

Aram-Naharaim

By: D. Gelderman

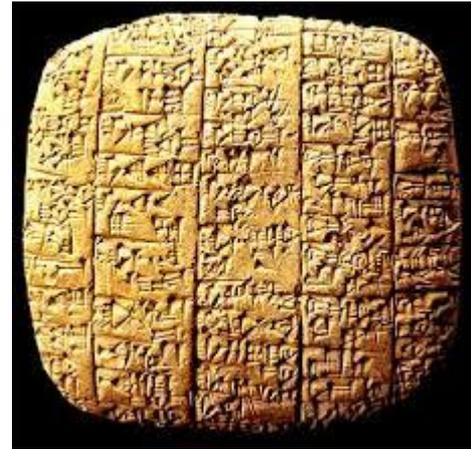
What Biblical characters lived in Mesopotamia?

- King Nebuchadnezzar II is mentioned almost a hundred times in the bible, and is a famous Babylonian king, biblical character, and wine bottle size- a Nebuchadnezzar holds fifteen liters of wine. In his most famous biblical appearance, he is forced to eat grass like an ox to atone for his pride and become a better ruler, but he was also responsible for the creation of the Ishtar Gate and the expansion of Babylon's territory.
- Abraham was maybe born in the Sumerian city Ur under the name Abram. He is a prophet of the three Abrahamic religions, plus I think Mormons recognise him as a prophet too. The bible states that Abraham's father, Terah, lived in Mesopotamia for sure and that Abraham stayed with him, but technically it is never stated that Abraham lived there or was born there. This is disputed because biblical scholars are real freaking picky, and have nothing better to do than dispute this stuff.
- Abel and Cain were born in Mesopotamia, where they both lived happily until Abel made a better sacrifice to god, so Cain killed him and ran away to the land of Nod. According to Genesis, Abel was the first human to die, and Cain the first to be born.



Why do we think Bible stories and Mesopotamia are connected at all?

- Over seventeen thousand stone tablets were unearthed in Ebla in the past few decades that probably served as a collection of records for a central court in ancient Mesopotamian Ebla. They reveal a lot about the city and the lifestyle of Mesopotamian citizens at the time, but they also help confirm the existence of Abraham, David, Saul, Esau, and Eber as real people. They also mention the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, although they do not talk much about pillars of salt. Some biblical literalists say that the importance of these tablets is overstated because nowhere in the 17,000 rocks is the name yahweh written, but biblical literalists are annoying picky little men, who should probably be ignored.



What does Eden have to do with the Hanging Gardens?

- Eden is a Sumerian word meaning “steppe”. As in, steps on a ziggurat? Eden was also a district in Sumer where the Hanging Gardens were thought to lie. These Hanging Gardens may have been a large ziggurat with plants hanging from steppes. Sound suspicious yet????? But that’s not all! One fruit that grew in the Hanging Gardens was the quince, which is rare because of its specific soil needs and also because its ugly. The quince is sometimes called a golden apple, like the golden apple that eve bit into in Eden! Convinced yet???? Because that’s not all either!!!!!! The Babylonians also have myths that bear striking resemblance to the creation of Eve from Adam's rib, but these myths predate the bible myths!!!!!!

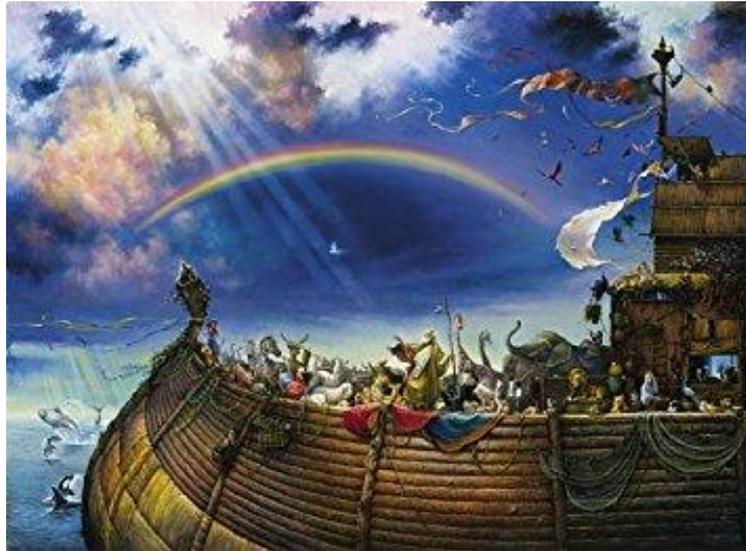


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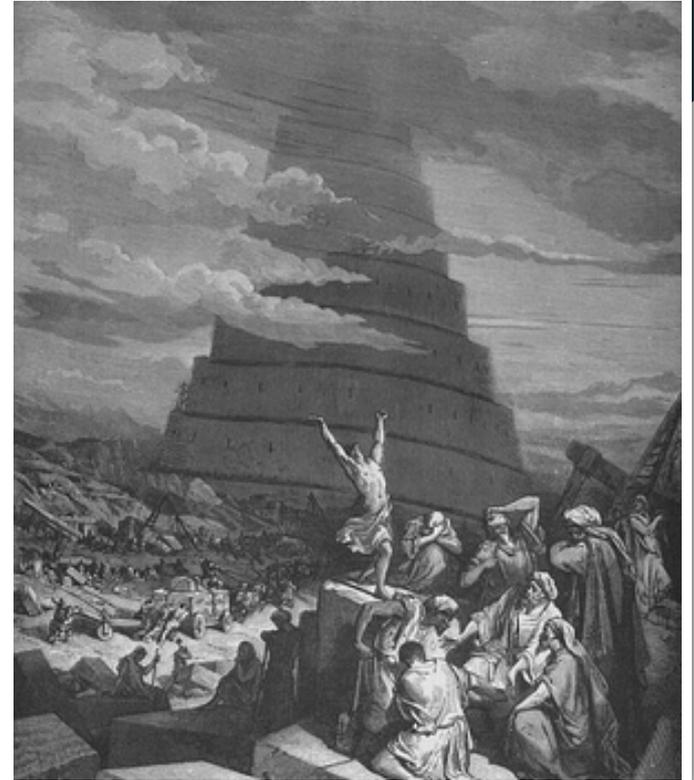
How does Noah's Ark relate to Mesopotamia?

- Mesopotamian flood myths predate the biblical versions by centuries, archaeological evidence shows that there was likely a very large flood in Mesopotamia around 5,000 BCE.
- New archeological evidence shows that these Mesopotamian flood myths feature boats carrying pairs of animals, which pretty clearly shows that Noah's Ark is a remix of earlier flood stories.
- The first cities founded after the flood in the Mesopotamian myths were Babel (Babylon), Erech (Uruk), and Accad (Akkad), which line up with the Biblical cities foundings.
- All of this is detailed in a cuneiform tablet roughly a millennium older than the Book of Genesis, but this tablet was just translated in 2009.
- The tablet describes the boat as caulked with bitumen. Bitumen is a petroleum-like product, the fossilized and transformed remains of ancient microscopic creatures like diatoms. The Genesis Ark, too, was caulked with bitumen, something often overlooked by Biblical literalists. If the earth is only 6000-10,000 years old, where did that fossil caulk come from? Ken Ham can fight me.
- Extra-credit bonus question added onto #8: Where can Ken Ham stick his giant fake arc??? Most creative answer probably doesn't get real extra-credit points, but I will draw smiley faces on your paper.



Where was the Tower of Babel really?

- The most famous example of ziggurat is the biblical Tower of Babel, which, according to the Old testament and ancient Jewish and Christian scholars was an effort by mankind to reach the heavens with a ladder-like structure and enter the kingdom of God without God's approval.
- The phrase "the Tower of Babel" does not actually appear in the Bible; it is always, "the city and its tower."
- The name Babel, or babble, came from the inability to communicate after god created languages to confuse people.
- There is no archaeological evidence that the Tower of Babel really existed, however, many first hand accounts have been recorded, including that of Herodotus, the first historian, who we trust to not lie about a giant tower probably.
- Some scholars have theorized that the Tower of Babel is another name for some other known ziggurat, like the Etemenanki, which was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 331 BCE.
- Today the usual dating of Abraham in Mesopotamia is in either the Ur III or Isin-Larsa periods, around 2112-2004 BCE, which matches up with the building dates of the tower because Abraham was the great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandson of Noah and the great-great-great-great grandson of Eber, who ruled in 2300 BCE, so Abraham's timeline matches with the construction of the tower under the rule of Eber.



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