

Q. Where did the race of Sem take up their abode?

A. The race of Sem took up their abode in Mesopotamia and Assyria.

Q. What famous city was built on the river Tigris by Assur of the race of Sem?

A. The city of Nineveh, afterwards the capital of the great Assyrian empire, so called from Assur, its founder.

Q. What celebrated people descended from the patriarch Sem?

A. The Hebrews, or Israelites, also called the Jews.

Q. What remarkable changes took place during this second epoch of the world's history?

A. First, the great decrease in the length of human life. Before the deluge, men lived nearly a thousand years. Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years, and Methusaleh nine hundred and sixty-nine. After the Deluge, the life of man was shortened by two-thirds.

Q. What other notable change took place?

A. The change of food. Before the Deluge, the fruits of the earth had been the whole subsistence of the human race. During the period of time following on the Deluge, God permitted them to add the flesh of animals to their ordinary food.

Q. How did men live after their dispersion?

A. Men lived for the most part wickedly, and soon forgot even the natural law, following only their own passions. Vice of every kind soon prevailed on the earth, and mankind were again given up to the wickedness of their own hearts.