

Chart 13: Repetition in the Sumerian King-List

Bible Gen.10	Eanna Dynasty	Ur/Erech Dynasty	Kish A Dynasty	Kish 1 Dynasty	Egypt
Noah	Melamanna	Mesanne-padda	Melam-Kish Atab		
Naamah			Gulla-Nidaba-annapad	Mamagal	
Japheth	Urnungal	Meskiag-nunna	Enmenunna	Dadasig	(Belus)
Shem		Elulu	Ga.ur Gomer) Galumum Etana Shem)		Shemer-khet
Ham	Lugal-banda		Utu Enmebar-Agesi Barsal-nunna		Hotep-Sekhemwy (Agenor)
Cush/Javan	Meskiag-gasher Gilgamesh	Puzur-Nirah	Zukakip Il-ku	Mennumma	Aha-Men Scorpion Khaba (Daneus)
Mizraim	Dumuzi		Agga Meszamug Kalibum	Kalbum	Djoser (Aeg-iptus)
Nimrod Havilah Elishah Elishua Adullum Ash-kenaz Ashhur Canaan	Enmerkar Lugal-Annemundu Udul-kalamma Ennun-daranna	Balulu	Bilih Tizkar Iltasadum Palakin-atim		Narmer Huni Q'aa/Qeb Qa-ad-mu (Cadmus)
Dau.of Shua					Dau. of Huni
Seba					Snofru
Sabtah					Khufu
Raamah Hirah (Jebus)	Meshede		Mashda Arurim	Lugal-mu	Imhotep Rahotep Kawab

		Ure			
Sheba Kitt					Djed-ef- Re
Sab- tecah Tekoah			Lugal- kidul	Tuge	Set-ka
Dedan Dodan Rodan Sidon Judah	Hadanish of Hamazi	Lugal- Argandea	(Lugal- Anda)		Den Udima Khafre (Illyr- ius)
Mesha Meshech				Ibbi-Ea	Merpibia Menkaure Anedj-ib
Tamar		Ishtar- Muti	Ku-Bau	Nin- Marki	Khent- kaues
Perez			Puzur-Sin		Nefer- ir-kare
Zerah	Labasher	Ur-Nigin Ur- Akagina	Ur-Zababa	Ilshu of Mari	Sahure
Type of Noah		Lugal- zagesi	Nannia (Mesilim)	Melam- anna	Nyuserre
Type of Japheth			Akki Akigala- guba		Isesi Teti
Type of Shem		Rimush	Simudarra		Userkare
			Usiwater		Shepses- kare Teti- Ankh
Type of Ham Adam II Israel		Ur-Utu Sargon	Ur-Nanshe En-Girsu- kiag	Ishme- Shamash Ur-Utu	Pepy

An on-line version of the Sumerian King-List is available at:
www-etcs1.orient.ox.ac.uk/section2/tr211.htm

<http://www.ancient-origins.net/myths-legends-asia/sumerian-king-list-still-puzzles-historians-after-more-century-research-001287>

Notes:

The Sumerian king-list is an attempt to fill up the thousands of years between the Great Flood and the founding

of the Egyptian Old Kingdom. It also preserves the memory of kings that ruled before the Great Flood for tens of thousands of years. However, the result is a jumble of names, dynasties and year lengths that are highly recursive. The literal, sequential reading of the king-list has resulted in a grossly bloated chronology of the early historical period.

The correct way to interpret the king-list is as a spiral. In order to preserve as many royal and popular names as possible, repetition is used extensively. There is only a general/gradual forward movement in time as the list of dynasties proceeds. Often the list loops backward before it goes forward once again! [A similar "recursive" technique was used in the genealogy of Noah and his sons, as well as one of the most important Biblical "genealogies," that of Benjamin, see Chart 11.]

Nimrod was the most distinguished king after the Flood and he not surprisingly shows up in a number of different locations under different names, such as Narmer, Bilih, Enmerkar and Lugal-Annemundu ("King of the Entire World"). Many of his names include the element Kal or Kar ("Hunter"). His predecessor Cush is also a big deal and has a proliferation of names. Under the name Gilgamesh, Cush appears to have become even the master of his own biological father Urnungal/Put/Japheth (by overturning the election of his more senior brother Dumuzi/Mizraim).

Most of the names associated with Japheth include the element "nun" (waters/oceans). Names associated with Noah include the element "ab/adda" (father) and "melam" (dark, i.e., wise and peaceful, as in the later variants Mesilim and Solomon).

In the Sumerian king-list, the Kish dynasty (A) is "followed" by the dynasties of Eanna, Ur and then Kish (1). However, Sumerian scholars now realize that these dynasties were at least partly overlapping. (Ref: S.N. Kramer, *The Sumerians*, p 46.) It is proposed here that many of these dynasties were almost entirely overlapping. That is, the same kings were called by different names in different regions. For example, Meshede of the Eanna dynasty is the same as Mashda of the Kish "A" Dynasty. Kalibum of the Kish "A" Dynasty is the same as Kalbum of the Kish "1" Dynasty.

There is an even more subtle form of repetition in the Sumerian king-list. This repetition occurs within each individual dynasty. Individual kings also had multiple names, titles and epithets even within a single city-state

or geographic region. For example, in Egypt, each pharaoh maintained his birth name (*nomen*), a throne name (*praenomen*), and up to three additional official names, often with appended epithets.

As in the Biblical genealogy of Noah and his sons, a great prince is often considered the son of multiple fathers/predecessors. Cush is explicitly called the son of Ham, but is implicitly the son of Japheth by the name of Javan. In the Sumerian king-list, Meskiaggasher (Cush) is called the son of Utu (Ham), and Agga (Mizraim) he is the son of Enmebaragesi (another pseudonym for Ham). Nimrod (Biluh) can also be claimed as the son (heir) of Shem (Etana) rather than of Cush (Zukakip/"Scorpion"). Nimrod was a controversial hero, therefore extra measures were taken to disguise his true heritage, which was likely from Japheth rather than Ham or Shem. (See Appendix 5)

In the Kish "A" dynasty some of the repetition may be discerned by observing the cycles of reign lengths. For example, the first king Ga..ur (Biblical Gomer son of Japheth son of Noah) reigns 1200 years. The reign lengths steadily decrease until the list reaches Etana (Biblical Shem son of Noah). Etana is said to have ruled for 1560 years! Although Etana is the 13th king of this so-called "dynasty," we know from Mesopotamian records that he ruled immediately "after the Flood [of Noah] swept over the lands." After Etana, reign lengths decrease again until the list reaches Barsalnunna (Biblical Ham son of Noah), who also is attributed a 1200-year reign.

There is similar redundancy within the first four "dynasties" of Egypt. Narmer follows "Scorpion" in the so-called "Dynasty 0." In the 1st Dynasty king-list of Egypt, Nimrod is called Qa'a, "(his) arm (is) raised (to smite)". He follows Shem who is called Semerkhet, "thoughtful friend." In the 3rd Dynasty king-list, Nimrod is called Huni ("smiter"), and follows Djoser (Mizraim brother of Cush). Djoser ("Divine of Body") reappears in the fourth dynasty as Snofru ("The Handsome"). The tombs of the early pharaohs of Egypt at Abydos were unmarked and extensively rifled and rumbled. It is not possible to say with certainty what tombs belonged to which pharaohs. Nevertheless, based on the few artifacts found in these tombs the general succession of pharaohs within the first four dynasties is considered established by Egyptologists and is said to fill up about 700 years of time. It is proposed here that the founding of the Old Kingdom was accomplished within only a few generations and the so-called

4th Dynasty began less than 100 years after the "flood disaster" of that time. (See Chart 14).

The Greek names (included in parentheses in the table above) and stories of these "Patriarchs" are especially helpful in unravelling the actual relationships and chronology. See Robert Graves, *The Greek Myths*.

Egyptian name definitions are from Peter Clayton, *Chronicle of the Pharaohs*.