

and was the first conqueror. Assur, a son of Sem, was the first Assyrian king—his capital was Ninive. Javan, the fourth son of Japhet, was the first who reigned in Greece. The Chinese attribute the origin of their monarchy to Yao, an early descendant of Noah.

Q. What nation seems to have the earliest cultivated the arts and sciences?

A. The Egyptians, who communicated their progress in the arts and sciences, their ideas of wise government and their knowledge of navigation to the Phenicians and Greeks.

THIRD AGE (B. C. 1921—1491).

Q. Who were the Hebrews, Israelites, or Jews?

A. They were the children of Abraham, a descendant of Heber, of the posterity of Sem, and a native of Chaldea.

Q. What are the most important events of the third age, as connected with the history of the Hebrews?

A. The calling of Abraham, his removal to the land of Chanaan, the special promise made to him of a Redeemer to be born of his race, the burning of Sodom and Gomorrah (B. C. 1897), the birth of Isaac and Ismael, of Esau and Jacob (1837), the wonderful history of Joseph, the descent of the twelve Patriarchs, or sons of Jacob, into Egypt (1706), the cruel bondage into which the Israelites were at last reduced by the Egyptian kings, and their miraculous deliverance by the hand of Moses.

Q. What celebrated cities were founded during the third age of the world?

A. The most celebrated were Memphis, the capital of Lower Egypt; Sicyon and Argos, Thebes and Corinth, Sparta and Athens in Greece; the famous city of Troy in Asia-Minor, and Tyre and Sidon on the Mediterranean.

Q. What happened in Greece towards the commencement of the third age?

A. A vast inundation, called the deluge of Deucalion, which by the ancient poets was mistaken for the universal flood (1528).

FOURTH AGE (B. C. 1491—1005).

Q. What are the leading events of the history of God's chosen people during the fourth age of the world?

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