

Biblical scholar Bernard Northrup on the controversial verse Genesis 10:25 the birth of Peleg, "in whose days the earth was divided".

How long was a generation in those days? The answer depends upon which textual source one follows. The Hebrew describing the genealogy of Shem in Genesis 11:10-24 provides the concept that a generation at that time lay between 30 and 35 years. The Hebrew chronology announces 101 years between Shem's departure from the ark and the birth of Peleg, ". . . in whose days the earth was divided" (Gen.10:25). The ancient Septuagint Greek translation and the Samaritan (Hebrew) Pentateuch strongly disagree and suggest the possibility that the Hebrew chronology has been abbreviated for some unknown reason. The Septuagint text provides the following table of generations between Shem's departure from the ark and the birth of Peleg.

2 years from Shem's leaving the ark to the birth of Arphaxad

135 years before Arphaxad fathered Kainan (who is omitted in the Hebrew text but is present in the Septuagint and in Christ's genealogy in Luke 3:36).

130 years before Kainan fathered Salah

130 years before Salah fathered Eber

134 years before Eber fathered Peleg

**531 years total between leaving the ark and the division of the earth.**

**But the calculation above of the length of time between the flood and the division of the continents also strikes against the position of those creationists who propose that the division of the earth mentioned in Genesis 10:25 refers to the division of the languages at the Tower of Babel.** This is utterly contradicted by the placing of the division of the

languages as an event at the end of the second generation of Japhethites in Genesis 10:5. After all, it is clear from the above discussion, including Kainan, that the division of Genesis 10:25 occurred at the beginning of the fifth generation of Semites.

Furthermore, a careful study of the family of Ham will indicate that in that family only two members of the third generation are mentioned by name before the division of languages is spoken of in Genesis 10:20. "These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations." The division after which Peleg was named cannot be the division of languages for they are separated by as much as two generations. And if the chronological material from the Septuagint given above is accurate, and it is confirmed by the quotation of Kainan's (or Cainan's) name from the Septuagint by Luke, then there are approximately 200 years

between the Tower of Babel and the division of the landmass above sea level. It is obvious then that the enforced migration from the Tower of Babel, described in Genesis 11:8-9, had been underway for that many years.

Now we have been discussing Genesis 10:25, the first place in the Scriptures mentioning continental division. The verse reads: "And unto Eber two sons were born. The name of the one was Peleg [to divide by water] for in his days the landmass was divided by water" (BENorthrup). There are three elements in my translation which require explanation.

1. In the final phrase I have understood 'ERETZ to have the same meaning that it does in Genesis 1:10 where God gives the name 'ERETZ to the YABBASHAH, the great single continent which heaved up out of the sea at His command on the third solar day. Now 'ERETZ, meaning the whole planet earth, is found in Genesis 1:1. But like the word "heavens," the word "earth" is redefined later in the text. It is obvious that it is not physical planet earth which is divided in Genesis 10:25.

2. And since the root PLG several times has something to do with water, rivers and such, it is only logical to conclude that it is the exposed landmass which is divided by water. Fuerst points out that the Arabic falaj and the Ethiopic plg both mean "river," a usage found in Psalm 1:3 in the plural. The intensive active form of this verb is found in Job 38:25 which asks these questions: "Who utterly split apart a water channel for an overwhelming flood of waters or made a way for the lightening of the thunder?" (BENorthrup).

3. The name Peleg is based on a Hebrew verb. It is one of several verbs which are based upon the biradical consonantal combination PL. All of these verbs have something to do with division. Adding the third consonant after this biradical combination of consonants differentiates the shade of meaning carried by each of the PL verbs. When the third consonant is G producing the verb PLG, there is a remarkable emphasis upon water. According to Fuerst, basically the verb PLG means "to cleave, to divide, to separate." The basic meaning is the same in Arabic.

Now Greek is a Japhethetic language. And yet I have found 18 different nouns in classical Greek from upwards of 3,000 years ago with the same consonantal pattern PLG. Remarkably, every usage has something crucial to do with the sea. Two of these words still crop up in English: the expression "pelagic depths" and in the word "archipelago."

We found that a Semitic lad, born during the "utter division of the landmass by water," was named PELEG to commemorate that remarkable event. As I have pointed out, the English translations of this verse do not carry the same freight of meaning found in the original Hebrew text.

All of the physical evidence in the world demonstrates that the latest catastrophe to trouble the whole world was the Biblical ice epoch. And that evidence unquestionably indicates that the ice epoch followed the separation of the continents. And the physical evidence, when thoughtfully examined, leaves the creationist no room to conclude that these periods of the earth's history are part of the Noahic flood. They clearly are post-Noahic flood.

I have flown alongside enormous glaciers along the west coast of North America and South America from southern Alaska to just south of the equator in Ecuador and Peru. I have crossed the Alps repeatedly and have flown along their southern edge from Portugal to Greece. I have flown into India repeatedly and have explored along the high, crushed foothills of the Himalayas, able to study from a distance the great marine strata that are crushed, uplifted and intruded by giant volcanoes and still support great glaciers. Everywhere these glaciers are deposited upon crushed and folded strata resulting from South America's departure from Africa and Antarctica in violent continental plate separation. The deposits of the Noahic flood on the opposing continents across the Atlantic terminate at the continents' edges. There are absolutely no Noahic flood deposits on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean for it was not there when the Noahic flood covered the great single continent implied by Genesis 1:9 and separated in the days of Peleg beginning in Genesis 10:25.

Noahic flood deposits are lifted from hundreds of feet to many thousands of feet in the Andes by the crushing, buckling and intruding forces produced along the leading edge of South America as its leading edge dove into the great Humboldt [Atacama] trench 20,000 feet below the sea along the western edge of the continent. The great glaciers of the world are deposited on the volcanic ejecta and the folded flood strata that was folded well after the Noahic flood. The crust reshaping heat of the leading edge of our own great plate produced by its overriding of the Pacific ocean bottom powered the intrusions and uplifts of most of our western mountains. That is true throughout the Central Rockies where the continent apparently overrode and settled over a hot plume welling up out of the rheosphere, of the Sierras, the Klamath Mountains, the Cascades, the Northern Rockies and the Canadian Rockies wherever I have examined them.

It is obvious that **it is impossible to consider the division of the continents and the Biblical ice epoch to be part of the closing events of the Noahic flood.** That view... simply makes hash out of the physical and Biblical evidence. To ignore the massive geological evidence which contradicts this position and to ignore the Biblical evidence while insisting that these events are an integral part of the conclusion of the Noahic flood utterly obscures the actual event series which followed the Noahic flood.

Bernard E. Northrup, ThD. 1996. Chapter (excerpted) about *The Book of Job* - On Finding An Ice Age Book

ABSTRACT: This chapter is a revision of that which originally was published after one of my creation conferences by Colonial Hills Baptist Church in East Point, Georgia sometime in the early 1970's. It also has been part of well over a hundred conferences in many states and several countries. For years it was part of my class notes for Genesis 1-11 entitled "In the Beginning," for Central Baptist Seminary in Minneapolis where I was Director of Graduate Studies.