

THE ANTEDILUVIAN CIVILIZATION

The Antediluvian civilization existed prior to the cataclysmic universal flood that occurred “in the day of Noah.” (Matt.24:36)

There are historians who do not believe the Antediluvian civilization ever existed in human history. These are people who do not believe the Bible is a reliable historical book.

However, for those people who believe the Bible is a divinely inspired book with historical information, it is not difficult to believe that there was a civilization that existed prior to the flood of Noah’s day.

When Ezekiel was making a point about Israel not being able to escape divine judgment because of apostasy, he used Noah, Daniel, and Job to declare that their righteousness could only save themselves (Ezek.14:12-14).

The writer of Hebrew spoke of the faith of Abel and Enoch and Noah all from the Antediluvian civilization (Heb.11:4-7).

Jesus declared that the “days of the Son of Man” would be like the “days of Noah” (Matt.24:36).

Peter explained that just as the Antediluvian world was destroyed by water the Postdiluvian world will be destroyed by fire (2 Pet.3:5-13).

The only historical record of the existence of the Antediluvian civilization is the BIBLE. It does not surprise me that Postdiluvian historians who do not have any records because of the Noahic flood except the Bible might be skeptical apart from faith.

**We will conclude the study of the fifth chapter of Genesis
by the following FIVE aspects of the Antediluvian Civilization.**

1. Two different genealogies of the Antediluvian civilization are recorded in chapters 4 and 5 of Genesis.

- One genealogy is the Cainites recorded in Gen.4:17-24 [not the messianic seed].
- The other genealogy is the Sethites recorded in Gen.5:1-32 [the messianic seed] (Gen.3:15).

You gather a great deal of historical information about the culture of the Antediluvian world by a comparison study of these two genealogies. They weren’t ignorant cave people. They were builders and inventors of high tech industry and music and art (4:17-22).

The Sethites were commissioned to be missionaries as custodians of God’s word and evangelism (Gen.4:26) [Enosh] (Joel 2:32) (Rom.10:13).

2. While two genealogies are recorded, three races actually existed during the Antediluvian period of human history: Cainites, Sethites, and the Nephilim.

The Hebrew word for nephilim means fallen ones. The Nephilim race was the result of a Satanic plot to destroy the human seed of Christ (Gen.3:15) by genetic manipulation (Gen.6:1-6). “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.” (Jude 6; 1 Pet.3:19-20; Rev.9:1, 11).

It was an attack upon the virgin birth and hypostatic union of Christ (Luke 1:34-35; Matt.1:20; Phil.2:5-11) this was also an attack upon the perfect humanity of Jesus Christ offered on the cross as a substitute for the sins of the world (1 Pet.1:19; John 1:29; Eph.1:7; Acts 20:28; 1 Tim.1:15).

3. When you study the Sethite genealogy, six of the ten genealogies deviate from the Genesis genealogy norm.

1st - Adam (Gen.5:3-5)

Adam's curse is extended to all members of the human race (Gen.2:17; 5:3; Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.15:22, 45). "Days of Adam" establish an unusual counting of Sethite generational life. It is counted backward and then forward. This was not done with the Cainites nor was it recorded this way later in 1 Chron.1:1-4 or in Luke 3:36-38.

2nd – Seth (4:25; 5:6-8)

Seth was appointed by God to carry the messianic seed of Gen.3:15 (Luke 3:38).

3rd - Enosh (4:26; 5:9-11)

Missionary evangelism began in his generation.

7th – Enoch (5:21-24)

He was a prophet of coming divine judgment upon the Antediluvian world (Jude 14-15). He was only one of two men recorded to have walked with God consistently amidst great apostasy. He was the only believer raptured from the Antediluvian world prior too divine judgment.

9th – Lamech (5:28-31)

A prophetic attachment is given to the naming of his son Noah (5:29).

10th – Noah (5:32)

There is a listing of his three sons without reference to firstborn status or normal counting of years. These deviations offered special divine revelation and warning to the Antediluvian civilization.

4. Sethite genealogy records the redeemed of the Antediluvian civilization (Gen.3:15) [protoevangelism]; Luke 3:36-38; Rom.1:16).

- Sethites were the divine agency to the Antediluvian world (Jude 14-15).
- As the divine agency, each generation of believers was custodian of the word of God and evangelism (2 Pet.2:5).
- Spiritual mature believer's faith had historical impact in the redemptive plan of God upon the Antediluvian world (Heb.11:4-7).

5. The longevity of the Antediluvian civilization reveals the faithfulness and patience of God for the salvation of all mankind of every civilization.

(2 Pet.3:9). The average age was 911 years. Methuselah (8th generation) was the oldest 969 years. The 10th generation was offered grace reservations and preservation from divine judgment (Matt.24:36-39; Luke 17:26-27; 1 Pet.3:19-20; 2 Pet.2:5; Eph.2:8-9).

Noah was the last believer of the Antediluvian and the first of the Postdiluvian civilization (Luke 3:36-38).

We learn that every biblical civilization begins with believers in the redemptive plan because of God's faithfulness (1 Cor.1:9).