **was destroyed, from man to cattle, and to the creeping things, and the fowls of the heavens**. And they were destroyed from the earth, and only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark.” Gen 7:23 MKJV

“**Everything died**. Anything that moved--dead. Birds, farm animals, wild animals, the entire teeming exuberance of life--dead. And all people dead” Gen 7:21 MSG

The Flood

Old Testament: study ii

Mercy vs. Justice

- **God's mercy regarding the Flood is just as evident as His judgment**, and is seen in the fact that God provided a way of escape for those who were prepared to believe what He had said, **heed the warning He gave, and avail themselves of the means of salvation** which He provided by instructing Noah to build the Ark (Genesis 6:14-16).

God's Mercy

- **"But Noah** found grace in the eyes of the LORD" – [Gen 6:8 KJV]

WHEN DID THE FLOOD OCCUR?

DATING THE FLOOD : 2348 BC

The Bible gives a comprehensive record that traces the entire history of the world. **Archbishop James Ussher researched world history and correlated it to the Bible**, publishing his findings in 1650

Ussher's date is based on calculations the Old Testament record. While the **period from Creation to the flood** can be taken directly from Genesis, the period from the flood to the birth of Christ is not so straightforward. Working through the line of kings, and making certain (quite reasonable) assumptions, **Ussher dated the flood at 2348 BC.**

This also gives a date for creation $2348 + 1656 = 4004$ BC.

(Other estimated dates include Hebrew Bible 2288 BC, Josephus 3146 BC)

The Flood

Old Testament: study ii

The age of Noah during and after the Flood.

Genesis 7:6 And Noah was **six hundred years old** when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

We can speculate that the pre-flood world existed in *long ages*. Let us look at Genesis 9:28-29 to see when Noah died.

Genesis 9:28-29 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. And all the days of Noah were **nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.**

HOW WILL GOD MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP?

A Flood of waters.

"I'm going to bring **a flood on the Earth** that will destroy everything alive under Heaven. **Total destruction**"
[Gen 6:17 MSG]

"And behold! I, even I, am bringing **a flood of waters** upon the earth in order to **destroy all flesh** (in which *is* the breath of life) from under the heavens. Everything which *is* in the earth shall die"
Gen 6:17 KJV [this is totality, a clean sweep]

Was the flood "a local flood" or a "worldwide flood"?

Local flood: ~ partial flood; only a certain part under water.

Worldwide: ~ the total earth under water; global; all ; totality

Scepticts allege that Noah's Flood was **nothing more than a localised event**. If this ought to be true, **Noah and his family could have moved to higher ground to escape the waters!!!**

The Flood

Old Testament: study ii

Also, all the animals outside the flooded area would not have been in danger, since there have been many serious floods in earth history, - and they survived!

Note, that if the Flood was only local, this is accusing God of lying when He promised to never again send such a flood.

“And Jehovah smelled a sweet odor. And Jehovah said in His heart, **I will never again** curse the ground for man's sake, because the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth. And I will not again smite every living thing as I have done” [Gen 8:21 – MKJV]

According to Genesis 6-10,..“**More than 30 times, words and phrases of global scope appear.** In each case, the primary meaning is one of totality”.

If the flood was a local flood, it implies that the Indians in North America, the natives in Africa, the Scandinavians, the Chinese, etc., were not affected by the Flood,...So, they escaped God's judgment on sin. (they escaped God's clean sweep!)

Also, and If so, what could Christ possibly have meant when He likened the coming judgment of all men to the judgment of 'all' men (Matthew 24:37-79) in the days of Noah?

A partial judgment in Noah's day means a partial judgment to come. Scripture does not stand if the Flood was not global

How did Noah and his family survive?

“Make an ark of cyprus timbers. You shall make rooms in the ark. And you shall pitch it inside and outside with pitch. – [Gen 6:14-MKJV]

The Flood

Old Testament: study ii

“And this *is* the way you shall make it. The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it shall be fifty cubits and its height thirty cubits” - Gen 6:15

“And Noah went in. **And his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went in with him into the ark, because of the waters of the flood**” Gen7:17 MKJV

Did Noah and his sons spend years collecting the animals?

NO,...the Bible says that the animals came to Noah (Genesis 6:20).

“They came to Noah and to the ship in pairs--everything and anything that had the breath of life in it,” (Gen 7:15)

Sometimes we worry about things over which we have no control. Noah had to do his job i.e building the ark. **God took care of the rest.**

How did animals travel from all over to get to the ark?

According to Kent Hovind,~ Creation Science Evangelism ~

“This question assumes that the world before the flood was like the world is today with animals specialized for certain areas. Today the world is 70% water and the oceans separate the continents. Also, some animals only live in a few selected locations. The Bible teaches that before the flood the water was gathered into one place” (Genesis 1:9).

According to Hovind, “there was probably one ocean and much more landmass. Also, if the climate was more temperate animals could live in all types of places which means Noah did not have to go gather animals from all over the world”

[Kent Hovind:drdino.com/the flood]

The Flood
Old Testament: study ii

PROOF OF THE BIBLICAL FLOOD

The rainbow?

“I’m putting my rainbow in the clouds, a sign of the covenant between me and the Earth” – Gen 9:13 MKJV

This is the proof we still see today! We’ve had many floods in many countries , but we’ve **never had a worldwide flood** since the one in Genesis! [fact]

Flood Ledgends

According to biblical chronology, the flood occurred approximately 4,500 years ago.

“ Most of the world’s cultures have legends of events which are remarkably similar to the Flood account recorded in Genesis. These stories have a common threat, conforming to local conditions: a warning is given by God (or gods) of a coming flood to punish wickedness; the person warned is instructed to build a vessel of safety for himself, his family, and the other living creatures; the world is destroyed by water; the occupants of the vessel repopulate the earth. Many other specific themes from Genesis (sending out birds, landing on a mountain, the rainbow, post-Flood sacrifice) are often present too” - *Steve Cardno*

According to by **Rebecca Conolly** and **Russell Grigg** [answersingenesis]

There are **at least 500 legends** of a worldwide flood, maybe all the peoples of these remote civilisations had different flood experiences that, **by chance**, had all these features in common, on which they based their stories. However, the more reasonable conclusion on the otherhand, is that **these legends all find their root in the same one global Flood experience that Genesis records.**

The Flood

Old Testament: study ii

Old and “hard” Evidence, *a coincidence?*

Tablet no. 11 of the Babylonian ‘Epic of Gilgamesh’, found in ancient Nineveh. It tells the story of a great flood similar to the one recorded in Genesis, but with obvious corruptions of the original true account.



Fossils: [the recordings is in the earth]

“If the Bible is right, we would expect to find sedimentary layers (rock laid down by water) all over the earth. These rocks would contain the remains of many kinds of creatures. Where there are similar types alive today, these fossils would be basically the same as their living representatives. In other words, bats would still look like bats, turtles like turtles, etc., with *no* evolutionary changes. This is exactly what is found”

“Many of the fossils would show creatures dying in distorted positions as they were buried suddenly and unexpectedly. This is precisely what we *do* find. We also find billions of fish beautifully preserved, sometimes over vast areas, with their fins and even sometimes scales intact, sometimes even still in the act of swallowing another fish” – [The (second) greatest catastrophe of all time- Steve Cardno]

We can conclude with certainty that the “the fossil record” proof the Genesis flood.

The Flood

Old Testament: study ii

So, why the rejections?

The Bible clearly states that people will willingly close their minds about the Flood.

“For this is hidden from them by their willing it, that the heavens were of old, and the earth out of the water, and through water, being held together by the word of God, through which the world that then was, being flooded by water, perished” [2 Peter 3:5-6]

Summary & Conclusion.

Since the **Genesis Flood was a global/worldwide flood**, it is of no surprise that civilizations across the world have Flood legends with many common features. *The similarities of these legends (in my opinion) proofs – not coincidence,.. but rather Biblical Fact!*

According to the history of Noah we can conclude the following:

- He was the only follower of God left of his generation.
- He was the 2nd father of the human race.[first =Adam]
- He was a man of **OBEDIENCE**.

Through the history of the Flood we learn that:

- God is always faithful to those who obey Him.
- Obedience is commitment, trust and of long term.
- God cares for us in spite of trouble.
- A mans sinful nature always travels with him, although he may be faithful (Noah got drunk, Gen 9:20-27)
- God gives warnings before judgment.
- There is always a price to pay for disobedience. (reason for the flood)

It is clear that the story of Noah’s life not only about one, but **two tragic and great floods**. **It was first flooded by the evil of man, then by the waters that God had send.**

The Tower of Babel Old Testament study iii

THE TOWER OF BABEL



[www.towerofbabel.com]

DESCRIPTION

Babel, Tower of [Ba-bel, gate of God] An expression not used in the OT but found popularly for the structure building **in the plain of Shinar** shortly after the Flood. (Gen 11:1-9) [NIV~ Compact Dictionary of the Bible,1998]

Historical Background.

“God’s judgment of the Tower of Babel was **one of the greatest catastrophes** in the history of the world. In one moment, a massive, highly complex building project, involving the entire human race, came to an end.

Thousands of workers suddenly found themselves incapable of communicating with anyone outside their extended family group. Overwhelmed by fear and frustration, each family group moved away from the others. Mankind has never recovered”.

– [John Whitcomb. Answersingenesis]

What was the Tower of Babel?

According to the New Life Study Bible,1997, The Tower of Babel was most likely an ancient **Mesopotamian ziggurat temple-tower**, ...this was a common structure in Babelonia at this time.

Babel

Old Testament : study iii

These **ziggurat temple-towers** looked like **Pyramids** with ramps or steps leading up to the sides. These Ziggurat-temples stood as high as 300 feet and were often just as wide. They were the focal point of the city.

Why did they build the tower?

“Their own greatness”

The people building the Tower of Babel, was constructing “**their tower**” as a monument to **their own greatness, ... something the whole world could see.**

Then they said: "Come, let's build **ourselves** a city and a tower *that reaches* Heaven. Let's make **ourselves** famous **so we won't be scattered** here and there across the Earth."

[Gen 11:4]

It's clear that **the tower** *was a great human-achievement*, a wonder of the world, **but** we can also see that this was a **monument** for the **people themselves, and not to honour God.**
[New Life study Bible.1997]

Also –disobedience.

According to John Whitcomb, “**This was not** an innocent, scientifically naive, primitive effort to reach the highest heavens! It was, instead, a **blasphemous effort** to dismiss forever the God who **had commanded Noah and his three sons after the Flood to ‘be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth’** (Genesis 9:1). Instead of **honouring God** (i.e. **His character and attributes**), **they said, ... “Let us....”**

‘Let us build for ourselves a city ... and let us make for ourselves a name...’ The **us**...replaced God.

We simply have to do with human ~ **disobedience, pride and arrogance.**

Babel

Old Testament: study iii

Pride and arrogance... these are some of satan's traits. We clearly see them in the Mesopotamians who attempted in building the **TOWER OF BABEL**. ("Let us...let us..") Satan uses the same "tricks" over and over,.... he almost succeeded in completely dominating mankind **again**, as he had done at **the fall of Adam and Eve**, and as he had done before **the Flood** (with the exception of one family [Genesis 6:5; Heb. 11:7])

Not trust in the Lord's Covevant

The decendants of Noah possibly also angered the Lord by building a tower [besides pride & arrogance - to avoid being drowned with flood one more time] **They did not trust The Lord's promise to Noah** that there will be **no more flood to drown the world**. The Lord's judgment was that they lost their privilege of speaking in one language.

Explanation of the biblical text. [literal meaning in Hebrew]

Did Noah's decendants actually attempt to build 'a tower whose top [would] reach into heaven'? (Genesis 11:4). The clear answer is 'No!'

According to John Whitcomb, "the NASB puts the words 'will reach' **in italics**, which means that they are **not in the original Hebrew text**, but were added in an effort to make sense out of the wording – translated out of the original tongues.

The **KJV Key Word Study Bible ~1991~** italicizes 'may reach', as well as *The Holy Bible-printed for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge* [**Cambridge University Press 1885**] ~ being the version set fourth A.D 1611

But what happens **when the Hebrew wording is translated literally?** then We have 'a tower whose top [is] into heaven.' (NKJV). And this is exactly what ancient Mesopotamian *ziggurat temple-towers* were for! ***The top compartment represented heaven***"

Babel
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The top Compartment of the ziggurat towers.

According to John Witcomb, “the inner walls, in all probability, were **decorated with blue glazed tile, with the sun, the moon, and the five known planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn)** lined up along the plane of the zodiac. In the centre of the room would be **their ‘god’** seated upon a throne!”

When was the Tower of Babel build?: Dating.

According to Kent Hovind ~ “The tower of Babel incident probably took place during the **days of Peleg “the earth was divided”** (see Gen. 10:25). The languages, nationalities and possibly the races were created at the tower of Babel. Over the next few decades people migrated to all parts of the world”

According to Josephus, the Jewish historian, the tower was build in the **time of Nimrod**. [New Life Study Bible:1997]

“Cush was the father of Nimrod” Gen 10:8. And Cush, was the son of Ham. Gen 10:6

“And in the beginning of his(Nimrod’s) kingdom was **Babel**, and Erech and Accad, and Calnech, **in the land of Shinar**” Gen 10:10

How did God respond to the Babel project ?

And ...

“**GOD came down** to look over the city and the tower those people had built” - Gen 11:5 MSG

“GOD took one look and said, "**One people, one language**; why, this is only a first step. No telling what they'll come up with next-**they'll stop at nothing!**” - Gen 11:6 MSG

“And God said: “Come, we'll go down and **garble their speech** so they won't understand each other” Gen 11:7 MSG

Babel

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According to John Whitcomb, “the triune, sovereign God of the universe, *anthropomorphically* viewed as coming down from the third heaven, through the immeasurable distances of ‘outer space’, views this tower emerging from the tiny speck called Earth **with a sadness that only He can know, and pronounces judgment**”

‘Let us ... confuse their language ... So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth’
(vs. 7–8).

The End of Babel

“ Then GOD scattered them from there **all over the world**. And they had to quit building the city. - Gen 11:8 MSG

“That’s how it came to be called **Babel, because there GOD turned their language into "babble."** From there GOD scattered them all over the world. Gen 11:9 MSG

The repetition of History.

History shows that **Nebuchadnezzar** later rebuilt a tower in Babylon, which the Sumerians had called **E-TEMEN-AN-KI** (*‘the building of the foundation-platform of heaven and earth’*). **The pyramids of Egypt** and, much later, the great **Mayan temples** of Central America, **reflected the design of the original Tower of Babel.**

Summary and Conclusion

Clearly the Tower of Babel is about **disobedience** against God **human pride and arrogance** ~ it was a world of “one language and one speech” a world of... “**us**”,...let us...” ~ “*let us build us a city... let us make us a name*” [Gen 11:4]

Looking at today’s world, everything is moving towards “world unity”, “united nations”, “global currency”, “global peace”, “global religion” etc. ~ **clearly a world of “us”**... a world of “let we.....let we”...
~ continue

Babel
Old Testament: study iii

Police forces amalgamated into a single Police service [1994],
Bank groups amalgamated [i.e ABSA and now again in 2005 with Barclays Bank]...look at the **European Union**,...clearly **the world** is becoming **ONE** again. **And the world~system is not of God.**

Satan's goal failed at the *Tower of Babel*, yet he'll try and use God's crown of the creation "**MAN**" against Him again, as in the time of Babel.

On a personal level,...aren't we currently building our own little towers of Babel? Aren't we all in a process of building our own little empires,.. gathering worldly material...cars, homes, furniture etc... for the... "**I, the Me and the My**" ...?

If these items **replace God... we are going to run into trouble....and definitely judgment...for it's coming!** Just as in the time before the Flood, and in the time of Babel ~ God warns us...but the **choice is ours**, as God created us with a personality, **a free will.**

END

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