

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

LESSON 2 – ORIGIN OF THE RACES, A SECRET RIDDLE & THE GENESIS ACCOUNT IN CHINA

ORIGIN OF THE RACES ACCORDING TO MOSES

Genesis Chapter 12 begins the journey of a people of promise beginning with Abraham. How we get to Abraham is explained in Genesis Chapters 1 - 11.

Genesis Chapters 1 - 11 therefore, are the story of *everyone who lives on earth*, not simply the Jews. This is significant when speaking to someone who is not a Christian.

For example, how do Chinese explain how they are connected to a Jewish carpenter who appears in time, well after the birth of Buddha and, who claims to be the Only Messiah of God? All this is explained in Genesis 1 - 11. No other religious book attempts such a feat.

FROM ADAM TO THE FLOOD

Genesis 10 is both fascinating and unique in this regard. Today, race is commonly thought of as being divided into Caucasian, Mongoloid and Negroid races. (I.e., the three races as per Webster) Genesis 10 explains that the races come from the progeny of three sons of Noah. These are,

Ham, Shem and Japheth.

Now think for a moment how interesting this is. We know there are three races and Genesis 10 clearly identifies three races (written probably 1,500 BC). What is more interesting is that the progeny of these three races are defined by Moses as follows:

1. Ham begets the Negroid race
2. Shem begets the Mongoloid race
3. Japheth begets the Caucasian race

The Bible groups people first according to familial relationships and only then, into nationalities.

In Gen. 10, the genealogies listed are grouped by family. Never are the sons of Noah associated with color and in fact, the colors/races overlap. However, you can literally trace the territories to the basic three races described above and those territories are not vague. They literally do exist. Moses says if you are Caucasian, you are ultimately a descendent of Japheth. If you are Asian, you are ultimately a descendent of Shem and if you are Negroid, you are ultimately a descendent of Ham.

"This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood." Genesis 10:1-5

1. THE DESCENDENTS OF HAM

The Egyptians, Ethiopians, Libyans and Canaanites. (Gen. 10:6-20)

Cush: Peoples of central and Southern Arabia. The Ethiopians are shown as being inhabitants of both sides of the Red Sea. Also, they had a skin of a different appearance. (Jer. 13:23) Pictures on monuments show that they were a mixed race, some Negro, some Semite and some Caucasians.

Mizraim: Refers to areas of upper and lower Nile River of Egypt thus a reference to Egyptians.

Phut: Generally associated with the Egyptians and more specifically Libya.

Canaan: The area settled by Canaan and his sons was west of the River Jordan. His first born Sidon (Zidon) name stood for the whole Phoenician coast.

2. THE DESCENDENTS OF SHEM

The peoples of the Middle East and Asia. (Gen. 10:21-32)

Eber: Abraham was the sixth generation of Eber who settled in Mesopotamia in the area of Ur of the Chaldees. (Gen. 11)

Elam: Geographically the region beyond the Tigris River, east of Babylonia. The Elamites became a strong nation and were recognized as sovereign by the Babylonian states.

Asshur: The Assyrians of the head waters of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

Lud: The Lydians of Asia Minor.

Aram: Aramaeans of Syria and Mesopotamia.

3. THE DESCENDENTS OF JAPHETH

The Indo-European of western Asia and of Europe. (Gen. 10:2-4)

Gomer: Probably the Cimmerians which are mentioned by Homer as the people of the far north (Odys. xl. 14). They are believed to be identical with the Cimmerians of Roman times and the Cymry of Wales.

Magog: Josephus and Greek writers generally relate them as the Scythians of Southern Europe. Also associated with the Tartars of Russia.

Madai: Medes who lived in area of Caspian Sea.

Javan: Comes from the term "Ionian" which means Greeks.

From these specific peoples mentioned in Genesis 10 it seems that Ham's people went south into Africa, Shem's progeny settled in the Middle East, India and Southern Asia, and Japheth's descendants migrated north into Western Asia and Europe.

Important note. Contrary to many 19th century attempts, it is important to recognize that from both the Bible and from history, specific statements can not be made that all black people come from Ham, Shem fathered all Orientals, or Japheth all white people. Note that the Ethiopians are represented as being all three colors. This is a good example showing that Ham produced peoples of varying colors.

Whatever the case, it is interesting that the Bible address all peoples of the earth as recipients of God's promise of Messiah (Genesis 3:15).

MESSIAH TO THE WORLD

From the beginning therefore, God's Messiah as presented in the Bible is promised to all races and not simply to an obscure group of people living in the Middle East. This is a good talking point when you are speaking to a non-Christian.

A SECRET RIDDLE

This is the written account of Adam's line. Genesis 5:1

AND, (NAME) BEGAT..."

I remember as a child how boring the genealogies of the Old Testament seemed to be. **Nothing in the Bible however, is there by accident or whim of the Author. Everything (including genealogies), have a reason.**

Always pointing to the **"He" of Genesis 3:15.**

GENESIS CHAPTER 5

In Genesis Chapter 5 we are given a list of the direct descendants of Adam and Eve. This list brings us right up to the Flood. They are: **Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech** and, **Noah**. Some of the names are probably jump out at you....especially, **Methuselah** and, **Noah**.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE GENEALOGIES

Let's look at the names again, this time a bit closer.

Just as your name most likely means something in some language, all these names have a meaning in Hebrew. In fact, watch closely. If GOD is the One who gives a special name to someone, something is going on! Here they are again:

Adam or adomah, means "man".

Seth means "appointed". You will recall, Eve said, **"For God hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew."** Genesis 4:25

Enosh means "mortal," "frail," or "miserable" It is from the root anash, to be incurable; used of a wound, grief, woe, sickness, or wickedness.

Kenan can mean "sorrow," "dirge," or "elegy" (Note: The precise denotation is somewhat elusive but most scholars agree this is not the same word as "Cainan." It has some kind of meaning like a sorrowful funeral dirge.

Mahalalel means "blessed" or "praise". Also, see the la El, the name for God? **"The Blessed God."**

Jared (Yared) is from the verb yaradh, meaning **"shall come down."**

Enoch means "commencement," or "teaching."

Methuselah muth, is a root that means "death" shalach, which means "to bring," or "to send forth" so his name means, **"His death shall bring".**

Lamech is a root still evident today in our "lamentation." Our own English word, "lament" or "Despairing" comes from his name.

Noah is derived from nacham "to bring relief" or "comfort" "Comfort, or Rest" Noah, And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed Genesis 5:29

THE CODE FROM GOD

The names given in Genesis Chapter 5 are a coded message from GOD telling us something wondrous. What is most amazing is the message itself. Here it is again, translated.

Adam
Seth
Enosh
Kenan
Mahalalel
Jared
Enoch
Methuselah
Lamech
Noah

- 4

Man
(is) appointed
Mortal misery
Sorrow unto death
(but our) Blessed GOD
Shall come down
teaching
His death shall bring
(the) Despairing
Comfort and rest.

THE "HE" OF GENESIS 3:15 IN CHINA 4000 B.C.

Chinese Christians believe roots of Christianity are seen in Confucianism and, perhaps Buddhism.

"The tragedy is, ancient men did not stay true to God. Other religions developed, Buddhism, Hinduism, all of them. Nations began to forget why they once offered sacrifices to God. Still, God was faithful to the Chinese in allowing His truth to be preserved in over a hundred and twenty-five characters for thousands of years. That is why when Chinese come to God today, we say they are returning to the true God our ancestors once knew."

Page 170, SAFELY HOME, by Randy Alcorn a story of persecution of Christians in China.

Genesis Chapters 1 – 10 discuss the history of all humans on earth originating with one couple and a unique message and plan from God. (A unique feature among all religious works known to mankind)

You are probably aware that all languages on earth can be traced back to an original language. Further, all races can be traced back to one race through both paternal and maternal DNA with an extremely small variance.

THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN COMPLEX IN BEIJING, CHINA

In Beijing's Forbidden City there is one particular temple that has received particular interest by both Eastern and Western archaeologist. It is the 450-year-old Temple of Heaven complex. This Temple records a specific ceremony that goes back 4,000 years.

According to ancient Chinese texts, each year the emperors sacrificed a bull on the great white marble Altar of Heaven. This ceremony was the year's most important and colorful celebration, called the 'Border Sacrifice'. This rite ended in 1911 when the last emperor was deposed.

The earliest known accounts of the Border Sacrifice (the rite is believed to be much older), is found in the Shu Jing (Book of History), compiled by Confucius where it is recorded of Emperor Shun (who ruled from about 2256 BC to 2205 BC) that 'he sacrificed to ShangDi'. (Pronounced Zhan-Di, long-"i") There are no idols in this Temple. Chinese scholars have pondered how this would be possible considering its Buddhist roots.

ShangDi literally means **Heavenly Ruler**.

What has made this of particular interest to Chinese scholars is the unusual reverence shown to ShangDi in contrasted to the many gods of China. It is also fascinating that this particular rite survived for over 4,000 years (until 1911).

Participating in this rite, the god-emperor *himself* first meditated at the Temple of Heaven (the Imperial Vault), while costumed singers and musicians performed the following chorus: (I include it here to give you a sense of awe for ShangDi. The best comes after this recitation. Incidentally, there is nothing like this in today's worship of Buddha or Confucius.

'To Thee, O mysteriously-working Maker, I look up in thought. With the great ceremonies I reverently honor Thee.'

'Thy servant, I am but a reed or willow; my heart is but that of an ant; Yet have I received Thy favouring decree, appointing me to the government of the empire.'

'I deeply cherish a sense of my ignorance and blindness, and am afraid, lest I prove unworthy of Thy great favours.'

'Therefore will I observe all the rules and statutes, striving, insignificant as I am, to discharge my loyal duty.'

'Far distant here, I look up to Thy heavenly palace.'

'Come in Thy precious chariot to the altar.'

'Thy servant, I bow my head to the earth reverently, expecting Thine abundant grace. ...

that Thou wouldest vouchsafe to accept our offerings, and regard us, while thus we worship Thee, whose goodness is inexhaustible."

Notice again, that the god-emperor himself is worshipping ShangDi.

GENESIS IN CHINA

As the emperor took part he recited the following words clearly showing that he considered ShangDi the Creator of the world. (This is completely unique to Chinese religion or literature)

***'Of old in the beginning, there was the great chaos, without form and dark.'* - Shu Jing**

'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was without form and void and darkness was on the face of the deep. ...' - Genesis

***'The five elements [planets] had not begun to revolve, nor the sun and moon to shine.'* – Shu Jing**

And God made two great lights: the great light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. ... - Genesis

***'You, O Spiritual Sovereign, first divided the grosser parts from the purer.'* – Shu Jing**

And God said, "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas. - Genesis

'You made heaven. You made earth. You made man. All things with their reproducing power got their being'– Shu Jing

So God created man in His own image; - Genesis (Also Genesis 2)

***'When Te [ShangDi], the Lord, had so decreed, He called into existence [originated] heaven, earth, and man. Between heaven and earth He separately placed in order men and things, all overspread by the heavens.'* – Shu Jing**

'...by the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ... For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast' - Psalm 33:6, 9

Note also:

EL SHADDAI

One of the Hebrew names for God is El Shaddai, which is extremely similar phonetically to ShangDi. The Early Shou pronunciation of ShangDi is 'djanh-tigh' [Zhan-dai] (Shad-dai)

Remember that the Emperor would sacrifice a bull to ShangDi. Compare this Chinese sacrifice with the instruction given by God to the Hebrews:

'Take thee a young calf for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the LORD' (Leviticus 9:2) - a practice which began in earliest times. (Genesis 4:3,4; 8:20)

It could merely be a coincidence that we see these similarities common symbols among all religions. One additional fact makes even the most hardened skeptic accept the fact that the Temple Ceremony to ShangDi is connected to Genesis.

CHINESE IDEOGRAMS AND GENESIS

Chinese ideograms are the earliest form of Chinese writing and date *before* the time of Moses. What is most fascinating is that in them we find a tantalizing story of creation, the temptation and fall of man into sin, and God's remedy for sin in the animal sacrifices, which point to the coming Savior, Jesus Christ. (incidentally, this is also found in other cultures but to find it in China is especially fascinating)

All the elements of the Genesis narrative are found recorded, and still in use, in the Chinese character-writing today.