

3. Dispensation of Human Government

Postdeluvial Earth

Noah and his family stepped on the new earth. What an excitement! There was a change in the entire system. The ecology was changed, seasons started off, food habits changed from herbivorous to carnivorous, human government established. The descendants of the sons of Noah Shem, Ham and Japheth filled the entire postdeluvial earth.

Mesopotamian Civilisation (Post Deluvian Earth)

We have seen in the previous lesson that the postdeluvian earth was filled with the descendants of the sons of Noah. Today almost all the nations can trace their origin back to Noah's family tree.

The Mesopotamian civilisation has been the driving centre of all the world civilisations that are found today.

Archaeological Evidence

The Archaeologists also vouch this idea. Here is a quotation from the Readers Digest - Story of the Bible World by Nelson Beecher Keyes:

"On the seventeenth day of Tishri, the seventh month, Noah and his craft came to rest on the mountains of Ararat (Gen.8:4), in what we know today as eastern Turkey. It is very likely they sought the area in which they had formerly lived where the flood had overtaken them. Where is there any evidence of a flood such as that described in Genesis? Quite remarkable indications have been uncovered near Ur of Chaldees, the city in lower Mesopotamia where the great Patriarch Abraham appears to have been born.

While Archaeologists were investigating this ancient place in 1928-29, a test pit was sunk outside the city. In it a heavy stratum of

clay, seven to nine feet deep, was encountered. It was at first thought to be the former bed of the Euphrates. Fortunately digging continued, and beneath this heavy deposit of water born silt were uncovered the remains of a very early civilisation, with bricks, hand-painted pottery, stone tools and other objects.

This had been no mere river flood, but something far, far greater which had brought a whole way of life to a complete stop and, as other diggings, notably at Kish near Babylon, seemed to prove, had ravaged very great area. Had this section been Noah's former home and did he return to it again? Life did start anew here, and it can well be that it was from this centrally located valley that its descendants spread out over the earth. And spread out they did - in to Asia, Africa and Europe"

Cataclysmic changes

In the antedeluvian earth climatic conditions were most favourable. The atmosphere was covered with a thick layer of clouds conditioning the earth for effective cultivation in the absence of rain.

The atmosphere was rich with some of its life sustaining properties which resulted in long life even up to one thousand years.

But after the flood due to cataclysmic and climatic changes the life span was reduced to 150 years, and later to 70 years.

This however will change again in the **Millennium** reversing the situation to that before the flood.

".....Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a **hundred** will be thought a **mere youth**For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people" (Isa.65:20,22)

To make this point clearer, take the example of Abraham and Noah. It is interesting to note that at the age of **hundred** Abraham considered himself to be **too old**, whereas Noah had children after the age of **five hundred** and nobody thought it to be strange.

Babel (Confusion)

Contrary to the will of God that the descendants of Noah spread

out to all the earth, Satan instigated them to hang around in the same place, building a city and a skyscraper tower. This was a sheer rebellion against God. So God confused their language and scattered them to the ends of the earth. This explains why there is a certain kind of resemblance in all languages of the earth.

After the dispersion from Babel (present Iraq), the descendants of Noah and his sons became idolaters. Even Abraham's father was an idolater. This was the reason why God called him out of his country and father's house.

Exercise

1. *Describe the postdeluvial earth.*
2. *What were the cataclysmic changes ?*
3. *What led to the confusion of many languages ? Did he change his ways ?*

M.V.: Gen.11:9