

were the patriarchs who lived before the deluge.— The descendants of Seth and Enos, for their piety, were called the sons of God; till, falling in love with woman of the wicked race of Cain, and marrying with them, they also were corrupted, and the whole earth was filled with iniquity, and God determined to destroy them all.

§ 4. *Of Noah and the Deluge.* Gen. vi. vii.

Noah was a just and perfect man in his generation; he walked with God, and was pleasing to him. God revealed to him his design of destroying all mankind by an universal flood; and commanded him to make an ark or vessel in the form of a trunk, immensely large, divided into three stories, and capable of containing a couple of every kind of birds and beasts, and provisions to feed them all for a year. Then, by the divine commandment, Noah went into the ark, with his wife, and his three sons and their wives, taking with him two of every sort of animals that live upon the earth. And presently the Lord made a dreadful rain to fall for forty days and forty nights, accompanied by a great inundation of the sea; so that the whole earth was under water, even the highest mountains, and all men and animals were destroyed: none were saved but those that were in the ark.

§ 5. *Of the Sons of Noah.*

Noah had three sons, Sem, Cham, and Japheth: by these and their offspring the world was repopled. But as men began to multiply, they began also to grow wicked: their pride put them upon building a city and a tower, the top of which might reach up to the skies; as if it were to secure them from a second deluge. But the Almighty put a stop to their building, by confounding their tongues, so that they could not understand one another; whence the name of the place was called *Babel*, that is,