THE ANTEDILUVIAN WORLD (PRE-FLOOD)

THE WAY OF CAIN (Genesis 4:16-26)
The last portion of Genesis 4 gives an intriguing picture of life before the Flood. This is almost the only information we have about that first human civilization, so completely destroyed by the Flood. Only from archaeological excavation dealing with post-Flood deposits and the few artifacts found deep in the fossiliferous rock strata of the earth’s crust, can we find clues about the nature of life in that first world.

The first mighty civilization, which once thrived over much of the earth, has been almost forgotten by modern scholarship. In recent years, the discovery of a number of amazing artifacts have given us an insight into the remarkable technological skills of early men. The data is still controversial, but at least convey that early men were far from brutish primitives that evolutionists have imagined them to be.

The antediluvian world was substantially different from our world today. Remember from Genesis 1 and 2, the earth’s waters were stored “above the firmanent,” in the form of a vast blanket or canopy of invisible water vapor – producing a marvelous “greenhouse effect.” This produced a uniformly mild, warm climate all year long with no wind or rainstorms. Lush vegetation and abundant animal life flourished. This canopy, with a radiation-filtering effect, enabled people and probably animals too, to live to much greater ages than is now possible. Also, the purity of the human genetic system and its bloodstream, with so few accumulated mutant genes, together with the primeval absence of disease-producing organisms (which only gradually developed through the outworking of the curse) served to maintain health and longevity.

POPULATION GROWTH FROM CAIN TO THE FLOOD. (approx. 1600 years)
According to Genesis 5, the patriarchs had many hundreds of years to beget sons and daughters. It is reasonable and very conservative (assuming each family had only 3 sons and 3 daughters) to estimate the population at about 7 billion at the time of the Flood! Remember that in at least the first generation, all marriages were brother-sister unions. (There were no mutant genes in the genetic systems, so no harm would have resulted. Many generations later, during the time of Moses, mutations had accumulated, making such unions genetically dangerous – incest thenceforth prohibited in the Mosaic laws.)

Along with population increase, the technological and cultural levels of the Cainitic civilization seem to have been very high. Metal tools and implements of all kinds, and even musical instruments, were available to produce creature comforts, and to stimulate the emotional and esthetic senses. These facets can be used for good purposes, or they can become an end in themselves and be used as a means of further rebellion against God – even as in our world today. The latter seems to have been their effect and their purpose among the descendants of Cain.

(These notes from Henry Morris “The Genesis Record,” are greatly abbreviated.)
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