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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“[The Basics of Old Testament History](#)” is this month’s article. I reformatted the 2008 version of this article, originally presented as a taped lecture by Dr. Ernest Martin in 1986. All the material is relevant today. The article deals with **how** little historical data has come to us from the world before the rise of the Babylonian Empire. God used Nebuchadnezzar II as his servant to destroy all mature civilizations that developed after the flood. To use a current phrase, the Babylonian king introduced a “New World Order” just as God wanted to be done.

Dr. Martin also examines **why** the knowledge in the collected writings of the world were destroyed during the “Axial Period.” The process of suppressing and hiding knowledge was done by Nebuchadnezzar. Most all the world’s accumulated knowledge up to that time was suddenly unavailable to future generations. The Bible is an exception, but the Scriptures contain only what God wants us to know, not what man wants to know. God put a “knowledge embargo” on the world. Much of that knowledge and understanding had to be rediscovered and then relearned.

This took place during the lifetimes of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and other prophets and servants of God. Read (or reread) in the article how the Old Testament is still the best source for reliable information about the ancient past before the rise of the Neo-Babylonian empire under the 40-year reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. He acted as God’s “servant” to accomplish what God wanted done.

In fact, in an earlier time God through Isaiah told His people to remember the past:

“Remember THE FORMER THINGS OF OLD [from the *eon*]: for I am God [El], and there is none else; I am God [Elohim], and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.’”

Isaiah 46:9–10

The “**former things of old**” can be learned from Scripture by us today, and those are probably the best things to learn in life, both positive and negative examples. As you will read, most of the world’s literature from after the flood of Noah to the reign of Nebuchadnezzar has been lost to us, as Dr. Martin points out in this month’s article. Most all human achievement put in written records were taken to Babylon, and later destroyed by later Babylonian rulers — except the Holy Scriptures.

God Suppressed the Knowledge of Humankind Before Nebuchadnezzar

An earlier knowledge embargo was imposed upon humanity by God after the flood at the Tower of Babel. Human progress of discovery was slowed down significantly. Babel was the first city founded by Nimrod.

“He [Nimrod] was a mighty hunter before YHWH: wherefore it is said, ‘Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before YHWH.’ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel ...”

• *Genesis 10:9–10*

Chapter 11 of Genesis tells the report about the Tower of Babel:

“And YHWH came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And YHWH said,

‘Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and

now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, [Why?] that they may not understand one another's speech.'

So YHWH scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel."

• *Genesis 11:5–9*

God suppressed information at Babel. Then later God saw to it that all the world's information was brought to Babylon. While there, most all the knowledge of the world perished. Will it be rediscovered later? Maybe some of that knowledge we will be allowed to learn again. Perhaps some of the information will be discovered to be buried within the bedrock of the City of David. (See my article, "[The Location and Future Discovery of King David's Tomb](#).")

Only God's Old Testament Scriptures as recorded by His prophets and scribes were spared to survive. This was done through the preservation work of Daniel, his young friends who survived the fiery furnace (Daniel chapter 3), Esther, Mordecai, Nehemiah, and Ezra who all had a hand preserving and bringing back the Word of God from Babylon to Jerusalem.

The End Times

Believers will be given more information about the world's history before and during the end times just prior to Christ's return. See my February 2011 Commentary, "[Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge](#)," which tells you what God most wants us to know at this time. These secret things are available to us now. That information was given to the apostle Paul, and he gave God's Mystery to us openly in the Scriptures.

We have been given from God "**all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**" (Colossians 2:3).

**"Yea, if you cry after knowledge, and lift up your voice for understanding;
If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hid treasures;**

**Then [1] shall you understand the fear of YHWH, and [2] find the knowledge of God.
For YHWH gives wisdom: out of his mouth comes KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING."**

• *Proverbs 2:3–6*

The Words of God are wisdom and understanding, waiting for us to hear them and make them part of our lives. The words "**out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding**" are profound. Ask God for more faith (Acts 17:5), and God will increase your knowledge as you slowly learn knowledge and understanding.

Read the following for a review:

["The Coming Revolution in Knowledge"](#)

["Increased Knowledge at the Time of the End"](#)

Thank You

We appreciate that your contributions to ASK are acts of faith that, in return we respond to present insightful and useful biblical teaching. We do not take contributions for granted. We labor "**in the word and doctrine**" so that we, like the ox, might be counted worthy of the gifts you give to our work (1 Timothy 5:17–18). We thank you for your continuing contributions. We strive to the purpose the apostle Paul told to the *ekklesia* at Colosse:

"That you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and INCREASING in the knowledge of God."

• *Colossians 1:10*

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