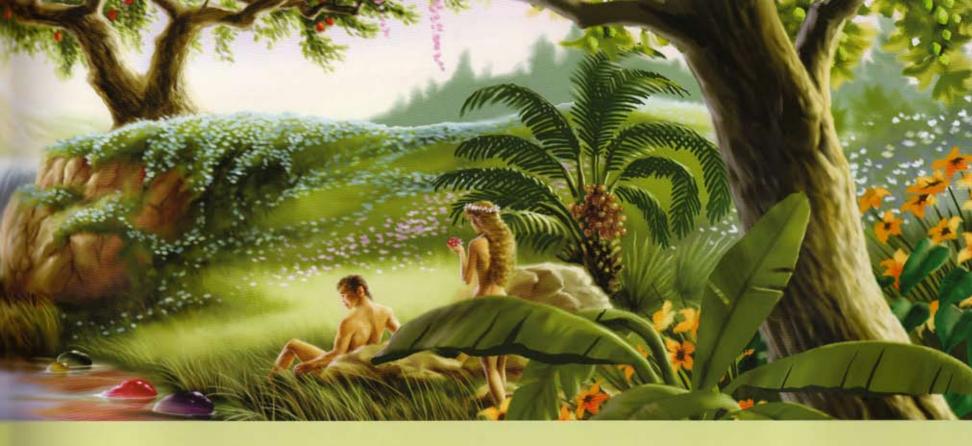


T his book encompasses one of the oldest events in the history of the world. It has been told and retold for centuries and is not confined to one nation or culture. Nearly all people groups have a similar story in their history. Because it has been mostly handed down from one generation to the next by word of mouth, it has varied somewhat with each retelling, and has many different versions around the world. Therefore, to get an accurate account, we must go to the original source where it was recorded at the outset in writing — the Bible.

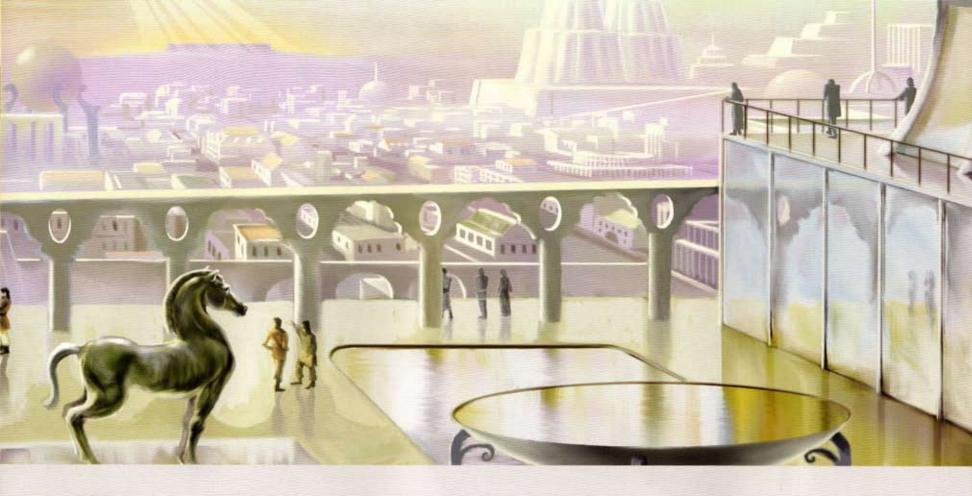


Here, the account doesn't begin with "once upon a time," because it isn't a fable, a legend, or a Nobel prize—winning work of fiction. This true account begins with "in the beginning," and the next word, "God," verifies the Author and the veracity of the story. The creation does not need to be covered in detail here, but it should be understood that everything in the beginning was perfect. God's creation contained no flaws, no mistakes, no sin, and no death of animals or humans. The first man and woman were perfect — until temptation and sin corrupted them.



The Bible states that as man began to multiply on the earth, there were those who dwelled in tents and had livestock (probably for clothing and not for eating, as man wasn't told he could eat meat until after the Flood). Even with the curse that God had placed on the earth because of man's rebellion in the Garden, the world's first farmers also probably raised some amazing crops in the soil God had created for the plants in which to grow. As man multiplied, so did his interests, vocations, and talents. There were those who played music on the lyre and pipe. There were those who forged implements of bronze and iron.





The Bible doesn't record much information about the world before the Flood, but the people of this time were very intelligent. Some began to build highly developed cities exemplifying the advanced intelligence of civilization at the time. Maybe there were great metropolises of thousands of people working together, living together, developing new ideas, and making great strides in the standards of living.



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- Ken Ham, executive director of Answers in Genesis

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