

The Proceedings of the International Conference on Creationism

Volume 2 Print Reference: Volume 2:1, Pages 165-172

Article 30

1990

Chinese Characters Confirm Genesis Human Creation

Ethel R. Nelson

Richard E. Broadberry McKay Memorial Hospital

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/icc_proceedings

DigitalCommons@Cedarville provides a publication platform for fully open access journals, which means that all articles are available on the Internet to all users immediately upon publication. However, the opinions and sentiments expressed by the authors of articles published in our journals do not necessarily indicate the endorsement or reflect the views of DigitalCommons@Cedarville, the Centennial Library, or Cedarville University and its employees. The authors are solely responsible for the content of their work. Please address questions to dc@cedarville.edu.

Browse the contents of this volume of *The Proceedings of the International Conference on Creationism*.

Recommended Citation

Nelson, Ethel R. and Broadberry, Richard E. (1990) "Chinese Characters Confirm Genesis Human Creation," *The Proceedings of the International Conference on Creationism*: Vol. 2, Article 30. Available at: https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/icc_proceedings/vol2/iss1/30



CHINESE CHARACTERS CONFIRM

GENESIS HUMAN CREATION

Ethel R. Nelson, M.D. HCR Box 380 Dunlap, TN 37327

Richard E. Broadberry McKay Memorial Hospital Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

ABSTRACT

Careful analysis of the most ancient extant Chinese pictographic characterwriting, found on bronzeware vessels and oracle bone artifacts, reveals identical narratives in ideographic characters to that found in the first three chapters of the Biblical Genesis. This "second Genesis" from a widely separated area of the world, gives added credibility to the human creation epic, as related by Moses.(1)

INTRODUCTION

When the Chinese established their first dynasty in 2205 B.C., they were worshiping their Creator-God, <u>ShangTi</u>, the "Heavenly Ruler," largely forgotter today.(2) China's founding date is surprisingly close to Ussher's estimate (c.2234 B.C.) for the dispersion of races from the Tower of Babel. However, the Chinese relate an uncertain history prior to their first dynasty, the so-called "Legendary Period of Five Rulers."(3) (Interestingly, this era could correspond to the five pre-Babel patriarchal generations from Shem to Peleg, the latter's name meaning "Division"). It is recorded that one of these ancient Chinese rulers, <u>Shun</u>, "sacrificed to <u>ShangTi</u>."(4) Thus they early established a sacrificial system which came to be the colorful Imperial Sacrifice observed annually by all Chinese emperors until 1911 of our own century. A recitation from this 4,000-year-old ceremony affirms <u>ShangTi's</u>

Of old in the beginning, there was the great chaos, without form and dark. . .You, O spiritual Sovereign [<u>ShangTi</u>] first divided the grosser parts from the purer. You made heaven. You made earth. You made man. All things with their reproducing power got their being.(5)

From this ancient recitation, we can know that the early Chinese regarded <u>ShangTi</u> as the Maker of heaven, earth, and all living things. By analyzing their character-writing, we may further confirm His Creatorship.

After the Babel debacle, the Chinese had a new tongue, and consequently they must have had to invent a new writing (or possibly their very first). The oldest retrieved Chinese writing of significance is the "bronzeware," inscribed inside ancient ceremonial bronze vessels dating back to the Shang dynasty (1766-1122 B.C.). A second ancient writing is the "oracle bone" found on bones and tortoise carapaces used for divination. More recent "seal" characters contained on ancient seals will also be introduced. These ancient forms are easily-recognized pictograms. The Chinese combined the simpler word-pictures (radicals--their "ABC's") to relate stories, ideas, or concepts, called "ideograms."

We believe the Chinese character-writing is a hieroglyphic system; that is, a "sacred writing."(6) Within hundreds of these ideograms are found the exact history of God's creative acts as well as narratives of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, their fall into disobedience, subsequent expulsion from the Garden, and worship at its gate with a sacrificial system.

Scholars today claim there is no system to the analysis of Chinese characters. Their authority is the <u>Shuo</u> <u>Wen</u> dictionary, written in <u>86</u> B.C by <u>Hsu</u> <u>Shen</u>,(7) the first to attempt deciphering the characters. In <u>Hsu</u> <u>Shen's</u> day, <u>at</u> least 2,000 years had elapsed since the writing was developed. By then the Chinese no longer had any concept of their original God or antediluvian history. <u>Hsu</u> <u>Shen</u> was also greatly disadvantaged in not having the "bronzeware" or "oracle bone" writings, since centuries of scribes had introduced changes and mistaken transcriptions in the later character forms which he analyzed. How could an accurate analysis of characters be made without vital historical knowledge and the more original character forms? By contrast, we feel that the Chinese characters were formed with a definite system in mind and that in them is stored an accurate, detailed record which validates the Biblical chronicle of beginnings.

CHINA'S ORIGINAL GOD

The name <u>ShangTi(0)</u> means the "Heavenly Ruler." The Chinese often called Him simply <u>Ti</u>. This name reveals a Godhead of three <u>Persons</u>, portrayed by three joined <u>mouths</u>. (Note: "bronzeware," "oracle bone," and "seal" characters are designated by corresponding (B), (0) and (S) symbols. Contemporary characters follow the ancient forms in parentheses).

 $\nabla + D + \Delta = \Re (L\hat{\pi})$ mouths, persons <u>Ti</u> (<u>ShangTi</u>)

The mouth has been illustrated by various pictograms which may symbolize any of the functions of the mouth-- speaking, breathing, or eating. But most importantly, the mouth can also represent a <u>person</u> (even as we today indicate a person in the idiom, "so many mouths to feed"). In <u>Ti (ShangTi</u>) we find three mouths representing not only three <u>persons</u>, but also portraying His method of creating by speaking and breathing.

 $\forall, \nabla, O(\nabla)$ mouth, person

Cheng Hsuan, a scholar of the former Han dynasty (206 B.C.-25 A.D.) stated: "T'ien (Heaven)(B,S) is another name for <u>ShangTi</u>."(8) As we can see from the following ancient characterizations, <u>Heaven</u> represented a person, not a place. In the seal symbol, we find the "head" depicted as the <u>sun</u> \odot , thus portraying <u>T'ien's</u> glory.

2	8	20	I	15
尖,	X	(\wedge)
Heave	en (T	'ien)

At this point it is appropriate to introduce a number of pictograms designating a <u>person</u>, either man or God, according to context. We have already met a <u>noble man</u>, as a part of <u>T'ien</u>. Let us acquaint you with several other symbols for <u>person</u>.

A third name for the ancient God of China is Shen.(S) This character is composed of two pictograms. On the left is the "God radical," containing the most primitive symbol for God T. By itself, it means to manifest. The right-hand figure shows a person between hands (God's), and means to state, to set forth. IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A DEPICTION OF THE CREATION OF MAN BY GOD. This inference will be borne out by many additional characters.

Note another form of <u>set forth(B)</u> which identifies the <u>person</u> as an <u>adult</u>

 $\underline{male} \bullet (\mathsf{J})$, made in God's (<u>T'ien's</u>) image \mathfrak{K} . $\mathfrak{K} \mathfrak{f} + \mathfrak{l} + \mathfrak{e} = \mathfrak{K} \mathfrak{f} (\mathfrak{f})$ hands person adult set forth (God's) male

An additional seal writing of set forth reveals a <u>Person</u> (God) bending over two <u>sun-like</u> persons. In a third form, these two <u>persons</u> are conjoined as man and wife--apparently Adam and Eve. Actually, a second definition of <u>sun</u> is a <u>person</u>. The <u>sun</u> is simply a <u>person</u> \bigcirc decorated with a flame of fire \checkmark . This is a glorious <u>person</u> \bigcirc made in God's (<u>T'ien's</u>) \checkmark image (Genesis <u>1:27</u>). Only Adam or Eve could fit this description.

>) + = + \bigotimes = \bigotimes (\Downarrow) \bigotimes = \bigotimes (\oiint) Person two sunlike set forth persons set forth (God) persons (joined)

God <u>holds in both hands</u> (joined) the <u>person</u>, Adam, as seen in <u>hole</u>, <u>pit</u>,(S) having "formed man from the dust of the ground" (Genesis 2:7). Note again the symbolic three "fingers" of God's hands, suggesting the Trinity.

目(臼)+)= 単(臼) to hold in person hole, both hands pit

CREATION OF ADAM, THE "MAN OF CLAY"

The dust of the earth (B) character reveals a person, an adult male, arising from the ground beneath as a "man of clay." Other forms of this radical for dust of earth (O) confirm that a person is indeed represented. So we find that "Adam" means ground not only in the Hebrew language, but he is pictured by the Chinese as a "man of clay" as well.

1	+ •	+	= 土 (土)	$1, \Delta, 0 +$		$= \bot, \Delta, \Omega(\pm)$
person	adult	ground	dust of	person	ground	dust of
	male		earth			earth

God is described as a "consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). Adam in his resemblance to God, must also have had a glorious appearance, covered with a robe of fire.(B) Here we find flames jutting out from the "man of clay."

堇(火) fire

For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor (Psalm 8:5, NKJV).

In the symbol meaning great(B) we can even more easily identify Adam, the great person emerging from the dust of the earth. In yet another radical, we find the noble man arising from the dust. This time the figure has the significant definitions of create, found, start, stand up(0). God had started the human family by creating Adam, the founding father.

1 +	<u> </u>	主(壬)	合 +		= 古(立)
person	dust of	great	noble	ground	create, start
	earth		man		stand up

THE "BREATH OF LIFE"

The <u>breath</u> must have been considered most important to the ancient Chinese for there are several characters depicting it. They apparently used the breath to pictographically indicate the animation of Adam at his creation.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the <u>breath</u> of life, and man became a living being (Genesis 2:7, \overline{NIV}).

In a radical meaning <u>breath</u> (0), we find God's breath designated by three strokes, probably again indicating the Trinity. In a second later rendition, the <u>breath(S)</u> is pictured entering a <u>sun-like person</u>. Adam must have been that glorious person.

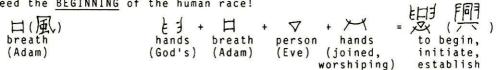
Another symbol for <u>breath</u> may be found in the radical meaning <u>offspring</u>, son (0). Again the breath is seen entering Adam, represented by the <u>mouth</u> radical. A double infusion of breath, with two breath symbols, gives life to the sunlike <u>person</u> in the character <u>bright</u>, <u>glorious</u>.(B)

プ breath	+ ▽ person	= J (子) offspring,	breath	+ breath	+	ず (劳) glorious,
5. 64.64	person	son	5, 54, 64, 64		person	bright

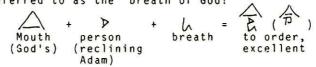
A second radical for <u>breath(0)</u> portrays God's great creative <u>mouth</u> above a reclining <u>person</u> (a smaller <u>mouth</u> on its side). A whispy breath decorated with three strokes, similar to the breath above, enters the lifeless person (Adam). The energized person becomes the character meaning <u>excellent</u>. God evaluated His crowning creative work as "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

A	+	J	+	LL.	=	穷(風)	る(佳)
mouth		person		breath		breath	excellent,
(God's)	(re	clining	g)	(of life)		good

This same radical for <u>breath(0)</u> has a very different rendering: \square , a pictogram probably again representing Adam's mouth, and therefore his person. We find this radical in an interesting character indicating to <u>begin</u>, <u>initiate</u>, <u>establish</u> (B). Once more we recognize God's creative <u>hands</u>. From the <u>breath</u> symbol, just identified as Adam, we see another <u>person</u> \bigtriangledown emerging. This suggests the creation of Eve from Adam. Below these figures are <u>joined</u> <u>hands</u>, probably those of the first couple praising their Creator. This was indeed the BEGINNING of the human race!



A character very similar to the radical above showing God's great mouth animating the reclining person (Adam) by His breath, is the figure which means to cause something to happen, to order, excellent (0). Is it a coincidence that this character is phonetically similar ("ling") to that of the Spirit, often referred to as the "breath of God?" \land



By adding one more person \forall (evidently Eve) to the foregoing character (with Adam kneeling \land), the symbol indicating <u>life</u>, <u>command</u>, <u>will of God</u>(0) is formed. Again, all human life is indebted to this creative act of God.

\triangle	+	Þ	+	h	+	A	=	愈	(合,
Mouth	person		breath		person			life,	COL	mmand,
(God's)	d's) (reclining Adam)		g			(Eve)		will	of	God
	A	(dam)								

THE "FATHER-CREATOR"

One last important pictogram of the deity represents God as the Father.(B) He is no ordinary human father, for His "head" • indicates Lord. From the many activities of the Father seen in various characters, there is little doubt that this radical is also equated with God. For example, examine the character meaning not only <u>Father</u>, but also <u>garden</u> and <u>beginning</u> (B).



・ Father garden Father, (God) garden, beginning

The <u>garden</u> \boxplus (B) here introduced is Eden, noteworthy for its four rivers emerging from a single central source +.

Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads (Genesis 2:10, NKJV).

There were many <u>beginnings</u> in the <u>garden</u> under the <u>Father's</u> creatorship! The character, as written in oracle bone is a "shorthand" of the older bronzeware writing above. You will still note the "upraised arms" of the Father, but the "head" has been omitted. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT, FOR WHEN WE FIND Ψ IN A CHARACTER, WE MAY IDENTIFY THE SYMBOL AS GOD.



T	+ •	+	= 🛨	+ Ψ	= 坐(生)
person	adult male	ground	earth dust (Adam)	Father (God)	bring fort life, bege	

THE CREATION OF EVE

But what of Eve? Let us examine first the character with the diverse meanings of <u>dusk</u> and <u>marriage</u>.(0) Again we find the great <u>Person</u> (God) bending over the glorious <u>person</u> (Adam). Was Eve created to be Adam's <u>marriage</u> partner at <u>dusk</u> of that first eventful sixth day?

 $\begin{array}{ccc}
 & + & \bigodot & = & \textcircled{(1)} \\
 & Person & person & dusk, \\
 & (God) & (Adam) & marriage
\end{array}$

Compare the foregoing character with <u>evening(</u>0) which portrays God's <u>hands</u> forming from the <u>sun-like</u> Adam, a <u>woman</u>. The time and event coincide. It was apparently evening.

Was the woman whom God prepared with His own hand 🗲 satisfactory?(0)

E	+	去	=	Et	(安)
hand		woman		prep	are,
(God's)			S	atis	factory

God removed a rib from the sleeping Adam and formed a woman from it. Upon awakening and seeing her, Adam exclaimed:

"At last, here is one of my <u>own kind</u>--Bone taken from my bone, and <u>flesh</u> from my <u>flesh</u>. <u>Woman</u> is her name because she was taken <u>out of</u> <u>man</u>" (Genesis 2:23, TEV). Recall previously that we identified the breath \bowtie as synonymous with Adam. Actually, this radical is also defined as a <u>vessel</u>, meaning a person. How appropriate for Adam, the "man of clay!" Now observe in the figure meaning kind, sort(0) a horizontally placed person emerging from him--one of Adam's "own kind!" Kind, sort(0) could also be written in other ways, as found in the previously described character, begin, initiate. H 40

日	+ =	= 17(冊2)	H +	∇ or □	= 日 or 日 (村文)
breath,	person	kind,	vesse1	person	kind, sort
vessel	(Eve)	sort	(Adam)	(Eve)	
(Adam)					

Adam realized that the woman was "taken out of man." This very act of God forms the basis for the Chinese radical, woman.(S) In it we see the sleeping person (Adam), lying on his side, with the woman coming forth from him. This ideogram accounts for the "folded arms" appearance of the woman(0) radical.

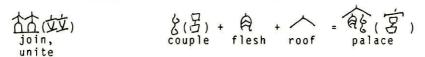
= + = = = (\pm) + (\pm) person woman woman woman (\pm) (Adam) (Eve)

The most graphic character for Eve's creation is <u>flesh</u>. Here God's <u>hand</u> The most graphic character for Eve's creation is <u>flesh</u>. Here God's <u>hand</u> removes the <u>wife</u>, <u>"offspring"</u>(S) from the <u>man</u>. On awakening, Adam pro-claimed, "this is <u>flesh of my</u> <u>flesh</u>!" (h + e' + f' = e' (h)) man <u>hand</u> wife flesh (Adam) (God's)

There are three identical radicals in the oracle bone writing: evening, moon, and flesh(0). All picture a reclining person D. One would gather from these that it was evening, and a new moon had arisen in the sky when Adam was put to sleep to extract the rib. The radical flesh may also be written showing the second person, Eve. $D(\mathfrak{G})$ $D(\mathfrak{A})$ $D, \mathfrak{A}, \mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{A})$ evening moon flesh

THE FIRST HOME

God pronounced the marriage, saying that the man "shall be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24, NKJV). In unite, join,(0) we find a second noble person joining Adam, the founding father. God also provided a "palace"(S) for the first couple--made "one flesh."



And they were both <u>naked</u>, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed (Genesis 2:25, NKJV).

The <u>noble man</u>, covered by a <u>fiery</u> robe indicating his sinlessness and likeness to God, forms the radical meaning <u>naked</u> and <u>red</u>.(0) The name "Adam" in Hebrew also means "red," possibly referring to his glowing appearance. A second character designated as <u>light</u>, <u>naked</u>, <u>bare(0)</u> reveals the glorious appearance of both Adam and Eve.



Thus we find hidden in Chinese characters the facts of Genesis: in the <u>beginning(B)</u>, there were just two, <u>holy</u> (made in <u>T'ien's</u> image) <u>persons</u>. These two <u>ancestors</u>, <u>prototypes(O)</u> found their ultimate origin in the <u>dust of</u> the <u>earth</u>. The Chinese did not consider any simian relationship for humans, but

clearly depict that the connecting link(0) of the first couple was with God. 7. (兀) persons holy beginning, two original 8 Y - A(不佳) two dust of ancestor. couple God connecting earth prototype link, descendant

And on the <u>seventh</u> day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which God had created and made (Genesis 2:2, NKJV).

Adam and Eve delighted in their God-given $\underline{home}(0)$ as the <u>seventh</u> rest day drew on, signaling the end of the creation week.

This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens (Genesis 2:4, NKJV).

CONCLUSION

These are but a few samples from the Chinese Genesis narratives. Pure mathematical probability rules out mere coincidence and supports an intelligent formation of these ideograms which ingeniously preserve the momentous happenings of the sixth day of the Creation week. The Chinese were in a position to have nearly direct word-of-mouth transmission of the creation facts (Adam to Lamech to Shem to his contemporaries, the Chinese forebears).

We have but touched the surface in our research. The field is wide open to further investigation which should prove especially fruitful for the Chinese themselves.

REFERENCES

- Nelson, Ethel R. and Broadberry, Richard E., MYSTERIES CONFUCIUS COULDN'T SOLVE, Read Books Publisher, Leominster, Mass, 1986.
- Kang, C.H., and Nelson, Ethel R., DISCOVERY OF GENESIS, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 1979.
- Mathews, R.H., CHINESE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1975, p.1165.
- Legge, James, THE CHINESE CLASSICS (VOL.iii), THE SHOO KING: CANON OF SHUN, Southern Materials Center Inc., Taipei, 1932, pp. 33,34.
- Legge, James, THE NOTIONS OF THE CHINESE CONCERNING GOD AND SPIRITS, Hong Kong Register Office, Hong Kong, 1852, p. 28.
- 6. Nelson and Broadberry, MYSTERIES, p. 138.
- 7. Wilder, G.D. and Ingram, J.H., ANALYSIS OF CHINESE CHARACTERS, Chin Wen Publ. Co., Taipei, 1964, pp. iv-vi.
- Lung Ch'uan Kwei T'ai Lang, SHIH CHI HUI CHU K'AO CHENG, Han Ching Wen Hua Enterprise Co., Ltd., Taipei, 1983, p. 497.