

3.2 GENESIS

Traditionally, and despite the assertions of the “Documentary (JEDP) Theory” and some other Old Testament textual critics, Moses is regarded as the author of not only the Book of Genesis, but the entire Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament) between 1450-1410 BC. Jews call these books the *Torah* (i.e., instruction) and maintain it as the first of three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings). These books are considered to be an accurate, yet selective, narrative history of not only God’s chosen people (Semites, Hebrews, Israelites), but of the entire region of the “cradle of history/fertile crescent” from creation to approximately 1410 BC (Ryrie 1978:5; LaSor, Hubbard and Bush 1996:3-13; Brotzman 2007:32-3, 37). According to Dorries, the entire Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) was accepted by the Early Church as canonical at the Synod of Jamnia (AD 70-100) – (2002:13).

Satan began to steal, kill and destroy in the perfectly created Garden of Eden, beginning with Adam and Eve (who were created in God’s image—innocent and without sin). He was the agent creating the circumstances that led to the commission of the Original Sin (the Fall) at the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen 3:1-13). The Original Sin infected the entire human race for eternity and established the need for a Savior, Redeemer, or Second/Last Adam to restore humanity back into relationship with God (Gen 3:15-24). See Sections 1.2.4 and 1.2.10 above for more details on these events.

This sin nature (introduced to humanity from the “father of lies”) became progressively worse over time. This was evidenced by the following: Cain murdered his brother Abel (Gen 4:1-16); Lamech, five generations later, “killed a man for wounding me; and a boy for striking me” (Gen 4:23); the propagation of a mixed race of giants, “Nephilim” from the union of “the sons of God,” most commonly understood to be Satan’s demons or fallen angels (2 Pet 2:4; Jude

6; Ryrie 1978:16, 1874, 1891; Consiglio 2007) and the “daughters of men,” detailed by Genesis 6:1-4. This culminated with the generation of Noah, of whom God said, “The wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually,” and “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth” (Gen 6:5, 13).

However, in the midst of all this sin and darkness came two bright bearers of the light of the Eschatological Gospel: Enoch, who “walked with God; and he was not, for God took him” (Gen 5:24) or raptured him to heaven around 3017 BC (*The Timechart of Biblical History* 2002:III); and Noah, who “found favor in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen 6:8) and through whom God brought about the salvation of the entire human race around 2348 BC (*The Timechart of Biblical History* 2002:IV). After the flood and God renewed His Covenant with Noah and his family (signified by the rainbow), the earth was repopulated by Noah’s three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth (Gen 8:20 – 9:19). However, due to Ham’s sin, his son Canaan was cursed by Noah (who also prophesied the fate of the descendents of his other two sons at the same time): “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants He shall be to his brothers. . . . Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant” (Gen 9:25-7). This then established the chosen race, the “Semites,” descended from Shem. The rest of the nations, descending from Japheth, were to be blessed by and through the God of the Semites. The descendents of Ham and Canaan were cursed to be servants of the descendents of Shem and Japheth.

In conjunction with the repopulation of the earth after the worldwide flood, Satan’s plan to steal, kill and destroy humanity was reborn through the cursed descendent of Ham’s son Cush—Nimrod. Nimrod’s kingdom started in Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh in the land of

Shinar and continued into Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and Resen (Gen 10:8-12). Not only did Nimrod lead the debacle of the Tower of Babel, from which the pagan kingdom of Babylon arose around 2247 BC (*The Timechart of Biblical History* 2002:V), but in his selfishness, arrogance and direct disobedience to God (Gen 11:1-9), Nimrod went on to build Nineveh, from which the pagan kingdom of Assyria arose. And with his wife Semiramis, he started the most insidious false religious cult of all time, their “Chaldean Mysteries.” According to Alexander Hislop:

The Chaldean Mysteries can be traced up to the days of Semiramis, who lived only a few centuries after the flood, and she is known to have impressed upon them the image of her own depraved and polluted mind, (Ammianus Marcellinus, lib. xiv. cap. 6:24, lib. xxiii. cap. 6:371, 374, compared with Justinus, lib. i. cap. 1:615 and Eusebius’s Chronicle, i.:40, 70. Eusebius says that Ninus and Semiramis reigned in the time of Abraham) . . . queen of Babylon was not only herself a paragon of unbridled lust and licentiousness, but in the Mysteries which she had a chief hand in forming, she was worshipped as Rhea (*Chronicon Paschale*, i.:65), the great “Mother” of the gods (Hesiodius v. 453:36) . . . Thus from Assyria, Egypt, and Greece, we have cumulative and overwhelming evidence, all conspiring to demonstrate that the child worshipped in the arms of the goddess-mother in all these countries . . . was Nimrod, the son of Cush. . . . But not content with delivering men from the fear of wild beasts, he set to work also to *emancipate them from that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom*, and in which alone true happiness can be found. . . . He is said to have been the first that gathered mankind into communities (Pausanias, lib. ii.; *Corinthiaca*, cap. 15:145), the first of mortals that reigned (Hyginus, 14:114) and the first that offered idolatrous sacrifices (Lutatius Placidus in *Stat. Theb.*, lib. iv. v.:589; *apud* Bryant, iii:65) . . . *All tradition from the earliest times bears testimony to the apostacy of Nimrod, and to his success in leading men away from the patriarchal faith, and delivering their minds from that awe of God and fear of the judgments of heavens that must have rested on them while yet the memory of the flood was recent. . . . According to the system which Nimrod was the grand instrument in introducing, men were led to believe that a real spiritual change of heart was unnecessary and that so far as change was needful, they could be regenerated by mere external means* [emphasis added] (1929:5, 50-2, 55).

On the same subject and according to Des Griffin:

Nimrod set himself up as the priest of those things being worshipped by the people in order to gain a still greater hold over them. He gradually put himself in the place of the true God. The Bible tells us that Nimrod was a “mighty hunter before the Lord.” Strong’s Concordance shows us that the Hebrew word “paniyim” translated “before” here should be translated “against.” *Yes, Nimrod was clearly against God (Genesis 10:8, 9). To whom*

did the people turn to worship when they rejected their Creator? . . . So it came about that the Serpent (Satan) was ultimately worshipped as the Enlightener (Illuminator) of mankind. . . . Nimrod . . . became the priest of the Sun-god or Bol-Kahn, which means the priest of Baal . . . therefore the priest of devil worship. . . . Semiramis . . . inspired by her true master, Satan . . . wove together an intricate pattern of pagan worship which held the populace spellbound . . . and focus on Semiramis and the Babylonian Mysteries . . . In Wilkinson's *Egyptians*, 4, pp.330-332, we are told that Shem, another of Noah's sons, obtained the aid of a group of Egyptians to defeat Nimrod. After he was killed his body was cut up into small pieces and sent to many cities of the known world as a grim warning . . . and as quoted from Hislop (1929:66-7), "if idolatry was to continue . . . it was indispensable that it should operate in secret. . . . In these circumstances, then, began, there can hardly be a doubt, that system of 'Mystery' which, having Babylon for its center, has spread around the world" [emphasis added] (Griffin 1993:23-5).

And finally, the following related material is provided according to Salem Kirban:

The Sumerian culture introduced two groups of gods which brought pantheism into existence. Pantheism is the doctrine that God is not a person, but that all forces are manifestations of God. Pantheism advocates tolerance of the worship of all the gods of various cults. They worshipped: Anum – the sky god and king of the gods; Enlil – the god of the winds; Enki – the god of the earth; Utu – the god of the sun; Innin – the lady of heaven, later called Venus; Ishtar – the god of love and war. . . . Marduk became the high god and patron saint of the city of Babylon . . . His name first appears around 2000 BC . . . became the god of the sun. . . . The King was initiated by priests, swearing allegiance to the Bel, the god of heaven and earth, and carried the image of Marduk in procession through the streets . . . Ishtar (Astarte to the Greeks, Ashtoreth to the Jews) was a combined Aphrodite and Venus, often pictured as a bisexual deity [emphasis added] (1980:47-50).

During this period of time, when Satan "came in like a flood" upon the earth, with his Chaldean or Babylonian Mysteries cult religion, "God raised up a standard" (Isa 59:19) by calling Abram. Abram was descended from Shem (being a *Semite*) and from Eber (thus, being called a *Hebrew*), and later whose name was changed by God to Abraham. He was called by God *out of Ur of the Chaldeans (or out of Nimrod's Chaldean/Babylonian/Assyrian kingdom) to Canaan (the Promised Land)* to start the chosen, promised, covenantal race of God (Gen 11:10, 14, 26 – 12:8) [emphasis added]. God established His Covenant with Abraham to include the following: the promised *land* of Canaan (from the River of Egypt as a southern border to the River Euphrates as the northern border); the promised *seed* (the miracle birth of Isaac when

Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90); the *blessing* of God upon both the land and the seed; and the promise of God that even though Abraham's descendents were to be "strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years," that they would return to the Promised Land "with many possessions" around 1900 BC (Gen 15; *The Timechart of Biblical History* 2002:V). Then, from the promised covenantal seed Isaac came Jacob, who later was renamed by God, *Israel*. Israel's twelve sons became the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel and ultimately went down into Egypt through Joseph, the next to youngest son and through whom God had chosen to fulfill His promise to Abraham (Gen 21:1-12; 25:19-34; 28:10-22; 29:31 - 30:24; 32:24-30; 35; 46-7).