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**ADAM, THE FLOOD & THE TOWER OF BABEL**

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Turning just a few pages into the Bible, we read about the first cities known to man after the global flood of Noah's day.

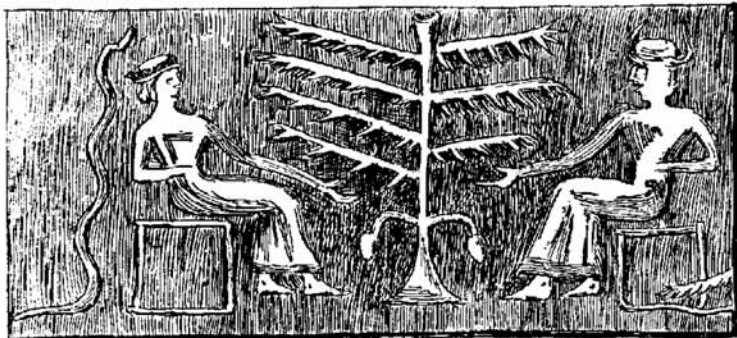
One of Noah's descendants was a man by the name of Nimrod whose kingdom included the cities of **Babel, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh** in the land of **Shinar**. And **Asshur** went forth and built **Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah and Resen** in the land of Assyria.

These first cities lay in a land modern historians call ancient Mesopotamia which means "the land between two rivers." Those rivers being the Tigris and the Euphrates. This land would later be the staging ground for two of the world's most feared Empires, that of Assyria and Babylon. That same land which we call present day Iraq.

I remember during my college days taking a class in Western Civilization and the very first cultures mentioned in the history book we were assigned was that of the ancient Akkadians and Sumerians who lived in Mesopotamia. And it should come as no surprise because the city state of Akkad as well as the cities of Sumer were mentioned in Genesis 10:10-12 long ago.

One of the most amazing finds uncovered in **Akkad** was that of a seal which possibly shows that the Akkadians knew of the story of the temptation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. George Smith of the British Museum, who lived during the middle 1800's, wrote: "One striking and important specimen of early type in the British Museum has two figures sitting one on each side of a tree, holding out their hands to the fruit, while at the back of one (the woman) is stretched a serpent. We know well that in these early sculptures none of these figures were chance devices, but all represented

events or supposed events, and figures ... , thus it is evident that a form of the story of the Fall, similar to that of Genesis, was known from early times in Babylonia."



Akkadian "Temptation Seal"  
From 2,300-2,200 B.C.

The first city mentioned in the Bible as being among the cities of Nimrod is **Babel**. And in fact the city's name as well as the Tower of Babel account is recorded outside of the Bible.

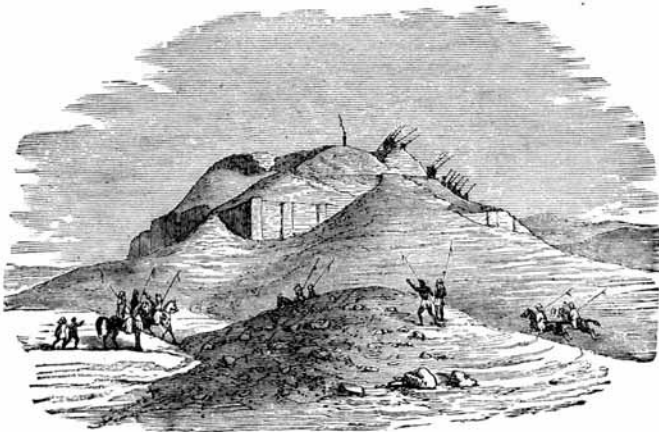
Fragments of an Assyrian tablet were discovered at Nineveh by Austen Henry Layard during the middle of the 18th century that closely parallel the Biblical Tower of Babel account. The artifacts now reside in the British Museum (registration number K.3657) and reads as follows: "his heart was evil against the father of all the gods . . . Babylon was brought into subjection, small and great alike. **He confounded their speech . . . their strong palace (tower) all the days they built**; to their strong place in the night He completely made an end . . . In His anger His word was poured out . . . **to scatter aboard He set his face, He gave this command, and their counsel was confused.** . . . He saw them and the earth. . . of stopping not . . . Bitterly they wept at **Babi(I).**"

Sumer's oldest and most important capital city was Uruk (biblical **Erech**). Present day Iraq

possibly derived its name from this ancient city. **Uruk** is recorded on an artifact known as the 'Sumerian Kings List' which also mentions the **Elamites**. The very same Elamites who descended from **Elam**, the son of Shem, the son of Noah as listed in Genesis 10:22.

Sumer's capital was later moved from **Erech** to **UR**. The same city which Abraham later left to go to the land of Canaan. The Bible calls this city **Ur of the Chaldeans** in Genesis 11:31. An Inscription from Argistis near Van verifies this title. It states, "This is the spoil of the cities I obtained for the people of the **Khaldis** (Chaldeans) in one year."

One fascinating archeological find at Ur is that of a temple tower which the Akkadians called a ziggurat. This tower found at UR was later rebuilt by king Nabonidus of Babylon who reigned between 555-539 B.C.



Ziggurat ruins at Ur

On inscriptions found at this ziggurat, Nabonidus states that he had rebuilt the structure which he learned was originally constructed by two kings who lived 1,500 years prior to himself. One inscription also bears the name of another Biblical Babylonian prince by the name of **Belshazzar** who would live to see God's handwriting on the walls of

Babylon as recorded in Daniel chapter 5.

This ziggurat which resembled a four sided stepped pyramid was probably similar to that of the Biblical tower built at **Babel**. Other towers in Mesopotamia such as the one at **Ur** have been found at **Calah** (Nimrud), **Assur**, **Akkad** (Sippar), **Uruk**, **Cush** (Kish), Borsippa, Aqarquf, Khorabad and Eridu, a city near Ur .

Inscriptions from various Babylonian kings also record the construction of these temple towers which they say reached to the sky with similar wording to that found in the Bible's tower of Babel account.

Hammurabi, who ruled nearly 2,000 years before Christ, states: "He restored the temple Emeteursag ... and built the **temple tower . . .whose top is sky high.**"

Much later in the sixth century B.C. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon wrote: "I raised the summit of the Tower of stages at Etemenanki so that **its top rivaled the heavens.**"

We also know from Babylonian inscriptions that these towers reached heights of up to 300 feet.



Archaeology in this region has also uncovered one of the earliest accounts of the flood. It is listed on an artifact known as the Sumerian Kings List dating back to 2,170 B.C. The inscription reads: **"The flood swept over (the earth). After the flood had swept over (the earth) (and) when the kingship was lowered (again) from heaven, kingship was (first) at Kish (Cush)."**

What is interesting about this statement is not only that the flood is mentioned, but also a city founded by **Cush** who was the son of Ham, the son of Noah. The Bible in Genesis 10:8 states that Nimrod descended from Cush. The city of Kish (Cush) was located in the area very close to Babylon.

Another artifact from the Sumerians was found at Nippur (Biblical **Calneh**) which states: **"A flood came over the cities to destroy the seed of all mankind . . . all the wind-storms, exceedingly powerful attacked as one, At the same time, the flood swept over the culture centers. For seven days and seven nights, the flood had swept over the land. The huge boat had been tossed about by the windstorms on the great waters."**



Another fascinating artifact was found at Nineveh, one of the cities of **Asshur** mentioned in Genesis 10:11. It gives an account of the flood somewhat similar to the Bible's account, showing they also had a knowledge of the great flood of Noah's day:

"...build a ship, seek thou life . . . aboard the ship take thou the seed of all living things . . . All my family and kin I made go aboard the ship. The beasts of the field, the wild creatures of the field . . . I made go aboard . . ."Board thou ship and batten up thy entrance!" That stated time had arrived: He who orders unease at night, showers down a rain of blight. I watched the appearance of the weather. The weather was awesome to behold. I boarded the ship and battened up the entrance. With the first glow of dawn, a black cloud rose up from the horizon. . . . Consternation over Adad reaches the heavens, Who turned to darkness all that had been light . . . For one day the south storm gathered speed as it blew, overtaking the [people] like a battle. No one can see his fellow . . . Six days and six nights blows the flood winds, as the south-storm sweeps over the land . . . On the seventh day the flood subsided in battle . . . the flood ceased. I looked at the weather; stillness had set in. And all of mankind had returned to clay. . . . On mount Nisir the ship came to a halt. . . . When the seventh day arrived, I set forth a dove. The dove went back and forth, but came back; since no resting place for it was visible. Then I sent forth a swallow. The swallow went forth, but came back; since no resting place for it was visible. Then I sent forth and set free a raven. The raven went forth and, seeing the waters diminished, he eats, circles, caws and turns not around. Then I let out (all) to the four winds and offered a sacrifice. I poured out a libation on the top of the mountains."



Tablet number 11 of the Gilgamesh Epic dated to the 7th century B.C. found at Nineveh gives an account of a flood with some similarities to that of the Bible.

Another of Nimrod's cities was **Calneh** which according to the Talmud is associated with the site of Nippur.

According to Genesis 11:1-9, Nimrod's cities which included the region of Babel, Erech, Akkad and Calneh was known as the land of **Shinar**

The name **Shinar** is found in Egyptian records from Pharaoh Amenhotep II who wrote: "Now when the prince of the land of Naharin, the Prince of Hatti, and the prince of **Shinar** heard of my great victory, . . . they asked me to spare their lives."

To the Northwest of Shinar lies the cities founded by **Asshur** who was a descendant of Noah's son Shem. His first city was named after himself, **Assur**. And just like the ruins from Akkad and Sumer, a ziggurat has also been uncovered at Assur.

Another one of his cities mentioned in Genesis 10:11 is **Calah**. The existence of this city has been found on a Royal Inscription from Assurnasirpal II, an early king of Assyria, who states "I took over again the city of **Calah**"

The Biblical city of **Resen** mentioned in Genesis 10:12 is believed to be city known as Larsia, for in Hebrew Resen means "fortified place." The historian Xenophon recorded that Larissa was a great fortress located between the cities of Nineveh

and Calneh.

The city **Rehoboth Ir** is associated today with the Assyrian city of Khorsabad.

And of course last but not least, the great city of **Nineveh** which later became the capital of the Assyrian empire.

## **THE GREATEST WORDS SPOKEN ABOUT THE TEMPTATION IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN:**

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

## **THE GREATEST WORDS SPOKEN ABOUT THE FLOOD:**

“when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

There is also an antitype which now saves us; baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles; when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 1 Peter 3:20-4:3

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