

Two Kings of Two Seeds

Just for Fun:
Games in Ancient Life

Game of Ur, Royal Class

Found at Royal Cemetery at Ur
Displayed at the British Museum, London



Metropolitan Museum of Art
photo by Michael Pixley

Game of Ur, Lower Class



Graffiti game board

Same board layout as the Royal Game of Ur

Chiseled on winged bull statue

Palace of Sargon II, Khorsabad, Assyria

British Museum, London

Tutankhamen's Senet Game

From Tutankhamen's Tomb
Made of Ebony, Gold, Ivory, and Faience
Cairo Museum, Egypt



Egyptian Senet Game



Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
photo by Michael Pixley

**King Nimrod:
Seed of the Serpent**

Nimrod: Seed of the Serpent

Gen. 10:8-12

Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord. Therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.” 10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and 12 Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

Note: Nimrod did not build Babel

The Birth of Empire



Sargon's
Akkadian
Empire

Nimrod's primary cities

A Mighty Hunter

Assyrian Lion Hunting Reliefs
British Museum



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Covenantal Application

Nimrod's Empire

First recorded empire in human history

First to unify independent city-states

Start and end of empire for over 1000 years

Continuation of Babel: Consolidation of Power

Expansion of Power: City Kingdoms -> Empire

Power of the King / State: Naram-Sin, Sargon's grandson,
proclaimed himself a god

Fear of the King / State

Covenantal Relation to God:

Nimrod: "We Shall Rebel"

Sargon: "The King Is Legitimate"

"Christ, not man, is King" –Oliver Cromwell

King Melchizedek: Seed of the Woman

Melchizedek

Genesis 14:18-20

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Titles and Lineage

Hebrews 7:2-3

He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Titles

King of Righteousness

King of Peace

Priest of the Most High God

Don't Ask?

Hebrews 5:9-14

9 And being made perfect, he [Jesus] became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. 11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

A Canaanite King?

Is Melchizedek a Canaanite King?

An otherwise unknown human, likely of the lineage of Ham

Was such a righteous king foretold to come from Ham?

Ham's lineage received Noah's curse, not blessings

How does he lack a father, a mother, a genealogy?

Theory: he symbolically lacks a father and mother because we are not told who his father and mother are in Scripture

Pre-Incarnate Son?

Why would Jesus, long before His incarnation, rule as an earthly Canaanite king at Salem as God, but not as Man, prior to His being born as David's heir?

How did He come to reign as an earthly Canaanite king?

Were his subjects aware that He was God and not human?

How long did He reign before re-ascending to heaven?

Pre-Incarnate Son?

Without father, mother, genealogy, beginning, end...

The eternal Son is without beginning of days, end of life, a mother, but... He certainly does have a Father!

“Resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever”

Hebrews 7:3

The Son resembles the Son? The Son is the Son

Pre-Incarnate Son?

Abram honors and pays a tithe to Melchizedek, but does not bow down or worship him as he does when God appears to him.

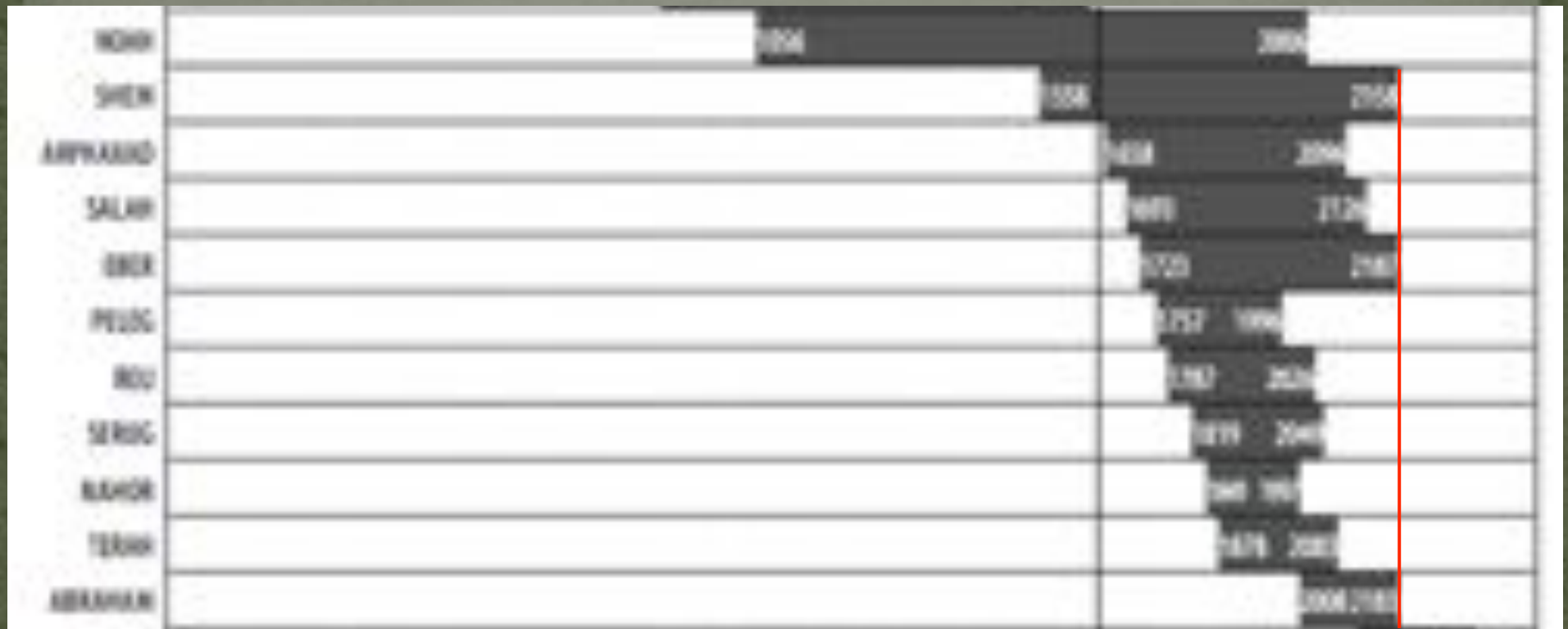
Gen 17:3 “Then Abram fell on his face.”

Gen. 18:2 When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth

Psalm 110 “You are a priest forever, after the order of... yourself?
What could this mean? It seems circular and pointless

Shem?

Jewish tradition identified Melchizedek with Shem
Shem was the oldest man on earth; would have been
venerated as a living ancestor and king



*Shem died when Abraham was 150 years old,
and only 25 years before his death*

Shem in Jerusalem?

How would Shem end up in Canaan?

He was prophesied to rule in Canaan

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant.” –Noah, Genesis 9:26

Would righteous Shem have joined those who built Babel?

Would righteous Shem have submitted himself to Nimrod’s empire in Mesopotamia? Not likely!

Shem probably left this wickedness by heading to Canaan, where he was prophesied to rule, and became king of Salem, which is Jerusalem

Did he name Salem, “Peace”, reflecting his theology and reign?

The Birth of Empire



Sargon's
Akkadian
Empire

Nimrod's primary cities

Semites from the West

Abram was part of a larger Semitic / Aramean migration moving eastward, from the direction of Canaan, into northern Mesopotamia, putting him at Ur of the Chaldees

Abram and Melchizedek seem to know of each other

Melchizedek came out and blessed Abram; Gen. 14:19-20
How did Melchizedek know Abram was righteous?

Abram tithed to Melchizedek; Gen. 14:20

How did Abram know Melchizedek was righteous?

Was Melchizedek a random Canaanite king of Ham's line, or Abram's great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather

No Father or Mother?

Context: What is the context of Hebrews 7?

Contrasts Christ's priesthood with the Levitical priesthood

Hebrews 7:11 If perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?

Hebrews 7:23-24 The former [Levite] priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he [Christ] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

No Father or Mother

Priests of Levi under Moses

Were priests because of: *genealogy from Levi*

Levi had a father and mother: *Jacob and Leah*

Under Mosaic Law, their priesthood had a beginning and end

Were priests temporarily, from birth to death

Priest of the Covenant of Grace

~~Who are the only people to have had no father or mother?~~

Adam and Eve had no earthly father, mother, genealogy

God established with Adam and Eve a Covenant of Grace

Melchizedek was a Priest of the Seed of the Woman

Levi had a mother and father, *Adam and Eve did not*

High Priest, Second Adam

Adam, under the Covenant of Grace, acted as a prophet, priest, and king; the Covenantal head of all his seed

Christ is the Second Adam:

Prophet, Priest, and King

Our Covenantal Head

Our Federal Representative

The Seed of the Woman

Eternal High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek

The priesthood of Melchizedek, then, must be a priesthood of the Seed of the Woman / the Covenant of Grace

Seed of the Woman

Adam was the Federal head under the Covenant of Works

Adam was also the father of the “sons of God” (Gen. 6:2) by faith under the Covenant of Grace

These are the lineage of the Seed of the Woman, by faith

Moses details the lineage of the Seed of the Woman in Genesis

Adam, Seth... Methuselah, Noah, Shem

Could this be the priesthood without father, mother...?

Priesthood of the Covenant

Priesthood of the Covenant with the Seed of the Woman

9 Generations from Adam to Shem: Adam, Seth, Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, Methuselah, Noah, Shem

Enoch was translated while his father Jared lived

Methuselah outlived his son, Lamech

Shem/Melchizedek: 9th of this Covenantal priesthood

10th Generation = Redemption from Covenantal uncleanness

Deuteronomy 23:2: children of a prostitute or forbidden sexual union are Covenantally unclean for 10 generations

Christ: High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek

10th, perfect generation of priesthood of the Seed of the Woman

Final, eternal high priest of the Covenant of Grace

The Second Adam: Perfect fulfillment of redemption from sin

Objections to Shem

Why the change of name? (Matthew Henry)

Melchizedek is a throne name: “King of Righteousness”

All ancient kings took throne names in addition to given names (many modern kings do as well)

Why didn't Abram visit Melchizedek sooner when he arrived in Canaan if he were his ancestor?

Maybe they did. It's an argument from silence: we're simply not told. Scripture is silent on any possible previous interaction.

Even if they did not interact previously, so what?

Covenantal Implications

Shem saw worldwide judgment on the pre-Flood world

Shem saw the post-flood world again turn away from God

Shem saw the Covenant of Grace dwindle

Shem saw even his own descendants turn to paganism

Shem must have felt sad and alone in the Covenant of Grace

Shem must have wondered what God's Covenant plan was

Then...

Shem saw God generate Abram and call him to new life

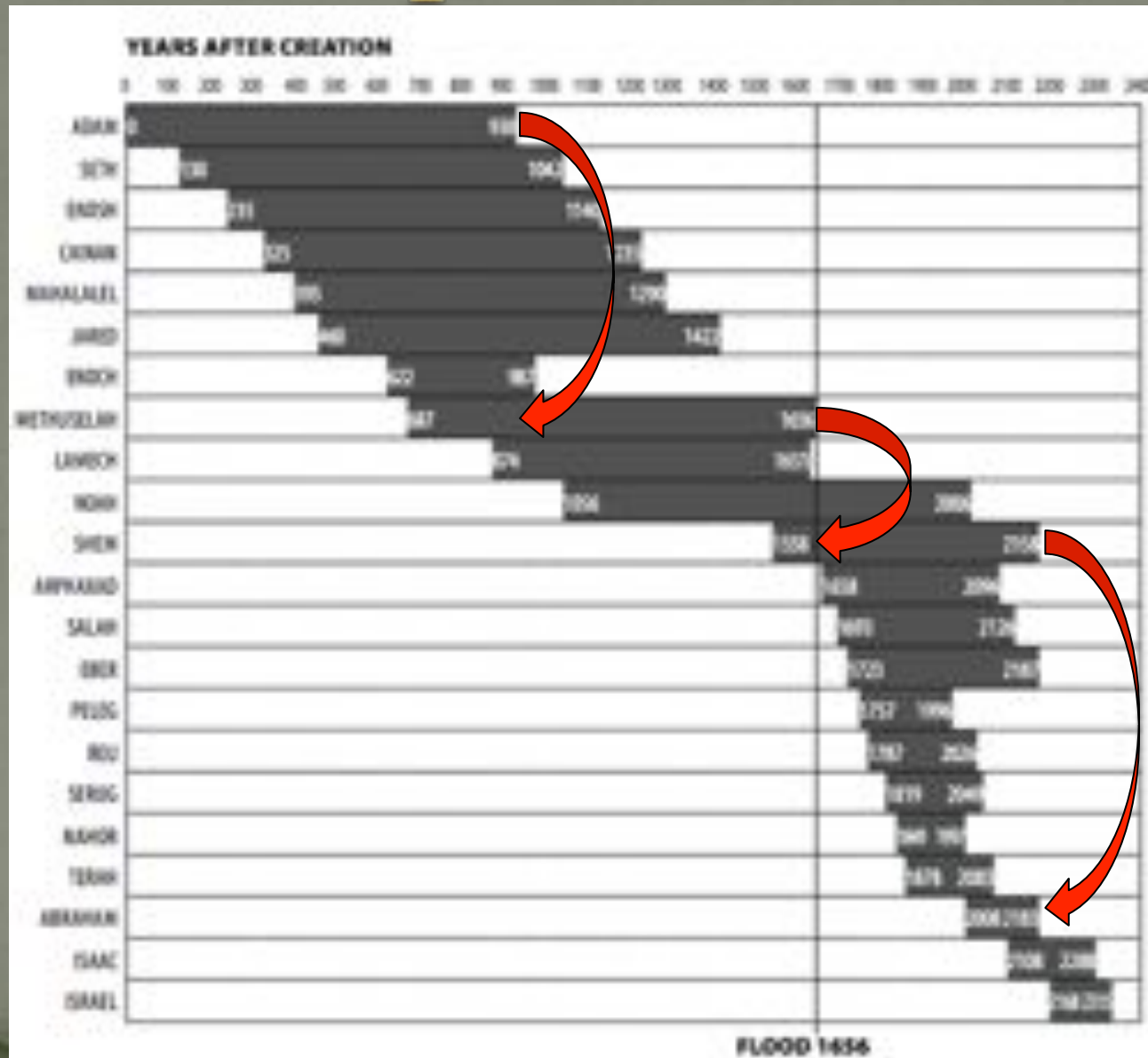
God called Abram to Canaan, where Shem's seed was to rule

Shem gave God's Word to Abram, which went into Genesis

Abram was born a pagan, not having the God's Word

Shem lived to see the child of the Covenant, Isaac, born

Lifespans of the



Bodie Hodge, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2010/07/30/feedback-when-did-methuselah-die>, accessed 11-16-2013.

A Tale of Two Kings

Two Seeds: Seed of the Serpent vs. Seed of the Woman

Two Kings: Nimrod and Melchizedek

Nimrod = We shall rebel, conquering king, emperor

Melchizedek = King of righteousness

King of Salem = King of Peace

Priest of God

What makes a king great?

Power, fear, empire, idolatry of the state / man's power
extending the reach of the state to new areas of life
expansion of the bounds of the state

Peace, righteousness, justice