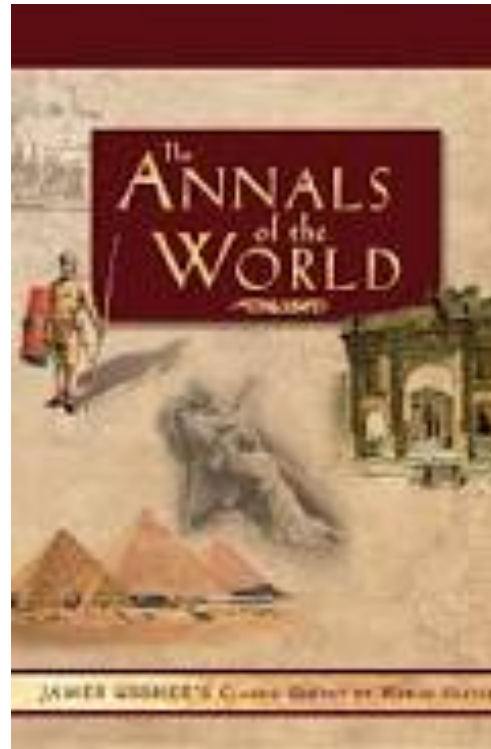


# **Ancient Chinese Culture Confirms Genesis; Part 1**

James Ussher (1581–1656) was Archbishop of Armagh Irish Anglican Church. He meticulously worked back through the Bible to calculate the date of creation and other significant dates. He calculated the date of God confusing the language at Babel to be **2,242 BC**. He published his work in 1650.

Most Bible scholars accept Ussher's calculations.

<https://answersingenesis.org/tower-of-babel/was-the-dispersion-at-babel-a-real-event/>.



Recorded Chinese culture goes back to the establishment of its first dynasty, the Xia dynasty in **2070 BC**. This marks the historical beginning of China's 4,000 years of unbroken **recorded** dynastic culture and civilisation. These dates show that the Chinese language would go back and probably does, to God's confusion of the languages at Babel and the Chinese language would be a product of this. At the time of language confusion, the people would have known the history recorded in Genesis as Noah's father, Lamech, was 56 when Adam died, there were only five generations from him to Babel as shown in Genesis 11:1-9. So shouldn't the events of Genesis be evident in Chinese culture and language?

- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Xia-dynasty>.
- Genesis 11:1-7.

You have been commissioned to design a stylised version of the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*, as per Genesis 2:17 and chapter 3, for the city square. It needs to be several metres high, be made of bronze and contain the following features:

- Fruit such that it is clear that none has been taken.
- A feature to show that the fruit is forbidden.
- Human interaction in some way.
- Satan as a snake.

Please take a piece of paper and a pen. You have five minutes.

# The Bronze Tree of Sanxingdui

This report is largely taken from a article by Stephen Brennecke. (Stephen Brennecke, *Journal of Creation*, **20**(2), 2006, pages 8-10.

While digging for clay in 1986, workers from a brickyard in Guanghan unearthed a large cache' of almost 1,000 artefacts made of jade, bronze, gold, ivory, pottery, marble and other items made of bone from two pits, which authorities estimate to have been buried for 2,700 to 4,700 years. Among them was a very large highly stylised tree made of bronze about four metres high, shown right, as it appears in the Guanghan Sanxingdui Museum, China.

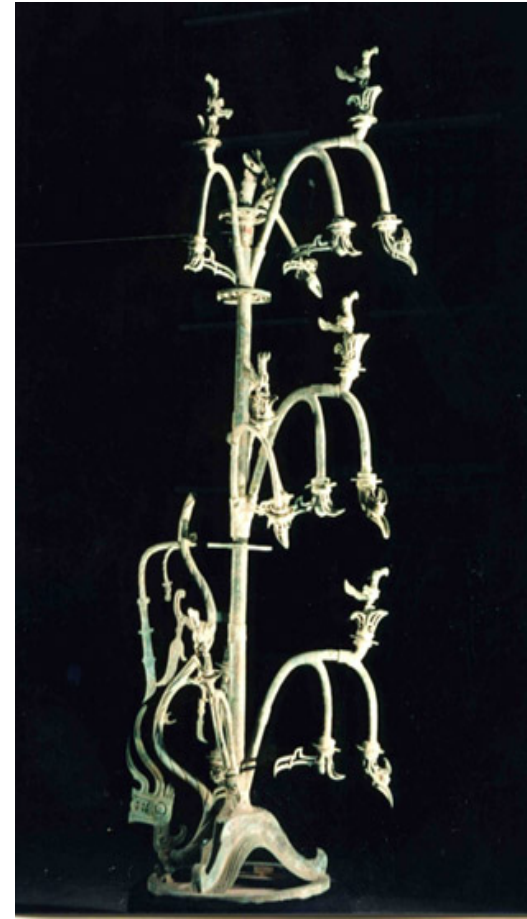
Sanxingdui. Pronunciation San xing du i





One cannot miss the similarities between this tree and the one involved in the Genesis account of the temptation of Eve; the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil* (Genesis chapter 3).

A snake-like creature is entwined around the tree facing down to its base, but the snake's head is looking up. It has two horns and two feet. Stephen Brennecke commented, *God's curse upon the serpent in Genesis 3:14 was to 'crawl' upon his belly and eat dust implying perhaps that it walked upon legs before the fruit was taken.*



The tree is bearing round fruit surrounded by large knives giving the impression that the fruit is forbidden. Each branch is terminated by one piece of fruit and all are present. As well, the snakes head has been designed to appear deadly or be associated with death. Also, it has a knife similar to those around the fruit, at its tail. Note, some of the snake is missing.



The structure contains a clearly identifiable human hand with an opposing thumb, correctly placed knuckles and finger nails (image right). None of the fruit is missing and the structure appears to be frozen in time with the hand (Eve's) poised, but no fruit taken and Brennecke commented: *The tree depicts the last moments of human innocents before God.*





# What are the implications of the Sanxingdui tree?

For Christians, the implications are powerful. The Sanxingdui people existed from **2,800 to 800 BC**. Moses, who the Bible states, wrote its first five books. Even at the very start of Genesis there is a reference to it being written. Moses was repeatedly instructed by God to write what God had told him. We can never be sure if Moses received direct inspiration from God of the very words he wrote, or he used the creation account which had been passed down from Adam, or he read from clay writings (cuneiform) that had been preserved, but there is a fair amount of certainty that Moses wrote during the Exodus and this commenced in **1,445-6 BC**.

- Stephen Brennecke, *Journal of Creation*, **20**(2), 2006, pages 8-10 citing; Historical wonders of Sanxingdui: puzzles of Sanxingdui through the ages, <http://www.china.org.cn/e-sanxingdui/jingtai/8.htm>.
- Matthew 8:4; Luke 24:27; John 5:46 etc.
- Genesis 5:1.
- Exodus 17:14, 24:4, 34:27; Leviticus 1:1, 6:8.

1 Kings 6:1 tells us that Solomon commenced the temple in the 480<sup>th</sup> year the Israelites came out of Egypt. Synchronisations between certain events in the reigns of later Israelite kings and Assyrian chronology records fix the date of the fourth year of Solomon's reign at 966 BC giving the date of the Exodus at 1,446 BC.

Brennecke commented: *If the bronze tree was created before Moses wrote (which is likely) and independent of his writings (which is almost certain), we are faced with another question: how did the Sanxingdui People come to know about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?*

*It seems that the Sanxingdui People shared the same ancestral traditions as the people from whom God called Abram and created the nation of Israel. Genesis 11 supports this notion, as it records the confounding of the languages of man and the dispersion of mankind from the Tower of Babel to the various parts of the earth. The account of the dispersion indicates that the people were at that time, one people with one language. Although God confounded their language, **they retained a common technology and common heritage with common ancestral traditions, which included the events of The Fall of mankind that occurred at the foot of the tree.***

Brennecke again:

*If the Bronze Tree was created before Moses wrote Genesis, or if it was created independently of his inspired writing, the Scriptures have an unbiased 'triangulation' in this artefact which compliments the Genesis account in intimate detail.*

Shang Di

方舟

Ark

=

方

Rectangle

+

舟

Boat



For more than 4,000 years the reigning emperors of China travelled annually to the border of their country or later, to the imperial city. There, on an outdoor alter, they sacrificed and burnt unblemished bullocks to their God, Shang Di [上帝]. The name means God above, or Supreme God. The first radical 上 *Shang*, means "high", "highest", "first", "primordial"; the second radical 帝, *Di*, literally means God. So, Shang Di was the "Highest Deity", but also, it has the implied meaning of "Primordial Deity" or "First Deity" in in Classical Chinese.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shangdi>.

上帝

An early notation of a law of Shang Di appears in several references in Zhou literature. They attribute to Shang Di the power of governing the celestial bodies, the order of nature and the order of man. The 4<sup>th</sup> century BC philosopher, Mozi, gave credit to Shang Di for ordering the heavenly bodies and the four seasons.

- Ginger Tong Chock, Genesis in Ancient China, Eastward Garden Publishing, Hawaii, 2015, page 19.

As the emperor took part in the annual Border Sacrifice which was dedicated to Shang Di, the following words were recited regarding Shang Di:

*Of old in the beginning, there was the great chaos, without form and dark. The five elements [planets] had not begun to revolve, nor the sun and moon to shine. You, O Spiritual Sovereign, 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.*

And again:

*Then Te [Shang Di], the Lord, had so decreed, He **called into existence** [originated] heaven, earth, and man. Between heaven and earth He separately placed in order men and things, all overspread by the heavens.*

These citations show clearly that the Chinese believed Shang Di to be the Creator who spoke all things into existence. He made the whole cosmos, mankind and gave all life the ability to reproduce. Other recitations state that Shang Di is eternal, His love extends over all creation and his goodness cannot be measured. All in accordance with Genesis Chapters 1-2.

- James Legge, *The Notions of the Chinese Concerning God and Spirits*, Hong Kong, Hong Kong Register Office, 1852, pages 24–25.
- Ethel R Nelson and Richard E Broadberry, *God's Promise to the Chinese*, Read Books, 2014, page 9.

Scottish protestant minister James Legge (1815-1897) spent many years in China studying the Chinese God, Shang Di. He even ascended the Alter of Heaven and observed the Imperial Sacrifices. In 1852, he published the compilation of his work under the heading; *Notions of the Chinese Concerning God and Spirits* in which he argued persuasively that the Chinese God Shang Di, was the same God as the Christian God.

- Rev James Legge, *Notions of the Chinese Concerning God and Spirits*, Hong Kong Register, 1852.
- Lauren F. Pfister, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, April 1998, pages 77-82.



# The Border Sacrifice

Genesis chapter 4 records both Cain and Abel bringing offerings to the Lord. Cain's was "fruits of the ground," while Abel sacrificed the first born of his flock. If Abel brought an animal sacrifice to the Lord, we would expect that his parents had already developed a pattern of sacrifice. This being the case, where would they build an alter for the sacrifice? It seems likely that it would be the closest place to God, which would have been on the eastern border of the Garden of Eden from where they were expelled. Nelson and Broadberry believe that this is how the name Border Sacrifice originated.

- Ethel R Nelson and Richard E Broadberry, *God's Promise to the Chinese*, Read Books, 2014, page 65.

The Border Sacrifice was a ceremony conducted on China's eastern border and in a **continuous sequence** ever since the legendary period of Chinese history, before the first dynastic rule began. **That is, for over 4,000 years.** Unfortunately, the Border Sacrifice became closely identified with the rulership of China, for the emperor himself acting as the High Priest, was the chief participant in the ceremony. Consequently, when the Manchus were deposed in **1911**, not only did the dynastic reign end forever, but so did the Border Sacrifice.

- *Ibid*, page 1.

The earliest accounts of this sacrifice, are found in the *Shu Jing* (Book of History) compiled by Confucius, where it is recorded of Emperor Shun (about **2230 BC**) that **he sacrificed to Shang Di**. From an early date, the Chinese were already offering sacrifices to Shang Di on an altar of earth on top of Mount Tai in Shan-Dong, at the eastern border of China.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century AD, this important sacrifice was moved to the southern part of Beijing to what is called the **Temple of Heaven Complex** (pictured right) which is **four times larger** than the forbidden City complex. It comprises three sections; the Hall of Prayer, Imperial Vault and the Alter of Heaven. **A tablet on the north wall contains characters clearly showing that Shang Di was the God they worshipped in the Border Sacrifice.**

- *Ibid*, pages 2-3.



# **Ancient Chinese Culture Confirms Genesis; Part 2**



The Border Sacrifice ceremony performed by the Emperor at the Temple of Heaven shows startling and meaningful parallels with the sacrificial system prescribed in the Bible. Dr Chan Kei Thong, CEO Leadership Development International, and author of *Faith of our Fathers* writes:

*From the very beginning of China's long history, Shang Di has been revealing the truth of blood covenants to the Chinese people in order to prepare them to receive life's greatest blessing; salvation through the eternal Tian Zi (Son of Heaven), Son of God, who is Jesus Christ. Rather than being a founder of a Western religion, Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of the longing expressed annually through the shedding of blood at the Border Sacrifice for an unbroken, unblemished relationship with Shang Di. The same Creator God that China knew dimly through the millennia can now be known intimately and clearly through His special revelation in Jesus Christ. This is even expressed in modern Chinese characters.*

Chen Kei Thong, *Faith of our Fathers: God in Ancient China*, 2006, page 180.

我 + 羊 = 義  
Me Sheep Righteousness

Dr Thong sums up his long and thorough research which he published under the title; *Faith of our Fathers: God in Ancient China*, in 2006, with this statement:

*The ancient Chinese religion was about as pure a worship of the Creator God as possible without special revelation. Our research did not reveal any other ancient people with a written record of the worship of the Creator God that comes as close to the biblical revelation as this well documented record of the ancient Chinese.*

- <http://creation.com/defending-faith-of-our-fathers>.

Many books have been published by experts in their field of Chinese religion. They all come to the same conclusion that the all-powerful creator God that the Chinese have worshipped for over 4,000 years; Shang Di, is the same God as the God of the Bible. And this can be traced all of the way back to when God dispersed the languages at the Tower of Babel of Genesis 11. Four of such are: James Legge, *The Notions of the Chinese Concerning God and Spirits* (1852); Chan Kei Thong, *Faith of our Fathers: God in Ancient China* (2006); Ethel R Nelson and Richard E Broadberry *God's Promise to the Chinese* (2014) and Ginger Tong Chock, *Genesis in Ancient China*, 2015.

**The creator God of the Bible is not just a Western God but also the God of the Chinese and in fact, all nations.**

There exists a plethora of information on this subject and for those who would like to learn more about Shang Di and the Border Sacrifice, here are two, one hour long YouTube videos which makes for easier understanding:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLyVAE\\_JYFQ#t=142.689289;](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLyVAE_JYFQ#t=142.689289)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NotLi2wZ4Sc.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NotLi2wZ4Sc)

# **Ancient Chinese Culture Confirms Genesis; Part 3**



# Tower of Babel



# Chinese Characters

According to tradition, during the reign of the Yellow Emperor, Huang Di, the first characters, simple drawings of familiar objects, as picture words (pictographs) were invented. Other examples are Sumerian cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphics. A much later development is an alphabet which allowed for pronunciation of the written information. Some ancient forms of writing have evolved, to enable the reader to pronounce what was written. Chinese is such a case whereby phonetic components were inserted in some characters. Chinese like all languages has changed over its 4,000 years of existence. Over the many centuries, the origin and accurate meaning of these original pictographs were lost or became blurred. Superimposed on all of this, is stylistic variations of writing characters. **However, a major find has provided an insight into early Chinese writing.**

- Ethel R Nelson and Richard E Broadberry, *God's Promise to the Chinese*, Read Books, 2014, page 10, citing: Hsin Cheng Yu, *Ancient Chinese History*, Taipei, Taiwan Commercial Press, 1963, page 6.

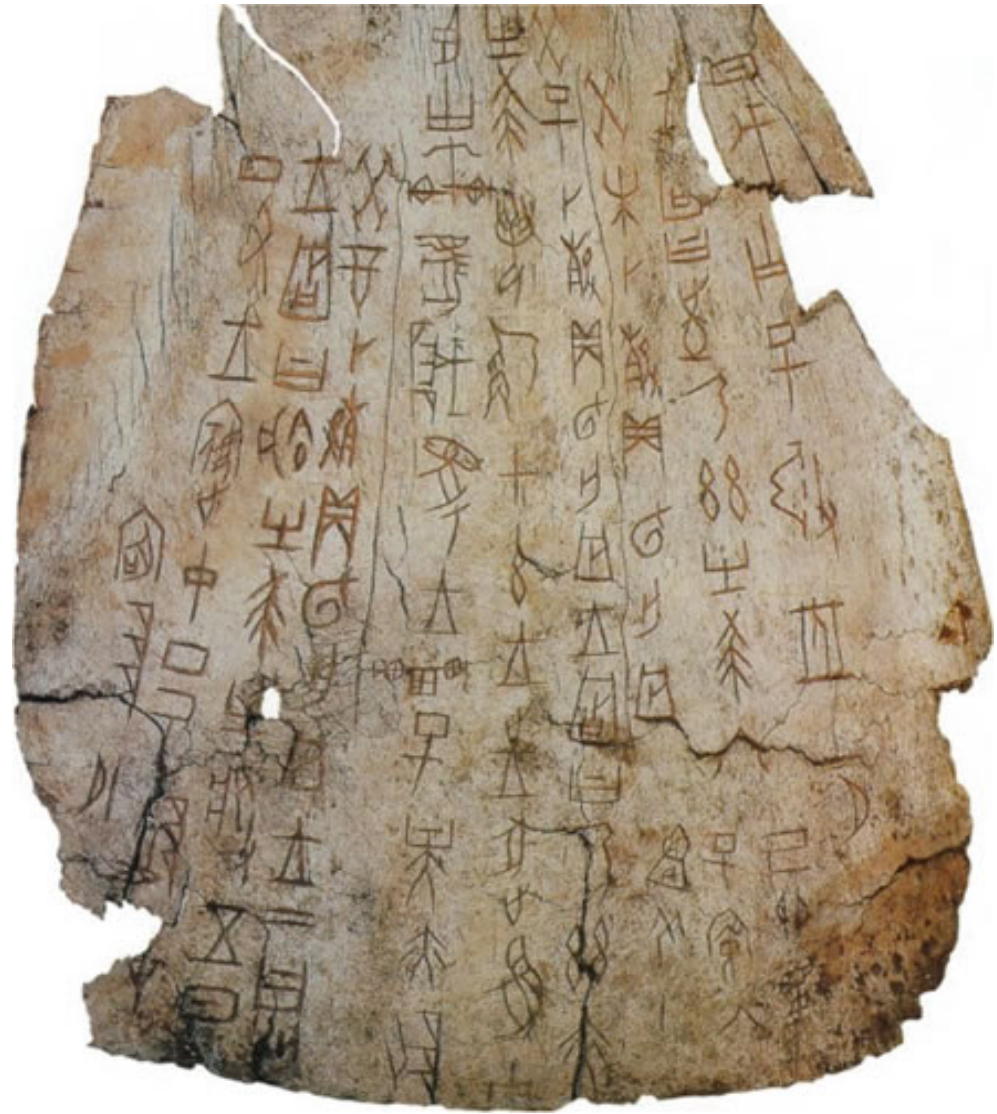
# Oracle Bone Writings

The oracle bones were discovered during the 1800s by two Chinese scholars who noticed inscriptions on turtle shells sold in Chinese medicine shops in Peking. The oracle bones were first excavated and cataloged in 1899 from a site in Anyang, near Yinxu, the ancient capital of the latter part of the Shang Dynasty of China, located in present-day Henan Province. In these and subsequent excavations near Anyang, more than 100,000 oracle bones have been found, inscribed with more than 1.6 million characters.

[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Oracle\\_Bone\\_Script](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Oracle_Bone_Script).

The oracle bone texts are the oldest extant documents written in the Chinese language. They are inscribed on ox shoulder-blades and the flat under-part of turtle shells. They record questions to which answers were sought by divination at the court of the royal house of Shang 商, which ruled central China between the 16th and 11th centuries BC. These writing go back about **3,500 years**.

- <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/mulu/oracle.html>.



# Genesis in the Oracle pictographs



Dr Ethel Nelson provides these six examples in her book *God's Promise to the Chinese*. I acknowledge and am grateful to **Karen Chin** for providing me with all of the Chinese radicals and characters that follow.

**Radicals which make up  
the character**

**Character**

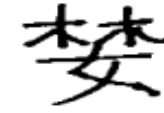
**Modern  
Character**



+



=



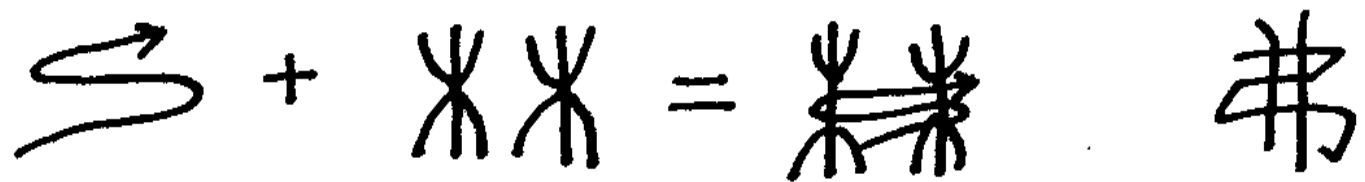
woman

trees

desire, covet

There were two trees in the Garden of Eden; the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Genesis 3:6, a woman facing one tree, coveting the fruit, with her back to the other tree conveys the idea of coveting or desiring.

- Ethel R Nelson and Richard E Broadberry, *God's Promise to the Chinese*, Read Books, 2014.



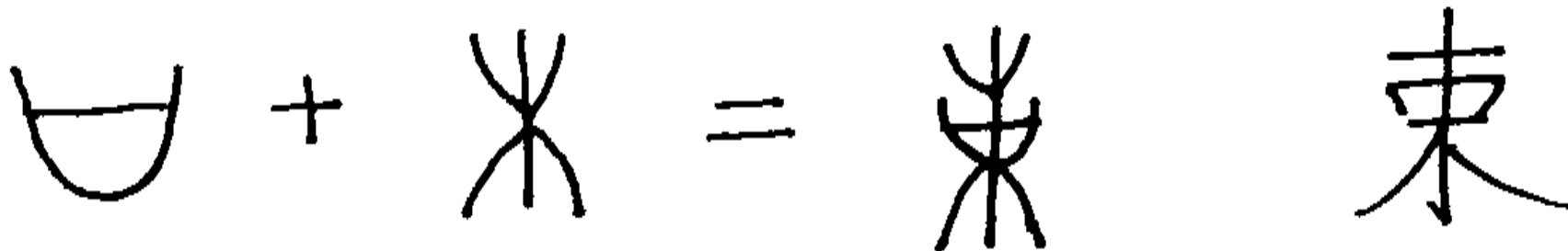
serpent

trees

negative, no, not

Genesis 3:1-5. The serpent (Satan) lied about the trees and the negative consequences.



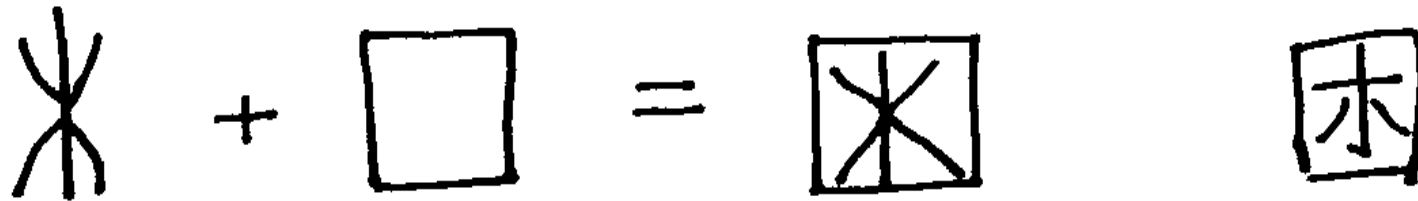


mouth (eating)

tree

restrain

Genesis 2:16-17. God's command was “Don't eat;  
restrain yourself!”

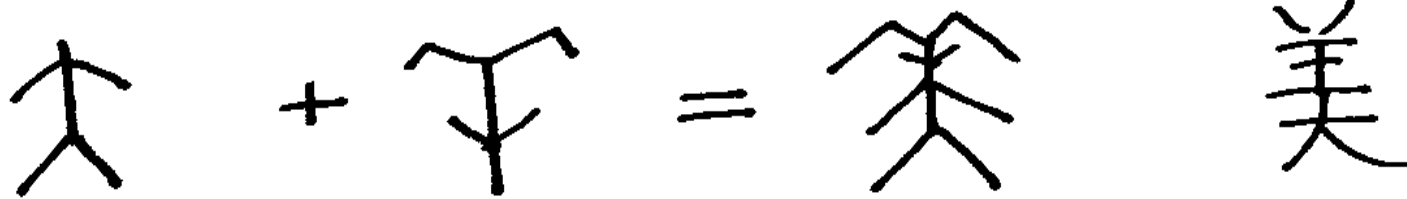


Tree

enclosure  
garden

difficulty  
trouble

Genesis 3:16-24. Eating of the tree in the garden brought trouble, difficulty.

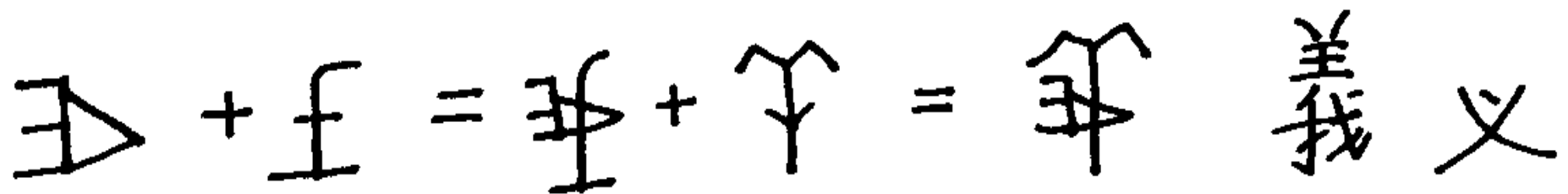


Noble person

lamb, sheep

beautiful

When the Lamb covered their sins, they were beautiful in God's sight. This was fulfilled in Jesus. John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:17-21; c/f Romans 4:1-8.



Hand

lance

me

sheep

righteousness

simplified script

Genesis 3:21. The *sheep* like a garment covers *me*. But “*me*” is composed of a *hand* and a *lance*, a weapon, which suggests I am ultimately responsible for the death of the Lamb. The death of the Lamb makes me righteous.

There are many more examples included in the Oracle Bone Writings which support the account in Genesis. These can be found in Dr Nelson's book already mentioned and Ginger Tong Chock's book; *Genesis in Ancient China*, Eastwood Garden Publishing, 2015.

**Genesis in modern tradition Chinese**

Even Traditional Chinese written today, show that elements of Genesis are still present in their characters. Ten examples which are taken from a booklet produced by Great Commission Ministry; [www.gcm.org.au](http://www.gcm.org.au), follow:



㇏ + 一 + 口 + 田 = 福

God      one (first)      mouth (person)      field (garden)      blessing

Blessing is what the first man (Adam) had with God in the Garden of Eden, Genesis 2:8.

土 + 口 + 丿 + 辶 = 造

Dust    mouth (person)    life or motion    person walking    create

God took the dust, breathed into it and created life in a man who walked, Genesis 2:7.

土 + 儿 + 丿 = 先

Dust

son or man

life or motion

first

God used the dust to create the first man and he became a living person,  
Genesis 2:7.

田 + 儿 + 丿 + 厶 = 鬼

Field  
or garden

son  
or man

life  
or motion

secret  
or private

devil  
ghost or spirit

The devil secretly went into the garden and spoke like a man to Eve,  
Genesis 3:1-6.

木 + 木 + 广 + 鬼 = 魔

tree

tree

under

devil,

evil spirit,

cover of

ghost,

spirit

demon

There were two trees in the Garden of Eden; the *Tree of Life* and the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*. The devil (evil spirit) came secretly into the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*, Genesis 3:1-6.

木 + 木 + 女 = 婪

tree

tree

woman

greedy

The woman rejected the *Tree of Life* to eat from the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*; she was greedy, Genesis 3:6.

木 + 木 + 示 = 禁

tree

tree

command

forbidden

or sign post

Adam and Eve were forbidden by God to eat from the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*, Genesis 3:15-17.



舟 + 八 + 口 = 船

vessel

eight

mouth (people)

boat

Obviously, the Chinese knew about the Flood and Noah's Ark which contained eight people (Noah, his wife and their three sons and three daughters-in-law), Genesis 7:7.

人 + 一 + 口 + 艹 + 土 = 塔

man  
or people

one

mouth  
(language)

grass  
or straw

dust  
or soil

tower

The world had only one language and the people combined to build a very high tower out of mud/clay bricks, Genesis 11:1-9.

羊 + 我 = 義

lamb

me

righteousness

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29.*

# Conclusion

These three sections concerning the ancient Chinese culture, confirm the events recorded in Genesis as real history.

The Bronze Tree of Sanxingdui, is a remarkable representation of the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil* which Satan used to bring down Adam and Eve. The four thousand years of the Chinese worship of their supreme God; Shang Di and their ritual sacrifices to Him is in accordance with Abel's and presumably his parents' sacrifice to God. And finally, the Chinese radicals and characters shown here provide so much confirmation of the Genesis events. **All of which combine to beautifully support the Hebrew record of biblical history.**