Historical Validity of Genesis

Psalms 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Genesis 3:1-6

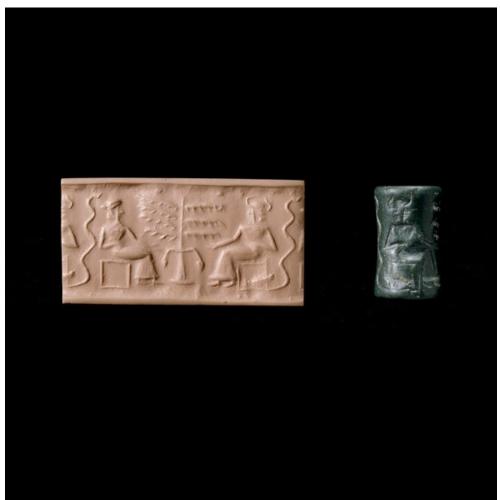
Many cultures/mythologies make reference to a 'Golden Age', without sin – and then a corrupted world when sin entered: e.g., Pandora's Box, Babylonian Creation Myth (Enuma Elish, etc).

Pandora's Box (Wikipedia):

In classical Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman on Earth. Zeus ordered Hephaestus to create her. So he did, using water and earth. ^[4] The gods endowed her with many gifts.

According to Hesiod [circa 800 BC], when Prometheus stole fire from heaven, Zeus took vengeance by presenting Pandora to Prometheus' brother Epimetheus. Pandora opens a jar containing death and many other evils which were released into the world. She hastened to close the container, but the whole contents had escaped except for one thing that lay at the bottom – Elpis (usually translated "hope", though it could also mean "expectation"). [6]

From the British Museum Website:



'Adam and Eve' cylinder seal

ME89326

Post-Akkadian, about 2200 to 2100 BC [Note: Dating systems are very unreliable – but needless to say, this is very old]

From Mesopotamia

The tree, serpent and figures carved on this greenstone cylinder seal suggested to George Smith, an Assyriologist working in the British Museum between 1840 and 1876, that the scene was related to the Old Testament story of the temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden.

In fact, the seal shows a scene that is common on seals of the twenty-third and twenty-second centuries BC, with a seated male figure (identified by his head-dress of horns as a god) facing a female worshipper. The date palm between them and the snake may be symbolic of fertility, but there is no reason to connect the scene with the story in the Book of Genesis.

→ Note how the British Museum cropped their posted photograph. The seal is cylindrical – and thus the images repeat. The Serpent is just behind the woman, and not the man. The Museum's official explanation also falls flat because worshippers are typically portrayed kneeling, or with faces to the ground and arms upraised in worship – never as two equals. Basically they are doing all they can to pretend this evidence does not support Scripture.

The Flood

Genesis 6-8 Genesis 6:1-17 (or whole chapter)

Pre-Flood: Not much info

Job 22:15-20 Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? 16 Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood: 17 Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them? 18 Yet he filled their houses with good *things*: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. 19 The righteous see *it*, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn. 20 Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.

1 Peter 3:18-22 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

2 Peter 2:1-5 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2 Peter 3:3-6 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **38** For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, **39** And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Luke 17:26-27 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. **27** They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Sumerian List of Pre-Flood Kings

A-lulima Alalgar En-men-lu-Anna(k) En-men-gal-Anna(k) Dumu-zi(d) En-sipa(d)-zi(d)-Anna(k) En-men-dur-Anna(k) Ubar-Tutu(k)

Adam
Seth
Enos
Cainan
Mahalaleel
Jared
Enoch
Methuselah
Lamech
Noah

The ages of the kings is much older than that of the Biblical list (241,200 years vs. 1656 years – but an assumption is made that the numbers in the cuneiform list were decimal years and years – whereas the Sumerian had different number systems – and it is not clear this list was years as opposed to months, or other units). The primary point to show here is that the list of pre-Flood 'leaders' shown in the Bible and remaining secular records are similar (dropping off Adam and Noah).

Flood

The Classics of Confucius (~500 BC): The Book of History Shu King (Book of History, 'What Yaou said' - ... 'Then did he receive from the barbarians of Yue-shang the tribute of the Great Tortoise at his court, whereby from figures engraven on its back he learned of what happened before the days of the flood in ages that had long gone by. Then peace reigned throughout the land, for the Son of Heaven governed the people with virtue and had regard for Heaven's decrees'.

George Smith: Pre-eminent Assyriologist and Christian in the mid 1800s. Identified Genesis Flood in tablets found in Babylon/Assyria (Nineveh). Unfortunately he died young, and subsequent archeologists were unbelievers and ignored (and hid) any evidence supporting the Bible (e.g., Sir James Frazer – Golden Bough, Folklore in the Old Testament).

But the Global Flood story is throughout the World:

Ancient Babylon, Egypt, Africa, Persia, Eastern Asia, China, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Russia, Europe, Scandinavia, South and Central America, North America, Inca, Toltec, Aztec, Maya:

References Flood, Family saved (sometimes 8 people), Rainbow, Birds sent out, etc.

Examples:

"One Coin... [Had] an Image of a Cow Symbolizing Pharaoh's Dream about the Seven Fat Cows and Seven Lean Cows"

"The researcher identified coins from many different periods, including coins that bore special markings identifying them as being from the era of Joseph. Among these, there was one coin that had an inscription on it, and an image of a cow symbolizing Pharaoh's dream about the seven fat cows and seven lean cows, and the seven green stalks of grain and seven dry stalks of grain. It was found that the inscriptions of this early period were usually simple, since writing was still in its early stages, and consequently there was difficulty in deciphering the writing on these coins. But the research team [managed to] translate [the writing on the coin] by comparing it to the earliest known hieroglyphic texts... "Joseph's name appears twice on this coin, written in hieroglyphs: once the original name, Joseph, and once his Egyptian name, Saba Sabani, which was given to him by Pharaoh when he became treasurer. There is also an image of Joseph, who was part of the Egyptian administration at the time. "Dr. Sa'id Thabet called on Egypt's Antiquities Council and on the Minister of Culture to intensify efforts in the fields of Ancient Egyptian history and archeology, and to [promote] the research of these coins that bear the name of Egyptian pharaohs and gods. This, he said, would enable the correction of prevalent misconceptions regarding the history of Ancient Egypt."

References: Bible – The Holy Spirit The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis – Bill Cooper British Museum Website