gravitational pull of the Earth on all living things, and forcing them to decrease in size in order to be able to move under that stronger gravity. In addition, during the Flood, the land was inundated with salt water. Due to heavier than normal deposits of salt, and the probable washing away of once abundant trace minerals in the soils by the waters of the Great Deep, soils all over the Earth became incapable of supporting as much lush plant growth. In fact, only the hardiest of plants could have survived in this salty, nutrient-poor soil, and even they would have struggled to grow until the soil salinity was decreased by rain runoff.

This negative change in the soil would have logically led to a sizeable decrease in plant growth and animal health after the Flood. A reasonable consequence of this would be increasingly smaller and weaker animals, which were now forced to eat far less nutritious food than their Pre-Flood ancestors. In addition, the Post-Flood world had a far more inhospitable environment, suffering from the frequently severe weather and extreme highs and lows in temperature that we are familiar with today, but that would have been largely unknown to the people and animals aboard Noah's Ark who originated before the Great Flood.

We will discuss the physical and spiritual causes and affects of the Great Flood in greater detail in Chapters Five and Six. Also, in Chapter Four, we will explore a revolutionary, little known view of the origins of dinosaurs prior to the Flood, and the possible spiritual reasons behind their complete extinction.

The Great Longevity of the Antediluvians

Before we explore human history after the Flood, let's take a close look at the claims made in the Bible about the great longevity of our antediluvian ancestors. In Genesis' Pre-Flood record, the patriarchs descended from Seth are said to have lived phenomenal lengths of time. For example, the Bible claims that Adam lived 930 years, and Jared lived 962 years. Likewise, Enoch's eldest son Methuselah lived 969 years, and was the longest-lived of all the antediluvian patriarchs discussed in the Bible. If this report of the long life of our ancestors is true, and today we only live to be about

75 years old on average, then it seems that we are not evolving as a species, but *devolving*.

A list showing the names and ages at death of some Pre and Post-Flood patriarchs appears on this page. This shows that our ancestors lived just shy of a thousand years prior to Noah's Flood. After that, however, there was a steady decline in the ages of the patriarchs. There are also biblical clues suggesting that later patriarchs decreased not only in age, but in relative size and strength. This makes sense because *the growth spurts associated with childhood and adolescence would decrease as the time between childhood and maturity dropped.* In fact, according to the Book of Jasher, the robustness of mankind dropped even more dramatically at the time of Peleg's brother Joktan, when some scholars such as myself believe that deadly bacteria and viruses may suddenly have been released into the world via some cataclysm (See Jasher 17:19-20 in Chapter Six, and its associated explanation).

Patriarchal Life Spans Before and After the Flood

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Adam - 930 years (Gen. 5:5)
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Cainan - 910 years (Gen. 5:14)

Jared - 962 years (Gen. 5:20)

Methuselah - 969 years (Gen. 5:27)

Lamech - 777 years (Gen. 5:31)

Noah - 600 years before, and 350 years after the Flood, equaling 950 years (Gen. 9:29)

Shem - 100 years before, and 500 years after the Flood, totaling 600 years (Gen. 11:10-11)

Eber - 464 years (Gen. 11:16-17)

Peleg - 239 years (Gen. 11:18-19)

Abraham - 175 years (Gen. 25:7)

Jacob - 147 years (Gen. 47:28)

Moses - 120 years (Deut. 34:7)

Though it has slowed somewhat, this decrease in the longevity of humanity shows no signs of being reversed via any supposed evolutionary process. In fact, the average age of a human being today is 75, which is much lower than Abraham's age when he died over 4000 years ago at the age of 175! This suggests that men have been steadily devolving over the past 4000 years rather than evolving over millions of years.

Further contradicting the idea of life developing via a slow, random evolutionary process, the Bible and other Judeo-Christian religious texts suggest that the time allotted for mankind to exist in their current fallen state has been divinely limited to a set time period. Along with Psalm 90, the Book of Jubilees tells us a thousand years are reckoned as a day to Yahweh:

"And at the close of the nineteenth jubilee, in the seventh week in the sixth year thereof, Adam died, and all his sons buried him in the land of his creation, and he was the first to be buried in the earth. And he lacked seventy years of one thousand years; for one thousand years are as one day in the testimony of the heavens and therefore was it written concerning the tree of knowledge: 'On the day that ye eat thereof ye shall die.' For this reason he did not complete the years of this day; for he died during it." - Jubilees 4:29-31

This passage of Jubilees explains that Adam died just shy of one thousand years because Yah stated that both Adam and Eve would die *in the same day that they ate of the forbidden fruit* (Genesis 2:17). Since we know that they did not die on that same 24-hour day, God must have meant a thousand-year long Great Day. Indeed, Adam died just 70 years shy of one thousand years old. Therefore, according to the truthful witness of the Bible and the Book of Jubilees, people today are much less robust than their Pre-Flood ancestors.

After the Great Flood, the lifetimes, and overall robustness of human beings and all other life on Earth gradually began to decline. Several ideas have already been suggested that would account for this great drop in life spans. Other possible causes include the destruction of a greater part of the ozone layer, which

subjected living things to far more harmful levels of UV and X-Ray radiation from Outer Space. Another theory is that deadly forms of bacteria and viruses previously unknown on Earth were introduced when the waters above the heavens that helped cause the Great Flood precipitated into the Earth's atmosphere. Furthermore, as will be discussed in Chapter Six, the Earth may have been contaminated with deadly pestilences during the patriarch Joktan's generation when the Tower of Babel fell.

Another intriguing theory behind our much-shortened lifespans is that the reversal and weakening of the Earth's magnetic flow, and the increased gravity caused by the Flood drastically affected the biological mechanisms that promote robustness and longevity in all living things. In fact, all of the above possibilities may have combined to create the great drop in mankind's life span from about 900 years prior to the Flood to about 120 years at the time of Moses.

Another cause for the decrease in mankind's longevity after the Flood could be some form of malnutrition. As alluded to in the existence of and purpose for the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, some key vitamins and nutrients that were needed to sustain life and health for long periods were removed from the Earth during the Flood. In addition, other plant foods necessary for optimum animal health may also have ceased to be available after the Great Flood. This plant food may have been essential for good health, but was not as beneficial as the fruit from the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, which the Bible tells us that Adam and Eve had to eat in order to live forever (Genesis 3:22-24). Therefore, when God removed all access to the Tree of Life because of sin, people and animals began to age, die, and eventually shrink in size. Sadly, the Tree of Life is now completely absent on Earth, and nutrients once available from that amazing tree and other highly nutritious plants that grew before the Flood are no longer available. As a result, all life has diminished in size and strength.

Unlike the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Tree of Life may have had to be eaten from periodically in order to reap the rewards of eating it. This is in keeping with the Messianic and Christian understanding of Christ, who is our Tree of Life. This means that Yahshua must constantly be in our thoughts via the Holy Spirit, and His loving actions must be reflected in our daily

behavior if we are to live forever with Him. This is why we symbolically eat Yahshua's Body and Blood at every Passover and Communion service. We do it to commemorate Yahshua's atonement sacrifice for us on Calvary, and to remind ourselves that we are now a part of His Body via Adoption and Marriage, and must act accordingly.

Gloriously, when the Millennial Rule of Christ comes, the Tree of Life will be fully accessible again, and its leaves will be used for the healing of the nations:

> "Along the bank of the river... will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine." - Ezekiel 47:12 (NKJ)

> "In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." - Rev. 22:2 (NKJ)

In Ezekiel's vision, many Trees of Life are growing along the bank of a river flowing from underneath a future Temple that will be built in Jerusalem one day. In the preceding quote from the Book of Revelation, however, there are two Trees of Life on either side of the river, and one in the midst of the street running through the New Jerusalem. In this holy city, all things will be made new, and there will be no more death or sickness. Nonetheless, the triple presence of this Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem will stand as a testimony to the healing benefits of fellowship with the one triune God whom Christ represents in the flesh.

Remember, the New Jerusalem is a perfect heavenly copy of the imperfect earthly Jerusalem that will exist during Christ's Millennial Kingdom on Earth - when healing will still be needed by many people. Thus, there is a high likelihood that some literal Trees of Life will be watered by the river flowing out of the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem, and that their year-round crops of fruit will be used to heal all sorts of sicknesses and diseases

suffered by the mortal people and animals still living upon the Earth at that time.

Based on archeological and mythological evidence, it also seems that our ancestors were smarter than we are today, for they appear to have developed advanced technologies such as power tools and aircraft that did not rely on fossil fuels for power. One reason they didn't use fossil fuels is the likelihood that there wasn't any to be found on the Earth before the Flood. This is because most of the crude oil and coal on the Earth today are most likely the remains of plants and animals buried and compressed during the cataclysmic events of the Great Flood.

Evolutionists tell us that the plant and animal matter that makes up the Earth's oil and coal deposits was buried over several millennia, and subjected to a gradual build up of pressure as each level of geological strata piled up on top of previous ones. The Bible, however, tells us that the source of this pressure was the heavy weight of the trillions of gallons of water that flooded the Earth during the Great Flood. As proof that this oil and coal could have formed in a very short period of time from cataclysmically ground up organic matter, a new process for creating high-quality fuel oil and fertilizer has been developed at a waste processing plant in the State of Michigan. It is done by collecting the remains of slaughtered pigs and chickens, grinding it up, and subjecting it to extremely high temperatures and pressure for only a few hours.

During the Great Flood, an immense amount of water covered the whole Earth to the tops of the highest mountains for five months (i.e. 150 days) (Genesis 7:24, 8:4). This provided plenty of time for every plant and animal outside the Ark to be torn apart, mixed together, flash buried, and then subjected to enormous pressure - creating the crude oil and coal reserves fueling our world today. In light of these facts, doesn't it seem ironic that all current world civilizations depend to varying degrees upon the remains of the dead for the energy they need to live and progress forward?

Just one gallon of water weighs about eight pounds, and trillions of gallons of water were dumped on the Earth during the Great Flood. Can you imagine the pressure generated by billions upon billions of pounds of additional water on the Earth's surface? It would easily have crushed and shifted the entire crust of the Earth, which would have in turn caused numerous earthquakes and

volcanic eruptions! This would have changed the Earth so much from its Pre-Flood conditions that most of its geological and geographical features would have changed. As a result, when Noah and his kin emerged from the Ark, the Earth likely appeared totally alien and virtually unrecognizable to them, and it may have even frightened them to see how vast the devastation of this planet truly was after God's Wrath had been poured out.

Make no mistake! The Earth will be as devastated by the Tribulation plagues and the Battle of Armageddon as it was from the waters of the Flood, and it will take a number of years under Christ's wise leadership to repair all the damage that it sustains, and to restore the Earth to a more pristine state. But restore it Christ will!

Josephus was a Jewish historian who witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD. In his histories, Josephus reported that antediluvian people lived phenomenally longer than we do today, just as the Bible indicates. Here is his stance on this subject:

"...but let no one, upon comparing the lives of ancients with our lives, `and with the few years in which we now live, think that what we have said of them is false or make the shortness of our lives at present an argument that neither did they attain to so long a duration of life; for those ancients were beloved of God and (lately) made by God Himself; and because their food was then fitter for the prolongation of life; might well live so great a number of years; and besides, God afforded them a longer time of life on account of their virtue and the good use they made of it in astronomical and geometrical discoveries; which would not have afforded the time of foretelling (the periods of the stars) unless they had lived six hundred years; for the Great Year is completed in that interval." - Josephus, The Antiquities of the Jews, 1.3.9

Here, Josephus refers to the 600-year time span it took for the Jewish Lunar Calendar to coincide exactly with the Solar Calendar. This Great Year was different than the prophetic thousand-year period the ancients knew as the Great Day, or "The Day of the Lord." Josephus also attributes the longevity of the antediluvians to their healthier food supply, thereby supporting my previous supposition about the Tree of Life and the extinction of key plants needed for the health of all terrestrial life.

The Language of God Shows the Meaning of Life

Now that we have explored the irreconcilable differences between the Evolutionary and Creation models of origins, we need to examine the reasons why God created man. To find out, we have to go to the very opening passages of God's Creation of mankind in Genesis. Here, Yahweh Elohim says that He created man to tend His earthly garden:

"Then the LORD God (Yahweh Elohim) took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it." - Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

The Hebrew words translated as "to tend and keep it" in the preceding passage could also be translated "to work and guard it" or "to care for and preserve it." We were therefore created to serve God as preservers of the Earth. We were not, however, created as slaves to toil and work in the garden until we die from neglect and overwork. We were instead made to have an affinity with and love for the Earth - almost as if we were married to it in a special bond. Since we were made from the soil of the Earth, we do in fact share an irrevocable physical bond with it. We were also meant to enjoy and find happiness from the fruit of our labors tending God's Creation on the Earth.

There is, however, another purpose for mankind. This is to serve as a perpetual dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and God's "Shekinah" or Glory. The prophet Isaiah foretold the return of God's Glory to Israel when he wrote:

"Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD (Yahweh) is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD (Yahweh) will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." - Isaiah 60:1-3 (NKJ)

Isaiah foresaw this return of Yah's Shekinah Glory to His chosen people at the time that their Redeemer Yahshua returns to conquer the wicked surrounding Jerusalem at the end of the Tribulation (Isaiah 59:19-21). However, now that He has won our salvation for us, Yahshua's Spirit lives and reigns in all believers. Indeed, by believing in Christ, we become the spiritual children of Israel. We are therefore already touched with a small measure of that radiant light from within that will clothe us with God's Shekinah Glory when we are recreated with perfect resurrected bodies of immortal flesh and perfect spirit.

When we are Spirit-filled, it allows us to share love in a healthy manner, and to be in fellowship with Yahweh. Though all believers have a measure of the Holy Spirit that serves as a deposit guaranteeing their salvation (2 Cor. 1:22, 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14), they will not be fully capable of fellowshipping with Yahweh until the Holy Spirit transforms them into immortal, incorruptible beings. Before Yahshua came as a Suffering Servant, God's presence or Glory dwelt over and inside the Israelite's Desert Tabernacle. Above the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, God's Glory appeared as a cloud that rabbinical literature suggests glowed with an internal, supernatural light that appeared as fire (Exodus 24:17, 25:21-22, 40:34-35; Leviticus 9:23-24, 16:2). This same cloud and fire of Glory also manifested itself above and inside the Temple built by Solomon (2 Chronicles 7:2-3).

The Shekinah Glory was seen not only in the Tabernacle and Temples of Yahweh, but on the faces, and on the bodies of living men. For example, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the Stone Tablets of the Testimony written by God's own finger, Moses' face glowed with the light of God's Shekinah Glory (Exodus 34:29-30,35). The Shekinah also manifested itself during the Transfiguration of Yahshua (Matthew 17:1-8). The Shekinah Glory always appears as wind, fire, light, and clouds of smoke (See 2 Samuel 22:11-13, where Yah manifests Himself in all four ways). In this way, the Shekinah Glory and the Holy Spirit manifest themselves identically (John 4:14, Acts 2:3; Revelation 10:1), and both have the same transforming power.

In these physical manifestations of His Glory, Yahweh is telling us something about His nature and character. These manifestations are symbols that speak to us in the allegorical Language of God. In the Language of metaphors, the fire, wind, water, and smoke tell us that only Yah can give true spiritual sustenance and enlightenment. Likewise, only Yah can transform and cleanse us. He does so with spiritual fire and water, which purifies and transforms us into holy spiritual beings. This book series is geared to sharing the power of these kinds of metaphorical symbols to instruct us spiritually. Book Two especially is a powerful exploration of the allegorical messages that God left for us in the symbols found throughout the Bible, our world, and ourselves. Structures such as the Tabernacle and Temple to Yahweh were filled with beautiful spiritual metaphors. Now, however, every human being who loves Yahshua will one day serve as a gleaming white allegorical stone in God's everlasting heavenly temple!

After Yahshua rose from the dead and sent His Holy Spirit to mankind, the Tabernacle and Temple were no longer needed to house God's Shekinah Glory. This is because all believers are now part of Yahweh's holy temple and are filled with His Holy Spirit:

"For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.' " - 2 Cor. 6:16 (NIV)

In the above passage, what was Paul alluding to? He was implying that Spirit-filled Jews and Christians are like Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, when Yahweh God walked among them. At that time, Adam and Eve were untainted by sin, and filled with the radiant Shekinah Glory of Yah's own Spirit. Paul is therefore saying that Yahweh God now walks among those who believe. He does so even before we obtain the perfection Yah has promised us in the resurrection to eternal life. For now, however, we form a rough-hewn stone monument to God's Glory. We believers are like the undressed, imperfect stone pillars that served as altars, memorial stones, and temples unto Yahweh in the past. More background on these sacred stone pillars will be given in Chapter Two. For now, however, picture a big heap of rough, undressed white stones and see it as an analogy for the church as it was before the coming of the Holy Spirit. In Book One of the "The

Language of God" Book series, the nature and purpose of these ancient memorial pillars mentioned in the Bible is described.

In many places in the Old Testament, it is recorded that various patriarchs made heaps of stones, or erected enormous single unpolished stones to form pillars. These were used to memorialize people, places, and events that had spiritual significance. Sometimes, the blood and oil of sacrifices was poured upon them to honor a Covenant with Yahweh. These stone pillars used as layman's altars had to be made of undressed stones to be considered consecrated before Yahweh. The Patriarch Jacob made such a stone pillar at Bethel when Yahweh gave him the name Israel. This stone pillar marked the making of Yahweh's Blood Covenant with Jacob.

Now picture the beautiful Temple built by Solomon. It was constructed of fully dressed and decorated stone blocks and was cared for by the Levite priesthood. On the Last Day, after the Millennial Rule of Yahshua prophesied in Revelation (Revelation 20:2-6), all of Yahweh's faithful followers will become like the finely dressed stones of that temple. But this will be a symbolic temple built by God's chosen High Priest Yahshua with the power of His Holy Spirit. Our resurrected, spiritual bodies will be the perfect dwelling place of Yah's Spirit and Shekinah Glory - not temples made of stone or brick. We will be like perfectly dressed stones polished by Yahshua's own Spirit and consecrated by His holy blood. As such, each of us will become a perfect stone in the holy pillar that will be God's everlasting dwelling place. In the next chapter, how stone pillars were used in the past to honor and worship the living God Yahweh will be examined. This practice was very important among the descendants of Seth - both before, and after the Flood.

This allegorical picture of people serving as stones in a living temple devoted solely to Yahweh is a perfect example of how Yahweh communicates to us through His amazing metaphorical Language. We believers are the stones that make up the temple of the living God. As such, we shall have another glorious occupation that gives our existence true meaning and purpose. This is to make a joyful noise before Yahweh Elohim! In fact, our ultimate purpose as a living temple is to stand in awe of Yahweh's mighty works,

and to gladly worship and praise Him for His greatness. This knowledge is alluded to repeatedly in the Psalms:

"I will exalt you, my God and King; I will praise your name forever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord (Yahweh) and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness." - Psalm 145:1-7 (NIV)

The above excerpt from the Psalms reveals that *praising and* worshipping God, and proclaiming His mighty works are the ultimate reasons why people were created. Our ancestors were aware of this aspect of humanity's purpose, and therefore developed an extensive sacred oral tradition that was passed down from one generation to the next. This oral story tradition consisted of powerful word pictures around which important events or ideas were recorded. Many ancient records and myths appear to have underlying allegorical meanings, just as the word pictures called Parables that Yahshua used do.

Entertaining and easy to remember, mythical stories from many cultures still have the power to amuse, delight, and inspire people. Because the ancients were familiar with the Language of God, many ancient stories undeniably contain hidden spiritual messages, and had the power to capture the imaginations of those who heard them. Perhaps that is why these stories were once reverently recited whenever there was a public gathering. The religious myths of many primitive cultures are still remembered today due to this oral tradition.

In keeping with God's Language, storytellers from every past age, region, and culture preserved religious myths and legends using unforgettable word pictures - pictures that used the sacred Language of allegory to tell others about the true God.

Unfortunately, Satan's followers eventually twisted the meanings of many of these ancient stories, turning them from historical legends into bizarre myths. However, some ancient religious myths still contain imagery and meanings that are totally in agreement with Biblical ideas, and often reveal startling truths about Yahweh and His Creation.

For example, before the coming of the first European explorers, some of the native peoples of North America had a profound myth they fashioned to convey the glory of God's Creation of the Cosmos. Several tribes described their beginning in terms of a spider, which they lovingly called Grandmother Spider. They believe she spun a web in which to catch the stars. She is also said to have fashioned the Earth and created mankind. I found this myth a fascinating analogy. Why? Close your eyes and picture our own spiral-shaped Milky Way Galaxy. Isn't it uncanny that the bright central star cluster at the galactic core and the spiraling arms of stars extending from that core resemble the body of a spider? And I can almost picture the invisible web interwoven through it all, holding it together. How profound an allegory for a culture and people that Europeans viewed as primitive savages!

Nevertheless, because the Natives of North America began to worship many demon spirits over their Creator God, the great truths found in their religion became sadly distorted. Soon their basic knowledge of the one true God, and their insights about the nature of God were partially lost. In such revelations as that of Grandmother Spider, however, we see the underlying hand of Yahweh's truth. Unfortunately, the Native Americans forgot that the spider was simply an analogy for the action of Yahweh as Creator God, and instead deified the spider, thereby greatly diminishing and distorting the original truth found in the story.

Interestingly, many myths and legends from ancient times - as well as those still found among primitive people all over the world - talk of the Great Flood, and other cataclysmic events that occurred in the remote past. When their meanings are compared and combined, these legends from places as diverse as Asia, India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Greece, Egypt, Europe, and North and South America relay the terrible destruction that occurred during one or more worldwide cataclysms. As shown in Book One, many of these myths and legends give an even more harrowing account than the

Bible of the terrible destructive power that was unleashed upon the Earth at that time. They all speak of a horrendous natural disaster that utterly destroyed the remarkable world Noah had known before the Flood. Interestingly, many of these myths and legends make it clear that the Pre-Flood races were being annihilated for their disobedience and wickedness by the Supreme Being who created them - just as a the Bible indicates.

In this book, proof will be given that the antediluvians understood God's allegorical Language. The Bible records little of the world and culture before the Flood. However, there are several ancient manuscripts that shed considerable light on this dark time in history. One such book is the Ethiopian Book of Enoch, or 1 Enoch. It is called the Book of 1 Enoch to distinguish it from the Book of the Secrets of Enoch, which is also known as the Slavonic Book of Enoch, or the Book of 2 Enoch. Though considered pseudographical, both of these books have a legitimate claim to at least partial authenticity and spiritual veracity, and are therefore referred to often in this book series.

In the next chapter, the veracity of Enoch's purported writings will be further explained, and we will explore what these ancient manuscripts say about Enoch, and about his vision of our spiritual past, present, and future.

Blood Sacrifice, Covenants, and the Noahide Law

Due to the long life spans of the antediluvians, Enoch's son Methuselah was alive during Noah's formative years. It is therefore likely that Noah received instruction about Yahweh Elohim, His Laws, and His promised Salvation as shown in the Gospel in the Stars from this great patriarch. However, due to the genetic impurity and spiritual degradation of most of humanity at that time, Yahweh annihilated them and the evil beings called Nephilim that once inhabited most of the Earth. He had to do so in order to preserve a purely human and righteous bloodline for the Messiah to descend from.

In some respects, Yah's anger toward the antediluvian races may have been even greater than His anger toward the unrighteous