

# Chapter 1: Foundations

## Chapter 2: Sumer the First Postdiluvian Civilization



### CHAPTER ONE

Mrs. Mueller 's definition of History:

- God's story of everything that has ever happened everywhere since time began up to this very moment!

Jesus is the focal point of all history - his birth, life, death, & resurrection

#### Two-fold Division of History:

- BC - Before Christ & AD - Anno Domini (in the year of our Lord)

#### Three-fold Division of History:

(1)Ancient	Creation to Fall of Roman Empire	4000 BC - 500 AD
(2)Medieval	Fall of Roman Empire to Protestant Reformation	500 AD - 1500 AD
(3)Modern	Protestant Reformation to Present	1500 - now

#### Earliest History

• Creation	Creation	<i>Later...</i>	
• Fall	Corruption	Christ's Birth	Christ
• Flood	Catastrophe	Christ's Death & Resurrection	Cross
• Tower of Babel	Confusion	Christ Returns	Completion

#### Beginning of Nations & Governments

- A Nation is a large group of people who think of themselves as one and act as a single entity
- Government is an institution that has both authority & power to control, direct, and to rule in the actions and affairs of others

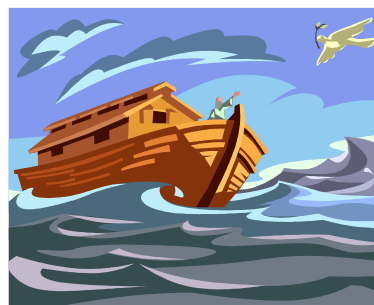
#### Flood to Tower of Babel...

- Noah's three sons - Shem, Ham, & Japheth settled in lower Mesopotamia (the Plain of Shinar / Sumer)
- Nimrod was descendant of Ham & builder of first world empire - planned to build Tower of Babel
- God confused their languages so they dispersed

People did not evolve. People changed because of the dispersion from Babel. Natural selection (not evolution) caused differences in skin tone & other features. "Racial" differences developed due to:

- (1)Rapidly changing environment
- (2)A small population
- (3)Extensive in-breeding

Ham -	Sumerians remaining in Shinar Egyptians Minoans Indus Valley Civilization Australia & Melanesia & Micronesia
Shem-	China Arabs Jews Arctic regions Pacific Islands
Japheth-	Europe Russia Indian subcontinent



## CHAPTER TWO

Fertile Crescent - The Cradle of Civilization - Mesopotamia - Plain of Shinar

- Fertile area between the Tigris & Euphrates Rivers

Sumer - the first post diluvian (post flood / post deluge) civilization

- Noah's people settled in Shinar after leaving the ark

Sumerians left us a legacy - List from a book most appropriately called ***History Begins at Sumer*** by Samuel Noah Kramer:

- invented the wheel
- first to have a system of writing - it's called cuneiform
- first to have place value in number system
- first to have a money economy (not coins, but used measurements of silver)
- First to have schools, schoolhouses, and textbooks
- first to have standardized weights and measures
- first to study grammar
- first to have mathematical tables - such as tables of square roots and cubed roots etc
- first to make maps
- first to have literature and poems
- first to pay taxes and have a tax system
- first to write laws (One of their early leaders Ur-Nammu wrote down the first code of laws!)
- first to produce pharmaceutical drugs (formula for soap and even aspirin have been found on cuneiform tablets!!!)
- first to have physicians
- first to produce a farmer's almanac - Weather predictions based on scientific data used by farmers to help them anticipate the precipitation and possible need for irrigation
- first to develop canals for irrigation as well as dams and dikes for flood control
- first to have libraries
- first to have animal fables (the Greeks actually got Aesop's Fables from the Sumerians!)
- First to produce a musical notation system based on the OCTAVE!



Sumer was organized into independent ***city-states***

- Local governments that had more authority than our local governments today.
- Like mini-kingdoms within the bigger kingdom

The most famous city-state was called UR

- Ur is where Abraham and Sarah lived!!!!

### Sumerian Chronology

- 1-Early Dynastic Age : from beginnings of Sumer to the invasion of Sargon of Akkad
- 2-Old Akkadian Period : from invasion of Sargon throughout his reign until his empire collapsed when his sons could not keep it together after his death
- 3-Third Dynasty of Ur : From the beginning of the reign of Ur-Nammu (who made Ur the center of Sumerian civilization) to the end of Sumerian Empire when Amorites and Elamites invaded
  - It was during this time that Abraham and Sarah lived in Ur
  - Big bustling city of 200,000 people. Did you imagine cities that big back in ancient times?
  - Note that the wealthy homes in Ur had clay pipes for indoor plumbing!!! Advanced!!! These people were as intelligent and creative as we are in our time! We have not changed! These were NOT primitive people!!!

### The SIX ELEMENTS OF CIVILIZATION:

- (1) a specialized division of labor
- (2) a written language
- (3) a written code of laws
- (4) an organized form of civil government
- (5) development of arts & sciences
- (6) mastery over the food supply