

FINDING GOD IN CHINESE CHARACTERS

神

Shen, God

上帝

ShangTi, God

聖靈

Sheng Ling, Holy Spirit

Who is Shang Ti?

The Emperor of Heaven

Who is Tien?

Who is Shen?

Shang Ti is the true God originally worshiped in China. According to Shu Jing, Emperor Shun (2317-2208 BC) offered sacrifices to Shang Ti; the same type of sacrifice that the Ming and Qing/Ching emperors offered to Shang Ti at the Temple and Altar of Heaven in Beijing. Buddha (557-477 BC), founder of Buddhism, and Laozi or Lao Tzu (born 640 BC) founder of Taoism, came to China long after worship of Shang Ti.

GENESIS: The Creation of Man

On the sixth day of creation God created the first man. God gathered dust to form the body of a man. He then breathed into the man's nostrils to bring him to life, infusing him with a spirit.

Character Dissection	Biblical Explanation
<p>告 + 走 = 造</p> <p>to talk walking to create</p>	<p>One of God's creations was a talking and walking entity, a human being.</p>
<p>丩 + 土 + 儿 = 先</p> <p>alive dust man first</p>	<p>The first man was created from dust; the dust made alive.</p>

Based on the work done by missionary C.H. Kang and medical pathologist Ethel R. Nelson as published in The Discovery of Genesis, 1979.

Acknowledgments & Links



Finding God in Ancient China (preview)

The Discovery of Genesis



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Genesis & the Mystery Confucius Couldn't Solve (preview)



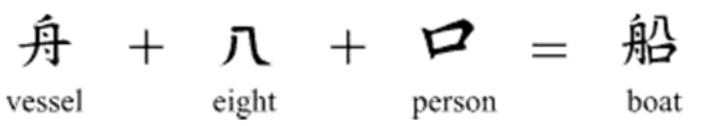
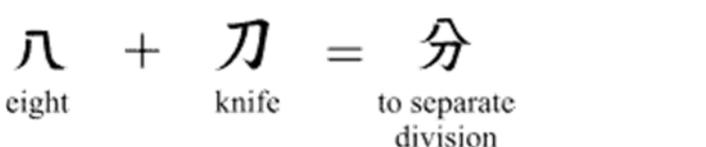
The Lamb of God hidden in the ancient Chinese characters



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GENESIS: The Flood

Shortly after Adam and Eve were created, mankind fell into sin. God decides to destroy humanity with a massive flood, except for Noah, the only righteous person left. God tells Noah to build an ark, a large ship and bring along animals of every species. Noah also brings his wife, their three sons, and the three wives of the three sons (8 people). The flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights. Afterwards, God sets a rainbow in the sky, a symbol of the promise that God would never again send a flood to destroy humanity.

Character Dissection	Biblical Explanation
 <p>舟 + 八 + 口 = 船 vessel + eight + person = boat</p>	<p>The character for boat consists of "vessel", "eight", and "mouth". "Eight mouths" implies eight people. There were exactly eight people on Noah's Ark.</p>
 <p>八 + 刀 = 分 eight + knife = to separate/division</p>	<p>After the flood, the eight humans on the Ark settle down, have children, and spread throughout the earth to form different nations.</p>

From "Genesis and the Mystery Confucius Couldn't Solve"

For 40 centuries the reigning emperors of China had traveled annually to the border of the country or imperial city. There, on an outdoor altar, they sacrificed and burned young unblemished bullocks to Shang Ti, the Heavenly Ruler. The Border Sacrifice, as it came to be called, was a ceremony conducted in unbroken sequence from the legendary period of Chinese history, before the first dynastic rule which began in 2205 B.C. After a continual observance of more than 4,000 years, this rite ended only in 1911 of our own century. This imperial sacrifice had become closely identified with the rulership of China, for the emperor himself was the chief participant in the ceremony.

One of the earliest accounts is found in the Shu Ching (book of History, compiled by Confucius), where it is recorded of Emperor Shun (c. 2230 B.C.) that "he sacrificed to Shang Ti." This emphasizes the mystery: Who is Shang Ti?

Today the Temple and Altar of Heaven (T'ien T'an) in Beijing are prime tourist attractions. Few people in the surging crowds that clamber over the worn marble steps even concern themselves with wondering about the origin and meaning of the Great Sacrifice.

He who understands the ceremonies of the sacrifices to Heaven and Earth...would find the government of a kingdom as easy as to look into his palm! -Confucius

How Do Ancient Chinese Proverbs Reflect Truth About God?

萬物本乎天

"All things are derived from Heaven." (John 1:1-3,14)

天生天化

"Heaven produces and Heaven destroys." (Isa. 45:6-7)

天道難違

"Heaven's way is hard to go against." (Acts 9:5)

有命在天

"All life depends upon Heaven." (Acts 17:24-25)

萬事由天

"Everything is settled by Heaven." (Dan. 4:32-34)

由天不由人

"(Everything) depends on Heaven, and not on man." (Daniel 4:24-25)

瞞得過來人，瞞不過天

"You may deceive man; you cannot deceive Heaven." (Galatians 6:7)

存心善惡有天知

"Heaven knows the good and evil stored in the heart." (I Sam. 16:7; Luke 16:15)

For more Chinese Proverbs snap a pic of the QR code, or visit China.FindingGodInTheBible.com



GENESIS: The Garden of Eden

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, live peacefully with God in the Garden of Eden, a natural paradise. Adam and Eve are allowed to eat from all trees in the garden except for two forbidden trees: the Tree of Life, and the Tree of Knowledge. Satan (the devil), disguised as a serpent, tempts Eve to eat from the forbidden Tree of Knowledge. Eve succumbs, and then she tempts Adam to eat from the same tree. Adam and Eve then become aware of their nakedness and feel ashamed. They hide in the trees and clothe themselves with the leaves of a fig tree. God knows about their sin and banishes the two from Eden. As added punishments, man would have to work for sustenance and woman would no longer give birth without pain.

Character Dissection	Biblical Explanation
丿 + 田 + 儿 + 厶 = 鬼 moving garden man secretly = devil	The devil secretly goes to the Garden of Eden. He appears as a snake, but speaks as a man. (Genesis 3:1-5)
宀 + 木木 + 鬼 = 魔 covering two trees = tempter demon	Combine the devil with two trees and a cover, and you get a tempter. The devil, covered as a snake, tempts the humans to eat from the tree. (Genesis 3:1-5)
木 + 木 + 女 = 婪 tree tree woman = desire covet	Eve had the sinful desire to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which God forbid them to do. (Genesis 3:6)
女 + 厶 + 口 = 始 woman secretly mouth to eat = beginning	Eve secretly eats from the Tree of Knowledge. This first sin separates humanity from God. (Genesis 3:6)
身 + 乃 + 木 = 躲 body is tree = to hide	After eating from the Tree of Knowledge, Adam and Eve become aware they are naked and hide. "Body is tree" characterizes this intent to hide. (Genesis 3:7)
木 + 木 + 示 = 禁 tree tree God = to warn forbidden	After the fall, God blocked Adam and Eve from the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Genesis 3:22-24)
亻 + 果 = 裸 man fruit = naked	All three of these characters mean "naked" and share the character for fruit. If you were to design a language, why would you use the word for fruit to make the word "naked"? Genesis provides an explanation for this choice. Adam and Eve clothe themselves with the leaves of a fruit (fig) tree. (Genesis 3:7)
身 + 果 = 裸 body fruit = naked	
衣 + 果 = 裸 clothing fruit = naked	

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The Lamb of God hidden in the ancient Chinese characters

By Kui Shin Voo & Larry Hovee ©1999

The Chinese invented the ancient Chinese characters nearly 4500 years ago. They invented the characters independent of the ancient Sumerian and Egyptian writings. The earliest forms of the characters, 'wen' (文), were pictures of objects and symbols. The ancient Chinese combined the 'wen' to make up compound characters (字) in order to express complex ideas. Analysis of these two forms of the ancient Chinese characters that are associated with the sheep suggests that the Chinese recognised the spiritual representation of the sheep as the source of truthfulness, kindness, beauty, righteousness and eternity. These attributes are the same as those of God's sacrificial Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction

Border Sacrifice (郊祀)

Long before the birth of Moses (1500 BC), in the 'Legendary Period' (preceding 2205 BC), the Chinese were already offering sacrifices to ShangDi (上帝) at Mount Tai in Shandong Province, at the eastern border of China (Shang Shu).¹ HuangDi (黄帝), the emperor during the Legendary Period, as recorded in the Shi Ji (史記), built an altar so that a sacrifice could be made periodically to ShangDi. It was a tradition that only the worthy emperors, who also functioned as high priests to ShangDi, were allowed to perform the most magnificent sacrifice (封禪). ShangDi is frequently referred to as 'Heaven' (Tien, 天) in the book of Shang Shu (尚書) and Shi Ji (史記), and less frequently in Shi Zing (詩經). The name 'Tien' was introduced by the Zhou people who overthrew the Shang dynasty in 1122 BC. It was during the reign of HuangDi that inventions such as currency, music, clothing, boats, wagons, a political system, and Chinese characters were all attributed directly or indirectly to HuangDi.

Confucius (philosopher and compiler of the Chinese Classics, 551–479 BC) considered the sacrifice to ShangDi so important that he made this statement, 'He who understands the ceremonies of the sacrifices to Heaven and Earth ... would find the government of a kingdom as easy as to look into his palm!'² The sacrifice was called the Border Sacrifice and was moved from Mount Tai to Beijing in the 15th Century AD. The Chinese honoured ShangDi so much that the Temple of Heaven (天壇) in the Forbidden City in Beijing, was constructed in the most magnificent architectural design. The Heaven-Worshipping Altar (祭天台) was a great, three-tiered, white marble altar of 'Heaven', 75 metres in diameter,

surrounded on each level by white marble railing. At each level the marble slabs were arranged in concentric circles, in ever increasing multiples of nine. In the very centre of the top tier was placed one circular stone called the Heavenly Heart Stone (天心石). The monumental undertaking of its construction was completed in AD 1530. During the Border Sacrifice the emperor often offered an unblemished bull and sometimes a beautiful sheep. The Border Sacrifice was not terminated until the Manchus were deposed in AD 1911. The details of the Border Sacrifice were recorded in the collected statutes of the Ming Dynasty (大明會典, AD 1366). These statutes were published during the Ming Dynasty as a result of two search committees that sought to determine the true nature of the ancient Chinese sacrifices. Faulty notions that were mistakenly added by previous emperors were corrected.

ShangDi and Yahweh

ShangDi is the supreme god of the Chinese. He is the Creator of the universe and earth, and the emperors were to obey the mandates of Heaven in order to rule the Chinese people with love, compassion and justice. Only the emperors that had done good deeds, acquired prestige, and had moral character were worthy to offer at the Heaven-Worshipping Altar (Shi Ji). The Chinese Classics such as the ShangShu, Shi Ji, Y Zing, and Shi Zing (These classics were written in BC; at least a thousand years before Christianity came to China in about AD 620)³ revealed attributes of ShangDi that are consistent with that of Yahweh, the only true God of the Hebrews. **First**, ShangDi is the Creator of the universe, including humankind (Y Zing and Shi Zing). **Second**, the Y Zing gave the order of creation starting from heaven, then earth and all living things, and finally man and woman. This order of creation is the same as that of the book of Genesis. **Third**, ShangDi is just and demands the highest moral standard from the emperors and His people (Shi Ji and Shang Shu). **Fourth**, He is a personal God that seeks to communicate to His people through the high priest, the emperor. The emperors were to inquire from ShangDi about His blessing to the Chinese people. No personal benefit was asked by the emperors during the offering to ShangDi at the Border Sacrifice.⁴ **Fifth**, ShangDi is a spirit and the making of statues was strictly forbidden (Shang Shu). **Sixth**, ShangDi desires animal sacrifices, especially the bull and the lamb (Shi Ji and Shi Zing).

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