

MISSION: IMPERATIVE!

...presenting the nature of creation

The amazing account of the "Wallam Olum" is another example of how the history of a modern-day culture verifies the accuracy of Scripture.

History can be intriguing, especially when it sheds light on Scriptural passages that, in and of themselves, sometimes provide very little detail.

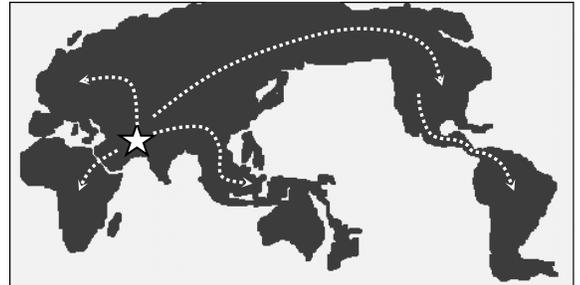
For example, consider the fact that there are many cultures around the world that speak of a global flood with very few survivors in their ancestry. Estimates place this number at up to 270 or more. Most of these cultures are separated from one another and do not get this story from the Bible. How, then, do they have this account in common?

The answer is not hard to figure out. The Bible teaches us that there were only eight people who survived the great flood. As the numbers of people grew afterwards, they moved eastward and found a plain in Shinar (Gen. 11:2), which is in modern-day southern Iraq. They all spoke the same language. Every one of these people knew all about the flood because Noah lived another 350 years after it ended and most certainly would have passed the account along, generation after generation. Shem would have done so, too. He experienced the world before the flood, the flood itself, and was alive at the time of Babel, and it is possible that he even knew Abraham and Isaac, since he was still alive in their time.

So, we know that all of the people at Babel knew much about the great flood. Then came the language confusion. Then, according to Genesis 11:8-9, God spread the people from there throughout the whole earth. The Bible doesn't say how God did this. Could it possibly be that after the flood the continents were still connected somehow, so that these people could simply walk to where they eventually settled?

That's an intriguing thought. It is interesting to note that this possibility is proposed by Dr. Walter Brown in his book entitled, *In the Beginning*. This book outlines the hydroplate theory of how the flood might have happened. According to this theory, the oceans were much lower right after the flood than they are today, and rose very slowly over time, eventually submerging the low-lying areas of the world, thus separating the continents - an event that was even noted in Peleg's day (Gen. 10:25). If the

oceans were just several hundred feet lower, all of the landmasses would still be connected! This would provide a natural land bridge from Shinar to all of the present-day continents! A map of the world at that time might have looked like this, with Babel being at the white star:



Now, here's where history can become very interesting. If the above scenario is correct, then we should be able to predict the route that most of these groups took as they spread over the earth. Could any of these cultures have retained more detailed information regarding their past?

Let's look briefly at one such group that has done just that - the Delaware Indians. They have a record, consisting of symbolic glyphs or pictographs, which are very similar to the ones used in Chinese. In fact, many of these pictographs are so similar that many experts think they had a common source.

This record is called the *Wallam Olum*, and actually consists of the account of creation, the entrance of sin, the great flood, and the migration of their ancestors across the area now known as the Bering Strait and into North America. The Delaware Indians, like the ancient Chinese, were monotheistic, believing in one Supreme Being who was Himself uncreated, but who created all other spirits and also man. These beliefs were held by the Delaware long before they were ever exposed to Christian beliefs brought by Europeans. Interestingly, the *Wallam Olum* ends by noting the arrival of white people from the north and the south. It concludes: "They have great things. Who are they?"

This fascinating account is yet another example of how the history of a modern-day culture verifies the accuracy of Scripture. □