

among the Egyptians, the Greeks, and the Romans, as well as other nations of the early ages. Of these shapes were many of their gods; being half lion, half eagle, and half fish; according to the denomination of paganism who adored these images.

Fifth: Shem was the only man in the days of Abraham, who could tell them of the promised Messiah, of whom he was the most glorious and expressive type, afforded to men, before his coming, as attested by St. Paul. It is extremely probable that with this man, Abraham had enjoyed long and close acquaintance, for he was descended of his loins, from whom he learned the knowledge of the true God, in all probability, in the midst of his Chaldean, idolatrous nation, and became a convert to the faith of Melchisedec. From the familiar manner with which Melchisedec, or Shem, who, we are compelled to believe, was indeed Melchisedec, met Abraham, and blessed him, in reference to the great Messiah; we are strongly inclined to believe them old acquaintance.

Sixth: It appears that Shem, or Melchisedec, had gotten great possessions, and influence among men, as he had become king of Salem, or ancient Jebus, where Jerusalem was afterward built, and where mount Zion reared her alabaster towers, and was the only temple in which the true God was understandingly worshipped, then on the earth. It is not impossible but the mountainous region about Mount Horeb, and the mountains round about Jerusalem, were, before the flood, the base or foundation of the country, and exact location of the region of the garden called Eden, the place where Adam was created. But when the waters of the deluge came, they tore away all the earthy matter, and left standing those tremendous pinnacles, and overhanging mountains, of the region of Jerusalem, and mount Horeb.

By examining the map on an artificial globe, it will be seen, the region of country situated between the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, the Black and Caspian Seas, and the Persian Gulf; there are many rivers running into these several waters, all heading toward each other; among which is the Euphrates, one of the rivers mentioned by Moses, as deriving its origin in the garden, or country of Eden. Mountainous countries are the natural sources of rivers. From which we argue that Eden must have been a high region of country, as intimated in Genesis, entirely inaccessible on all sides, but the east; at which point the sword of the Cherubim