

Newsletter September 2015

In our August 2015 newsletter, we discussed the Genesis flood and the vast changes that came about to the earth's surface and atmosphere in its wake. In this newsletter we shall discuss the aftermath of the flood as pertaining to the human race that continued on through Noah and his family. God had destroyed all of mankind through the great flood that had submerged the entire earth because they had become so evil that they were beyond redemption. Nevertheless, He graciously saved Noah and his sons so that the human race could have a fresh beginning through them. We must note, however, that the fallen sin nature of Adam had not been resolved, such that it remained within the human race through Noah, his sons, Japheth, Shem, Ham, and their descendents. Moreover, Satan had not yet been dealt with, such that his open rebellion against God continued on unabated. In the aftermath of the flood, Satan fiendishly determined to establish a satanically inspired world religion in direct opposition to God's Word and redemptive purpose. The manner in which this satanic religion came about is somewhat blurred by the fact that we must piece together an account only partially recorded in Scripture, which must be supplemented with recorded legends and the marginally reliable writings of ancient historians. The scenario that follows is a carefully considered interpretation of that combined information.

Although Japheth and Shem had fully inherited the Adamic sin nature, we find that Satan specifically singled out Ham to serve him in his rebellion against God. Noah had become a husbandman after the flood – most probably his occupation prior to undertaking the construction of the ark. During what was apparently a family celebration of an abundant grape harvest, Noah sinned by becoming drunk with wine and was laying naked and uncovered in his tent (cf. Ge.9:20,21). Ham discovered his father's nakedness and called on his two brothers to join in abusing and ridiculing him. Ham's brothers refused to do so in deference to the privileged position their father held with God through which He had delivered them all from death in the ark (cf. Ge. 9:22,23). When Noah awoke from his drunken stupor, he discovered what Ham had done to him, and passing over Ham, who had been previously blessed by God along with Noah in the ark, Noah pronounced a curse on one of Ham's sons, Canaan, and all of Canaan's descendents thereafter without end (cf. Ge. 9:24,25).

Initially, Noah's sons and descendents had multiplied greatly and had begun to spread out upon the earth as God had directed them to do (cf. Ge.9:1; 9:7). Japheth's descendents migrated toward Mesopotamia, Europe, and Asia thus forming the basis for the great gentile nations of the future. Meanwhile, Shem's descendents occupied the Middle East from whom would come the Arabian tribes, and through Shem's son, Arphaxad, and his descendents on down to Terah, would come Abram (Abraham), Isaac, and Jacob – whose descendents formed the twelve tribes of Israel – God's chosen people from whom would come forth the Messiah, the Christ, who is the deliverer of all mankind.

Ham's descendents migrated into the land later known as Canaan, and on to what would be later known as southwest Asia, and Africa. Ham had four sons, Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan (who had been cursed). The descendents of Cush migrated into a region that became known as Ethiopia. The tribes of Mizraim constituted the people later known as the Philistines as well as migrating into an area along the Nile River where Mizraim (also known as Egyptios) is believed to have founded Egypt some 160 years following the great flood. Mizraim is also thought to have been the master architect behind the building of the great pyramids. Some have presumed that the pyramids were built by an ancient civilization prior to the great flood, but even the great pyramids could not have withstood the powerful tidal waves of the global flood described in the Genesis account. Moreover, there is no evidence of any significant water damage ever having taken place to them, thus indicating that they must have been constructed after the flood. Put's descendants migrated down into Libya in northern Africa. Canaan and his descendents (Canaanites) made up the Semitic tribes of the Hittites, Jebusites, the Amorites and the Phoenicians – all of whom occupied the region known today as Palestine.

According to ancient historians, one of Ham's sons, Cush, took to wife an immoral and devious woman named Semiramis. Cush, had built up a great kingdom and expanded it through violent conquests. He encountered Semiramis while in the midst of just such a conflict. Semiramis was from the city of Erech (cf. Ge.10:10) where she allegedly ran an inn and house of prostitution. Cush begat a son, Nimrod, and it may be assumed that Semiramis was his mother. Nimrod, founded three cities on the plain of Shinar (later known as Chaldaea or Babylonia). They were Erech, Accad, Calneh, and later on he planned the city of Babel or Babylon (cf. Ge. 10:8-10; 1Chr.1:10). The Bible describes Nimrod as a mighty one on earth – a mighty hunter before the LORD (cf. Ge.10:8,9). Inasmuch as God had directed man to eat the flesh of animals in his covenant with Noah

(cf. Ge. 9:3), many have assumed that Nimrod was merely skilled in hunting animals for food. It is also commonly believed that he had trained a leopard to be his hunting companion. However, the name “Nimrod” most likely comes from the Hebrew verb “*nimrodh*” which may be translated as “let us revolt.” Nimrod was a perverted tyrannical man who hunted and captured the souls of men, enslaving them, and inducing them to follow him in his hostile rebellion against God. This is the probable meaning of the phrase, “before the LORD” found in Genesis 10, verse 9, inasmuch as Nimrod deliberately and openly defied God to his face.

As we previously read in Scripture, God had ordered Noah and his sons to “...be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” (Ge.9:1; cf Ge.9:7), but Nimrod and his subservient followers were defiant – desiring instead to unite all the tribes of the people on earth to stand against God much as they had prior to the great flood. As they migrated into the fertile plain in the land of Shinar, Nimrod and his followers became determined to build a permanent city there and to build within it a tower that would extend upward in open defiance of heaven – thus anchoring their resolve to defy God's command to spread out over the earth (cf. Ge. 11:4). The city was intended to provide civil unity through the development of a strong secular society engaged in vast commercialism. (It should be noted that the plain of Shinar coincides with the region of “Sumer” considered by archeologists to be the cradle of all human civilization). The tower was intended to represent their religious unity through a satanically contrived religion that openly defied God. Satan had determined that Babylon would become his seat of power and the source of all religions idolatry and rebellion in the world even to the present day. As Isaiah later said of him, “...thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Is.14:13,14).

The tower spoken of in Scripture was most likely a square-based pyramid or “zikkurat,” whose method of construction may have been retained from the evil times before the flood. It was to be built of burned brick held together by mortar made from an adhesive slime found within the plain (cf. Ge. 11:3). Zikkurats supported a level place of worship as a terrace on the very top of the pyramid, which was accessible only by a long series of steep steps up one side. It is unreasonable to assume that the builders actually believed that the top of the tower could have reached up to God's abode in heaven, and considering the fact that the flood had covered the highest mountain peaks (cf. Ge 7:20) a tower built upon this plain would offer no safe haven from another global flood – as the ancient historian Flavius Josephus recorded as his supposition for its construction. The improved visibility of the heavens after the flood likely induced men to begin worshipping the sun, moon and the stars – as well as to develop a satanic pseudo-science known today as astrology. An early zodiac was probably planned to be affixed in the temple atop the tower to chart the movement of constellations in the star-filled night sky.

All people on earth spoke the same language following the flood such that nothing was impossible for them to imagine and then to readily communicate those evil imaginings to all others (cf. Ge. 11:6). The wickedness that had existed prior to the flood, for which mankind had been severely judged, remained in the minds of its survivors and had threatened to return in full force. For that reason, God confused their speech such that they could no longer universally communicate with each other (cf. Ge. 11:7). This partitioning of languages first forced them to gather together in smaller groups that spoke a common language, and then it began to drive the groups apart from others whom they could no longer comprehend. The building of the great city on the plain of Shinar was abandoned as mankind at last began to scatter out over the earth. However, we find that in the time of Nebuchadnezzar (about 1140 BC) when he besieged Jerusalem (cf. 2Ki. 24:10), Babylon had been built up into a great walled commercial city. This massive city prevailed until it was much later demolished by king Cyrus of Persia in about 539 BC. Babylon's remains exist today as a large tell of broken mud-brick and debris about 50 miles south of the city of Baghdad, Iraq. During the recent despotic reign of Saddam Hussein (AD 1979-2003), Hussein contemplated reconstruction of a portion of Babylon as a site for one of his grandiose palaces, but he was only able to reconstruct the main gate of the city before he was overthrown.

We spoke earlier of Nimrod in our March 2013 newsletter as we discussed the egregious paganism surrounding Easter, which is also relevant to this discussion. According to ancient historians, when Cush died, Nimrod married his own mother, Semiramis, and assumed the office of king. An enemy later murdered Nimrod and his body parts were scattered abroad. Semiramis may have been directly responsible for his death – perhaps during a barbarous religious ceremony. Be that as it may, Queen Semiramis, in an effort to cement her position of authority, claimed that Nimrod was not truly dead but had been resurrected, taken up to the sun, and

was now to be referred to and worshiped as Baal, the sun god (cf. Jud. 2:13). Due to the partitioning of languages, Nimrod would later be worshiped by various other names such as Osiris, Vishnu, Mercury, Mars, Zeus, Adonis, Molech, Dagon, and Poseidon. The epic legends of Gilgamesh were most likely derived from this false religion in which Gilgamesh portrays Nimrod.

Queen Semiramis also taught her subjects that she was the daughter of the moon, her mother, and of the sun, her father. She claimed to have come down out of heaven in a large moon egg into the river Euphrates at the time of a full moon following a spring equinox. She also took upon herself the name Ishtar, the pagan goddess of war, love, sex, and fertility. When Semiramis later became pregnant by unknown but likely illicit means, she claimed that the rays (or spirit) of the sun god had caused her to conceive. The son born to her from that pregnancy was named Tammuz, (also called Damu or Damuzi). Tammuz was in time killed by a wild boar, after which the worship of Tammuz was also established and was centered upon two yearly festivals: The first festival celebrated his birth to the goddess Ishtar, and the second celebrated his death at the hands of demons in the form of the wild boar immediately followed by Ishtar Sun-day, taking place upon the first Sunday after a full moon that followed a spring equinox, celebrating Tammuz's supposed resurrection and ascension to the sun. Thus, Satan had early on succeeded in planting this foolishness in the minds of mankind in an attempt to confuse and discredit the truth of the future incarnation, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

From this satanically inspired root religion, many variations of it spread into other cultures throughout the world, where Ishtar became known by diverse other names according to their language. She was consistently referred to as the "queen of heaven," and as such can be identified in Scripture with Diana of the Ephesians (cf. Ac.19:24-35). She was also referred to by many other names, including "Isis," "Innana," "Osiris," "Isi," "Iswara," "Cybele," and "Ostara." Worship surrounding these pagan "goddesses" was commonly attended with drunkenness, extremely immoral activities, and by institutionalized religious prostitution.

Semiramis and Tammuz were often worshiped together, thus forming a mother-son ("madonna") cult that quickly spread throughout the ancient world. Ashtoreth, the supposed "queen of heaven" holding a baby in her arms formed the mystery-religion of Phoenicia. Semiramis and Tammuz were also known as Isis and Horus in Egypt, Aphrodite and Eros in Greece, and Venus and Cupid in Italy. When paganism flooded into the Roman church of the fourth century through a satanically inspired order of the Emperor Theodosius (cf. *CRC Book III*, page 141), the worship of Semiramis and Tammuz was adapted to represent the worship of Mary and her infant son, Jesus. As a consequence of this foolish action, the worship of the pagan goddess Semiramis continues on today in the celebration of Easter (Ishtar) Sunday and within Roman Catholicism through Mariolatry (cf. *CRC Book III*, pages 161-164), wherein Mary is falsely deified as the ultimate intercessor for the sins of mankind through her intimate relationship with the baby Jesus. Mary is often referred to as "the queen of heaven" by Roman Catholics further identifying her with Semiramis, such that we find that the Mary that the Roman Catholic worships is not the very human and humble Mary of the Bible, but a pagan counterfeit.

Any true believer objectively looking at Roman Catholicism can find many parallels between it and the mystery religion of Babylon as the Roman church attempted to assimilate pagan practices with Christianity. For example, the "sign of the cross" closely depicts the Greek letter *tau* that first represented the worship of Tammuz. As we discussed in our book on church history, we cannot even be sure that the cross upon which Jesus died was configured like a Latin cross that is so revered today (cf. *CRC Book III*, pages 122-125). Moreover, the Roman error of transubstantiation echoes the mystical reconstruction of Tammuz body and of his false resurrection. The biblical doctrine of the triune Godhead forever subsisting in absolute unity as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit has been corrupted into a false trinity consisting of the Father, Mother, and Son. The preeminence of Christ as the only mediator between God and man (cf. 2Ti. 2:5) has been displaced by an alleged divine intervention taking place through Mary who has been falsely deified. This false notion is followed by the worship of a host of church-deified saints. The Roman priesthood, with similarly alleged powers of intervention, was obviously derived from the satanic priesthood of Baal, not from Judaism. The Roman Pope's alleged claim to the seat of the apostle Peter through apostolic succession (cf. *CRC Book III*, page 111), is false such that he actually occupies the seat of Nimrod – and by proxy the seat of Satan. Salvation according to Roman Catholicism is based upon unquestioned obedience to the glorified Pope, adherence to the church's seven sacraments, and blind submission to ecclesiastical confessions. Furthermore, the construction of ostentatious basilicas and high cathedrals by the Roman Catholic Church in its prime had their origin in the building of the tower of Babylon that was similarly undertaken by

Nimrod to unite all people as one through a common world religion. Although these grandiose constructions were purportedly designed to declare the glory of God, they actually shouted out the united majesty of those men who had constructed them as well as those who had ordered their construction. The mysteries concerning their elaborate construction, which were held by a very select group of workers, later developed into the secretive religious guild of freemasonry (cf. *CRC Book III*, page 146), which lingers on today as the mystery religion of Speculative Freemasonry (cf. *CRC Book III*, page 424-430).

While much of the Babylonian paganism of the Roman Catholic Church was exposed by the Protestant Reformation Movement, not all of it was corrected due to the rigid paradigm of churchianity in which the reformers were held captive; much of it remains embedded in present-day Protestant temporal churches as established tradition. For example, infant baptism, which was necessitated by the Roman church through the false doctrine of baptismal regeneration (cf. *CRC Book II*, page 423), remains as an established practice in many Protestant churches. Some churches have also retained the unbiblical office of priests. The annual celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ remains on ecclesiastical calendars as Ishtar Sunday, and the worship of Semiramis, the goddess of fertility takes place through the Easter (Ishtar) egg hunts on many church lawns. The institutionalized pagan celebration of Christmas (Christ Mass), which the Roman church purposefully synchronized to coincide with the pagan holiday of Saturnalia, also remains in Protestantism (cf. Newsletter December 2012).

In Alexander Hislop's book, *The two Babylons*, he describes how the ancient religion of Babylon completely overwhelmed the Roman church such that the Roman Catholic Church no longer represents true Christianity at all, but the old satanic mystery religion of Babylon posing as Christianity. In the book of the Revelation, we find a reference to "Babylon the Great" as a "woman" who is a "great whore" that "sits upon many waters" as revealed to John the apostle while he was imprisoned on the isle of Patmos (cf. Re. 1:9; 17:1): "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me [John] away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus..." (Re. 17:2-6). The parallel between this revelation and the wealth and visual aspect of the Roman Catholic Church today and its terrible history of the persecution of genuine believers during the reformation effort is striking to say the very least.

It can be further demonstrated that, with the significant exception of old-covenant Judaism and true biblical Christianity, all of the major religions of the world including its many cults and isms can be traced back in one way or another to the satanically induced religion of Babylon. Protestantism has been greatly weakened by the onslaught of this false religion over the centuries such that today's temporal churches knowingly misinterpret the Bible to comply with popular pagan tradition, or they completely ignore the authority of Scripture in their mad rush to align themselves with an increasingly hostile world. Roman induced ecumenism insistently calls them back through false traditions to rejoin the Roman Church out of which it had earlier come with much pain and suffering. Moreover, the female principle that originated in the worship of Semiramis has led many Protestant churches to accept the nefarious tenets of feminism as we have seen in our March 2015 newsletter. This corruption has further led to their tolerance of fornication, homosexuality, and the condoning of Baal-worship through tolerance of the modern abortion movement. We have discussed all of this in some detail in recent newsletters.

As we enter the last days prior to the unleashing of God's final judgments upon a sinful earth, we can expect the Roman Catholic Church to succeed in drawing all major protestant churches back into its fold – even as it further adulterates itself by befriending and aligning itself with many other false religions of the world. Eventually all organized religion will be absorbed into a one-world religious system under the rule of the false prophet of the antichrist (cf. *CRC Book III*, page 605). This ancient Babylonian religion will persist upon the earth until "Mystery Babylon" is destroyed forever by God when his unrestrained wrath is unleashed against all earth dwellers in the days just prior to the return of Jesus Christ in great power to establish his thousand-year Kingdom on earth (cf. Re.18:21; *CRC Book III*, pages 597,598). © Arthur J. Smith, September 2015