AN

O R A T I O N,

ON THE

TRUTH OF THE MOSAIC HISTORY

OF THE CREATION;

DELIVERED

AT

N E W - H A V E N,

ON THE

P U B L I C C O M M E N C E M E N T,


B Y  E B E N E Z E R  G R A N T  M A R S H.

H A R T F O R D.

P R I N T E D  B Y  H U D S O N  A N D  C O O L W I N.

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AN ORATION.

Modern infidels have attacked few subjects, with less consideration, than that respecting the creation of the world. As neither the philosophy nor antiquity of the Mosaic history coincides with their speculative opinions, on this subject, they have imbibed the notion, that it is a mere fiction, and not worthy serious attention. An attempt to exhibit the falsity of this opinion, and establish the scriptural account of the creation, will not, it is presumed, be an uninteresting subject.

The numerous absurd and fanciful hypotheses, adopted both by ancient and modern philosophers, with respect to the origin of the world, sufficiently prove the necessity of revelation on this subject. To exhibit even a partial detail of the several systems, would exceed the limits of a moderate volume. It will readily be acknowledged, however, that a summary view, of the most important of them, will have the double effect of displaying their in-
consistencies and absurdities, and of exhibiting a more complete proof of the truth of the Mosaic history.

The several opinions, either of the ancients or moderns, on this subject, may be comprised under one or other of the following three.

First, That the world is eternal, both as to its matter and form, neither having origin, nor being liable to corruption. Or

Secondly, That the matter of the world is eternal, but not the form. Or

Lastly, That the world had a beginning, and, of course, will suffer a dissolution.*

The first opinion was openly defended by none among the ancients, except some Eleatic-Pythagoreans, Aristotle, and several of Plato’s followers. Instead, however, of affirming, as some in our own times have done, that the world itself is God, or the self-existent and independent Being, these philosophers either barely maintained, that it was necessary something should be eternal, which is all several of the Pythagoreans prove; or, that the world is an “eternal voluntary emanation from the all wise and supreme cause,” which was the opinion of many Platonists; or, that the world eter-

* Vide Dr. Clarke’s Demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God, p. 32, &c. Lond. 1728.
nally and necessarily flows from the energy of the divine nature, which appears to have been the opinion of Aristotle. In this, he was joined by some learned Mohammedans, particularly al Farabi, al Kendi, Ebn Sina, and Ebn Rofhd, who were denominated Dabrians or Eternalists. This dogma was, likewise, embraced by Origen, and, in the sixth century, was permitted to be openly taught in Alexandria, by Ammonius. Some modern philosophers, who maintain the eternity of the world, do not hesitate to affirm, that the material universe, with the order and mode of existence of every part of it, is self-existent, and the only supreme Deity. This was the opinion of Spinoza, which, indeed, had been before partially adopted by Xenophanes, the founder of the Eleatic sect, Parmenides, Melissus, Zeno of Elea, the elder Pliny, Stilpo, and the Megaric philosophers, Strato of Lampfuscus, Alexander the Epicurean, some Japanese and Mohammedan sects, likewise, some heretical Christians—Amalric, David of Dinant, and the learned Peter Abelard. But none of them proceeded so far, and adopted such a complete system, as Spinoza.†

The second opinion was, that the materials of the world were eternal, but put into their present order, by principles merely mechanical, or disposed

* Cudworth's Intellectual System, p. 250, 251.
by an intelligent mind. The first of these opinions was the cosmogony of some sects among the Egyptians, Phoenicians, Babylonians, and a few of the ancient Pagan poets, likewise of Leucippus, Democritus and Epicurus, the reputed inventors of the atomic system. This supposed, that all things were produced from an infinite number of atoms, which, having been incessantly moving from all eternity, in infinite space, happened, at length, by a fortuitous concourse, to settle into the present system of things.* This physiology does not appear to have been unknown before, for Anaximander, Aristophanes, Empedocles, Heraclides, Alcmeon, Diodorus, and Metrodorus Chius, maintained, that indivisible particles, or an infinite first matter, is the principle of all things.† The atomic system has been embraced by several moderns, among whom are Gassendi, Descartes, and the Mohammedan scholastic divines. The second opinion was adopted by Hippatus, Hippocrates, Heraclitus, Diogenes of Apollonia, the Stoics, the Pandits in India, the Sufis and other learned men in Persia, some sects among the Chinese, the Siamese, and the later Jews, who, holding the eternity of matter, supposed it to be the only substance, and invested with reason. Thales, Pherecydes, Py-

* Epicurus held no principle but the atoms themselves, Democritus supposed they were animated.
thagoras, Timæus Locris, Archytas, Anaxagoras, who first, among the Grecian philosophers, held an intelligent being distinct from matter, Aristotle, Archelaus, and Plutarch, maintained, that there were two distinct coeternal principles, God and Matter. Aristotle supposed, that the world was governed by an unlimited number of forms, qualities, and other imaginary beings. This opinion was supported by Hermogenes, and other ancient pretenders to Christianity, and it prevailed till it was supplanted by Descartes, who introduced the atomic philosophy. In none of these systems, which are extremely various and contradictory, is it admitted that God is able to create matter, it must, then,

* Pythagoras held, that the two self-existent principles were a monad, or unity, and a dyad, or duality. By the first, it is generally thought, he intended God, or an active and intelligent mind; by the second, some suppose he meant a daemon or a maleficient being, others, matter itself. He affirmed, that all things were formed according to the proportion of numbers. The following is a specimen of his proportions, and the principles, on which was founded the mystical system of all nations. If a string be divided into two, three, and four parts, in each half there will be an octave of the whole—in the three fourths, its fourth—in the two thirds, its fifth. The octave, then, will be as one to two—the fourth, as three to four—and the fifth, as two to three. The importance of this proportion induced succeeding philosophers to give to the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, the name of the sacred quaternary. Anacharsis' Travels. Vol. III. ch. 30.

† Plutarch, Numenius, and Atticus, in order to account for the origin of evil, supposed, that the chaos, or original matter, was animated by a vicious being. It appears, therefore, that they held a third self-existent, and eternal principle. Some mongrel Christians, as the Marchionites, Manicheans, and Paulicians, maintained, that there were two self-existent Gods—a good and a bad. They held, that it was impossible, in any other way, to account for the existence of vice. Univ. Hist. p. 62, 63, Cosmog.


|| This was succeeded by the Newtonian.
have existed from eternity, as a passive subject of all the operations of God, or, it is a self-existent being. The first supposition necessarily implies the contradiction of two self-existent beings: The second, that it is impossible to conceive matter to be, or not to be, in any way distinct from what it now is, without a contradiction.*

The last opinion, that the world was absolutely created, and is liable to dissolution, was held by the ancient Tuscan or Etrurians, the Druids, the Persian Magi, the old Hindu Brahmans and modern Bramins, the Chinese, the Mohammedans, some of the Japanese, and several of the American Indians.

The Chinese have been viewed as a refined people, yet they exhibit the following account of the creation;—That one Tayn, who lived in heaven, and was celebrated for his wisdom, disposed the parts of the world into their present order—that he created, from nothing, the first man Panfon, and his wife Panfon— that this Panfon, by a power from Tayn, created another man, called Tanbon, who was a great naturalist, and thirteen men more, by whom the world was peopled, till after considerable time the sky fell upon the earth, and destroyed

* In the statement, which I have given, of the opinions of the Grecian philosophers, I have mentioned those only, which they openly taught. They generally held it lawful, for the public good, to lay one thing when they thought another. Hence many held a double doctrine, which they called the External and Internal. For a particular view of several of their trifold doctrines, see Dr. Warburton's Divine Legation of Moses; Book III. Sections 2 and 3.
them all; but that the wife Tayn afterwards created another man, whose name was Latziram, who had two horns, and an odoriferous body, from which proceeded several men and women, who stocked the world with its present inhabitants.†

—Some of the Brahmins, if we may credit a late writer,§ affirmed, that the Almighty knocked the world into existence by a great cane.—Many of the Hindu Pandits, and Persian Sufis feign, that an immense spider was the first cause of all things. They allege, that she wove the web of the universe, and disposed it with great art. Ever since it was completed, she has placed herself in the centre of her work, and directed every motion. When she shall have sufficiently pleased herself in regulating the web, she will draw all the threads she had spun out, into herself, at which time all things will vanish.¶—The Mohammedans inform us, "that the first things, which were created, were the Throne of God, Adam, Paradise, and a great Pen, with which God wrote his decrees—that the Throne was carried about upon angels' necks, whose heads were so large, that birds could not fly, in a thousand years, from one ear to the other—that the heavens were propped up by the moun-

† Here we observe an evident allusion to the edicuge.
‡ Stackhouse's History of the Bible, Lib. i. c. 1.
§ Lord, on the Banian religion.
¶ Univ. Hif. p. 48, Colmog.
tain Koff—that the stars were firebrands, thrown
gainst the devils, when they invaded heaven—
that the earth stands upon the top of a great
cow's horn—that this cow stands upon a white
flone—this flone upon a mountain, and this
mountain upon" nobody "knows what."

How different are all these accounts from
what is recorded by Moses, whose history is easily
comprehended, comporting with the dignity of
God, and not inconsistent with the principles of
true philosophy. Were we to consider Moses
merely as an historian, without any supernatural
powers, were we to judge of his accounts at "the
"bar of reason," and to wave the circumstance of
their antiquity, there would, notwithstanding, be
a credibility attached to them, of which all others
are defitute. "We cannot," says Stackhouse,
"without admiration, see a person, who had none
"of the systems before him, which we so much
"value, giving us a clearer idea of things, in the
"way of an easy narrative, than any philosopher,
"with all his hard words, and new invented
"terms, has yet been able to do, and, in the com-
"pa"s of two short chapters, comprising all that

* Stackhouse. The Mohammedans, likewise, hold, that God
drew out of Adam all his posterity at once, and covenanted with
them, that they should acknowledge him to be their Lord. They
say that all these people were actually assembled, in the form of pil-
imirs, near Mecca or Dahia, in India; and, "after they had, in the
"presence of angels, as witnesses, confed their dependence on
"God; they were again caused to return into the loins of their
"has been advanced with reason, even from his own time to this very day." Had Moses, indeed, made free use of philosophical phrases, such, for instance, as globular and angular particles—centripetal and centrifugal forces—the mundane or Solar system—the atmospheres of comets— the earth’s diurnal and annual motions, and the sun’s rest, his observations might, possibly, have been more agreeable to some theorists; "but theories," says a writer, "depend, in a great measure, upon "the humor and caprice of an age, which is some- "times in love with one, and sometimes with a- "nother."

It may not be improper, in this part of our subject, to give such an explanation of the history of Moses, as appears most agreeable to the letter of it, and the principles of philosophy.†

**Genesis, ch. i. v. i. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**

It cannot be inferred from this expression, that the whole starry heavens were created at the same time with this earth. It is, indeed, probable, from the relation, which the sun and planets, with their satellites, bear to each other, that they were

* Mr. Whiston supposes, that the primitive chaos, from which the earth was formed, was the atmosphere of a comet. He did not, probably, reflect, that this atmosphere is not obscure, but pellucid.
† The following paraphrase and several other additions have been made to the Oration, since it was delivered.
all created at the same time,* and in the same manner, from so many chaotic masses.† But other systems might have been made, many thousand years before ours.‡ By the word heaven, Moses unquestionably intended, either the space circumscribed by the path of Herschell, or that of the most distant comet in our system, or, which is most likely, the upper region of the air. The word is used, in this last sense, in many passages of scripture.||

V. 2. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

* Many philosophers, however, have adopted different opinions. Dr. Burnet supposes, that all the celestial bodies, including the sun and planets, were made long before the earth. Without any evidence, he thinks that matter was, originally, under different laws from what it now is.—Bhoff places the chaos, from which the earth was made, in the sun, but does not inform us, why the sun was created, when there were no bodies for it to enlighten.—Whiffen holds, that the sun, moon, and stars are all more ancient than the earth. The five days of the creation, he thinks, were five years, the earth having had no diurnal rotation, till after the apostacy. But it is easy to see, that the solar system would have been very imperfect without the planets upon which we live, and we are not warranted, by philosophy, to suppose, that the moon was created before the earth. Further, if the earth did not move upon its axis, the immoderate degrees of heat and cold would have been destructive both to plants and animals.

† If we suppose, with many, that the sun and planets were made out of the chaos of Moses, we must reject the laws of gravitation, and place the earth in the centre of the system.

‡ From these two passages in the book of Job, Where was thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?—When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (ch. xxxviii. v. 4. 7;) it has been, with some propriety, inferred, that both stars and angels were made before the formation of the earth. But it must be acknowledged, that this is not complete proof; for the morning stars might sing together, and the sons of God shout for joy, on account of their own creation, and that of the earth, at the same time.

|| See Gen. i. 20; vii. 11; Job xxxviii. 29, 37; &c.
Moses here describes the original confused state of matter, and, as a preparatory step for its designed disposition and order, the moving of the Spirit of God upon the waters. By the Spirit of God, some understand a violent wind, sent to dry the waters; Grotius and others suppose, it was the third person in the Trinity; and Dr. Cudworth,* that plastic nature, which was subservient to God, at this time, and which gave a kind of a vivifying virtue to the whole chaotic mass.

The work of the first day. V. 3. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. 4. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night: and the evening and the morning were the first day.

The description, which Moses here, and in the following verses, gives of the vicissitudes of day and night, before he informs us of the creation of the sun, has generally been considered, by philosophers, as the most objectionable part of his history. But if we examine this difficulty, with attention, we shall find that Moses was a more accurate philosopher than is frequently imagined. If we suppose that the sun was not created till the fourth day, we may conclude, with Abarbinel, a learned Jew, that

the previous light was the Shechinah; or, with Dr. Patrick, those fiery particles, which the Almighty produced, "as the great instrument for the preparation of the rest of matter," and which, being collected together, moved round the earth in twenty-four hours, or, being dispersed through the whole universe, were excited by God himself. It is not unfrequently maintained, that the sun is the only fountain of light, from which all luminous particles are emitted. But it appears from experiment, that light, if properly excited, may be made to appear in midnight darkness. This is a certain proof, that it exists in darkness before it is excited, and, that it is rendered visible by being excited. We may rationally conclude, therefore, that it exists diffused through the whole visible system of things, being agitated, or put in motion, by the sun's rays and that it could not be made to appear, without this previous existence, if the hemisphere should be filled with suns. Upon this hypothesis, light might have been created on the first day, and God, alone, might have been the exciter, till the sun was produced.

But there appears to be no necessity of resorting to suppositions of this kind. It is certainly,

* A candle may be seen, in a dark night, at the distance of three miles. But it is not supposable, that such a small body can furnish sufficient quantity of light to fill a spherical space six miles in diameter. It is more probable, that the particles, in that space, are excited by the candle. See the treatise on the creation, in Witsen's Theological Tracts.
much more rational to conclude, from the connexion between all the bodies in the solar system, that the sun and moon were in existence from the commencement of the creation, but could not be seen the three first days, on account of the vapours, and heterogeneous particles, with which the air was filled. It is likely, that their light gradually increased until the fourth day, when these particles had so far subsided, that they began to appear, which may be the reason why they are said to have been made at that time.

THE WORK OF THE SECOND DAY. V. 6. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters; and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters, which were under the firmament, from the waters, which were above the firmament: &c.

The atmosphere must have been in some measure cleared the first day, at least, the grosser parts of matter must have subsided, otherwise, the rays of light could not have pierced it. But it was so far perfected on this day, as to be rendered capable of supporting clouds. The waters above the firmament, were, probably, those in the clouds, as those under it, were the waters upon the earth.

THE THIRD DAY'S WORK. V. 9. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven, be gathered
together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. 10. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. 11. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth: and it was so, &c.

The first part of this day was employed in gathering the waters, which covered the whole earth, into seas, lakes, &c. in order that the dry land might appear. Dr. Patrick* supposes, that this was effected by an earthquake, which raised the earth, and made caverns for the waters to run into. This he argues from an expression in Psalm civ. 7; At thy rebuke they (i. e. the waters) fled: at the voice of thy thunder, they hasted away; likewise in Job xxxviii. 10, And brake up for it, (i. e. for the sea) my decreed place, and set bars and doors. Mr. Whiston is of opinion, that it was occasioned by the different density and specific gravity of the several columns of the earth, which had been gradually sinking from the beginning of the creation, and some of which sunk much lower than others. To this cause he altogether ascribes the inequality of the surface of the earth, and, for a proof of the truth of it, lays, that mountainous columns are not so dense and ponderous as others.†

* Commentary upon verse 9.
† Theory of the Earth, Book 2.
The last part of this day's work, was the production of vegetables. It cannot be supposed, that the fecundity of the earth, at that time, was sufficient for such a growth in a day, as is described. It will be allowed, that God formed the seeds of vegetables, and this rapid vegetation may, with equal propriety, be referred to his divine interposition.

The work of the fourth day. V. 14. 16. And God said, Let there be lights, &c. And God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also, &c.

For an explanation of what is here said with regard to the sun and moon, see what has been observed respecting light.

From the expression, he made the stars also, it has been inferred, that the sun, moon and stars were all made at the same time. But the words he made, are an interpolation, there being nothing in the Hebrew to warrant them. They were, probably, placed, at first, in the margin of our bibles, and afterwards crept into the text. The Hebrew word שָׁלֹחָה should be translated together with. The literal meaning of this passage, then, is, that the lesser light,

C
or the moon, is to rule the night, together with the stars.*

THE FIFTH DAY'S WORK. V. 20. And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. 21. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind, &c.

After describing the formation of the inanimate world, Moses proceeds to the animate, and begins with fish and fowl, the inferior kinds of animals, both of which were produced, this day, from the waters. The great congruity between these animals shews, that they had the same original. They are both oviparous, which makes them more fruitful than beasts, and there is a resemblance between their method of swimming and flying†. The word בְּנֵי רֶםֶי, translated great whales in the 21st verse, means several kinds of great fish. It is rendered crocodiles in several places in scripture.‡


* Dr. Nicholls' conference with a Theist, Vol. I.
† In Gen. ii. 19, it is said, that God formed the fowls of the air out of the ground. The Jews reconcile this, with what is said above, by supposing, that fish and fowl were formed out of frit mud, in which there is a mixture of both elements. Calvin says, the passage in the 20th verse of this chap. may be rendered, and let the fowl fly, &c. Unl. Hidl.
‡ Patrick on Gen. i. 21.
creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth, after his kind: and it was so, &c. 26. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fift of the sea, &c.

Moses distributes the animals, which were the first part of this day's work, into three kinds.—1. Beasts, by which he intended all wild beasts—
2. Cattle, or tame and domestic animals; and, lastly, creeping things, which include all reptiles, insects, &c.

The last, and noblest work, was the creation of man. This was attended with a peculiar degree of solemnity. There appears to have been a previous consultation, as it were, of the holy Trinity,* concerning the creation of a being, who was to bear the image of God, and to be capable of immortality. On the same day, woman was formed out of the side of the man, who had been cast into a deep sleep for that purpose. This original was probably chosen, "to denote the obliga-

* The expression, Let us make man, &c. has generally been considered among Christians, as a plain intimation of a plurality of persons in the Godhead. A different construction, however, has not unfrequently been put upon it. The Jews are of opinion, that God addressed himself, at that time, to angels. But if they were then created, it is not likely that they would have been employed in the making of man; "who was not made in their image, but in "the image of God." Others suppose, that it was a majestic form of speech, it being very common for kings and princes to speak in the plural number. But this custom was much later than the days of Moses. Indeed, it was not known till about four or five centuries before our era. Patrick's Com. Stackhouse's Hist.
tions to the strictest friendship and society, to be get the strongest love and sympathy" between them, "as parts of the same whole; and to re commend marriage to all mankind, as founded in "nature, and as the reunion of man and woman."

Some philosophers pretend, that the fecundity of the primitive earth, and the influence of the sun, will sufficiently account for the production of plants and animals, without recurring to a divine power. But observation has fully proved, that there can be no such thing as "equivocal genera-

† Some writers affirm, that the variety of complexion and figure, in the human species, is a strong proof that mankind did not descend from one pair. But it is generally agreed by philosophers, that this variety is owing to climate, and the state of society. Those who are not satisfied that these are the true causes, are referred to Dr. S. S. Smith's learned dissertation upon this subject. It is farther argued, from the circumstance of Cain's going to the land of Nod—his building a city there, &c. that there must have been great numbers of people, at that time, who could not have sprung from Adam. But Adam might have had many children before those mentioned in scripture. Moses did not intend to give an account of all his descendants, but of those only, who were most remarkable, and whose history was necessary to be known, in order that the genealogy might be preferred. According to the general computation, Abel was slain in the 139th year of Adam's life: For it is expressly said, that Seth was born in the 135th year; and as he was appointed instead of Abel, and was, therefore, to be a comfort to his disconsolate parents, it is likely that he was born the year after his death. So that Cain must have left his own country, in the 139th year of the world, at which time, there might have been, at least, one hundred thousand souls upon the face of the earth. Stockhousc. If we suppose, that Adam and Eve had no other sons than Cain and Abel, in the year 128, yet they had daughters, to whom these two were, unquestionably, both married. See Gen. v. 4. If we suppose, that they were married in the 212th year of the world, they might easily have had 8 children in the 28th year. In the 50th year, there might have proceeded from them in a direct line, 64 persons—in the 84th, 1,122—in the 112th, 4,096, and in the 124th, 16,384. If to these be added the other children descended from Cain and Abel, their children, and grand-children, we shall have, in the 128th year, at least 300,000 men, without including women and children.
tion of even the meanest animal or plant."† It must, therefore, be allowed, that both vegetables and animals were created by a supernatural power, who used the earth and water only as the matter from which he formed their parts.

It is said to be a derogation from the power and dignity of God, to imagine that he should be so long in the work of creation. Such a being, it is affirmed, would speak the universe into existence at once. But it is very rational to suppose, that he employed so long a period, because he considered it as best for the instruction, both of angels and men. Angels, who were, unquestionably, created before this time, might have been presented with a more complete view of the perfections and attributes of God, by beholding the work of creation, than they otherwise could have had; and the detail given by Moses of this work, while it furnishes us with a full and comprehensive display of his glory, fills us with wonder and admiration. By the employment of six days in creating the world, it seems to be implied, that the Almighty necessitated himself to continue this work so long, in order that he might exhibit himself a "divine example of weekly labor and sabbatical rest," and, in this manner, more effectually convince mankind of their obligation to observe the sabbath.

† See, on this subject, Dr. Clarke's Dem. of Being and Attributes of God. Vol. i. prop. 9.
* Stackhouse L. i. c. 1.
It is not improbable, that a revelation might have been made to Adam of the manner, in which the world was formed, which, without doubt, would be transmitted to his posterity. If Moses, then, had not given a just account, the Israelites, instead of receiving it as true, would have immediately detected its falsity, and pronounced the author an impostor. The length of men's lives previously to Moses, rendered tradition the certain vehicle of information. Accounts, as far back as the origin of man, might have been conveyed by seven persons from Adam to Moses. Methuselah conversed with Adam and Noah, Shem with Noah and Abraham, Isaac with Abraham and Joseph, and Amram with Joseph and Moses.* So that many living, in the time of Moses, might have judged of the fidelity of his history.

The credibility of the Mosaic cosmogony is, farther, very amply established by collateral evidence. We are furnished with the following heathen fragments, among many others, in which are exhibited several of the sentiments of Moses, on this subject.

* The account of the longevity of the first people in the world is confirmed by Hesiod, Hecataeus, Helianicus, Aetius, Ephorus, Nicholas, Manetho, the author of the Egyptian history, Berolus, Moclus, and Hesiod, who wrote, that anciently men lived a thousand years. *Josep. Ant. Lib. 1. cap. 4.*
THE EGYPTIANS, as Diodorus Siculus* informs us, affirmed, that the heavens and earth were, at first, in one lump, mixed and blended together in the same mass.

In the beginning, says Orpheus,† the heaven was made by God, and in the heaven there was a chaos or dark night, which covered all things under heaven. This position agrees with that of Moses; In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, and the earth was without form and void, or a chaos, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.‡ He further declared, that there was a certain incomprehensible and invisible being, the highest and most ancient of all things, and the maker of the universe—that the earth was invisible, in consequence of the darkness upon it, but that the light broke forth through the heaven, and illuminated the whole creation. This light, he affirms, was the incomprehensible being himself, whole name, as revealed by an oracle, was counsel, light, and the giver of life, which three names manifest the one and the same power of this invisible God. He, likewise, declared, that man was formed out of the earth, by the same Deity, and received from him a rational soul, as Moses has related. He also wrote, in another place, according to Timotheus, that all things were

* Lib. i.
† Orpheus lived in Thrace. He was a celebrated poet, and the inventor of music in Greece. He flourished about 1100 years B.C.
‡ Shuckford's Connexion of Sacred and Profane History, Vol. i. p. 42, Pref. Lond. 1743.
made by one Godhead of three names, and that this God is all things. He affirmed, that what he delivered on this subject, he received from Phæbus or Titan, and that it was not his own invention.\|

Sanchoniathon, as appears from Eusebius, affirmed, that there was, at first, a dark and confused chaos, from which all things were made. This chaos, he said, was put into a ferment, by a dark and windy air, which he called ἀνεμός πνεύμα, or Kol-Pi-Job, that is, the wind or breath of the voice of the mouth of the Lord. In this, says, Shuckford, "he very emphatically expresses God's making all things with a word; and intimates, also, "what the Chaldee paraphrast insinuates from the "words of Moses, that the chaos was put into its "first agitation by a strong wind." He begins mankind from two mortals, Πρωτογενεῖς and Μοῖ." 

Anaxagoras, as Laertius informs us, began one of his books thus; All things exist from eternity, in the primitive mafs: an intelligent agent imparted activity to this mafs, and brought it into order.† In another place he says, "The beginning "of all things is οὐφυσ, the Mind, who is the cause "and Lord of the whole world, who gave order

\| Universal History, p. 135. Colfin.
* Bedford's Scripture Chronology. Shuckford's Connexion. All, which Sanchoniathon gives us concerning the Cuthogony, was taken from the genuine works of Thoth. Wachter's Div. Leg. Tab. III. Sec. 4. Sanchoniathon wrote about 1000 years B. C.
† Anacharits Travels, p. 57. Anaxagoras flourished about 430 years B. C.
"to things in disorder, motion to things immov-
able, distinction to things confused, and beauty
"to things deformed."*

All things, says Aristotle, were in one mass, for a great length of time, but an intelligent agent put them in motion and thus separated them from one another.†

Maximus Tyrius asserts, that all nations had a constant tradition, that there was one supreme God, the cause of all things.‡

Linus mentions, that, at first, all things were confused.∥

Epicharmus§ and several of the Platonists affirm, that all things were made by the λόγος, or word of God. The following passage of Amalric is particularly observable; "All things, which ever existed, were made by the reason or word, according to the opinion of Heraclitus: That same word or reason the Barbarian intends, which, in the beginning, set all things in order, and was with God before that order, by which every thing was perfected, and in which was every creature—the fountain of life and being." The Barbarian, of whom

* Patrick's Commentary on Gen. i. 3.
† Shuckford's Con. p. 43, pref. Aristotle wrote about 340 years B.C.
‡ Grotius de Ver. Rel. Chrifi. in notis ad Lib. r. Sec. 16.
∥ Ibidem. Linus flourished about 1000 years B.C.
§ Wrote about 480 years B.C.
Amauric here speaks, is St. John the evangelist, who lived not long before him.*

\textit{Zeno}, in his book concerning being, calls the first cause of all things \textit{logic}, the word. In this he was followed by Cleanthes, Chrysippus, Archedemus, and Paallidionius.†

\textit{Sanchoniathan} and \textit{Apollonius} supposed, that all things were made from a chaos‡, which was a fluid substance. This, by settling, became mud, which, in time, "dried and condensed into solid earth." It is observable that Moses calls the chaos water in this sense—\textit{and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters}.§

\textit{Thales} declared, that the Mind of God produced all things from water, not pure elementary, but muddy water.||

\textit{Zeno} affirmed, that the chaos in \textit{Hesiod}, from which all things were made, was water. This

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* Grevius.
† Ibid. Zeno flourished about 650 years B. C. Cleanthes, Chrysippo, &c., lived on 200 and 300.
‡ Ovid. in the first book of his Metamorphosis, gives the following just description of the primitive chaos:

\textit{Anxu mare, et terras, et quod regit omnia, caelum, Unda erat genus natura valvis in orb.}
\textit{Quantum diem, quae fuit radicibus indigentia moles.}
\textit{Ne eadem quam sibi munda, incerta congelaque eadem.}
\textit{Non hic jungularum discordia femina rerum.}

§ Smith's Com. p. 455 pref.
|| Smith's Com. on Gen. i. 2. Thales flourished about 650 year B. C.

\textit{Mere}, whence the Greeks derive their \textit{mure}, signifies, in Hebrew, \textit{to droin}, in Greek, \textit{abys},—an abyss already in motion. For \textit{abys}, in \textit{Ennius}, is nothing but mud:

\"from muddy Tartarus a bright gigantic spring."
subsiding became mud, and the mud congealing became solid earth.*

Plutarch, in his explanation of Plato, says, that God is the father of the world, not by an emission of seed, but by a certain generative influence infilled into matter, which he elucidates by this similitude:

"The female bird is oft impregnated
"By the quick motion of the wind."†

Aratus and Catullus supposed, that God resided above the starry orb, where, says Homer, there is a continual light. Aratus held, that the stars were made by God.‡

Hesiod says, that darkness was before light.

The Chaldeans, Persians, Hindus, and Chinese have imbibed the notion, that all things originated from an egg. This opinion was common among the ancient Egyptians§ and Greeks. It was first introduced among the latter by Orpheus, who, it is likely, brought it from Egypt. Bishop Patrick and others suppose, that it arose

* Grotius. Lib. 1. § 16. Hesiod was a Greek poet, contemporary with Homer—flourished about 900 years B. C.
† Ibidem.
‡ Ibidem. Aratus was the founder of the Achaian republic. He lived about 220 years B. C.—Catullus, about 80.
§ The Egyptians described their God Kneph with an egg proceeding out of his mouth. This "was a lively representation of "this world, (denouced by the egg) produced by God's omnipotent "word."

Patrick on Gen. 1. 3.
from the expression of Moses, and the Spirit of God moved, literally brooded, upon the face of the waters.||

Strabo affirmed, that the earth was originally covered with water, and, in order to fit it for the habitation of man, that God raised it and made many “cavities and receptacles” in it for the water. See Gen. i. 9.

Virgil, speaking of the origin of the world, says, Then the soil began to harden, and shut up the waters within the sea, and things to assume their proper forms. The earth was then struck with the shining of the new sun, and the descending of the showers from the clouds.

Theophrastus observed, according to Porphyry, that the earth brought forth trees and herbs before beasts.*

Euripides says, the heaven and earth were, at first, of one form, but when their different parts were separated, there sprang up beasts, fowls and fish; nay, even men themselves.†

Plato, in his treatise de Republica, speaks of a Hebrew fable, which describes the fraternity of men, and their derivation from the ground. He

|| Stackhouse, p. 30, pref.  
\* Geog. Lib. xvii. Strabo lived about the time of our Saviour.  
\* Eloc. vi. v. 36—40. Virgil wrote about 40 years B. C.  
\* Patrick on Gen. i. 13. Theophrastus wrote 250 years B. C.  
† Grotius, ubi surg.  
‡ Lib. iii. p. 414. He flourished about 400 years B. C.
fays, that their knowledge of the Deity was communicated to them from the Gods by one Prometheus.

Diodorus Siculus§ and Parmenides say, that man was made out of the mud or slime of the river Nile, which comports with the account of Moses, that the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground.

Callimachus|| calls man Prometheus' clay. Mention is made of this clay in Juvenal and Martial; and of the theft of Prometheus, in many of the other poets.¶

Homer says,

*You all to earth and water must return*; which implies, that man came originally from those elements.

Hesiod, speaking of the formation of man, mentions, that Mulciber ordered earth and water to be mixed without delay, and a human voice to be infused.¶

Euripides, in his Suppliants, says,

§ Lib. i. Diod. Sic. wrote about 350 years B. C.—Parmenides about 450.
¶ He wrote about 540 years B. C.
§ Prometheus is said to have stolen fire from heaven, with which he animated a man of clay of his own forming. For this theft, he was chained to a rock in Mount Caucasus, and had a bird incessantly eating his liver, which grew as fast as it was consumed.
¶ Iliad. Lib. vii.
¶ Grothus, ubi supra.
"Permit the dead to be entombed in earth,
"From whence we all into this body came,
"And when we die, the spirit goes to air,
"To earth the body; for we cannot possess
"Life, only for a time; the earth demands
"It back again."

All which agrees with Gen. iii. 19, Eccl. xii. 7. §

Censorinus observes, that "Democritus,
"the Abderite, was of opinion, that men were first
"formed of clay and water, and Epicurus was of
"the same mind."||

Euryxus, the Pythagorean asserted, that man's
body resembles that of other creatures, because it
is composed of the same materials, but that it is made
by the best workman, who formed it according to
the pattern of himself. ¶

Pliny mentions, that Hipparchus acknowled-
edged the relation between man and the stars, and
considered our souls as parts of heaven.*

Numenius held, that the spirits of all the liv-
ing were produced by the Spirit of God. †

In Linus, Hesiod, and many other Greek
writers, mention is made of the forming of animals

§ Ibidem. Euripides was a celebrated Greek tragis; poet. He
flourished about 450 years B. C.
|| Ibid.
¶ Ibid. 
* Ibid. Hipparchus flourished 129 years B. C.
† † Patrick on Gen. i. 2. Numenius was a Greek philosopher, and
flourished in the 2d century.
—of man’s formation after the divine image, and his dominion over other creatures.†

Virgil affirms, that the divine Spirit pervades the whole earth, sea and heaven—that men and beasts, birds and fish all derive from it their vital principles, which have the active force of fire.§ This opinion was, probably, borrowed from the Greeks, for Plutarch informs us, that all the Greek philosophers, except those who held the doctrine of a vacuum and atoms, supposed the universe to be animated, and governed by providence.

Cicero, in his book de Nat. Doctr. mentions, that when God left all other creatures to feed on the ground, he made man upright, to excite him to view the heavens to which he was related, they being his former habitation.||

Epicharmus says, that man’s reason is derived from that of God.¶

Horace calls the soul

A particle of divine breath.*

† Grotius.
§ Terraque traductus maris, cadumque profundum. Hinc pecudes, &c. 
Georg. Lib. 4. v. 221. 
|| Caelum, ac terras, campaque liquentem, Lucentemque globum Lunæ, Titaniamque astra, Spiritus intus actit totaque infusa per artus Mens, &c. 
|| Encycl. L. vi. v. 724. 
¶ Grotius. Cicero wrote about 60 years B. C. 
* Ibid. 
** divinae particularis auræ. 
Sat. ii. 79.
Juvenal affirms, that we derive our reason from heaven, and that no other creatures are allowed it. For the author of nature gave us a soul, to them the breath of life.

Ovid relates, that man was formed according to the image of God, who gave him dominion over other creatures.

Megasthenes, in his 15th book of Strabo, informs us, that in many things the Indians agree with the Greeks—as that the world had a beginning, and will have an end—that it is of a spherical figure—that God, the creator and governor of it, penetrates all things, and that the world was made of water.

Virgil and Ovid agree with Moses in the order of the creation. Indeed, the first book of Ovid's Metamorphosis is a good commentary upon the two first chapters of Genesis.

It appears from Josephus, Philo, and Tibullus, that the memory of the six days work, and the most ancient names of the seven days, were preserved among the Greeks and Italians; likewise among the Celts, Indians, and Scævonians, according to Plutarch, and Justin Martyr.*

† Grotius. Juvenal flourished about A.D. 110.
§ Metamorph. Lib. 1.
¶ Grotius.
∥ Eclog. vi. v. 30—59.
* Grotius.
Hesiod, Homer, Callimachus, Aristobulus, Theophilus-Antiochenus, Diogenes, and Lucian, observed, that the seventh day was sacred.*

Philo remarked, that the seventh day was so much observed over the whole world, that it might be very properly denominated ἑορτή πανεὐμοσ, the universal festival, kept by all people.†

Dion Cassius observes, that the custom of computing time by weeks came originally from Egypt, and that it is very ancient. Herodotus and Isidorus tell us the same thing.‡

The history of Adam and Eve, the tree of knowledge, and the tempting serpent, was formerly found among the Hindüs, and, if we may credit late voyagers, is still among the Brahmins, Siamese, and Peruvians.||

In some few instances, where heathen nations have attempted to exhibit particular accounts of the formation of the world, we observe the most striking outlines of the Mosaic. The ancient Tuscans and Persians held, that the universe was made in six periods or times. The Tuscans imagined, that God employed 12,000 years in all his creations. In the first thouand, they say, he made the heavens

* Ibid. Patrick's Commentary.
† Patrick's Com. on Gen. ii. 3.
‡ Grotius, ubi supra.
|| Stackhouse, p. 39, pref.
and earth; in the second, the firmament; in the third, the sea, and all the waters in the earth; in the fourth, the great lights—the sun, moon, and stars; in the fifth, every volatile reptile, and four-footed animal; and in the sixth, man. It appears, therefore, that they suppos’d the first six thousand years had elapsed before the formation of man, and that mankind are to continue the remaining six thousand, at the conclusion of which period, the world will be destroyed.*

The Persians suppos’d, that the six times completed 365 days. In the first, were created the heavens; in the second, the waters; in the third, the earth; in the fourth, trees and plants; in the fifth, animals; and in the sixth, man.†

The Grecians, according to Diodorus, held, that the heavens and earth were, at first, in one confused and mixed heap—that, upon a separation, the lightest and most fiery parts flew upwards, and became the lights of heaven—that the earth was, in time, drained of its water—that the moist clay of the earth, being enlivened by the heat of the sun, brought forth living creatures and men.;

Some of the old Hindu Brahmans, and modern Bramins, had a tradition, according to

† Ibid. p. 66.
‡ Shuckford’s Con. p. 46, pref.
Mr. Lord||, that the materials, from which the world was made, being, at first, confusedly mixed together, were separated, by the Almighty, in the following manner. By blowing upon the waters, he first caused them to rise into a bubble, in the form of an egg, which, spreading itself, made the clear and transparent firmament. He then made, of the remaining water, a ball, which he denominated the lower world, and which he placed in the midst of the firmament. The solid part of this became the earth, and the more fluid, the sea. After this, he made the sun and moon, and placed them in the firmament. Having thus separated the elements, and assigned them to their proper places, he filled the earth, air, and sea, with living creatures. He then made out of the ground, man, and infused into him, life, and afterwards made him a companion, whom he called woman. The descendants of these, being, for their wickedness, destroyed by a deluge, he afterwards created three persons of greater perfection.

Some among the Chinese held, that all things were produced by God from a chaos—that the "heaven was first perfected, then the earth, after which genii or spirits were produced, and then man." They affirmed, that their first man "was generated from the chaos, as from an egg; the shell of which became the heaven, the white the "air, and the yolk the earth."*

It is worthy of remark, that, in these, and in other instances, which might be mentioned, the universe is said to have been made by degrees, and the last work is said to have been man.

It may not be improper to conclude these foreign testimonies by remarking, that very particular and striking traditions have been found, among almost all nations, respecting the primitive state of man and his apathy, the deluge, the tower of Babel, and the subsequent confusion of tongues.

Plato, in his "Memorabilia," says, that God fed the first men, as man feeds the inferior creatures; and, likewise, that they lived without garments, in the open air. "Hieros.

Diodorus Siculus says, likewise, that they were naked, and wanted lives and dwellings. "Idem.

Dickarchus mentions, that the ancients, who were nearest to the Gods, were of such an excellent disposition, and lived such exemplary lives, that they were called a golden race. "Hieros.

The Elysian fields, the garden of Abolos, and the Hesperides, the Ortygia and Topobanche of the ancient poets and philosophers, are evidently borrowed sketches of the terrestrial paradise of noles.

The ancients appear to have had some notion of the tree of life, which they speak of the nectar and ambrosia, which preferred the immortality of the Gods, and only the great conacre celebrated by the poets. "Nearch's Conference with a Thrac, Vol. i.

It appears from Strabo, that the Indians held, "that the first men, through fulness and plenty, fell into wickedness, which confusion Jupiter abhorring, altered the state of things, and ordered them a life of labor." "Grotius.

Berosus, as he is quoted by Strabo, Alexander Polyhistor, mentions, that man, in the most ancient times, fell from a state of innocence. "Joseph. Antig. Berosus wrote about 280 years B.C.

Plato's fable of Porsus getting drunk in Jupiter's garden, was, probably, derived from the ancient accounts of Adam's fall.
It does not appear that the heathen ever discovered the" and similar truths, by any method

garden of Eden. In his Politicon, he gives a full account of Adam's
state of innocence, in the fable of Saturn's golden age. Instead of
concluding this, according to the literal sense of the poets, he com-
plains of the want of an interpreter to give it its true meaning.
Shuckford’s Connexion.

The old Grecians were accustomed, in their mysteries, to carry
about a serpent, at which time, they were instructed to cry Eos.
In this, there appears to be an exaltation of the devil over the fall of
our first mother. These are frequent instances, among idolatrous
nations, of his displaying this triumph, under the figure of a serpent.
It is mentioned by authors, that there are some priests in Asia, who,
at particular times, carry about a serpent, in a brazen vessel, and, as
they attend it with music and charms in verse, the serpent raises it-
self, and thrusts the head of a beautiful virgin out of its mouth. A
similar practice has been discovered in the West-India islands.
Nicholls’ Conference.

The Arabs anciently believed, that the devils were transformed
into serpents. Unio, History 13, 1.

Piercyfres called the beginning of evil, Opilione, that is, a dan-
mon in the figure of a serpent. Patrick in Gen., iii. 24.

Were all the traditions respecting the Deluge collected, they
would fill a large volume. Perhaps a nation cannot be found, which
has not some notion, that there was once an universal deluge. The
ancient and modern heathen nations generally agree, that it was oc-
casioned by the extreme wickedness of the giants upon the earth,
which, they say, was so great, that one family, only, was preserved
in a ship. A few fix upon the very day, which Moles does, for the
beginning of the deluge, and, likewise, freak of the dove sent from
the ark to explore the waters. Almost all agree, that the people,
after they left the ark, built an altar, and sacrificed to the Gods.
See Gen. viii. 20.

The testimonies, respecting the tower of Babel and the dis-
perion, are, likewise, very numerous. Indeed, all the most an-
cient historians, except Sanchuniathon, wrote, that mankind used one
and the same language, till the overthrow of a vast tower, when a
great number of tongues was introduced by the Gods, and mankind
were dispersed over the face of the whole earth. The following ac-
counts from Abyssenus, Eupolemus, and the Sylline Ora-
cles, are particularly observable.

Abyssenus, as he is quoted by Eusebius, relates, that the first
men, boastling of the bulk and strength of their bodies, built a tower,
where Babylon stands, which was so prodigiously high, that it ap-
ppeared to reach the skies, but the Gods overthrew it upon their
heads. Stackhouse’s Hist. of Bib., Vol. i. p. 363. Abyssenus flourished
about 300 years B. C.

Eupolemus, as he is cited by Alexander Polyhistor, wrote,
“ That the city of Babylon was first built by giants, who escaped
from the flood—that these giants built the most famous tower” re-
corded “ in history, and that this tower was dashed in pieces, by
the almighty power of God, and the giants dispersed over the
of reasoning. On the contrary, they univerfally acknowledge, that they received them from their ancestors, who were wiser than themselves. Almost all the Eastern nations affirm, that they derived their knowledge of the origin of the universe, and of the history of the first ages, from certain records or inscriptions, written by some illustrious person among their ancestors, or delivered to him by the Gods. Sanchoniathon, Berosus, Ctesias, and Manetho, some of them most ancient profane historians, assert the same thing. Orpheus, Rhadamantus, Minos, Lycaon, and Triptolemus, the first Grecian legislators, confess, that their wisdom and learning were brought from Egypt. All the Grecian historians agree, that the knowledge of the Greeks came, originally, from Egypt or Asia. Plato, Pythagoras, and Thales, the originals of Greek philosophy, ob-

"whole earth." _Strackboye_. Eupolemus wrote about two centuries B.C.

It is recorded in the Sybiline Oracles, "That, at a certain time, when the whole world spake the same language, the people of those days gathered together, and raised a tower, which they carried up" to such an extravagant height, that it looked as if they had proposed the scaling of heaven from the top of it; but "the Gods let the winds loose upon it, which, with a violent blast, bear it to the ground. The builders" were "struck with an utter forgetfulness of their native tongue, and a new unknown language" was "substituted instead of it, wherein not one man of them understood his fellow." _Joseph, Antiq. Lib. 1, c. 5._

It will be needless to adduce any more particular testimonies, but it may generally be remarked, that the building of the tower of Babel, and the giants attempting to scale heaven, are the common tale of every poet.

It is worthy of observation, that traditions are found among all nations, respecting the most important events prior to the dispersion, and that no subsequent event recorded in scripture, is supported by such an universal tradition. This is, unquestionably owing to the separation of mankind from one another, and their speaking different languages.
serve, that they travelled into other countries, and obtained their knowledge of phyleiology from the records of barbarians. They all acknowledge, that these nations did not pretend to the invention of what they received from them, but that they had it from their forefathers. They directed them to search their records, for there, alone, could their inquiries be answered. Plato, in particular, acknowledged this very freely. He affirmed, that the Grecians derived all their most valuable learning from the traditions of barbarians, and often speaks of Phoenician and Syrian, that is, Hebrew fables, as the ground work of many of their notions. Aristotle was the first, who rendered philosophy disputative. He and his followers endeavoured to form systems of their own, which, as we have observed, being filled with inconsistencies and allegories, were both trifling and inconclusive.*

If then, the heathen, as they confess, obtained these truths from tradition, or certain writings, which came from some celebrated personages among their ancestors, the question very naturally arises, whence they received them? and the most rational answer is, from Moses or Adam, to whom they must have been revealed by God. They, certainly, were as unable to discover them by the powers of reason, as all succeeding philosophers. In-

* Warburton's Div. Leg. Lib. iii. Sec. 2. Shuckford's Con pref.
deed, so far from having learning sufficient to invent, or discover, we find they could not tell the true meaning of many of them.

Several naturalists, among whom are Buffon, de Luc, and Hutton, have attempted to prove, from the great number of shells in the earth—the arrangement of its interior strata, and the appearance of its surface, that it occupied a longer time in its formation, and is much more ancient than is represented, either in sacred or profane history.

Dr. Hutton* supposes, that the earth was made entirely from the exuviae of sea animals, particularly cockle-shells and oysters, and, therefore, must have been a vast period of time in forming. This, he argues, from the innumerable quantities of them—their profound depths under ground, and the oleaginous and bituminous particles with which they are accompanied, and which, he thinks, were formed from vegetative bodies. He appears to have adopted the opinion, that the world is eternal, for he says, he observes not the “smallest vestige of a beginning, nor any prospect of an end.” But it is easy to prove from his method of reasoning, that the world had a beginning. He allows, that every thing in nature is succesive, and, certainly, where every thing is succesive, there must, of

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* Encyclopedia, article Earth.
course, have been once a beginning, and an original cause. He holds, that the present surface of the earth was, for many thousand years, the bottom of the sea. But, if this was the case, it is very astonishing, that there are no coral rocks among all the marine monuments on land. They grow, in vast quantities, from the bottom of the sea, and, sometimes, to such an height, as to form islands, instances of which are found in the Pacific ocean. If, therefore, the present dry land was once the bottom of the sea, the deficiency of these rocks upon it, is a proof, that it could not have been so a long time.

We may, possibly, not be able to account for all the shells, which are to be found in the earth; but they may, generally, be ascribed to the deluge. This must have brought great numbers of fish upon the land, for they would very naturally have deserted the ocean, and fixed upon new beds; and there was sufficient time, during the continuance of the flood, for a vast many to grow. A small proportion, only, of the whole of these, particularly the shell-fish, would have been able to follow the waters in their retreat. It is impossible to determine, what would be the effect of the pressure of a body of water, five or six miles deep, which must have been the depth of it, at that time, if it covered all
the mountains upon the globe. It, certainly, would have made the earth exceedingly soft, and, of course, have puffed these shell-fish to great depths in it. They might, indeed, have been forced into clefts of rocks, and consolidated by petrifaction, for there are instances, where, not only marine, but terrestrial animals, have been discovered incrusted in strata of stone. In whatever situations, therefore, fossils are found, we have no reason to think they could not have been caused by the deluge, as we cannot fully ascertain the effect of such a body of water, for so long a time, upon the earth.*

Buffon has not been much less ridiculous, in his mode of reasoning upon this subject, than Hutton. He supposes with him, that the surface of the earth was the bottom of the sea for a great length of time. He thinks, farther, that the mountains were made by the sediments of the tides, and that they must have been forming therefore a very long period of time. It is, indeed, probable, that these sediments might be very much accumulated, but it is impossible to conceive how they should reach higher than the surface of the water, much more, how they should be thrown up five or six miles. Islands, he says, are mountains in the seas, exactly like those upon the land. If, therefore,

* In the time of the flood, mankind would naturally fly to places, in which they might think themselves safe, and there perish together. This may account for the vast heaps of bones found in the rock of Gibraltar, Dalmatia, and other places. *Encyclopaedia art. Earth.
the present surface of the earth was the bottom of
the ocean, for a great length of time, it is very un-
accountable, that we find no mountains, the tops
of which resemble the islands of Madagascar, Bor-
neo, or Great-Britain."

It is, indeed, impossible to account for the
formation of the earth, from natural causes. The
expression of Moses, *In the beginning God created
the heaven and earth*, exhibits a more rational idea
on this subject, than all the opinions of these phi-
osophers. The chaos of Burnet and Woodward,
the hollow globe of Hutchinson, the comet of
Whilton, the sediments of Buffon, and the exuviae
of Hutton, cannot, of themselves, form a world.
Without having recourse to a divine power, we
must, necessarily, be involved, like several of these
philosophers, in the greatest difficulties and absurdi-
ties.

The beds of lava in the neighbourhood of
volcanoes, have, likewise, been appealed to for a
proof of the great antiquity of the world. Some of
these beds, says Brydone, in the vicinity of Mount
Ætna, are covered with considerable thickness of
earth; and he mentions one, which issued from
the mountain; in the time of the second Punic war,†
(about 2000 years ago) on which there is ve-

* The arguments of de Lac exhibit, if possible, greater weak-
ness than those of Hutton and Buffon. They are too contemptible
to merit a serious answer.
† Brydone's Tour through Sicily and Malta, Vol. i. p. 125.
ry little soil and vegetation. A pit has been dug through seven different strata, between each one of which there is a thick bed of earth. From the circumstance, that a stratum of lava 2000 years old, is not yet covered, Recupero has labored to prove, that the lowest of these seven strata must have been emitted, at least 14,000 years ago. But this argument completely vanishes, when we reflect, that the bed of lava 2000 years old, is so situated, that it constantly receives the wash of the sea, and is exposed to the violence of winds and rains. It would be impossible, therefore, for a thick bed of earth to be formed upon it, in any period of time.† The local situation of the seven strata is acknowledged to be materially different. Should this answer be considered as incomplete, it may be observed, that there is no satisfactory evidence, that the lava in question, is the very same, which was formed 2000 years ago. But allowing this, we have full proof, that a stratum of lava may be covered with a bed of earth, in about 250 years. It is well known, that Herculaneum was destroyed in the year 79, which was above 1760 years ago. And we are informed by Sir William Hamilton, whose authority is unquestionable, that there are six different strata, over that, which covers the town, and caused its destruction, with veins of good soil between

† Ibidem p. 141.
† There are a few crevices in it, where the soil is so deep, that it supports large trees.
them. † Instead, therefore, of its employing 14,000 years, to form seven different strata, with as many beds of earth, we find, that all this can be accomplished, in about 1700 years.

The extended accounts of ancient nations have, likewise, been alluded as an argument, that the world is much more ancient than it is represented to be in scripture. But a candid enquiry into the origin of the ancient computations will convince us, that they are the offspring of national pride—that they are themselves extremely contradictory—inconsistent with just philosophical reasoning, and the advancement of mankind in arts, sciences, and refinement. The only profane accounts of the most ancient nations, which are extant, are taken, either from the writings of Athene, or Thoth*, Sanchoniathon, Manetho, Berosus, or Ctesias. From what remains of these writings, it appears, that the records of most nations fall far short of the flood. It has, indeed, been much questioned whether the histories of Thoth and Sanchoniathon are not mere fables; and

† See Watson's Letters to Gibbon. Sir William Hamilton was a British ambassador at Naples, and therefore, had a good opportunity to ascertain the fact.

* Thoth is generally thought to have been the Pathrusian of Moses. See Gen. x. 14. He was the son of Mizraim, during whose life, he was his secretary and assistant in all his undertakings. After his death, he became king of Thebes. He is supposed to have been the inventor of letters. The Egyptians say, that he wrote 42 books, in which was contained all their civil and religious science. He died about 2000 years B. C, and was succeeded by a person of the same name, who was, likewise, much celebrated.

Warburton's Divine Legation.
some have proceeded so far as to affirm, that such
men never existed. But if they never lived, or if
their writings were merely fabulous, the antago-
nists of Porphyry, Apollinaris, Eusebius, and others,
would certainly have discovered it, for as they agree
remarkably with Moses, these men would have been
deeply interested in such a disclosure. Their writ-
ings, it is true, have been much corrupted by later
historians, and, therefore, it belongs to judicious writ-
ers, to separate what is fictitious, from what ap-
ppears to be well authenticated. So far as this has
been effected, it is plain, that the Egyptians and
Phoenicians offer nothing authentic, which is an-
terior to the Mosaic account of the creation.† It is
ture, indeed, that they have extended the antiquity
of the world to two or three hundred thousand
years; but, to use the expression of Mr. Gray,
"these accounts are now justly considered as the
"fictions of national vanity, or the exaggerations
"of erroneous computation."

Sanchoniathon† begins his Phoenician histo-
ry with the origin of the world. He says, as has
been remarked, that the first pair were Protagonus

† Shuckford’s Con. Vol. i. pref.
† Sanchoniathon wrote his history, according to Porphyry, Euse-
bius, and others, about 1000 years B. C. He says he collected his
facts from the writings of Thoth, and some commentaries, which
he received from Jerombalus, a priest of the God Jevo. Boehart,
Huetius, Patrick, and others, are confident, that this Jerombalus was
Gideon or Jerubbaal, (see Judges viii. 32.) and the commentaries,
the books of Moses, which contain the laws delivered by Jehovah;
"for the remains we have of his writings plainly taste of the doc-
tine of Moses.” His works were translated from the Phoenician
and Ἑον, who were, unquestionably, Adam and Eve. This not only appears from their being the first of mankind, but, likewise, from their names, πρῶτος γενος, which signifies the first born or produced, and ἀνών, life: The latter bears a near resemblance to Eve, both in sound and sense. Ἑον, he says, was the first who discovered the fruit, that is gathered from trees, which appears to be an allusion to Eve’s eating the forbidden fruit. Their issue, he relates, were Genos and Genca. Genos, if we omit the termination, is much like Cain.|| He says, that sons of vast bulk were begotten by some of their posterity,§ and that mankind made but a small progress in the arts, until the 7th or 8th generation.¶ From Protagonus to Milor, or Mizraim, he makes eleven generations, and Moses twelve, so that he falls only one generation short of Moses, which is, probably, owing to his not giving an account of the flood.* From Milor to his own time, he agrees with scripture.†

into the Greek tongue, by Philo Byblius, who lived in the reign of Vespasian, Titus, &c. They are quoted by Porphyry, Eusebius, Theodore and others. Patrick in Judger vi. 52. Univer. Hill. Grotius.

¶ The Greek word Ceinos, whence the Latin Geno comes, was, probably, derived from the Hebrew word Ken; the root from which Cain was formed. Genea may signify the wife of Cain as Cain does of Cain in law.

§ Gen. vi. 4.

† Moses places the chief artists of the posterity of Cain in the 6th and 7th generations. See Gen. iv. 19—25.

* As the object of Sanchoniathon was to write a history and defense of idolatry, instead of tracing mankind, like the sacred historian, in the line of Seth, he confines himself to the idolatrous line of Cain. He has studiously omitted an account of the deluge, for it was the interest of the heathen world to bury it in oblivion.

Manetho*, in his Egyptian history, pretends to produce antiquities of Egypt, which reach higher than the creation by many thousand years. He first gives an account of their Gods, then of their Demi-gods and Heroes, and, lastly, of their Kings, in which order historians have generally treated of the Egyptian antiquities. It was universally believed among the Egyptians, that their Gods had all reigned, and these, it is well known, were the luminaries of heaven. The complete revolution of a star or God, it is likely they denominated its reign, for, according to their computations, an entire revolution of the heavens comprised 36,525 years, which is the time he assigns to the reign of their Gods. This computation, therefore, is purely astronomical. After the accomplishment of this period, there reigned eight Demi-gods, in the space of 217 years, and fifteen Heroes, whose reigns took up 443 years; to these succeeded the Kings, the first of whom was Menes. If we suppose this Menes to have been the Mizraim of Moses, it will follow, that the Demi-gods and Heroes were antediluvians, whose reigns included 660 years: And if we consider, that man was first placed in Chaldea, it will appear highly probable, that Egypt was peo-

* Manetho was an Egyptian by birth, and, for some time, high priest, and keeper of the sacred records of that nation. He flourished in the time of Ptolemy Philadephia, by whose order he wrote the history of Egypt, about 250 years B. C. There are now but a few fragments of it, which remain in the writings of Africans, Batarians, and Syncellius.
pled about that length of time before the deluge. But all which he offers of the times preceding Menes, particularly of the Gods, he pretends to have taken from some pillars in the land of Seriad; and he is so unfortunate as to inform us, that the inscriptions upon these pillars were translated into the Greek language, by the second Mercury, who lived before that language was formed. It may further be observed, that no other Egyptian historian speaks of these pillars, and Diodorus does not, in a single instance, quote him as a writer of any credit. There is nothing in his dynasties beside names, except, in a few instances, a story of the Nile’s overflowing its banks with honey, of the moon’s growing larger, of a speaking lamb, and seven kings, who reigned successively as many days. He wrote his history a short time after the making of the Septuagint version. It is rational, therefore, to conclude, that, seeing the antiquities of the Hebrews, he became jealous of the honor of his own nation, and hence was induced to extend their accounts, and to make it appear, that they were much more ancient than those of Moses.*

Berosus,† in his Chaldean history, as it is

* Shuckford’s Con. Lib. i. Stackhouse’s Hist. Apparatus.
† Berosus was, by birth, a Chaldean. He informs us in his writings, that he was born during the minority of Alexander the Great. He wrote his history of Chalda and Babylon, about 280 years B.C. There are now but a few fragments of it, which we have in the writings of Abdenus, Alexander Polyhistor, and Josephus, Univ. Hist. Vol. i. Pref.
transmitted to us by Abydenus and Alexander Polyhistor, coincides remarkably with Moses. The substance of his accounts is, that there were ten kings in Chaldea before the flood, which is the Mosaic number of generations from Adam to Noah. The last of these kings, Xifuthrus, being warned in a dream of the destruction of mankind by a deluge, preserved himself, and his family, in a ship.* In the several descendants of Noah, and their respective ages, to Nabonasar, king of the Chaldeans, he agrees with the Hebrew scriptures. He is quoted by Pliny, Tacitus, Tertullian, Clement, Eusebius, and others, which is a proof that he was a writer of good authority.†

CTESISIUS,† the Persian historian, says he ob-

* His account of this preservation is too remarkable to be omitted. He says, that Xifuthrus, being notified in a dream, by Chronus or Saturn, of the destruction of mankind, at a certain time, by a flood, was directed to build a ship, and go into it with his wife, children, and dearest friends—that he was, likewise, admonished to make a provision of food, and take into his vessel fowls and four-footed beasts, and that he acted according to this direction. When the flood was come, and began to abate, he sent out some birds, which, finding no place to rest upon, returned to the ship. After a few days, he let out some more, but they came back dazed with mud. Some days after, he let them go a third time, but they came back to the ship no more. Xifuthrus, understanding by this, that the earth appeared again above the waters, took down some boards from the ship, and found that it rested upon a mountain. A short time after, he, his wife and pilot went out of the ship, built an altar, offered sacrifice to the Gods, and were never again seen by those in the ship. But after they had sought for them in vain, and sacrificed to the Gods, all those, who were left behind, went to Babylon, where they raised temples, and built cities. This alludes to the settling in Shinar, and the building of Babel, Erech, Nineveh, &c. See Gen. x. Shuckford's Con. IV. i. p. 16. Univ. Hist. V. i. p. 193.
† Joseph. con. Apion.
‡ Ctesias was a native of Cnidus. He was a physician to Artaxerxes Memon, and lived in his court 17 years. He flourished about
tained the materials for his history from the royal records of Persia.* He relates that the first Assyrian king began to reign about 1500 years before Nabonassar; and it appears from scripture, that there was that number of years from Nimrod to Ahaz, king of Judah, who was contemporary with Nabonassar. This period is, likewise, confirmed by the astronomical observations found at Babylon, by Callisthenes, the philosopher, who accompanied Alexander the Great in his expeditions. These observations extended backward 1903 years, and Alexander took Babylon about 420 years after Nabonassar.† They must have been begun, therefore, not many years after the time fixed upon by Moses for the building of Babylon. Ctesias' catalogue of Assyrian kings was considered as accurate by Diodorus Siculus, Cephalon, Trogus Pompeius, and others.

The Chronology of the Hindus exceeds that of all other nations for absurdity. But, if it be examined with attention, it will be found, like the Egyptian, to be merely astronomical. Mr. Paterson has made it appear from a particular attention to it, that the 4,320,000 years, of which the Hindus lay their four ages consist, amount in fact, to

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* That there were such records, see Ezra iv. 15. Esther vi. 1.
† Bedford's Scripture Chronology. Shuckford's Con.
precisely 25,920 of our years, which is the time
the fixed stars take up in their revolution. According to the calculations of the Hindus, we are
now in the first day, of the first month, of the fifty-
first year of Brahma's age. They say, that the first
Menú of this day was surnamed the Son of the Self-
existant: "in his time the Deity descended at a
Sacrifice; and, by his wife Satarupa, he had two
distinguished sons, and three daughters. This
pair was created for the multiplication of the hu-
man species, after that new creation of the world,
which the Brahmins call the Lotos creation."

In the reign of the seventh Menú, surnamed the
child of the sun, the Hindus believe, that the world
was destroyed by a flood, and that none but him-
self, and the seven Rishi's, his intimate companions,
and their several wives, together with pairs of ani-
mals, were preserved in an ark. They say, that
the seven Rishi's were not fathers of human families,
and that all mankind, therefore, descended from
this Menú.

By comparing the two periods 34,257,000 and 25,920,
we find, that among their common divisors, are 6, 5, 13, &c. 13, 36, 72, 144, &c. which, "with their several multiples, especially in a deci-
ple progression, confine" some of the most celebrated periods of
"the Chaldeans, Greeks, Tartars, and even of the Indians." Thoée,
who with for a complete view of the Chronology of the Hindus, are
referred to the ninth Dissertation in Sir William Jones' Asiatick Re-
searches.

† A day of Brahma is a thousand great ages in length, each one of
which consists of twelve thousand divining years.

‡ In every day of Brahma, they hold that fourteen Menús are suc-
cessively invected by him, with the sovereignty of the earth.

§ This general deduction is the subject of a sacred poem among
them, consisting of 14,000 stanzas.

‖ Jones' Asia, p. 208-215.

Ibid. p. 223. Sir William Jones obtained much of his informa-
It cannot be questioned, but that the creation in the time of the first Menš, called, by the Brahmans, Lotos creation, is the same with that recorded in the book of Genesis—that the Sacrifice, at which they believe God descended, alludes to that of Abel, and that the story of the seventh Menš is the same with that of Noah.

It is highly probable from the agreement between the accounts, which ancient authors give of the Indian Bacchus—the Hindu traditions concerning their first Buddha, and the Chinese traditions respecting their P'oil, that they all relate to the same person, and that this person was the seventh Menš, or Noah. If this be established, it will prove, that the Hindus and Chinese had the same original,* and that they were the immediate descendants of Noah.†—All profane authors agree, that Bacchus was the founder of the Eastern nations, and many of them, that he lived in the first ages of the world. He came, they say, into India, before there were any cities built there, or armies suffi-

* Sir William Jones has clearly traced the Hindus, Chinese, and Japanese, to Iran or Persia, from whence he has proved, that they emigrated upwards of 4000 years ago. He has, farther, made it very evident, that that country was the first which was settled after the deluge. See his dissertation upon the Persians.

† This further appears, from the consideration, that their religious doctrines, when free from superstitious additions, "exhibit a corro-

* repose with Patriarchal principles;" and, likewise, from several singular customs, which prevail among both nations. Vid. Dizd. Sex. Lib. 1. Jones' Asia, p. 168, 169.
cient to oppose him. It must have been, therefore, before the time of Ninus, for when he attempted to conquer that country, with a powerful army, he met with a very formidable resistance. It is mentioned by Diodorus, that the Indians have a tradition, that Bacchus was the first who pressed the grape and made wine; and that he was twice born, and nourished in the thigh of Jupiter. He observes, that the reason why they said he was twice born was, "because he was thought to have perished, with the rest of the world, in Deucalion's flood, but God brought him again, as by a second nativity, into the sight of men, and they lay, mythologically, that he came out of the thigh of Jupiter."* From these particulars, it is evident, that Bacchus can be no other than Noah.—It is related in the mythological system of the Hindus, that the nymph Robini, who presides over the fourth lunar mansion, and among whose numerous epithets, was Cumudanayca, or delighting in a species of water-flower, was the favorite mistress of Soma, or the moon, and that their offspring was Budha, regent of a planet. This Budha, the Indians observe, "married Ila, whose father was preserved in a miraculous ark, from an universal deluge."†—The Chinese allege, that the mother of their first emperor FoHs was the daughter of their first emperor FoHs the daughter of heaven, surnamed Flower-loving. As she was walking on the bank of a river, she was

* Diodorus Siculus, Lib. 1, 2, 3, 4. Shuckford's Con. Lib. 6.
† Jones' Asia. p. 166.
suddenly encompassed by a rainbow; soon after which, she became pregnant, and, in process of time, was delivered of a son as radiant as herself, who, among other titles, had that of Sui, or Star of the Year.† This notion, probably, arose from the rainbow's first appearing to Noah. They say,∥ that Fohi carefully bred seven kinds of creatures, which he was accustomed to sacrifice to the great Spirit: and Moses informs us, that Noah took into the ark of every clean beast by sevens, and when he came out, took of every clean beast, &c. and offered burnt offerings. They farther declare, that Fohi was sometimes called Paohi, on account of his sacrifice; and Noah, it is likely, received his name, on account of the grant of animal food for man, which he obtained by his offering. Their writers generally agree, that he lived 2950 years before Christ, and, according to Usher, Noah was born about that time. These particulars make it very evident, that Fohi was Noah, and the same with the Indian Bacchus, and Buddha.

The Chinese accounts, however, have been supposed to have been taken from records, which reach much higher than the history of Moses. This people have ever, indeed, been laboring to prove, that their antiquity is much greater than that of any other nation on the globe. "They

† Ibid.
"are," says Warburton, "the proudest and "vainest people on earth, arrogating to themselves "the invention and improvement of every kind of "art and science." But, notwithstanding all their "pretences, Sir William Jones has proved from the "Shanfsrite institutes of civil and religious science, "from tradition, and the striking resemblances be"tween the two nations, that they were originally "a colony of Hindus, named Chinas. § This colony "separated from its parent country nearly four thou"sand years ago, and settled in Shenfi, a province in "the Western parts of China. They, for a long time, "lived in an unfetttled, and, it is likely, unrefined, "state. It appears, indeed, from the writings of "Confucius himself, that the Chinese empire, as it is "now called, was in its infancy so late as the twelfth "century B.C. He declared, in the Lun Tu, that, "although he, like other men, could relate, as mere "lessons of morality, the histories of the first and "second imperial houses, yet, for want of evidence, "he could obtain no certain information of them.""

But should what has been observed fail to convince those, who have been accustomed to vener"ate the Chinese antiquities, it may here be observ"ed, that Hsamt, their eleventh emperor, ordered "all their historical records to be destroyed, 213 "years B.C. and that they have not any work, in an  

† Julian, p. 239.  
§ See his Dissertation on the Chinese.  
† Ibid.  
† This law was so rigorously executed, that many learned men "were put to death for concealing their books. Du Halde's Ch. Hist.
intelligible character, above 2200 years old. It cannot but be acknowledged, therefore, that we have little reason to credit the most ancient accounts of this empire, and we shall not be taxed with incredulity, if, with all due deference to the great Voltaire, we disbelieve such fabulous things, as the sun's not setting for ten days, and the clouds' raining gold for three days together.

The Grecians pretended to so great antiquity, that they treated those with contempt, who assigned them any founder of their nation, but they called themselves genuine terrae or aborigenes. Their traditions, however, are equally imaginary with those we have mentioned. They could produce no dates, according to Gray, and others, above the times of Cyrus and Cambyses, who lived between 500 and 600 years B.C. and no historical information of the times preceding the Olympiads. Plutarch proceeded back no farther than the times of Theseus, who lived not long before the ministry of Samuel, for he affirmed, that all beyond him was nothing but monstrous and tragical fictions. Herodotus, who is called the Father of History, and who wrote between four and five centuries B.C. began his history with fable; and Thucydides declared,
that he could collect no authentic information of the times preceding the Peloponnesian war.

In a word, the extended accounts of these, and all other nations, are unworthy of the smallest degree of credit. They have not the least appearance of truth, and every rational argument convinces us, that they are absolutely false. But in the accounts presented us in the Bible, we observe nothing "fabulous or romantic, and no excursions "into ages, infinite and innumerable." We here see a history written by a person, who lived several hundred years previously to any other historian, which makes the world about 5,800 years old.

† Vid. Strabo’s Geography, Lib. xvii.

The creation of the world began, according to Dr. Usher, on Sunday, Oct. 23, 4004 years before the birth of Christ. The Septuagint version places it 5722, and the Samaritan 4750 years before our era. So that according to Usher, from the creation to this time, is 5802 years—according to the Septuagint, 5756, and according to the Samaritan, 6496. Usher, who followed the Hebrew, is generally considered as the most accurate chronologer. From the creation to the deluge, the Hebrew makes 1656 years—the Septuagint 2262, and the Samaritan 3307. St. Austin says, that the antediluvian chronology of the original Septuagint agreed with our present Hebrew copies. The variations, he notes, were made by the first transcribers, who either supposed, that the time fixed upon for men to be fathers was too short, considering the length of their lives, or that the years before the flood were later instead of later. They, therefore, added 600 years before the births of Seth, Enoch, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, and Methuselah, and abbreviated the same number from the length of their lives afterwards. They, likewise, he thinks, through mistake, added six years to the life of Lamech before the birth of Noah. As to the Samaritan version, St. Jerome informs us, that there were copies of it in his time, whole chronology of this period agreed precisely with the Hebrew. From the deluge to the call of Abraham, the Hebrew makes 437 years—the Septuagint, 1227, and the Samaritan, 1437. The Samaritan chronology of this period is not of a piece with the rest of it; and since it bears such a resemblance to the Septuagint, it is very likely that it was transcribed from it. The differences between the Greek and Hebrew computations may be reduced to two heads. 1. The Septuagint makes the patriarchs 120 years later than the Hebrew, for the reason, doubling, which was before alluded. 2. It adds a patriarch not mentioned in the Hebrew, viz. Cainan, so that it makes eleven generations from Shen
which gives a credible account of the creation, of the origin of man, of the first institution of civil government, and of the invention of the arts and sciences.

The truth of Christianity is very intimately connected with that of this part of the history of Moses. If the world was formed previously to the creation of man, it follows, that our knowledge of its formation must have come originally from God. If, therefore, we are convinced that the Mosaic account is true, we must allow it to be a revelation, and, of course, admit the truth of the scriptures both of the Old and New-Testament. And such is the evidence with which it is supported, that they, who refuse to believe it, would not be persuaded though one should rise from the dead.

to Abraham, instead of ten. But it may be observed, that Africanus and Eusebius both took their accounts of these times from the ancient copies of the Septuagint, and yet, have no such person as Caiman among the postdiluvian patriarchs: It is probable, therefore, that some transcriber, through inattention, inferred an antediluvian name among the postdiluvians, and that other copies were taken from this one, so that this name, in time, became generally inferred. It is, however, said, that St. Luke would not have placed it in his genealogy, if it had been erroneously inferred in the Septuagint. But it cannot be proved that St. Luke did place it in his genealogy. It is, on the contrary, more likely, that learned men, finding it in some of the Greek copies, and not in Luke, might put it in the margin of their Bibles, and that later editors, finding it there, might infer it in the text.—From the vocation of Abraham to the birth of Christ, the Hebrew and Samaritan agree:—from the vocation to the founding of the Temple, the Septuagint falls short of them 40 years; but from the founding of the Temple to the birth of Christ all three of them agree. The Hebrew computations are supported by a perfect agreement of all the Hebrew copies—the paraphrase of Onkelos, written about the time of Christ, and the vulgar Latin, which has been in use above a thousand years. See Usher's Chronology, Part I. Universal History, Vol. i, and Shackford's Connexion, Part i. 

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