

Excerpt from:

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The Chinese have kept accurate records since their first recorded Xia dynasty in 2205 B.C. Why were there no dynastic records prior to 2205 B.C.? Could it be that this was truly the beginning of the Chinese people as a nation? Is there another world record to shed light on this puzzle?

There is only one complete record in existence which chronicles earth history from its very creation, and that is the Hebrew Scriptures, preserved today as the Holy Bible. The first book (Genesis) of this inspired epic was written down, under the guidance of inspiration, by the prophet Moses in about 1500 B.C. It tells how, in the beginning, God created our earth, its plant life and bodies of water; its solar system; and all animal life—including mankind—in six literal days. "*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*" (Genesis 2: 2). Thus the weekly cycle was initiated, worldwide, for all time.

God created the first man, Adam, and his mate Eve, in His own image and likeness. They were perfect and holy. God placed them in the lovely Garden of Eden where there were two special trees: the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Before they could receive God's full measure of blessing, their loyalty to Him must be proven. So God warned the first couple not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge or they would die. This was not because the fruit was poisonous, for God had said that everything which He had created was "*very good.*" (Genesis 1: 31). But He reserved this tree as His own. When they saw the tree it would remind them of God's Creatorship, Ownership and Sovereignty. It was a reminder to be loyal to their great Benefactor.

It was God's mandate that mankind should know only the true and good. God did not want Adam and Eve to become acquainted with evil, with sin,

with disappointment, pain, grief, and death. In love, God intended to withhold all of this from them, seeking only their good. On the other hand, God's enemy, Satan, a fallen angel, intended to ruin them. One day Eve met God's enemy, who, talking through a serpent, tempted her to eat the forbidden fruit. She then took some of the fruit to Adam and he ate also. Thus they disobeyed God's one test of loyalty and thereby became sinners. The beautiful new earth underwent dreadful changes as a result of this one act. (More details will be discussed in Chapter 8.)

Would God immediately strike them dead? No. Instead, this wonderful, loving Creator-God was merciful in providing a means of rescue. The three Holy Persons of the Godhead formulated their plan that God the Son would remove His glorious crown and step down from His throne in heaven. He would be born as a human babe in a stable surrounded by dumb animals, live and teach righteous living, and even in young adulthood suffer a cruel death so that "*whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" (John 3: 16). A second chance with probational life was given to man that he might once again choose between good and evil, between truth and error, between God and Satan, between life and death.

Ten generations of mankind followed the creation of Adam and Eve, and as men multiplied on the earth, so did wickedness. According to the Bible, in the calculated year of 2348 B.C., God sent a world-wide flood to cleanse the earth of depravity. The waters covered every high mountain and destroyed all life, including mankind, except for faithful Noah, his wife, three sons and their wives—just eight people. God had instructed Noah to build a great ship in which, not only this family, but also, under God's direction, pairs of all animals, were preserved. The Chinese have memorialized this event in their character meaning *boat* 船 which shows a *vessel* 舟 with *eight* 八 *people* (*mouaths*) 口.⁵

Interestingly, one of the oldest Chinese legends concerns a man named Nu-wa (女娲), note the phonetic similarity to Noah). "They told of Nu-wa,

the progenitor of mankind, and Shen Nong (神农), and Fu Xi (伏羲) patri-archs whose names coincide with 'Shem' and the 'phe-th' in 'Japheth.' (Ja was lost in transmission because the Hebrew 'Yodh' is a weak consonant. The Chinese 'Xi' is pronounced 'hsi,' corresponding to the Hebrew 'th,' which Askenazic Jews pronounce like 's,' vocalizing 'Japheth' as 'Yaphess'). These were two of Noah's three sons. Why Ham's name was not preserved, we are not sure. His disrespect for his father may be one reason why his name was stricken from the honor roll of China's patriarchs."⁶ (Cp. *Ham*. 9: 27)

Legend tells us that Shen Nong invented agricultural tools and experimented with hundreds of herbs to determine which had healing properties. He is believed to be the "Father of Chinese medicine."⁷ [Fu Xi by tradition believed to be the son of Nu-wa, taught how to catch fish with nets (fish would be the only available flesh food after the Flood). He is also credited with being the first author of the *Yi Jing*, the oldest written record of the Chinese.⁸

Scripture tells us that after the waters of the flood receded and Noah's family emerged from the ark, God instructed Noah to build an altar and sacrifice clean animals upon it in thanksgiving for the family's salvation. A beautiful rainbow appeared in the sky and God promised that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. The Chinese legend relates that Nu-wa fused together five-colored rocks to patch up the heavens, which coincides with the scenario of Noah offering burnt sacrifices on a stone altar against a background rainbow spanning the heavens. (Genesis 8: 20; 9: 17).⁹

According to the Biblical record, after only three generations, just 101 years following the flood, another great debacle took place. Mankind had not only multiplied greatly during this period, but also became wicked again, defying God by building a great tower. God acted. This time He confused the common language and thus scattered over the earth various people groups who now had new and differing tongues.

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. (Genesis 11: 5 - 8).

This event took place about 2247 B.C. It certainly seems likely that at this time the Chinese family, with a new language, migrated from the area of the Tower of Babel in Mesopotamia, traveling eastward to the land of China where God appointed them a new habitation.

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. (Acts 17: 26, 27).

This great event was also recorded in the ancient Chinese Classics:

The great Heaven gave this Middle Kingdom with its people and territories to the former kings.¹⁰

Not long thereafter, in 2205 B.C., China's first dynasty, the Xia, was founded. Referring now to ancient Chinese writings, we find mention of a "Legendary Period of Five Rulers." The last two rulers of this "Legendary Period," Yao and Shun, appear to have lived in the post-Flood period and were possibly leaders of the Chinese migration. Of Shun it is recorded that **"he sacrificed to Shangdi."**¹¹ *Shangdi* (上帝) is the earliest Chinese name for God. His attributes of creatorship are identical to those of the Hebrew

God, *Shaddai*, the "Almighty One." Note the similarity in the name "Shangdai," as it is pronounced in the Cantonese dialect, with "Shaddai."¹² Is this just a coincidence?

Both rulers, Yao and Shun of this ancient legendary period, are referred to as being "virtuous." They, together with Yi Yin, are perhaps the earliest of China's sages, and are rather frequently quoted by later sages. We will find that their teachings of righteousness are similar to biblical teachings. Furthermore, when we find that some prophecies of the ancient Chinese sages are nearly as accurate as those of the Bible, we will become convinced that these are from the *"true light which gives light to every man coming into the world."* (John 1: 9).

The ancient Chinese prophets, as voices for Heaven, left precious writings with God-given teachings. A controversy between Christ and Satan can be followed throughout Chinese history. One focus of the controversy between good and evil was the preservation or destruction of these writings. During a "dark age," an attempt was made to eradicate these books with their heavenly light by burning them, or by forbidding their reading. But darkness could not obscure light shining from the Sun of Righteousness! New light of truth has ever shone upon searching hearts in the land of Simim.

The Bible says that *"The path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day."* (Proverbs 4: 18). As true light shines from the ancient Chinese prophets, this small light from them will point to the great shining Light—which is the Good News of the Bible—the Gospel from Heaven!

Biblical Chronology

B.C. 2348 Flood (Noah)

- 2346 Gen 11: 10 Shem 100 yrs old, and begot Arphaxad 2 yrs after flood.
- 2311 Gen 11: 12 Arphaxad lived 35 yrs and begot Salah.
- 2281 Gen 11: 14 Salah lived 30 yrs and begot Eber.

B.C. 2247 Tower of Babel Gen 11: 16 Eber lived 34 yrs and begot

Peleg ("Division") Gen 10:25 in his (Peleg's) days the earth was divided;
 Gen 10: 31, 32 according to their languages. . . the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

- 2217 Gen 11: 18 Peleg lived 30 years and begot Reu
- 2185 Gen 11: 20 Reu lived 32 yrs and begot Serug
- 2155 Gen 11: 22 Serug lived 30 yrs and begot Nahor
- 2126 Gen 11: 24 Nahor lived 29 years and begot Terah
- 2056 Gen 11: 26 Terah lived 70 yrs and begot Abram (Nahor and Haran).
- 1956 Gen 21: 5 Abraham was 100 yrs old when his son Isaac was born
- 1896 Gen 25: 26 Isaac was 60 yrs old when Jacob was born
- Gen 47: 28 Jacob lived in the land of Egypt 17 years.

Jacob lived 147 years. Therefore:

B.C. 1766 Gen 43: 1 Jacob went into Egypt when 130 yrs old because of famine in the land of Canaan.

B.C. 1445 Exodus of Israel from Egypt—God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, to restore the faith of their fathers. The Ten Commandment Law was given at Mt. Sinai.

B.C. 1406 Arrived at Canaan—After forty years of sojourn in the wilderness, Moses led the Israelites to the border of the Promised Land

B.C. 1400 Final settlement in Canaan—Joshua 14: 7, 10. God chose Joshua to lead Israel in the conquest of Canaan, which took six years to accomplish.

Chinese Chronology

B.C. 2348 The Legendary Period

Nu Wa, Shen Nong, Fu Xi in Chinese legend
 Five Legendary Kings

B.C. 2247 Migration Period (from the Tower of Babel)

Migration to the Middle Kingdom under the leadership of Yao and Shun

B.C. 2205 - 1766 The Xia Dynasty

Yu	2205	Mang	2014
Qi	2197	Xie	1996
Taikang	2188	Bu Xiang	1980
Zhongkang	2159	Jiang	1921
Xiang	2146	Jin	1900
Interregnum of forty years commencing	2118	Kong Jia	1879
Shao Kang	2079	Kao	1848
Zhu	2057	Fa	1837
Huai	2040	Jie	1818

B.C. 1766 The Shang Dynasty

Tang 1766
 Seven years of drought in China.

B.C. 1401 Chinese Exodus Complete

Duke of Zhou
No. Cheng / King Wen
 Pan Gen, Tang's ninth-removed grandson was called by Shangdi to move the capital from An (Shandong) to Yin (Henan). This took many years to restore the pious belief in Heaven and the pure virtues as manifested by the ancient kings. The dynastic title was changed from Shang to Yin at this time.