HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1001
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS 1

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ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS 1

When a society has developed cities, the groundwork has been prepared for the attainment of civilization. Freed of the struggle for basic survival, people can devote their lives to other goals. Technology develops, labor divides and specializes so that new goods can be produced, arts and literature flourish, trade increases, and political organization takes place.

Man’s earliest ancestors were Adam and Eve. Having fallen from God’s grace in the Garden of Eden, they entered a world of scarcity where they had to work hard for their livelihood. The struggle for dominion of the earth caused civilizations to develop.

The Flood sent by God to punish man’s wickedness saw only a handful of people survive—Noah and his family. From them we are all descended. The story of Noah’s offspring is our story. Following the dispersion from Babel, they spread out to form the races and civilizations of the world.

One of the earliest of the great civilizations was Egypt. Its accomplishments included the building of great cities and massive structures such as the pyramids. The Egyptians developed a complex economic system, invented paper on which they wrote in new literary forms that we still use today, and invented techniques of embalming. They were an agricultural people who used what they had to its very best advantage.

Babylon was the capital of a great empire, called Babylonia, that encompassed much of Mesopotamia in the Fertile Crescent. The Babylonians were best known for developing a code of laws. They also contributed to mathematics and astronomy. North of Babylonia was Assyria, which was most expert at war, but produced art and literature as well.

The later Persian Empire followed the fall of Babylon. Persia was fair and just to the people it conquered. The Persians had a genius for government and administration. Their lands were joined by post roads which enabled messages to travel a thousand miles in a few days. Persia laid the foundation on which the later Roman Empire would be built.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Define civilization.
2. List the elements of civilization.
3. Relate non-biblical views concerning man’s origins.
4. Discuss the biblical views of man’s origins.
5. Describe the Fall of man.
6. Discuss the Flood.
7. Explain the rise of rainbows and the seasons.
8. Trace the beginnings of the people and languages of the world.
9. Trace the rise of early nations.
10. Describe the boundaries of ancient Egypt.
11. List the main divisions in the history of ancient Egypt.
12. Name the outstanding rulers of the period.
13. Explain the political relationships of Egypt and its neighbors.
14. Describe the Egyptian economy.
15. List the classes in Egyptian society.
16. Discuss Egyptian arts and literature.
17. Discuss Egyptian religion.
18. Describe the boundaries of ancient Babylon.
19. Discuss the achievements of Hammurabi.
20. List the accomplishments of the Babylonians.
21. Describe the boundaries of Assyria.
22. Relate the important events in the history of Assyria.
23. Describe the religion, art, and literature of the Assyrians.
24. Relate the events that led to the rise and fall of ancient Persia.
25. List the types of Persian gods.
26. Describe the administration of the Persian Empire.

Survey the LIFEPAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study and write your questions here.
1. MEANING AND ORIGIN OF CIVILIZATION

Civilization occurs after a society is able to feed itself and to support classes of people who are non-farmers. Then cities arise, specialization of labor develops, and commerce evolves. With wealth from commerce, the arts, literature, and sciences are able to flourish, and political organization is achieved.

Differing views exist concerning the origin of man. Evolutionists believe man evolved from a lower form of life. Most Christians believe in the biblical six days of Genesis. Theistic evolutionists believe that God started the evolutionary process and then left it to work according to His laws.

Regardless of various interpretations of man's origins, most Christians believe that man's Fall occurred in the Garden of Eden and was followed later by the great Flood from God to punish man's wickedness. From the offspring of Noah, the Flood's survivor, civilization originated with its various races, languages, and nations.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Define civilization.
2. List the elements of civilization.
3. Relate non-biblical views concerning man's origins.
4. Discuss the biblical views of man's origins.
5. Describe the Fall of man.
6. Discuss the Flood.
7. Explain the rise of rainbows and the seasons.
8. Trace the beginnings of the people and languages of the world.
9. Trace the rise of early nations.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

antediluvian  cuneiform  cyclical
devolution  evolve  literacy
mandate  monogamy  monotheism
ontogeny  polytheism  quintessence

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in boldface print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.
MEANING OF CIVILIZATION

Many scholars believe that civilization is only attained by a society that has developed cities. It means the ordering of society in such a way that arts and letters are able to flourish. The very term civilization comes from the Latin word for city, civitas, from which “civility” is also derived.

The city is only possible when society is developed sufficiently to support a large population of nonfarmers. Only then can the culture expand since societies produce philosophers, scientists, and teachers only when the problem of providing food is solved. Societies that are concerned with basic survival are not civilized.

One of the most important elements of civilization is technology—the tools and processes used to make things and to satisfy human needs. The more advanced a society’s tools are, the more advanced the society is. The invention of the plow was crucial from the standpoint of civilization; it made food production more efficient and freed more people for other pursuits. Even today, societies that still use hoes and sticks for cultivation are less developed culturally than are those that have adopted the plow. Mechanized tools allow for an even greater productivity and more complex societies.

An advanced society demands a division of labor—people specializing in their work. No one, therefore, is economically self-sufficient. Everyone depends on the work of everyone else. Self-sufficient economic units (families, clans, or tribes) are found only in primitive societies.

An advanced society is marked by commerce and trade. Such a society demands the use of money as a means of exchange. Another feature of an advanced civilization is record keeping; bookkeeping and accounting are needed to record and evaluate transactions.

Civilization requires a higher level of political organization than is ordinarily a part of primitive societies. The concept of the modern state, for example, is generally considered a recent development. The organization of society becomes more complex as it advances. Legislatures, courts, laws, and constitutions are significant advances over the will of a tribal chieftain.

Scholars generally attribute advanced civilizations with higher moral codes than those of primitive civilizations. Such concepts as monogamy, justice, humane treatment of criminals, belief in one God, are considered to be advances over primitive practices. Advanced civilizations, to some extent, reflect the development of religious doctrines. Obviously, someone who accepts the Judeo-Christian tradition and the Old and New Testaments as being from God (divine revelation) cannot believe in any significant evolution of religious beliefs. Historic departures from biblical concepts are devolutions from an eternally existing height. This statement does not mean that God’s revelation of Himself and His program has not been progressive. He has revealed His truth in stages, but these stages are not evolutionary. His revelation was not a progression from polytheism to monotheism. Polytheism is always a perversion of an original monotheistic revelation (Romans 1:17-28).

Music and art can be found in almost every society. The most primitive culture has artists and singers. African tribes make music and so do primitive Amerinds. Their music is not as complex as that of Bach and Beethoven, however. Primitive cultures produce art that is more simple than art produced in more advanced cultures. Such concepts as depth, shading, and precision are often lacking in the art of simpler societies. The works of Rembrandt and Michelangelo are products of a high level of civilization.

Literature and writing in general are the accomplishments of an advanced society.
They require a certain amount of technology (paper-making, ink, and a writing implement), they require an extensive language, and they require a group of individuals with the time and education necessary both to write and to read their writings. Even more complex business transactions demand some literacy. The more civilized a society is, the more books it will have.

Complete the following activities.

1.1 What do scholars believe societies must develop before they can have true civilization? (one word) __________________________________________

1.2 What is necessary before cities can exist? ___________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

1.3 List four elements of civilization.
   a. __________________________________________ b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________ d. __________________________________________

1.4 Define technology. ___________________________________________________________________________

1.5 What was the impact of the invention of the plow? ___________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Complete the following statements.

1.6 The interdependence of an advanced society demands the division or specialization of ______
_________________________________.

1.7 Isolated, self-sufficient economic units mark a more __________________________ economy.

1.8 The modern __________________________ is normally held to be a recent development.

1.9 A Christian cannot believe in the __________________________ of religious beliefs.

1.10 The term, __________________________ revelation, means that God's revelation of Himself and His purposes has been in stages.

1.11 Polytheism is always a __________________________ of an original monotheism.
ORIGIN OF MAN

The Christian belief in the origin of man, as described in Genesis chapters 1 and 2, is directly contradicted by evolutionists, who believe man evolved from a lower form of life. Some Christian evolutionists have combined the two ideas, saying that God created man according to His laws of evolution and that both evolution and Genesis are correct. However, if the Bible is divine revelation, as we believe, then man is the highest achievement of God's Creation.

Different views. Many different beliefs are held concerning the origin of man. Those who do not accept the existence of a God who creates, or at least do not accept the biblical story of Creation from Genesis chapters 1 and 2, usually theorize that all life has evolved from some lower form of life. In fact, they say that all organisms are still in the process of evolution. Evolutionists agree that God (if He exists) did not create the earth and man in six days. Most evolutionists deny or ignore the existence of God altogether. Some do believe in God, but they believe that He started the evolutionary process and left it to work itself out according to His laws. This view is called theistic evolution.

Some Christians wish to harmonize belief in theistic evolution with the first two chapters of Genesis. To do so, they must deny the literalness of the six days of Genesis. These days cannot be twenty-four-hour days, they say, if Genesis is describing a process of evolution. These Christians point out that the Hebrew word יָומָם does not always mean a twenty-four-hour day. In the prophetical books it is used as the day of the Lord, a prophetic time period. They also quote the apostle Peter (2 Peter 3:8) “One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

The difficulty is that such usages are unusual and do not necessarily fit the context of Genesis. Nothing in Genesis suggests a figurative meaning. The days are described in very graphic terms: “And the evening and the morning were the first (second, third, etc.) day.”

Another difficulty is that Genesis describes a completed Creation. No mention is made of a gradual development. This description is particularly true of man. Man is able to name the animals; he is created in the image of God; and he is given a mandate to subdue the earth. Such things would not be said of a creature who was not yet human.

Another difficulty facing those who attempt to harmonize the theory of evolution with Scripture is physical death. According to Romans 5:12, sin and death came into the world through Adam: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” The indication is that men did not die before Adam sinned. Since evolutionary theory posits a struggle for survival and death, it would seem to be contradicted by Paul’s statement.

The point at issue is whether God has truly revealed Himself in the Bible. If the Bible is divine revelation, the heavens and the earth are
God’s creation. Man is the quintessence of this creation. To be consistent, those who believe in an evolutionary origin of man, must assume that the biblical account is legendary or at least is figurative.

**Biblical account.** The creation of man was the first major event in the history of civilization. The creation of man was the last event of the creative week. After God had created the globe and space; light and darkness; the sun and the moon; the seas, the land, and the plants; the fish and the birds; and the animals—He made man. The creation of man is the quintessential act of the whole Creation narrative. The very decree to create man is majestic to an extent not found in the previous verses of Genesis (Genesis 1:26):

> And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

This phraseology differs significantly from such a verse as Genesis 1:20, “...let the waters bring forth...” In verses 27 and 28 we have a discussion within the Godhead, not simply a joint decree. And the record continues,

> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

God made man a privileged creature. He was made “in the image of God.” Most scholars understand this phrase to mean that man is like God spiritually. “God is a Spirit...” said Jesus (John 4:24). Man, too, has a spirit. Man has a personality that includes intellect, emotion, and will. Man shares these qualities with the Creator. No beast has all of the elements of personality. Only of man is it said (Genesis 2:7), “And 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.”

God also gave man a mandate to “subdue” the earth and to have dominion over the animals. He placed man in a perfect environment, the Garden of Eden, and gave him the task of caring for it. How much culture Adam had in his innocence is not clear. He obviously spoke a language, and he was able to name the animals, but no indication is given that he was able to write his language. His government was simple; he was governed directly by God. The law was simple; it had only one prohibition. Since nothing was scarce, no need for economy existed. An economy is a means for handling scarce resources.

Before the Fall, man did not have what could be termed a civilization; yet he was not a barbarian. The only word that really describes man’s state is innocence: neither ignorant enough nor primitive enough to be a barbarian, and not complex enough to be civilized.
Answer true or false.

1.12 true Many different beliefs are held concerning the origin of man.
1.13 false Evolutionists do not believe in a literal six-day Creation.
1.14 true The existence of God is not necessary to the discussion of man's origin.
1.15 true Theistic evolutionists believe that God started the process of evolution.
1.16 true Christian theistic evolutionists do not interpret Genesis literally.
1.17 true The Hebrew word yôm does not always mean a twenty-four-hour day.
1.18 true No case is written in the Old Testament in which yôm is figurative.
1.19 true In Romans 5:12, Paul's statement about the origin of physical death seems to contradict the assumptions of evolution.
1.20 true To those who accept evolution, Genesis seems to be either legendary or figurative.

Match the following items.

1.21 Creation of man 1.22 made in the image of God 1.23 mandate 1.24 perfect environment 1.25 scarce resources

   a. subdue the earth  b. Garden of Eden  c. first major event in the history of civilization  d. personality  e. man  f. economy

Complete the following sentences.

1.26 Man's original state was one of ____________________________ .
1.27 Adam obviously spoke a ____________________________ .
THE FALL OF MAN

Adam did not obey the law he was given. Eve, Adam's wife, was deceived by the serpent (who was indwelt by Satan) and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam ate of the fruit knowingly and willingly. Man sinned, and this sin resulted in both spiritual and physical death. The whole story is told in Genesis chapter 3.

From the perspective of this study, the results of the Fall are more important than the Fall itself. Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden. They now faced a world of scarce resources where they had to work hard for a living. They had to till the ground and to care for herds and flocks. Food no longer came easily. Man was still under God's directive to dominate the earth (also known as the cultural mandate), yet he lost the ability to dominate. Huge amounts of human energy and human creativity were now required to fulfill the cultural mandate. The mandate is still in effect and dominion will never be fully regained until the perfect man, Jesus, takes His position as King of the earth.

The struggle for dominion began with the effort to survive, and in that struggle civilization eventually began to develop. To survive more efficiently, men divided their labor and specialized. This division of labor can be observed in the first family: Cain became a farmer and tilled the soil; Abel was a shepherd and cared for animals. The ultimate result of this specialization was trade. Trade resulted in towns and cities, and these towns and cities gave rise to civilization. The more gifted agriculturalists and artisans are able to support rulers, poets, scholars, lawyers, and artists.

Civilization seems to have first developed among Cain’s descendants. After he murdered Abel, Cain was condemned to wander the earth alone, separated from his family. He is said to have “builded a city” (Genesis 4:17), but he was still condemned to a life of wandering. The city he built was probably a fort or walled village designed for protection. Even so, it marked the beginning of town life.

Cain’s descendants were tent dwellers, musicians, and finally workmen in brass and iron. They apparently devoted more to worldly pursuits than did the descendants of Adam through Seth. Adam probably had other sons, and he definitely had daughters (cf. Genesis 5:4).

Seth’s line is recorded because it is the line of the seed of the woman through which the Messiah would ultimately come. Seth’s descendants were probably more agricultural than were Cain’s. Cain himself had been a farmer, but God said He would no longer bless him in that way (Genesis 4:12). Seth and his line carried on the family tradition. Aside from this scanty information, not much is known about the extent of civilization before the Flood. Possibly it was quite extensive. The Flood itself was so destructive that the records of antediluvian civilization, archaeological or historical, were probably destroyed. That the world had become quite wicked and that mankind may well have been under demonic attack is the testimony of Scripture.
Write the letter for the correct answer on each line.

1.28 After the Fall, Adam and Eve faced a world of ______ resources.
   a. abundant  b. free  c. scarce  d. ruined

1.29 After the Fall, man was still under the cultural ______.
   a. mandate  b. challenge  c. birthright  d. promise

1.30 After the Fall, man had lost the ______ to dominate the earth.
   a. stamina  b. capacity  c. effort  d. desire

1.31 To regain his capacity, man has to expend huge amounts of human ______.
   a. energy  b. freedom  c. thyroid  d. modules

1.32 Man will not fully dominate the earth until ______ returns.
   a. dignity  b. wisdom  c. Christianity  d. Christ

1.33 In the struggle for ______, civilization develops.
   a. dominion  b. power  c. survival  d. wealth

Complete the following activities.

1.34 Briefly explain the specialization that existed between Cain and Abel. __________________________________________

1.35 What is the ultimate result of specialization? __________________________________________________________

1.36 Among whose descendants did civilization first develop? ________________________________________________

1.37 Name three activities of Cain’s descendants.
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________

1.38 Why are no more records available about life before the Flood?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

1.01 ______ civilization
1.02 ______ technology
1.03 ______ specialization
1.04 ______ Bible
1.05 ______ theistic evolutionist
1.06 ______ Shem
1.07 ______ yōm
1.08 ______ God’s mandate
1.09 ______ man
1.10 ______ scarcity

Write the letter of the correct answer on each line (each answer, 2 points).

1.011 Man’s original state was one of ______ .
   a. health                     b. sorrow                   c. innocence                d. growth

1.012 After the Fall, Adam and Eve faced a world of ______ resources.
   a. abundant                   b. free                     c. hidden                   d. scarce

1.013 Man will not fully dominate the earth until ______ returns.
   a. Christ                     b. intelligence            c. the serpent              d. wisdom

1.014 In the struggle for ______ , civilization develops.
   a. art                        b. dominion                c. survival                 d. power

1.015 The ultimate result of specialization is ______ .
   a. cities                     b. growth                  c. immorality               d. trade

1.016 Civilization first developed among the descendants of ______ .
1.017 The Babylonian account of the Flood is the ________.
   a. Old Testament
   b. Tel-el-Amarna
   c. Gilgamesh Epic
   d. “Farewell Address”

1.018 Everyone is descended from ________.

1.019 The sign of the Noahic Covenant was the ________.
   a. ark
   b. rainbow
   c. Ten Commandments
   d. hammer and sickle

1.020 As a result of Ham’s sin, God put a curse on ________.

**Answer true or false** (each answer, 2 points).

1.021 __________  Most Hamitic people went to Africa.

1.022 __________  God confounded the languages at the Tower of Ziggurat.

1.023 __________  Many conservative Bible students believe the earth was created in 4004 B.C.

1.024 __________  Genesis chapter 10, anticipates Leviticus chapter 11.

1.025 __________  Lugal was a city in Ur.

1.026 __________  Jesus Christ was an heir of Abraham.

1.027 __________  The Tower of Babel represented human rebellion against God.

1.028 __________  The cradle of civilization was in Europe.

1.029 __________  Nimrod of Babylon was a mighty hunter and empire builder.

1.030 __________  Literature is the product of an advanced social system.

**Complete these sentences** (each answer, 4 points)

1.031 The concept that man arose from a lower form of life is known as the theory of ________.

1.032 The apostle Peter stated that, “One day is with the Lord as a ________________ years.”

1.033 According to Genesis, God created man on the ________________ day.

1.034 From 2125 B.C. to 2025 B.C., Mesopotamia was ruled by the ________________ dynasty of Ur.
1.035 Cuneiform was a type of Sumerian ______________________________.
1.036 God gave man a mandate to subdue the earth and to have dominion over the ______________________________.
1.037 The *Gilgamesh Epic* contains more detail about the ______________ than is found in the Sumerian records.
1.038 The Fertile Crescent contained valuable ____________________________.
1.039 In 2400 B.C. Sargon conquered ________________________________.
1.040 Civilization requires a higher order of ____________________________ organization.