

APOCALYPTIC FIRE CLAIMS MANY LIVES IN DAY OF HORROR

A tale of two cities: Sodom and Gomorrah in ruins

FABRIZIO SCARDOVI · QUMRAN, ISRAEL

According to one eye witness who happened to be grazing his sheep on a hill overlooking the Siddim Valley: "It happened in an instant. It was a peaceful morning, I was watching the sun rise when I heard a low ominous rumble which in a moment turned into a deafening roar. The sound seemed to be coming from above. I looked up into the sky and suddenly fire began to fall from the heavens. At the same time an earthquake erupted and split the city in half. There was a strong smell of sulphur in the air. Within seconds the entire city was destroyed.

It happened so fast that it appeared no one had time to escape. But then I saw two very tall men leading four people out of the city gate and away from the devastation. One of the group, a woman I think, turned back like she had forgotten something. I lost sight of her but I did see the man and the other two women run in the direction of the neighboring town of Zoar. I don't know what happened to the two men who led them out. They just disappeared. A second eyewitness gave this report to one of our staff writers: "By the time I reached Sod-

om, the destruction was pretty much over. Previously, I was passing by the Oaks of Mamre, near Hebron, and I saw the Hebrew, Abraham, gazing off into the distance. Curious, I looked in the direction Abraham was looking and I could see nothing. I thought perhaps he was just day-dreaming. Then, all of a sudden, I heard a sound like distant thunder and when I looked, I saw smoke rising in the distance. In the direction of Sodom. Strange... but it's almost as if Abraham was expecting the catastrophe to happen?" Continued on page A2.



REPORT



WEST SODOM APARTMENTS ON FIRE: Residential units are utterly decimated by fire and brimstone from the sky.

Over 1,000,000 dead in meteroic disaster - only one family survives



LOT'S DAUGHTERS: Before the disaster struck.

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

What can be described as nothing short of miraculous, one family did survive the destruction of the city. Lot of Sodom and his two daughters escaped by the skin of their teeth. Lot's wife unfortunately did not make it out of the devastation. One of Lot's daughters told us that the evening before the destruction, her father was engaged in an argument with some of the local citizens of Sodom. Apparently this was not the first time he has exchanged words with the locals. This time things turned ugly when the mob demanded that Lot's two guests be brought out to engage in what can only be described as illicit conduct. A tough neighborhood to be sure. When asked about the two guests, Lot's daughter would only tell us that they met her father at the city gate and he invited them to spend the night under the protection of his roof. She said that during the altercation with the angry mob, the two men warned the family that destruction was on its way and they advised us to get out of the city as quickly as possible. Both of Lot's daughters were engaged to local men who were lost in the catastrophe.



REPORT

Abraham being investigated in conspiracy to destroy cities

FABRIZIO SCARDOVI
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Abraham, son of Terach, has come under suspicion by some of the residence of Siddim Valley. In spite of the many accusations surrounding the Hebrew with regards to the destruction of Sodom, the man is still considered a local hero by many. If you remember a while back, Abraham went to war with only 318 men and rescued the citizens of Sodom who had been taken captive by the maraud-

ing king Kedorlaomer and three other kings allied with him, Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar and Tidal king of Goiim. Even though he was vastly outnumbered, Abraham, using his brain instead of might, divided his men and attacked by night utilizing the element of surprise. He managed to rescue all the people from Sodom, including his nephew Lot, and all of their possessions.

The problem started when 5 local kings who had served Kedorlaomer for 12 years decided that enough was enough.

So they stopped paying their tribute and war broke out. Even though he was vastly outnumbered with his small band of household warriors, Abraham defeated the invaders against all odds. He was honored for his victory by the mysterious Melchizedek, the high priest and King of Salem, in a touching ceremony.

But in spite of all of the heroics, there is still the eye witness account that has raised suspicions. In that account, Abraham was seen outside of his tent at the oaks of Mamra, gazing off in the direc-

tion of Sodom as though he was waiting for something to happen.

Then there is the report of the three tall strangers who visited Abraham just the day before. It does seem suspicious. It is reported that after their meal with Abraham and Sarah, two of the men were seen walking towards the city of Sodom. No one seems to know what happened to the third man.

Visit www.battlefieldchronicles.com for more updates about Abraham Ben Terah and his whereabouts.



ABRAHAM: Was seen with three other suspects on the eve of the destruction. Two suspects went to Sodom while he watched from his tent.



SUSPECT : He was seen conversing with Abraham prior to the disaster.



LOT'S WIFE: She was struck and killed by a massive fireball.



REPORTS

Profile: Abraham

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Everyone in the Siddim Valley is familiar with the Hebrew Abraham, but the man's background has always remained a mystery. Until now! A Chronicle reporter has managed to get an exclusive interview with one of Abraham's staff, with the provision that they remain anonymous.

Abraham (who was first called Abram) was born in 1813 BC, and brought up in the magnificent city of Ur. If you remember, this was the civilization that tried to build the Tower of Babel. The tower was supposed to reach to the very heavens, but then it collapsed and sank into the ground. The man behind the Tower fiasco was none other than King Nimrod, the grandson of Ham, one of Noah's three sons.

Abraham's father's name was Terach, who was seventy years old when Abraham was born. Abraham was the tenth generation removed from Noah, being a direct descendant of Shem, (Noah's son), the father of the "Semitic" peoples. When Abraham was born, Shem was 390 years Old, and his father Noah was 892 years old. Abraham was 58 years old when Noah died, and 110 years old when Shem died. These are important facts, for, as we shall see later, Abraham spent many years in the house of Noah and probably received instruction from him. Thus Abraham probably learned all the details about the flood from the very man who built the Ark and survived the flood.

Terach, Abraham's father, was the chief officer of the mighty King Nimrod of Babylon, mentioned earlier. Terach, like his king, worshipped the sun as their chief God.

Crime Stoppers seek persons of interest in Siddim Valley

Persons of interest are being sought by the authorities with connection to the destruction in the Valley of Siddim. The only description available is that they are extremely tall. It appears to be beyond coincidence that two of the men who visited Lot coincide with the destruction of the city. When contacted, Lot refused to comment. It has also been reported that previously, Lot's uncle Abraham entertained three visitors. They arrived at Abraham's tent in the heat of the afternoon. Unusual that anyone would travel during the hottest time of the day. Please contact Siddim Crime Stoppers.

Land dispute settled for Lot

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

An ongoing land dispute between two prominent citizens has been amicably resolved. We thought a follow up story would be interesting, seeing that those two citizens were Abraham and his nephew Lot, both currently under suspicion with regards to the destruction of Sodom. At the time of the dispute, both men were extremely wealthy with ample

herds of livestock. But because the land could not support both Abraham and Lot with all their ever growing flocks living so close together, a dispute broke out between the herdsmen of both families. Fortunately an amicable solution was worked out. They agreed to separate. The elder statesman Abraham let his nephew Lot choose what part of the land he wanted and Abraham agreed to go in the opposite direction. Lot chose to move his tents in the direction of Zoar with its surrounding fertile plains of the

Jordan Valley. Lot moved his tents to the outskirts of Sodom and eventually Lot moved his family into the city itself. In retrospect Lot must be kicking himself now because everything he had, all of his business investments are forever wiped out. Abraham moved his camp and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre where his holdings have continued to grow. Such is fate!

For more news and information visit <http://www.battlefieldchronicles.com>.

IAN CARROLL

ABRAHAM'S TENTS: *He met with two strangers here who went into the city of Sodom shortly after their visit.*



HISTORY

Nimrod: good or evil?

The mighty man who built large cities and a grand tower lacked one thing

STAFF REPORTER

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Nimrod was a very significant man in ancient times, the grandson of Ham and great-grandson of Noah, who survived the great flood. There is no doubt, Nimrod was a born builder, having built the first city after the flood. Then he went on to build Nineveh. Nimrod was also known as a mighty hunter.

Thus Nimrod the hunter became a tyrant, a powerful hunter of men, so that hunting was intimately connected with the establishing of his kingdom, Babylon. It was King Nimrod who first persuaded people to rebel against God, convincing them that it was their own courage which procured happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but by bringing them into a constant dependence upon his (Nimrod's) own power.

Nimrod was responsible for constructing the famous Tower Of Babel. Well, as we all know, things didn't go as well as planned while the tower was being built because rumor has it that his God came down from the heavens personally and confused the common language in Babylon, thus scattering the people all over the world. And there has been much conjecture about why the tower was constructed in the first place.

Was it, as some say, a statement on Nimrod's part to defy God? Being a direct descendant of Ham, (whose son Canaan was the recipient of Noah's curse,) Nimrod vowed he would avenge himself against God by building a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach, should God ever again try to wipe out the human race. Thus he would avenge himself against God for destroying his forefathers.

Or was the temple actually a place of worship? Nimrod himself was apparently later deified as the chief god (Merodach or Marduk) of the Babylon society. We believe he may have been the one that first sent out the decree to:

"Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:4

It seems they wanted to build a tower that should "reach" to the heavens, but it is hard to think that even these people could have been foolish enough to suppose that they could do this literally. Or even if they did, it is hard to think of them as being foolish enough to build their tower on the plain of Shinar, that is, almost at sea level, when they could equally well have built it on the top of a nearby mountain and thus have begun with a few thousand feet head start. It is even reported that the proposed top would be dedicated to the heavens as a place of worship. The question is, worship of what?



TOWER OF BABEL: Nimrod wanted to build a tower that would "reach" to the heavens.



NIMROD: He built the first city after the worldwide flood. He went on to construct the Tower of Babel.

zabulon.it

REPORTS

Nimrod sought to overthrow God by trying to kill Abraham

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

It is reported that Abraham had a close brush with death on the very night of his birth. According to our source, king Nimrod's stargazers told him that Terach's newly-born son would one day be a danger to his throne. Nimrod ordered Terach to send him the baby to be put to death. Terach, however, outwitted the king. Instead of sending his real son to the king, he sent the baby of a slave who was born on the same night as Abraham, and Nimrod killed the baby with his own hands, believing that he was now safe from the threat. The baby Abraham, with his mother, were hidden in a cave for ten

years. At the age of ten, Abraham decided to leave the cave and to go to visit old Noah and Shem, of whom his mother had told him many wonderful stories. Unknown to anybody, Abraham made his way from the low country to the mountainous region of Ararat in the land of Kedem, where Noah and his family lived. He was made welcome by old Noah and Shem who taught him all they knew about the ways of their God, who would later become Abraham's God. Abraham stayed there for nearly 39 years. It was at the end of this period, when he was 48 years old, while still at Noah's house, that Abraham heard about the world-shattering event of the Tower of Babel, which took place in the land of Shinar, where Nimrod

reigned supreme. Nimrod and his people wanted to build a tower that would reach up to heavens so that they might establish their reign upon on the earth. It was the height of arrogance and defiance of men against God. As the story goes, God came down from heaven and confused their common language. This led to their dispersal and division into various tongues and different nations. Abraham took it upon himself to go out and teach people the truth about God, and about the falsehood and worthlessness of the idols they were worshiping, even though he knew that in defying Nimrod, and even his own father, he would be risking his life, for Nimrod had proclaimed himself god and demanded that all the people wor-

ship him. At the age of fifty, Abraham returned to his father's house in Babylon. Terach was also a high priest of the idols he worshipped. Personally, he had twelve chief gods, one for each month of the year. In fact, there was a workshop in Terach's house, where idols of wood, stone, silver and gold were made. People came to offer sacrifices to these idols, or to buy them, and Terach had a thriving business. Terach appointed Abraham to be the salesman and take charge of the business. Our source told us an amusing story about the time when Abraham tried to convince his father of the folly of worshipping his idols.

See this paper online at
www.battlefieldchronicles.com

A big, smashing idol dilemma

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Once, Terach had to travel, so he left Abraham to manage the shop. People would come in and ask to buy idols. Abraham would say, "How old are you?" The person would say, "Fifty," or "Sixty". Abraham would say, "Isn't it pathetic that a man of sixty wants to bow down to a recently made idol?" The man would feel ashamed and leave. One time a woman came with a basket of bread. She said to Abraham, "Take this and offer it to the gods".

Abraham got up, took a hammer in his hand, broke all the idols to pieces, and then put the hammer in the hand of the biggest idol among them.

When his father came back and saw the broken idols, he was appalled. "Who did this?" he cried. "How can I hide anything from you?" replied Abraham calmly. "A woman came with a basket of bread and told me to offer it to them. I brought it in front of them, and each one said, 'I'm going to eat first.'" Then the biggest one got up, took the hammer and broke all the others to pieces. "What are you trying to pull on me?" asked Terach, "Do they have minds?" "Listen to what your own mouth is saying?" said Abraham. "They have no power at all! Why worship idols?"



NIMROD: King of Canaan as graven image.

King of Canaan put most, if not all, trust in prime minister Terach

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Nimrod was one of the sons of Cush. Cush was the son of Ham, one of Noah's three sons. Nimrod came from a line which was cursed by Noah: "Cursed be Canaan, a slave of slaves shall he be unto his brothers." By birth, Nimrod had no right to be a king or ruler. But he was sly and tricky, and a great hunter and trapper of men and animals. His followers grew in number, and soon Nimrod became the mighty king of Babylon, and his empire extended over other great cities. As was to be expected, Nimrod did not feel very

secure on his throne. He feared that one day there would appear a descendant of Noah's heir and successor, Shem, and would claim the throne. He was determined to have no challenger. Some of Shem's descendants had already been forced to leave that land and build their own cities and empires. There was only one prominent member of the Semitic family left in his country, and that was Terach, the son of Nahor. Terach was the eighth generation removed, in a direct line of descendants from Shem. But Nimrod had nothing to fear from Terach, his most loyal and trusted servant. Terach had long before betrayed his family, and had become a follower of Nimrod. All of his ancestors were

still living, including Shem himself, but Terach left his ancestral home and became attached to Nimrod. Terach, who should have been the master and Nimrod his slave, became the slave of Nimrod. Like the other people in that country, Terach believed that Nimrod received his kingdom as a gift from the "gods," and was himself a "god." Terach was prepared to serve Nimrod with all his heart. Indeed, he proved himself a very loyal and useful servant. Nimrod entrusted into his hands the command of his armies and made Terach the highest minister in his land.

For more information about Nimrod visit:
<http://davelivingston.com/nimrod.htm>



NIMROD: His graven image.

REPORT

Abraham flees to Noah in order to escape King's jealous wrath

King perceives potential threat and blatantly throws due process "under the bus"

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Eventually, Abraham's activities aroused Nimrod's anger. One day both Abraham and his father were ordered to appear before the king. The king's stargazers at once recognized Abraham as the one about whom they had warned the king previously. When the truth came out, Terach was taken to task for deceiving the king, and he put the blame on his older son Haran, who was 32 years older than Abraham. Haran had secretly followed Abraham, but he was not quite sure whether he was wise in doing so. He thought that he would come out openly on Abraham's side, if and when Abraham would come out victorious. In a rage, Nimrod ordered that Abraham be thrown into a burning furnace.

When Abraham came out unharmed, Haran declared himself on Abraham's side and chose to be likewise thrown into the furnace, but he was burnt to death. Abraham, on the other hand, who was so wonderfully saved from the fire, was acclaimed by all the people, and they were ready to worship him. But Abraham told them to worship his God, who had saved him from the burning furnace, and that he himself was nothing but a

human being. After Abraham's miraculous escape from the fire, Nimrod became greatly afraid of him. He gave Abraham many precious gifts, among them Eliezer of Damascus, a member of the king's household, who became Abraham's trusted servant and friend. Eventually, as the story goes, Abraham's God called to him and made him an offer: if Abraham would leave his home and his family, then God would make him a great nation and bless him. Abraham accepted this offer. So he, and his remaining brother Nahor, married two sisters, their nieces, the daughters of their brother Haran. Nahor married Milkah, and Abraham married Yiskah, better known as Sarai, who would later be named Sarah.

As time went on, Nimrod had a strange dream and once again his stargazers interpreted it to mean that as long as Abraham lived, his kingdom would be in danger. Nimrod, who had been worried about Abraham all the time, decided to try again to kill him, and sent men to capture him. Fortunately, Eliezer learned of the plot and informed Abraham in good time. Abraham fled to Noah. About a month later, his father Terach came to visit him there. Abraham persuaded him that his life was also in danger, for Nimrod would not spare him. So Terach gave up his high position at Nimrod's court, and decided to go

with Abraham to the land of Canaan, where they would be out of reach of Nimrod. Thus Terach, Abraham, Sarai, and Lot, Haran's son, and all their household left Ur of the Chaldees in Babylon and set out for Canaan. On the way they came to Haran, where Nahor lived, and finding it a good place, decided to stay there. Three years later, when Abraham was 55 years old, God appeared to him and told him to take his wife and household and go on to the land of Canaan. This Abraham did, and he stayed there 15 years. Then, when Abraham was 70 years old, God made a covenant with him. Soon afterwards Abraham returned to Haran, where he stayed for five more years. Then, once again, God appeared to him and told him to leave his father's home and native land for good, and go back to Canaan. This time, Lot, his nephew, accompanied him. Terach died in Haran, and Nahor remained there with his family. Thus, at the age of 75, Abraham came to dwell in the land of Canaan, the land which God promised would be the chosen land for his children as an everlasting inheritance.

And that, in case you were wondering, is how the Hebrew Abraham came to be living in our midst.

You can read more about Abraham online at <http://creation.com/from-abraham-to-exodus>

OFF TO CANAAN: God told Abraham to go to the land of Canaan which was away from Nimrod. This land was promised to him as an everlasting inheritance by God.

REPORT

NOAH'S ARK: 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

Octogenarian in Abraham's household shares about flood

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

When our Chronicles reporter interviewed the unnamed source for the article, 'Abram Ben Terah' (page A2) they discovered an octogenarian in Abraham's household who was privy to information on the Great Flood during Noah's time. We thought this might interest our readers.

We've all heard the story passed down from previous generations, about how our ancestor Noah built an ark that supposedly carried all of the species of animals from the pre-flood era. Really? Could Noah's ark really hold all those animals? Apparently!

Here, according to our source, are the instructions Noah was given from his God. "And God said unto Noah... Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and thou shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of... the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make in the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it."

Okay, so the ark was to be 300 cubits in length. The cubit, as everyone knows, is the distance between an adult's elbow and the tip of the finger. (No less than 18 inches.) This means the ark would have

been 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. This length to width ratio of six to one provided excellent stability on the high seas. In fact, our modern shipbuilders say it would have been almost impossible to turn over. In every way, it was admirably suited for riding out the tremendous storms in the year of the flood.

So the question is... could Noah build such a boat all by himself? Our source makes a good point. No one said that Noah and his sons built the Ark by themselves. Noah could have hired skilled laborers or had relatives, such as Methuselah and Lamech, help build the vessel. Nothing indicates that they could not, or that they did not, build the Ark themselves in the time allotted. The physical strength and mental processes of men in Noah's day was at least as great (quite likely, even superior) to our own today. Good point!

These dimensions are especially interesting when compared to those given in the Babylonian account of the Ark. In that account the ark is described as a perfect cube, extending 120 cubits in all directions and with nine decks. Experts tell us that such a vessel would spin slowly round and round in the water and from the standpoint of stability and would be a disaster.

Getting back to the ark. It had three stories, with a door in the side and a window in the roof. Noah built the ark over a span of about 100 years. If you remember, the ark was intended to preserve the righteous people and air-breathing land ani-

mals from the deluge which Noah's God was about to bring over the earth. Now bare in mind, this is the same God that Abraham serves. (see our article on Abraham.) When the door closed, only eight persons had boarded (Noah and his wife, plus three sons and their wives) Apparently, everyone else rejected Noah's plea for God's plan of protection. Not the animals, though. Well, not all of the animals, just a certain number of representatives of each species.

Speaking of which, how did Noah get all of those animals together? God brought the animals to Noah; the family did not have to go get them. The animals simply arrived at the Ark as if called by a "homing instinct" (a behavior implanted in the animals by their Creator) and marched up the ramp, all by themselves! This of course had to be a supernatural event (one that cannot be explained by our understanding of nature). Compare it to the impressive migratory behavior we see in some animals today. We are still far from understanding all the marvelous animal behaviors exhibited in creation. The animals on board included seven pairs of each type of "clean" animal and of the "unclean" one pair each. According to Noah's religious beliefs, only certain kinds of animals could be eaten, thus the distinction between 'clean' and 'unclean.' Birds included seven pairs of each type.

Our next question is: How did Noah care for all of the animals? According to the events described, the ark was inhabited for 375 days depending on which

(calendar you use.) Even so, that's a long time to be cooped up with a bunch of animals. A lot of feeding. A lot of cleaning up. Think about it! Our source said, "Just as the animals came to Noah by some form of supernatural means. He surely also prepared them for this amazing event." He suggested that God gave the animals the ability to hibernate. He makes a good point. Most animals react to natural disasters in ways that were designed to help them survive. It's very possible many animals did hibernate, perhaps even supernaturally intensified by God. Whether it dormancy or hibernating, God told Noah to take food for them, which tells us that they were not in a year-long coma either.

So, where is the ark now? According to our source, the Ark landed in the mountains of Ararat. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat (Genesis 8:4). Mt. Ararat in Turkey has attracted the most attention because it has permanent ice, and some people report to have seen the Ark, although the Chronicles remain skeptical on that point. There is no conclusive evidence of the Ark's location or survival. Also it could easily have deteriorated, been destroyed, or been used as lumber by Noah and his descendants.

For more information on Noah's ark, visit the Creation website at <http://creation.com/noahs-ark-questions-and-answers>

GEOGRAPHY

Mount Ararat

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Ararat is a mountainous plateau in western Asia from which flow in different directions the Euphrates, the Tigris, the Aras and the Chorus rivers. (By some, the river Aras has been associated with the otherwise unidentified Gihon and Pishon rivers mentioned in the second chapter of the Bible.) Its general elevation is 6,000 feet above sea-level. The Babylonian name was Urartu, a word that is translated in the King James Version as Armenia, which correctly represents the region designated. In Genesis 8:4 the ark is said to have rested “upon

the mountains of Ararat,” i.e. in the mountainous region of Armenia, (the plural showing that the mountain peak known as Ararat was not referred to.) This peak is of volcanic origin and lies outside the general region, rising from the lowlands of the Araxes (Aras) River to a height of 17,000 feet, supported by another peak seven miles distant, 13,000 feet high. It is only in comparatively modern times that the present name has been given to it. The Armenians still call it Massis, but believe, however, that Noah was buried at Nachitchevan near its base. The “mountains of Ararat” on which the ark rested were probably those of the Kurdish range which separates Armenia from Mesopotamia and Kurdistan. In the Babylonian account the

HISTORY

The Nephilim

STAFF REPORTER
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Our research has uncovered an amazing and bizarre event that apparently took place just before the great flood of Noah's time. In fact, it appears to be the reason for the flood.

The Chronicles has no way of verifying what we are about to report, because only 8 people survived the flood, (Noah, his wife, three sons and their wives.) and any information we have has flowed down from them by word of mouth. It has already been established that Noah lived to be 945 years old. Plenty of time to teach his grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. So, in the interests of responsible journalism, we feel we have an obligation to our readers to report the facts we have uncovered, as strange as they may appear. Here is what we have learned.

Before the flood, the wickedness of man was said to have been so great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Every human being on the face of the earth had turned after the wickedness in their own hearts, but Noah, because of his righteousness before his God, was spared from judgment, along with his wife, their sons, and their wives. Eight people in all. As a result of man's wickedness, judgment was rendered from heaven on all mankind. As harsh as the destruction was, no living person was without excuse.

It is reported that in the pre flood era, fallen angels (those beings that were cast out of heaven,) procreated with humans and produced an offspring known as, the Nephilim. Their height was two or three times the height of normal men. Huge beasts they were. In one case they are described as being polydactyly. (Extra fingers and toes).

Genesis 6

When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives for themselves. And the Lord said, “My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years.” The Nephilim were on the earth both in those days and afterward, when the sons of God came to the daughters of mankind, who bore children to them. They were

“My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years.” - God

the powerful men of old, the famous men. When the Lord saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the

earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. Then the Lord said, “I will wipe off from the face of the earth mankind, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them.” Noah, however, found favor in the sight of the Lord.



MOUNT ARARAT: View of Ararat from Khor Virap, Armenia.

ANDREW BEHESNILIAN



POSTAXIAL POLYDACTYLY: Left hand with mid-ray duplication.

MAGNUS MANSKE



HISTORY

Languages today: why so many?

HENRY M. MORRIS
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

As far as the great proliferation of *different* languages among men is concerned, the Biblical account is the only satisfactory explanation. If all men came from one ancestral population, as most evolutionary anthropologists believe today, they originally all spoke the same language. As long as they lived together, or continued to communicate with one another, it would have been impossible for the wide differences in human languages to have evolved.

Even though their languages are widely different from each other, all can be analyzed in terms of the science of linguistics, and all can be learned by men of other languages, thus demonstrating an original common nature and origin.

The source of the different languages cannot be explained in terms of evolution, though the various dialects and similar languages within the basic groups are no doubt attributable to gradual diversification from a common source tongue. But the major groups are so fundamentally different from each other as to defy explanation in any naturalistic framework.

Only the Bible provides an adequate explanation. Originally, after the great Flood, “the whole earth was of one language and one speech” (Gen. 11:1). Because of man’s united rebellion against God, however, refusing to scatter throughout the world as He had commanded, and concentrating instead in the vicinity of the original Babylon, “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. 11:9).

Presumably about seventy families were involved in this dispersion, as suggested by the enumeration of seventy original national groups and tongues in the so-called Table of Nations in Genesis 10. These were represented originally by perhaps a thousand or so individuals, divided into three main ancestral family bodies, the Japhethic, Hamitic, and Semitic. “These are the

families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood” (Gen. 10:32).

The rebellion at Babel was not some impossible undertaking, such as attempting to reach heaven with a man-made tower, as one might infer from the King James translation of Genesis 11:4. The words “may reach” are not in the original; the correct sense of the passage apparently connotes the erection of a great temple/tower dedicated to the worship of the “host of heaven,” uniting all mankind in worshiping and serving the creature rather than the Creator (Rom. 1:25). The most effective way of halting this blasphemy and of enforcing God’s command to fill the earth was that of confounding their languages.

If people could not communicate with each other, they could hardly cooperate with each other. This primeval confusion of tongues emphasizes what modern man often fails to realize: the real divisions among men are not racial or physical or geographic, but linguistic. When men could no longer understand each other, there was finally no alternative for them but to separate from each other.

If anyone is inclined to question this explanation of the origin of the major differences among languages, then let him offer a naturalistic explanation that better accounts for all the facts. No one has done so yet. Obviously a miracle was involved, because the gravity of the rebellion warranted God’s special intervention.

Although the major language groups are so different from each other as to make it inconceivable that they could have evolved from a common ancestral language group (except, as noted above, by such a long period of racial segregation as to cause the corresponding races to evolve to different levels themselves), the very fact that all the languages can be evaluated by common principles of linguistics, and that people can manage to learn other languages than their own, implies an original common cause for all of them.

The miraculous confusion of tongues at Babel pro-

vided the only meaningful explanation for the phenomena of human languages. So even though all mankind still had the same basic logic and understanding of experience, they could no longer work together and thus, they could no longer stay together, simply because they could no longer talk together.

It is significant that traditions similar to the Babel story exist in various other ancient nations and even in primitive tribes. Although not as frequently encountered as traditions of the great Flood, many tribes do have a tradition of a former age when all people spoke the same language until the languages were confused as a judgment of the gods.

Thus, there is good reason to accept the Biblical record of the confusion of tongues at Babel as the true account of the origin of the different major language groups of the world. Evolutionists certainly have no better answer, and the only reason why modern scientists tend to reject it is because it was miraculous. To say that it would have been impossible, however, is not only to deny God’s omnipotence but also to assert that scientists know much more about the nature of language than they do. No one yet adequately understands the brain and its control of human speech. Therefore, no one understands what manner of physiologic changes in the brain and central nervous system would be necessary to cause different groups of people to associate different sounds with any given concept. Perhaps future research will throw light on this phenomenon but, in the meantime, there is no better explanation than that it was God who confounded their language.

Come, let’s go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won’t be able to understand each other.”(Gen. 11:7)

Henry Madison Morris (October 6, 1918 – February 25, 2006) was a controversial American Young Earth Creationist and founded the Institute for Creation Research. This article is from, The Biblical Basis of Modern Science 1984.

QUIZ & CROCIATE

Abraham and Noah trivia

- 1: Dove è nato Davide?
 A. Gerusalemme
 B. Aran
 C. Ur
 D. Betlemme
- 2: Cosa vuol dire Davide?
 A. Amato dagli uomini
 B. Amato da Dio
 C. Amato dal figlio di Dio
 D. Amato dalle donne
- 3: Who was Abram's father?
 A. Lot
 B. Nahor
 C. Haran
 D. Terach
- 4: Who did Abram marry?
 A. Sarai
 B. Sarah
 C. Milcah
 D. Iscah
- 5: Land promised to Abram
 A. Egypt
 B. Mesopotamia
 C. Edom
 D. Canaan
- 6: What happened to the land?
 A. A flood
 B. Abram went lame
 C. A famine
 D. Abram was attacked
- 7: What relation to Abram was Lot?
 A. His brother
 B. His uncle
 C. His son
 D. His nephew
- 8: What did Abram do when Lot was made a prisoner of war?
 A. Prayed
 B. Paid a ransom
 C. Fought to save him
- 9: What was the ark made from?
 A. Oak wood
 B. Pine wood
 C. Gopher wood
 D. Plastic
- 10: Who was Noah's father?
 A. Lamech
 B. Seth
 C. Methuselah
 D. Ham
- 11: How many people were saved in the ark?
 A. Five
 B. Six
 C. Seven
 D. Eight
- 12: How old was Noah when the floods came?
 A. 87
 B. 120
 C. 345
 D. 600
- 13: On which mountain did the ark come to rest?
 A. Sinai
 B. Horeb
 C. Carmel
 D. Ararat
- 14: How many days and nights did it rain?
 A. 24
 B. 40
 C. 48
 D. 50
- 15: How many times did Noah send out the dove?
 A. One
 B. Two
 C. Three
 D. Four
- 16: What did the dove bring back to Noah?
 A. Olive leaf
 B. Fig leaf
 C. Twig
 D. Flower
- 17: What was the first thing Noah built when he came out of the ark?
 A. House
 B. Stable
 C. Tabernacle
 D. Altar
- 18: What was the covenant between God and Noah?
 A. Never to flood earth again
 B. Never to destroy all living creatures again
 C. Promise to make Noah a fruitful nation
 D. Promise that Noah would have lots of children
- 19: What were people not allowed to eat after the flood?
 A. Fat
 B. Herbs
 C. Blood
 D. Meat
- 20: What was the first bird released from the ark?
 A. Raven
 B. Dove
 C. Pigeon
 D. Sparrow
- 21: How long was the ark?
 A. 300 cubits
 B. 350 cubits
 C. 400 cubits
 D. 450 cubits

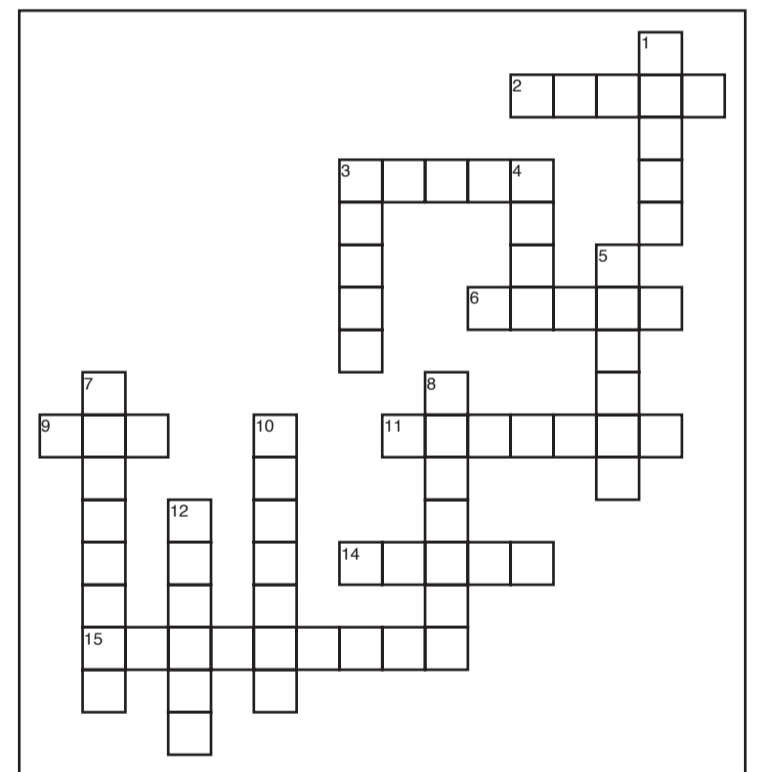
Answers to Abraham and Noah trivia

1.C, 2.C, 3.D, 4.A, 5.D, 6.C, 7.D, 8.C, 9.C, 10.A, 11.D, 12.D, 13.D, 14.B, 15.C, 16.A, 17.D, 18.A, 19.C, 20.A, 21.A

Did you know?

- The Bible was the first book printed on a printing press. It was printed on the Gutenberg press in the 1450s.
- When Queen Elizabeth the first died in 1603, the crown was passed on to James the first, who had been king of Scotland for 37 years as James VI. The King began the pursuit of a new Bible translation. It was completed in 1611 and is now known as the King James Version.
- The first Bible printed in America was not an English Bible, nor was it a scholarly Greek, Hebrew, or Latin Bible. It is this 1661/63 Bible in Natick (also known as Wampanoag), the language of Algonquian people of the present-day state of Massachusetts. It is also the first Bible printed anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. About 1000 copies of "Eliot's Bible" were printed, but only forty-two copies still exist today.

Abraham crossword



Down

1. A grandson
 3. Wicked city destroyed by God
 4. Second son
 5. Land promised to Abraham's descendants
 7. Another wicked city destroyed by God
 8. Second wife
 10. First son
 12. I will make you a great...

Across

2. First wife
 3. First wife's original name
 6. Wife's handmaiden
 9. A nephew
 11. A daughter in law
 14. Abraham's original name
 15. King of Philistines

LETTERS

Should we take the bible literally?

Letters to the editor

Question:

Dear Chronicles,
Re: your editorial, about two million leaving Egypt:

It has been my understanding that the Bible is written in a symbolic language; the info contained therein is not to be taken literally. When you mention that possibly two million people left Egypt in the Exodus, it would merely mean a great number of people (the exact number is not important) and the manna from heaven is to be understood as God saves and provides for his people. These things are not to be taken literally.

Ben A.

Answer:

Thanks for your comments Ben.

Being the publisher and editor of the Chronicles, I feel it is important that my readers understand where I'm coming from with regards to how I interpret the Bible. Let me state emphatically that I am a literalist. I believe in the inerrant Word of God and if it's in the Bible, I believe it! Someone said, "If God didn't mean what He said... why didn't He say what He meant?"

Sola Scriptura.*

The Bible declares itself to be God-breathed, inerrant, and authoritative. The Bible also teaches that God does not change His mind or contradict Himself. So, while the Bible itself may not explicitly argue for sola scriptura, it most definitely does not allow for traditions or symbolism that contradict its

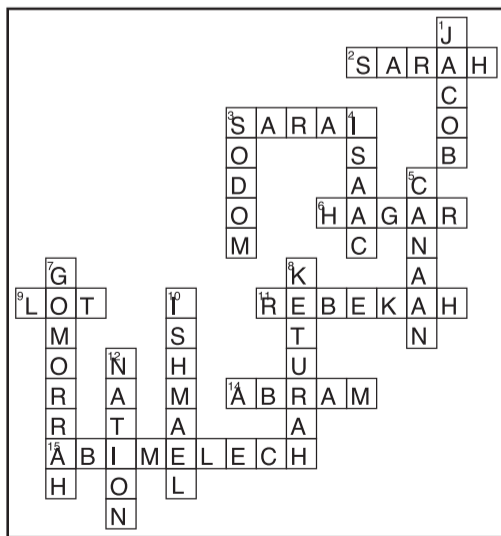
message. The only way to know for sure what God expects of us is to stay true to what we know He has revealed in the Bible. I believe beyond any shadow of doubt that Scripture is true, authoritative, and reliable. I refuse to base my beliefs on tradition or symbolism.

Sola scriptura is not as much of an argument against tradition as it is an argument against unbiblical, extra-biblical and/or anti-biblical doctrines. Thus my use of a disclaimer of sorts, (see editors note on Who Is Abraham), whenever the Chronicles steps outside of what is actually written in the Bible. And our approach to reporting Biblical stories in a modern journalistic style is not meant to reproduce the Bible in newspaper form, but to create interest in, and hopefully have our readers give thought to, some of the stories contained in the Bible. That being said, I do recognize that, like you, not all of our readers will be of the same opinion with regards to the Bible.

Glen Bonham
Editor-In-Chief

**Sola scriptura (Latin, "by scripture alone") is the doctrine that the Bible contains all knowledge necessary for salvation and holiness. Consequently, sola scriptura demands that only those doctrines are to be admitted or confessed that are found directly within or indirectly by using valid logical deduction or valid deductive reasoning from scripture. However, sola scriptura is not a denial of other authorities governing Christian life and devotion. Rather, it simply demands that all other authorities are subordinate to, and are to be corrected by, the written word of God.*

Crossword Answers



What we're all about

Letter from the editor

Welcome to the first edition of The Battlefield Chronicles newspaper, reporting yesterday's news today. Yesterday's news today? What does that mean? Simply, we are taking stories from the Bible and reporting them in a modern journalistic style. We are interested in digging for the stories behind the stories, so to speak. Hopefully you will find our articles interesting. Maybe our newspaper will give you some things to ponder. Perhaps you will be motivated to go and read the Bible yourself just to see if our reporting is factual. After reading some of our articles you may disagree with our journalism. In which case you can use the platform of our Letters to the Editor column to make your point. We can't promise we will publish every letter, but we will do our best. In any case, we hope you like this first edition of The Battlefield Chronicles. You can contact us by email or through our website. We'd love to hear your comments and any suggestion you may have.

GLEN BONHAM
Editor-In-Chief

A journey for "daily bread"

One of the main reasons for creating the Chronicles was to encourage people to read the Bible. I have a real appreciation for the Old Testament. I say that, of course, after having read the Bible through in its entirety every year for the last eighteen years. I didn't start out as a big fan at all. But I thought, "Hey, if it's the best selling book in the world, there must be something to it!" I picked up a One Year Bible, (which I highly recommend,) some eighteen years ago, and each January 1st. I begin anew. When December 31st. rolls around, I have finished both Old and New Testaments, cover to cover. I recall how daunting a task it was to open up the first Old Testament books and plunge in. My eyes would glaze over, and I'm not sure how much I understood, but I kept at it. I eventually accumulated a collection of commentaries, (remember, this was before the internet!) I would faithfully slog through those commentaries trying to get a better understanding of what I was reading. The more I read, the more I understood. Year after year, God's supernatural Word would make more and more sense to my natural understanding. Now it's my daily bread.

I've changed versions a couple of times over the years, and all of my Bibles have notations, highlights, and markings all through them. When I browse through pages I think, "Oh, yeah, I remember that." It's the closest thing I have to a diary.

Letter of thanks

I had this idea of a tabloid newspaper based on the Bible. I remembered an acquaintance whom I met several times at a writer's breakfast, Jatin Naik. I knew Jatin was involved in journalism so I contacted him. Over coffee one afternoon, I laid out my vision for the Chronicles. Jatin filled me in on the many things I would have to consider in publishing a newspaper, and with his encouragement, I set out to create content and design the paper. Jatin and I began to meet on a regular basis to discuss strategy. He offered his experience and ideas, eventually taking on the role of Strategist Consultant. It wasn't long before The Battlefield Chronicles was born. I'm thankful to Jatin for his incredible enthusiasm and encouragement. Glen Bonham

Contributors

If you would like to contribute an article to The Battlefield Chronicles, please contact the editor by e-mail at glen.bonham@sympatico.ca.

"It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."
Isaiah 55:11

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battlefieldchronicles.com

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