

Kinist Contentions – Steve Layfield September 2020

Introduction

I've only recently encountered this issue although I was aware that it was stirring up concern among those who, like myself, identify as Christian Reconstructionists. I want to offer some thoughts with a view to helping resolve the difficulties. I need to do more reading & study but what follows is a summary of my own perception of the key issues.

Big Picture

As with the study of any subject, getting the big picture right generally helps with the detail. It's our worldview that governs the way in which we interpret the facts (Van Til). So what's the overarching paradigm here?

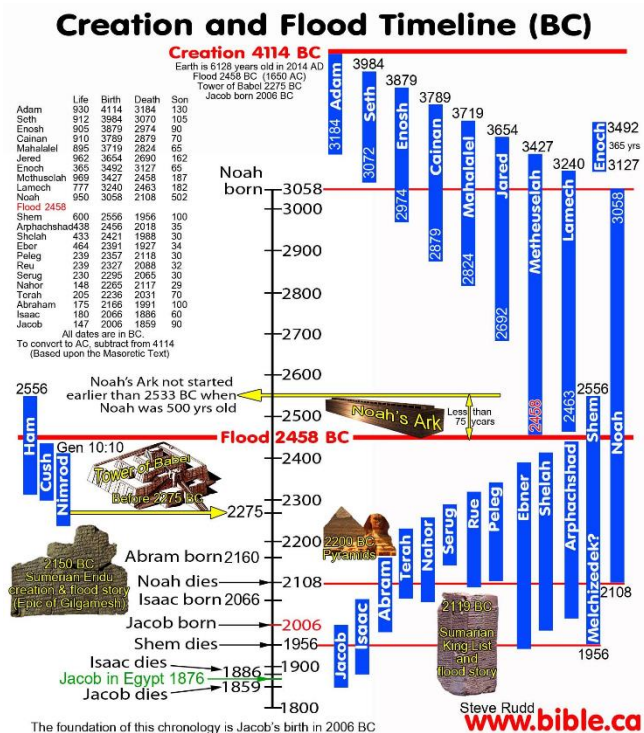


Good Creation

First, God created the world & it was very good. The UNFALLEN progeny of Adam & Eve would have spread out across the globe and built civilisation to the glory of God. There would have been distinct family heritage all the way back to Adam but no necessity for successive generations to remain closely bound among their near blood relatives. Mutations most likely would not have occurred (?) but a simple, providential shuffling of genes & chromosomes would have taken place allowing for a diversity of progeny with differing physical, mental and perhaps even emotional/psychological characteristics. Geographical and environmental locations might have impacted the visible differences also – e.g. melanin + sunlight intensity generating various shades of skin colour. But, there would have been no moral basis for restricting marriage across families. Rather, due to the rich diversity of genetic material and the inherent potential for various genotypes to express themselves in a multitude of different phenotypes, a host of amazing talents, abilities and aptitudes would have emerged!

The Fall

With the Fall, sin entered the world & corrupted the whole scene; Cain, Abel & Seth necessarily married their sisters. The gene pool at that primordial stage in human history was very pure. But contention & warring factions multiplied; through laziness & rebellion the dominion mandate (Gen 1:28) was neglected. Genetic purity was lost and longevity – a symptom of genetic health – began to decline. Methuselah was 969 years old when he died! Noah was 950. After the flood, patriarchal ages reduced until, with the Abrahamic family they had collapsed to 175 years. See chart →



The foundation of this chronology is Jacob's birth in 2006 BC

Babel

God's judgement of Babel is the most significant event we must consider. Quite suddenly, through the immediate generation of, let's say two dozen different language groups, humanity was induced to spread out across the world and find settled accommodation away from their native homeland. The consequential inter-marriage of clans and families gave rise to the various 'ethnic' groupings which we are familiar with today.

Covenantal Redemption

Next, we must reckon with God's redemptive plan 'to destroy the works of the devil' (1Jn 3:8) and 'fill the earth with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea' (Is 11; Hab 2:14). God singled out Abraham to be 'the father of many nations' (Gen 17:5). His fatherhood, however, was not to be ethnic, based on blood lineage, but rather it was covenantal – based on the presence of 'Godward' faith within the heart (Rom 4:3). True faith potentially enjoys the covenantal blessing of God down through generations (Ex 20:6). Notice then, covenantal blessings are, in Scripture, enjoyed PRIMARILY through faith exercised by individuals. But, because God they spill over and may be transmitted down through generations, it may appear that there is a 'blood-lineage' aspect to them also. Scripture is however as loud as thunder in this regard: God's covenantal blessings are to be sought and secured by faith. Indeed, so prevalent is the spurious attitude that they are granted on the basis of blood/ancestry that whole books are included in the canon that refute that hypothesis (e.g. Ephesians, Galatians, Hosea, and vast portions of Isaiah, etc)

Millennial Glory

God's purpose throughout history has been to reverse the effects of the Edenic curse. In Isaiah 65 we read that in Earth's future ...

*17 "For behold, I create ^(AF) new heavens and a new earth;
And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.*

*18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create;
For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing,
And her people a joy.*

*19 ^(AG) I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
And joy in My people;
The ^(AH) voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her,
Nor the voice of crying.*

*20 "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days,
Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days;
For the child shall die one hundred years old,
^(AI) But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.*

*21 ^(AJ) They shall build houses and inhabit them;
They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.*

*22 They shall not build and another inhabit;
They shall not plant and ^(AK) another eat;
For ^(AL) as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people,
And ^(AM) My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

*23 They shall not labour in vain,
^(AN) Nor bring forth children for trouble;*

For ^(AO)they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord,
And their offspring with them.

This passage promises that God will so successfully overturn the Edenic curse & cause grace to sanctify the created order that godly citizens will recover a significant measure of longevity – perhaps in the twilight years of earth history when....

*He shall judge between the nations,
And rebuke many people;
They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore. (Is 2:4)*

Nationalism

Evidently, the Babel incident effectively triggered the population of the post Flood world to divide up into various distinct groups establishing the different nationalities (tribes, peoples & tongues, etc) throughout the world. But the important thing to notice is: this was God's judgement upon the humanistic, rebellious culture of Babel. How were they sinning? What was their specific folly? They were indicted for refusing to fulfil the creation ordinance (Gen 1:28) of building civilisation to the glory of God. Instead, they thought to build a city for the glory of man. Their man-centred way of thinking which exalted the creature (Rom 1:18ff) and suppressed the truth of the Creator so accentuated the effect of sin in their culture that it needed a significant counterblow. The establishment of national identities and smaller people groups meant that future governments in which the 'laws of man' are exercised would be kept back from developing into full-blown tyrannies, etc. Limited government was the principled lesson future generations of earthly citizens would need to learn from Babel. 'Power corrupts; and absolute power corrupts absolutely'. The present human condition is one that warrants this mitigating influence of God's Spirit commending nationalistic, local identity. God has furnished our hearts with a deep-rooted sense of identification with our local familial groupings. My own experience is that I'll always feel like a Yorkshire man. Moreover, I want Britain to stand on its own two feet as a distinct nation, pro-Brexit!

Regeneration & Mount Zion

But, I must not let that natural, temporary reflex displace a more noble realisation wrought in me by God's own regenerating grace. St Paul tells me that I am now a citizen of heaven! Moreover, that wall of separation established temporarily by God between the offspring of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob and the rest of the world (Gentiles) has, in Christ, been broken down and set aside. NT Scriptures abound to this effect:

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of ^(AF)the firstborn ^(AG)who are registered in heaven, to God ^(AH)the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men ^(AI)made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus ^(AJ)the Mediator of the new covenant, and to ^(AK)the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things ^(AL)than that of Abel. (Heb 12:22ff)

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called ^(U)the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having

no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Eph 2:11ff)

²⁶ For you ^(AK) are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For ^(AL) as many of you as were baptized into Christ ^(AM) have put on Christ. ²⁸ ^(AN) There is neither Jew nor Greek, ^(AO) there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all ^(AP) one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And ^(AQ) if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's ^(AR) seed, and ^(AS) heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:26ff)

The main point is this: whereas under the Old Covenant, identification with God's regenerate Church was closely associated with national Israel, under the New Covenant, that association has been abolished. In its place God has established His new spiritual Bride as the universal Church of Jesus Christ. It is, in Christ alone that we now enjoy the fulness of God's ancient promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Indeed, possession and inclusion in God's covenant community was only always through faith in Him expressed in obedience to God's covenant promise, etc. That is the burden of Paul's letter to the Roman Church. But now, that distinction which St Paul explains in 9:6-8:

For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, ⁷ nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." ⁸ That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

Shadows & Types

The great thing to understand as you read your OT is the prevalence of shadows and types. They're everywhere! Such an awareness is the hermeneutical key that unlocks the plethora of mysteries we encounter throughout its pages. The resounding message echoing throughout the pages of every drama we encounter is this: that God will overturn first in time, and afterwards forever, throughout eternity, the effects of sin in His creation. Jesus Christ as His Messiah will subdue Satan (crush His head) through His cross & resurrection (the bruising of His heel) and so every nation, every tribe and every tongue will come at last and bow the knee confessing Jesus is Lord!

But this great work of redemption and salvation would not occur suddenly. Rather it is a slow, gradual sanctifying process that unfolds over generations (Matt 13:31ff).

Important Hermeneutical Considerations

Now, in seeking to establish a principled approach towards our fellow 'citizens of heaven' from every nation, tribe and tongue here in the present, it is necessary for us to contemplate the progressive nature of God's program of sanctification. Because the world and its citizenry are being healed gradually over time it was necessary for God to express His requirements (commandments for us to keep) pragmatically. Such pragmatism in no way violates His absolute holiness. We readily acknowledge that His absolute moral law, as expressed in say the Decalogue, is a reflection of His own holy character. But, because of 'the hardness of our hearts' God necessarily 'winked at sin' (Acts 17:30). There is therefore an inherent hierarchy in God's commandments which we must properly take into account when we seek to comprehend what God temporarily tolerated in time for the sake of His final glorification in eternity. Failure to recognise the historical unfolding of God's redemptive purpose gives rise to a spurious hermeneutic which insists that what God temporarily permitted must be embraced as a moral blueprint. Perhaps, the 19th chapter of the Westminster Confession (WCF) seeks to make the same point:

To them also, as a body politic, He gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people, not obliging any other now, further than the general equity thereof may require. (section 4)

The general equity of God's law is far-reaching, most important and wholly relevant for today's situation. However, it requires much careful reflection and spiritual wisdom to comprehend the practical outworking of its equity in contemporary life. Thus,

- Deceit (lying) was sanctioned when confronting evil (Ex 1:15-21; Josh 2 & Heb 11:31; Josh 8, etc)
- Divorce was sanctioned for adultery; divorce was never part of God's original design for husband and wife.
- Slavery was sanctioned for either those captured as part of the conquest of Canaan or for those within the commonwealth of Israel who through recklessness or indiscretion found themselves in financial debt.
- Polygamy was sanctioned for various practical reasons (e.g. the loss of men through war; the establishment of land rights; etc)

In all of these instances, God sanctions something that was never part of His original blueprint for human society. They are warranted because the sinful context into which they were spoken needed to be principally managed. God could have addressed each infraction of His perfect will by removing the guilty sinner/criminal directly into Hell. This seems to have been the fate of the Sons of Korah (Num 16) and Herod (Acts 12:23) but generally, the wheels of providence turn more slowly. God's ordained means of procedure requires for His children to be 'as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves' (Matt 10:16). In following God's commandments, principled pragmatism requires that (i) a murderer have his own life violently removed from him by civil execution (without violation of the Sixth commandment); (ii) a naughty child be chastised by his father (e.g. forfeiture of weekly allowance without violation of the Tenth commandment); (iii) a watchman learns how to wake his sleeping neighbours without compromising his consideration for their health and well-being!

Kinism & Culture

And so it is with Kinism. In that OT dispensation, one's identification with national Israel was tantamount to one's identification with God's covenant people. The general assumption throughout the OT narrative is that one's own local culture was an outward expression of one's inward religious convictions. Thus, various tribal/national practices were deemed ungodly by covenant keeping Israelites who recognised God's own Law as the foundational bed-rock upon which Jewish culture grew. A vast array of cultural life represented an audio-visual testimony to the grace of God and a corporate recognition of God's rightful rule and ownership of His people. It was that implicit identification – readily discernible and admitted by every OT saint – that formally prohibited marriage to anyone from a pagan (Gentile) nation. God had established a form of godliness among the familial descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were to constitute God's kingdom among the nations. Their prospect was glorious. They were to exercise God's dominion over the nations who were anticipated everywhere throughout the OT to 'come to Mount Zion', to the city of the living God and there fully participate in their covenant privileges and blessings. Thus, the psalmist rejoiced,

His foundation is in the holy mountains.

²^(A)*The Lord loves the gates of Zion*

More than all the dwellings of Jacob.

³^(B)*Glorious things are spoken of you,*

O city of God! Selah

⁴ *"I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me;
Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia:
'This one was born there.' "*

⁵ *And of Zion it will be said,
"This one and that one were born in her;
And the Most High Himself shall establish her."*

⁶ *The Lord will record,
When He ^(C) registers the peoples:
"This one was born there." Selah*

⁷ *Both the singers and the players on instruments say,
"All my springs are in you." (Ps 87)*

Inter-racial Marriage Today

Thus, finding our universal identity in Christ whatever our national or linguistic ancestry, we are now members together of the Israel of God. The universal Christian Church comprises Mongols, Americans, Africans, Malaysians, Chinese, Australians, Europeans, etc, etc. We may hold on to our ethnic identities, but we must do so in a God-honouring way in full accord with the Scriptural paradigm. Accordingly, we must resist the temptation to judge with our eyes. For Paul tells us,

'he is not a Jew (i.e. Christian), which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.' (Rom 2:28-29).

Kinism fails to recognise this fundamental spiritual identification. Instead, it seeks to build a sophisticated pseudo-theology based upon the actual blood running in our veins.

Moreover, scientifically Kinism does not stack up. Basic to a proper understanding of genetics is the realisation that within a biblical 'kind' (Heb = bara) there is a rich reservoir of genetic information capable of finding expression outwardly in a wide variety of forms: long-haired, short-haired, tall, squat, strong, energetic, sensitive to smell, ferocious, timid, etc, etc. Unseen genetic coding at a microscopic level accounts for a host of external, visible traits together with many unseen internal characteristics (emotional, psychological, linguistic, musical, etc.) Selective breeding over generations can produce creatures with very noticeable outward features. In dogs they give rise to Pit Bulls, Huskies, Great Danes, Labradors, Terriers, etc. Thoughtful dog owners choose their preferred breed carefully!

However, specialisation brings with it inherent trouble. The genetic information required for all round good health gets diluted. Consequently, pure breeds of sheepdogs may well exhibit physical ailments. Labradors are often genetically prone to hip and elbow dysplasia. Other inherited diseases can include eye disorders such as progressive retinal atrophy, which can cause blindness. Degenerative myelopathy is a common condition among German Shepherds - an untreatable disease that results in progressive paralysis. Curiously, and no doubt significantly, crossbreeds and mongrels are generally physically healthier than purebreds, more psychologically stable and invariably live longer.

Now, if that basic scientific principle applies to humanity, we should find that 'so called' inter-racial progeny are healthier and perhaps more inherently 'capable' than interbred cousins. We are living in an era of increasing scientific discovery and empirical experimentation. Never before has such extensive travel been available to us. Never before has the possibility of marrying someone raised

on the other side of the globe over successive generations been possible. It is this author's contention that we will discover, just as was found to be so with dogs, so humanity is destined to recover some (at least!) of what was lost or damaged genetically back at Babel! Perhaps this simple consideration, coupled of course with an increased propensity to covenant keeping statecraft, might so enrich future civilisations of humanity that we shall begin to see God's curse substantially lifted or at least attenuated.

This again resonates with the long term vision of Biblical prophecy.

*Is it not yet a very little while till ⁽²⁾Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,
And the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest?*

¹⁸ ^(AA) *In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book,
And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.*

¹⁹ ^(AB) *The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord,
And ^(AC)the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.*

²⁰ *For the terrible one is brought to nothing,
^(AD)The scornful one is consumed,
And all who ^(AE)watch for iniquity are cut off—*

²¹ *Who make a man an offender by a word,
And ^(AF)lay a snare for him who reproveth in the gate,
And turn aside the just ^(AG)by empty words.*

²² *Therefore thus says the Lord, ^(AH)who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:*

*“Jacob shall not now be ^(AI)ashamed,
Nor shall his face now grow pale;*

²³ *But when he sees his children,
^(AJ)The work of My hands, in his midst,
They will hallow My name,
And hallow the Holy One of Jacob,
And fear the God of Israel.*

²⁴ *These also ^(AK)who erred in spirit will come to understanding,
And those who complained will learn doctrine.”* (Isaiah 29)

²⁰ *“No more shall an infant from there live but a few days,
Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days;
For the child shall die one hundred years old,
^(AL)But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.*

²¹ ^(AJ) *They shall build houses and inhabit them;
They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.*

²² *They shall not build and another inhabit;
They shall not plant and ^(AK)another eat;
For ^(AL)as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people,
And ^(AM)My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

²³ *They shall not labour in vain,
^(AN)Nor bring forth children for trouble;
For ^(AO)they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord,
And their offspring with them.* (Isaiah 65)

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