

## THE ARK'S LANDFALL

Most Biblical scholars today regard Mount Ararat in northeastern Turkey as the mountain on which the Ark landed at the end of the Flood in Noah's time. ***I do not.*** Mount Ararat lies *west* of Mesopotamia, whereas the Bible indicates that the Ark's landfall lay *east* of Mesopotamia - probably in the Hindu Kush.

Genesis 8:4 states, "*And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat*" (KJV), which indicates that the ark landed in a region called "the Mountains of Ararat."

Genesis 11:2 states, "*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*" (KJV), which indicates that some of the survivors of the flood migrated *westward* from the region of the Mountains of Ararat to the Land of Shinar (Mesopotamia). Thus, the Ark's landfall lies *east* of Mesopotamia - *not west*.

Traditionally Mount Ararat of the Bible has been associated with the mountain of that name in eastern Turkey, at the conjunction of the Turkish, Armenian, and Iranian borders. Samuel Shuckford points out, however, that a number of scholars have placed it elsewhere.<sup>1</sup> Portius Cato placed it "in the same latitude with Bactria (now eastern Afghanistan), between the Caspian Sea and Imaus (now the Tian Shan Mountains on the western border of Sinkiang, the westernmost province of China), north of Mount Paraponusus,"<sup>2</sup> and Shuckford placed it "on the hills beyond Bactria, north of India,"<sup>3</sup> between the headwaters of the Oxus River (now Amu-Darya) to the northwest and the Indus River to the southeast. These "hills beyond Bactria," would be the mountains at the northern end of the Hindu Kush. From there, Noah's descendants would have traveled westward to Shinar (Mesopotamia), as Genesis 11:2 maintains. In my opinion, the three likeliest candidates for Ararat are Kungur (25,825 ft.) and Mustagh-Ata (24,400 ft.) to the east (just over the border with China), and Pik Komminizma (24,590ft.) to the north, but there are also two lesser possibilities: Khan Tengri (22,949 ft.) further to the north and K2 (28,250 ft.) to the southeast, although neither can be regarded as between the Oxus and Indus rivers. In Saga Scythia, Noah and his descendants established several communities which were undoubtedly centered on families or extended families under the general leadership of Noah, and from which Noah's descendants traveled northward into Siberia (eastern Russia) and beyond, eastward into Sinkiang (northwest China) and beyond, southward into the Punjab (northern Pakistan) and beyond, and westward through Afghanistan and Iran into Shinar (Mesopotamia) and beyond..

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Shuckford, The Sacred and Profane History of the World Connected, Volume 1, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (1819), Tolle Lege Press, Whitehall WV, 2009, pages 87-92.

<sup>2</sup> Shuckford, Volume 1, page 89. The Paropamisus Mountains extend from the southwestern end of the Hindu Kush across northern Afghanistan to the border of Iran in the west, but modern maps do not show a Mount Paraponusus. It may have one of the peaks at the northeastern end of the Hindu Kush. Only the area north of there (eastern Tadjikistan) lies north of India, between the Oxus River and the Indus Rivers.

<sup>3</sup> Shuckford, Volume 1, page 92.