

Palestine; and Nimrod, the son of Cush, moving to the eastward, settled his descendants on the banks of the Euphrates; so that of the distinctly recognisable generations of Ham, it is in Asia, and not in Africa, that we must look for them, for centuries after the dispersion of the human race.

But the Semitic races were also to share the Eastern Continent before they enlarged their area, and asserted their right to the inheritance of the descendants of Ham. By Nimrod, the grandson of Ham, the settlements along the valley of the Euphrates were originated, "and the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar," all sites of ancient cities which recent exploration and discovery seem to indicate as still traceable amid the graves of the East's mighty empires. But the eponymous of the rival kingdom on the banks of the Tigris was Asshur, the son of Shem, and in that region also it would appear that we must look for the locality of Elam, (Elymais), as well as others of the generations of the more favoured Shem; while nearly the whole habitable regions between their western borders and the Red Sea, appear to have been occupied from this very dawn of human history, by the numerous Semitic descendants of Joktan, the protoplast of a branch of the human family to whose pedigree a special and curious attention is devoted in the Sacred Genealogies. By an expressive figure of speech Shem is spoken of as the father of all the children of Eber, of whom came Joktan and his sons, whose "dwelling was from Mesha, as thou goest unto Sephar, a mount of the East," and of whom as surely descended Mohammed and the Semitic propagators of the monotheistic creed of the Koran; as came the Hebrews, according to Jewish belief, and through them, the great prophet of our faith, from Eber, the assumed eponymous of those whom we must look upon, on many accounts, as important above all other Semitic races.

Deriving our authority still from the Sacred Records, we ascertain as the result of the multiplication and dispersion of one minutely detailed generation of the sons of Ham, through Canaan, that for eight hundred years thereafter they increased and multiplied in the favoured lands watered by the Jordan, and stretching to the shores of the Levant; they founded mighty cities, accumulated great wealth, subdivided their goodly inheritance among distinct nations and kingdoms of a common descent; and upwards of eleven hundred years thereafter, when the intruded tribe of Dan raised up the promised judge of his people, the descendants of Ham still triumphed in the destined heritage of the seed of Eber. At length, however, the Semitic Hebrew accomplished his destiny. The promised land became