

**[These notes must accompany its PowerPoint presentation.]**

## **The Bible Verified by the Chinese Language**

Linguists agree that the Chinese language is the oldest, continuous, written, language in the world, dating to at least 2,500 BC.

The inventor of this vernacular used pictures to express words or ideas.

He used combinations of simple pictures to illustrate a thought or a more complex word; for example, the picture of a mouth (a circle) over the drawing of two legs (which represents a person) means "older brother" or "oldest son," indicating that the oldest son was usually the spokesperson or leader of a family or tribe. Furthermore...

The pictures he chose, logically, were symbols of history and common occurrences known to the people in order to help them remember their language. And so...

It'll be shown in this study that he used religious thoughts and stories which were familiar to them.

It is very significant to note that the origin of the language happened long before Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism were found in China. So what was the religious thinking or belief system of the Chinese people before these religions, before Buddha, Confucius, and Lao-tze?

As the language was being written down, there's clear historical evidence that the Chinese believed in the one supreme God who made the world.

During the first three dynasties, China worshipped only the one God known as ShangTi; this isn't only recorded in historical records, but evidence can also clearly be seen in the way the pictures of this language were formed. So...

Was ShangTi the God of the Bible? Did the people who first lived in China know the same stories of God, creation, and early man that are written in the Bible? Did they know the story of Adam and Eve, the garden, the fruit, the temptation, the first sin, the world-wide flood, the division of people at the tower of Babel, and the concepts of atonement and sacrifice for sin? Well...

In this study I want to share with you why I firmly believe that the God of the Bible was also the God of the Chinese before at least 1,000 BC.

Many who live in China today think of Bible stories as fables written by western writers.

They think of the Bible as an "English" book; however, the Bible wasn't written in English, but in Hebrew and Greek, long before English became a language.

It's writers didn't live in Europe, but were from areas around Egypt and ancient Babylon. E.g....

Moses, who was an adopted son of the king of Egypt, wrote the first five books of the Bible.

He wrote about the history of the world from its beginning up to his time in 1,400 BC.

Of course, in the latter part of that history, he focused on the beginning of the nation of Israel (the Jewish people), but the first 11 chapters of the Bible record history that ALL nations have in common.

In this lesson evidence is given that those who first formed this language knew the same stories that Moses wrote in the Bible. So...

Let's begin by reading Genesis 11:1-9: "Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.' They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.' But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, 'Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.' So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called 'Babel,' because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth."

Moses described how, at one time, most (if not all) men lived in Mesopotamia or Babylon or modern day Iraq and all spoke the same language. Notice the following in Chinese. **[PPT Slide #1]**

[These empty spaces are where I have the Chinese characters drawn on my hardcopy notes.]

Many scholars now believe that the Chinese people migrated from this area (Mesopotamia) to their present location. So...

Let's notice these important points in the Bible story of Genesis 11.

Most nations would have, at one time, lived in Babylon.

The Chinese would have moved from Babylon (which is "west" of China).

Since there was a "great division" of the people and their language, and since there was no modern transportation, they would have "walked" to their new home.

Notice these same three points in the Chinese character for "to move or migrate." **[Slide #2]**

Let's read Genesis 2:7: "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

The Chinese word for "create" is made up of two words that translate "walking" and "talking," but notice how the word for "talking" is made up of several words: the word for "breath" or "mouth," the word for "living," and the word for "dust." **[Slide #3a & b]**

So the Chinese word for "create" was composed of "walking, talking, breathing, living man of dust."

Now let's notice further the Chinese word for "first."

The Bible story describes the making of the first man, Adam, and the question becomes, "Is it a coincidence that the word which means 'first' in Chinese is made of the three words, 'living,' 'dust,' and 'man'?" **[Slide #3c]**

So according to the Bible and according to the man who first wrote the Chinese language, the "first" man was a "man of dust."

The Chinese word for "happiness," if broken down into parts, points to "the first person in the garden" when God was in fellowship with him, in other words, when he was truly "happy."

The Chinese word for "God" sometimes means to "reveal with authority," and men were the happiest when they obeyed. **[Slide #4a]**

God placed this first man in a beautiful garden called "Eden," and the Bible says that God placed Eden between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers; these two rivers empty into the Persian Gulf from what is now modern day Iraq. Now . . .

Did the people who moved to China before 2,500 BC know about the first man in Eden? If so, they would have been able to tell their children that the first man, who lived in a wonderful garden, came from 'west' of China.

These same points make up the Chinese word for "west": the words "first" and "man" and "garden" suggest the direction "west" in their language. **[Slide #4b]**

Let's read Genesis 2:18-25: "The Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone: I will make him a helper comparable to him.' Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the Lord God caused deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called "woman," because she was taken out of man.'"

We read in this story that God showed Adam all the animals, but he didn't find one suited for him; in other words, Adam didn't "desire" any of the animals for a mate, so for the man to be complete, it was "necessary" that God make a woman that he would "desire."

The Chinese character for "want" or "necessary" is comprised of "woman" & "west." **[Slide #5a]**

Besides, according to the Bible & Chinese, "in the beginning" there were "two people." **[Slide #5b]**

Let's read Genesis 2:8-9 and 16-17: "The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and tree of knowledge of good and evil. . . . And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"

God made all the trees, but there were "two" special trees in the middle of the garden, and we see that God gave His first "warning" by "forbidding" Adam to eat from one of the trees.

If they ate from the tree of knowledge, they would die or be separated from God and no longer have access to the tree of life. Now . . .

Notice how that in Chinese the word for "warning" or "forbidden" is a mixture of the character for two trees and the character for "God reveals or commands." **[Slide #6]**

Let's read Genesis 3:1-12: "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die." Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?' So he said, 'I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.' And He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?' Then the man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.'"

When the woman saw the fruit, she "desired" or "lusted" it; it looked so beautiful and good to eat.

Notice that 4,500 years ago, the Chinese chose to place the word for "woman" underneath "two trees" to suggest the concept of lust or desire! **[Slide #7a]**

Notice also the relationship of the word for "devil" to this Bible story. **[Slide #7b]**

Notice furthermore the relationship of the word for "tempter" to this Bible story. **[Slide #8a]**

After the first couple had eaten the "fruit," they realized for the first time that they were "naked," so they made some clothes for themselves. Notice, therefore, how the Chinese language combines the words for "man" and "clothing" with "fruit" to refer to nakedness. **[Slide #8b & c]**

Let's read Genesis 3:17-19: "Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have heeded the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, "You shall not eat of it," cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles [weeds] it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.'"

Notice that the word for "pain" or "sorrow" in Chinese has "two trees" in it. **[Slide #9a]**

Notice once more that another word for "sorrow" or "bitterness" has "weeds" in it, along with the character for "ancient." **[Slide #9b]**

Let's read Genesis 4:1-15: "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, 'I have acquired a man from the Lord.' Then she bore again, this time his brother, Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but the Lord did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.' Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is Abel, your brother?' He said, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?' And He said, 'What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.' And Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! . . . It will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.' And the Lord said to him, 'Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.' And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him."

Notice the similarity between the words for "eldest son" and for "cruel" or "violent." **[Slide #10]**

It's practically impossible to see the character for "violent" and not notice that it's the character for "eldest son" with a "mark" on top of it, reminding us of Cain.

One more: remember the story of Noah found in Genesis chapters 6—9?

When the Chinese want to describe a very large ship, the word for "boat" is combined with two other characters: the word for "eight" and the word for "person." Why? Because the first ship (very large boat) known of in history was an "eight person boat." **[Slide #11a]**

Since only the eight people in the boat survived, the total world population was eight, so notice the Chinese word for "total." **[Slide #11b]**

Notice also that the word for "flood" combines the characters for "total" and "water." **[Slide #12a]**

Now how did the Chinese, who are now Buddhists, know this story 4,500 years ago? Since they migrated to China after the scattering of the nations when their language was divided, they came from a people who knew the same stories.

All these stories we've studied were orally "handed down" or "continued" from generation to generation. Incidentally, since these stories were handed down from the eight people who survived the flood, notice the Chinese character for "to hand down" or "continue." **[Slide #12b]**

Well, this evidence, pointing to a time long before Buddhism and Taoism, shows that the Chinese people believed in the same God that we believe in, and so I hope this strengthens our faith in the Bible and motivates us to learn more about the Bible and God's plan for our lives.

If you're not righteous in God's sight right now, you need to become righteous. The Chinese language illustrates for us what it takes for one to become righteous.

Reminiscent of the story of Cain and Abel, it has always taken the blood of a lamb, killed by man himself, to justify man.

Jesus, killed by man, is man's justification, the One who makes us righteous today. So, for our last reference to the Chinese language, notice what makes up the Chinese character for "righteous." **[Slide #13]**