

# CHAPTER 8

## ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

The great ancient monuments of Egypt is a testament of the advanced civilization that existed there thousands of years ago. Other ancient civilizations existed in different parts of the world, such as the Babylonian civilization in Syria and Iraq, the ancient Chinese civilization and the Inca's civilization in South America. Other ancient civilizations may have existed that we do not know of. Our knowledge of the history of mankind is very limited. There are several studies suggesting that lost continents and lost civilizations may have existed, however no solid evidence has been produced yet to substantiate such claims. The correct and reliable information about the history of mankind and the ancient civilizations may only be obtained from the Holy Qur'an, the words of The Creator, ALLAH (SWT).

### THE EARLY HISTORY OF MANKIND

In the beginning of Cited Verse #(8-1), ALLAH (SWT) Says "The people were one single nation.....". That is, in the past all the people on the face of the earth were grouped together in one single nation. This situation must have been in the distant past, where the population was very small and they were living in a single and limited location where they could communicate with each other. In Chapter 4 we have learned that all the humans are descendants of Adam and Eve. Therefore, the people referred to in this verse must have been the first few generations of humans after Adam and Eve. Next in the verse, ALLAH (SWT) Says that He Has Sent for them Prophets with the Book. The word "Prophets" in this verse is plural. That is, ALLAH (SWT) Has Sent several Prophets for the people of this early single nation. This indicates that this early single nation remained for several generations which may amount to several hundreds or several thousands of

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

كَانَ  
النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ النَّبِيِّينَ مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ وَأَنْزَلَ مَعَهُمُ  
الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ فِي مَا اختلفُوا فِيهِ وَمَا اختلف فِيهِ  
إِلَّا الَّذِينَ أوتوهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَاتُ مِنْ بَيْنِهِمْ فَهَدَى اللَّهُ  
الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَا اختلفُوا فِيهِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ بِإِذْنِهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ  
إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ﴿٢١٣﴾

سورة البقرة      الجزء الثاني

Cited Verse #(8-1)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

The people were one single nation, and ALLAH Sent the Prophets with glad tidings and warnings, and with them He Sent the Book in truth to judge between the people in matters wherein they differed, and none has differed in it except those who have got it after the clear signs came to them, through selfish contumacy among themselves, then ALLAH with His Will Has Guided those who believed to the truth of what they have differed in, for ALLAH Guides whom He Wills to the right path.

(Part 2, Surat Al Baqarah "The Heifer")

years. All the “books” which ALLAH (SWT) Sent with His Prophets contain His rules and laws. The people to whom ALLAH (SWT) Sends His Prophets and books must have the mental awareness and the proper communication language to understand His Holy message. In Chapter 4 we have learned that ALLAH (SWT) Has Taught Adam and the humans in general how to speak intelligently. In Surat Ibraheem, Aayah #4 ALLAH (SWT) Says “And We Have not Sent a messenger except in the language of his own people ...”. This leads to the proper conclusion that the people in the early stages of life on earth had their own language and they were intelligent enough to form a community (a nation). The remaining of cited verse #(8-1) shows that the people within the same nation always differ among themselves, each group and even each individual has his or her own perspective on the different issues of life.

In cited verse #(8-2) ALLAH (SWT) Says that if He Had so Willed, He Could Have Made the people one nation and they would still differ. This verse starts with the conditional word “IF”. That is, if ALLAH (SWT) Wanted the people to remain in one nation as they were in the early centuries of the human existence on earth, He Could Have Done so, but He Did not. One of ALLAH’s mercy that He Has Bestowed on mankind is that He Has Caused the groups of people with different attitudes and values to move away from the early single nation and to form their own new communities and nations. The new nations allow their peoples to practice their way of life without the interference of the others. The groups of people then migrated to new locations and formed their own nations.

All ALLAH’s creation has been created for an appointed term. The heavens, the earth, the stars, the humans and all other creatures, each single one of them has a pre-assigned life span [Chapter 5]. From cited verse #(8-3) we learn that the nations are no different. Each nation has a pre-assigned life span. The known history of the world reveals this fact. Nations have formed, flourished, reached to the peak of their prosperity then perished or swallowed by other nation/s.

In cited Verse #(8-4) ALLAH (SWT) Says “And We Have Sent messengers before you, of them some We Have Told you their stories and some We Have not Told you about ...”. ALLAH (SWT) Taught Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh) the complete wisdom and knowledge through the Holy Qur’an. The stories of the messengers whom ALLAH (SWT) Told Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh) are those narrated in the Holy Qur’an. Those stories are meant to be a reminder and a warning to the Muslims as well as to all the people of the world. In Saying that there were messengers whom He did not Tell about, ALLAH (SWT) is Directing our attention to the fact that there were periods of time where the history of mankind was not disclosed in the Holy Qur’an. That is, during the course of the human history there were nations and civilizations unknown to us.

In cited verses #(8-5), ALLAH (SWT) Says “And We Have Destroyed generations before you when they did wrong ...”. A generation is defined as “all the people born and living at about the same time”. Normally the transition from one generation to another is

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
 وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَا يَزَالُونَ  
 مُخْتَلِفِينَ ﴿١١٨﴾  
 سورة هود الجزء الثاني عشر

Cited Verse #(8-2)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

And if thy LORD Had so Willed, He Could Have Made the people one nation, and they would still differ.

(part 12, Surat Hood “The Prophet Hood”)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
 وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾  
 سورة الاعراف الجزء الثامن

Cited Verse #(8-3)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

And for every nation there is an appointed term, when their appointed term comes, they could not delay or advance their appointed time.

(part 8, Surat Al A’araf “The Heights”)

uninterrupted and proceeds gradually. Destruction of a generation means the wiping out of all the population. Along the history of mankind no war or any natural catastrophe had resulted in the destruction of a generation. It is only ALLAH (SWT) Who Has the power and the means to Do so and to Do whatever He Desires. A complete destruction of a generation represents an interruption in the succession of the human population. ALLAH (SWT) always Has Saved a few people (His messengers and their followers) from the destroyed generations. In the first verse of cited verses #(8-5) ALLAH (SWT) Says that He Has Destroyed generations before you. In the second verse of cited verses #(8-5) ALLAH (SWT) Says “Then We Have Made you successors in the land after them...”. The word “*you*” in this verse refers to all the people of all races [because “successors” is plural] who lived during the era of Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh) and afterwards. This indicates that the destroyed generations [plural] were living at scattered locations on the earth and that the destruction events took place before the revelation of the Holy Qur’an that is before fourteen centuries ago. At the end of the second verse of cited verses #(8-5) ALLAH (SWT) Says “to See how ye would behave”. These few words imply a strong warning to the people then and now. If we do not come back to our senses and refrain from committing sins ALLAH (SWT) will sure Destroy us as He Did Destroy previous generations.

At the end of cited verse #(8-6) ALLAH (SWT) Says “... as He Brought you forth from the posterity of other people”. As mentioned earlier the word “*you*” in the Holy Qur’an refers to all the people who lived at the time when it was revealed and up till judgment day. Those few Holy words give two very important pieces of information, the continuous mixing of the different races and the migration of the people. All the distinct groups of people came from the posterity of other people. The words “*other people*” point to people who lived at other locations different from where their descendants live. A few of the *other people* migrated from their homeland to a new location where their population grew up. During their journey they may have mixed with other groups of people or they may have mixed with the locals at their new location if there were any. From the above the following sequence of early human history may be established:-

- During the first centuries of the human existence on earth, the people were all living in one location as one nation. They had their own language and they were intelligent enough to understand ALLAH’s rules and laws which He Has sent with His messengers to them. This one nation of people remained for several hundreds or may be thousands of years.
- Groups of people from the first single nation with views on life different from the others migrated to new lands and formed their new nations.
- ALLAH (SWT) Sent messengers to the new nations. Some of the nations rejected ALLAH’s faith and were indulged into their sins. ALLAH (SWT) Destroyed the nations of sinners.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ قَصَصْنَا عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ لَمْ  
نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ وَمَا كَانَ لِرَسُولٍ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ بِقَايَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ فَإِذَا  
جَاءَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ قُضِيَ بِالْحَقِّ وَخَسِرَ هُنَالِكَ الْمُبْطِلُونَ ﴿٧٨﴾

الجزء الرابع والعشرون سورة غافر

Cited Verse #(8-4)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

And We Have Sent messengers before you, of them some We Have Told you their stories and some We Have not Told you about, and no messenger could have come up with a sign except by the permission of ALLAH, but when the command of ALLAH comes the matter is decided with truth and justice, and there and then those who stood on falsehoods have lost.

(part 24, Surat Ghafer “Who Forgives”)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَقَدْ أَهْلَكْنَا الْقُرُونَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ  
لَمَّا ظَلَمُوا وَجَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَمَا كَانُوا لِيُؤْمِنُوا كَذَلِكَ  
نَجْزِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ ﴿١٢﴾ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ خَلَائِفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ  
لِنَنْظُرَ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٤﴾

الجزء الحادى عشر سورة يونس

Cited Verses #(8-5)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

And We Have Destroyed generations before you when they did wrong, their messengers came to them with clear signs, but they would not believe, and so do We Require those criminals. Then We have Made you successors in the land after them to See how ye would behave.

(part 11, Surat Yunus “Jonah”)

- Migration of groups of people continued and new nations formed. During their journeys the people mixed with each other
- There are periods of human history on earth not known except to ALLAH (SWT).

## WERE THE DESTROYED GENERATIONS PRIMITIVE OR ADVANCED PEOPLE?

In Cited verse #(8-7) ALLAH (SWT) Says “Have not they seen how many generations before them We Have destroyed, We Have Given them the means to domesticate the land that we Have not Given you, and We Have Sent the rain in abundance on them, and We Have Caused rivers to flow beneath them, yet We Have Destroyed them for their sins, and We Have Raised after them other generations”. ALLAH (SWT) Had Bestowed on the destroyed generations His favors and mercy by Giving them the ability and the skills to domesticate the land, and on top of that He Had Given them fertile land and abundance of water. In this verse ALLAH (SWT) Says that He Had Given them what He Has not Given you. That is ALLAH (SWT) Had Given the destroyed generations knowledge that He Has not Given you. As mentioned earlier, the word “*you*” in the Holy Qur’an refers to the people who lived during the era of Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh) and all the people afterwards, till judgment day. This means that those destroyed generations had superior knowledge for domesticating the land than what we have today and than what the following generations will have. Such knowledge enabled them to utilize the earth resources efficiently and effectively. Not only that but they may have also discovered and used some earth resources that we are not aware of. Those destroyed generations lived way back before the revelation of the Holy Qur’an, that is way back before fourteen centuries ago.

After the destruction of those generations ALLAH (SWT) Has Raised another generations. The word “*Raised*” in cited verse #(8-7) indicates that the population of the new generations were formed from the posterity of a very few people. In several Aayat in the Holy Qur’an such as those depicting the stories of Prophet *Hood* and his people “*Ad*”, Prophet *Saleh* and his people “*Thamood*”, and Prophet *Lott*, ALLAH (SWT) Has Saved these Prophets and their few followers by Getting them out of their towns first then completely Demolishing the towns and their people [Surat Hood, Aayat #58, 66, 81 and 82]. ALLAH (SWT) is The Most Merciful, He Would not punish the people without the proper warning. For those doomed generations ALLAH (SWT) Has Sent to them messengers to tell them about His rules and laws and to warn them of the consequences of rejecting ALLAH’s faith [cited verses #(8-5)]. Every time few people believe in ALLAH’s message and follow the messenger, and every time ALLAH (SWT) Saves the messenger and his followers and Destroys the unbelievers. The new generations which

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَرَبُّكَ الْغَنِيُّ ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ إِنْ يَشَأْ يُذْهِبْكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفْ مِنْ بَعْدِكُمْ مَا يَشَاءُ  
كَمَا أَنْشَأَكُمْ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّةِ قَوْمٍ آخَرِينَ ﴿١١٣﴾

الجزء الثامن سورة الأنعام

Cited Verse #(8-6)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

And thy LORD, The Self Sufficient, The Full of Mercy, if He so Desires He Would Exterminate you and Gets whoever He Wills as successors after you, as He Brought you forth from the posterity of other people.

(part 8, Surat Al An'am "The Domestic Animals")

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنْ قَرْنٍ مَكَّنَّاهُمْ  
فِي الْأَرْضِ مَا لَمْ نُمْكِنْ لَكُمْ وَأَرْسَلْنَا السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِدْرَارًا وَجَعَلْنَا  
الْأَنْهَارَ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهِمْ فَأَهْلَكْنَاهُمْ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَأَنْشَأْنَا مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ  
قَرْنًا آخَرِينَ ﴿١١٤﴾

الجزء السابع سورة الأنعام

Cited Verse #(8-7)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

Have not they seen how many generations before them We Have destroyed, We Have Given them the means to domesticate the land that we Have not Given you, and We Have Sent the rain in abundance on them, and We Have Caused rivers to flow beneath them, yet We Have Destroyed them for their sins, and We Have Raised after them other generations

(part 7, Surat Al An'am "The Domestic Animals")



ALLAH (SWT) Raised after the destruction of the old ones came from the posterity of the few survivors.

In the second verse of cited verses #(8-8) ALLAH (SWT) Says “Have not they walked through the earth to see how was the end of those before them, they were more numerous than they are and more powerful and developed the earth more ...”. The word “*them*” in the underlined part refers to the unbelievers who were standing against Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh). This is another indication that the generations which ALLAH (SWT) Destroyed were many years before the era of Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh). The population of the destroyed ancient generations was greater than that during the era of Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh), they were much more powerful and they have developed the land and left monuments testament of their knowledge. As stated above when ALLAH (SWT) Destroys a generation He always Saves His messengers and their few followers (believers). Those few people are the producers of the next generations. For some period of time the population of the following generations remains less than that of the destroyed generation. As years go by the population grows and builds up. Centuries may pass by before the population grows back to what it was before. In the above verse ALLAH (SWT) Has Compared the population of the destroyed people to that of the era of Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh). This indicates that the destroyed people mentioned in this verse lived not far before the time of Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh), since the population has not recovered to its previous amount.

In cited verses #(8-5) ALLAH (SWT) Says “And We Have Destroyed generations before you”, in cited verse #(8-7) ALLAH (SWT) Says “how many generations before them We Have Destroyed” and in cited verses #(8-8) ALLAH (SWT) Says “how was the end of those before them”. As mentioned earlier the word “*them*” in these verses refers to the unbelievers during the era of Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh). On the other hand the word “*you*” refers to the people living at the time when the Holy Qur'an was revealed and afterwards till judgment day. The following very important and dramatic conclusion may therefore be extracted from the above verses.

ALLAH (SWT) MAY DESTROY PRESENT OR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE FOR THEIR SINS. NEW GENERATIONS MAY BE RAISED FROM THE FEW FAITHFUL SURVIVORS, AS HAPPENED BEFORE.

In the third verse of cited verses #(8-8) ALLAH (SWT) Says “they exulted with the knowledge they have”. This means that the ancient people whom ALLAH (SWT) Has Destroyed had advanced technological and scientific knowledge that enabled them to build their might and to construct the infrastructure for developing the land.

In cited verse #(8-9) ALLAH (SWT) Says “As those who were before you they were mightier than you, and more flourishing in wealth and children”. This verse supports the above reached conclusion. The word “*you*” is used in the verse. That is there were people

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَيُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ فَأَيَّ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ تُنْكِرُونَ ﴿٨١﴾ أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ  
فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ كَانُوا أَكْثَرَ مِنْهُمْ وَأَشَدَّ  
قُوَّةً وَأَثَارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَمَا أَغْنَى عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿٨٢﴾ فَلَمَّا  
جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَرِحُوا بِمَا عِنْدَهُمْ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ  
مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ ﴿٨٣﴾ فَلَمَّا رَأَوْا بَأْسَنَا قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَحَدُّهُ  
وَكَفَرْنَا بِمَا كُنَّا بِهِ مُشْرِكِينَ ﴿٨٤﴾ فَلَمْ يَكُ يَنْفَعُهُمْ إِيمَانُهُمْ لَمَّا رَأَوْا  
بَأْسَنَا سُنَّتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي قَدْ خَلَتْ فِي عِبَادِهِ ۗ وَخَسِرَ هُنَالِكَ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴿٨٥﴾

الجزء الرابع والعشرون سورة غافر

Cited Verses #(8-8)

### **In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

And He Shows you His signs then which of the signs of ALLAH you deny. Have not they walked through the earth to see how was the end of those before them, they were more numerous than they are and more powerful and developed the earth more, yet all what they have accomplished was of no profit for them. And when their messengers came to them with the clear signs, they exulted with the knowledge they have, and they were stricken with what they were mocking. And when they saw Our Wrath they said "We believed in ALLAH, only Him and we have rejected the partners we used to join with Him". But their professed faith would not benefit them when they saw Our Wrath, it is ALLAH's Way of Dealing with His Slaves (Believers), and there the unbelievers lost.

(part 24, Surat Ghafer "Who Forgives")

who lived before the present time who were mightier than we are, they had more wealth and more children. Also the word “*you*” refers to the people who will come after us till judgment day. This verse leads to the following conclusion:-

- THERE WERE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS THAT WERE MORE POWERFUL THAN WE ARE (MORE ADVANCED) AND HAD MORE WEALTH. THEY WERE MORE FERTILE THAN WE ARE. THEY BEGOT MORE CHILDREN THAN THE PRESENT GENERATION DOES.
- THE HUMAN HISTORY HAS GONE AND MAY GO THROUGH REPETITIVE CYCLES. FROM PREMITIVE EXISTANCE TO ADVANCED CIVILIZATIONS THEN TO PREMITIVE EXISTANCE AGAIN AND SO ON.

## WHEN DID THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS EXIST?

In cited verse #(8-10) ALLAH (SWT) Says “And how many generations We Have Destroyed after Nooh (Noah)”. Prophet Nooh (Noah) was the first messenger sent from ALLAH (SWT) to mankind. This verse states that all the destroyed generations (civilizations) existed after the time of Prophet Nooh (Noah). They were destroyed because of the sins they were committing.

As stated in cited verse #(8-11) the people of “*Ad*” came after the people of Nooh (Noah), and after them came the people of “*Thamood*”. After the people of *Thamood* came several generations of other people no one knows about them but ALLAH (SWT). That is this part of history will never be known to mankind.

In cited verses #(8-12) ALLAH (SWT) Says “As of Ad, they have unjustifiably behaved arrogantly through the land and said “*who is more powerful than we are*”, did they not see that ALLAH Who Has Created them is more powerful than they are, and they were rejecting our signs. So We Sent on them a furious wind through days of disaster to let them taste the torture of humiliation in this life and indeed the torture in the hereafter will be more humiliating and they will not find a way out”. These verses reveal that the people of Ad were very knowledgeable and they had a very advanced civilization. When the people of Ad said “*who is more powerful than we are*”, they were comparing themselves to other people who did not have power similar to theirs. At that time ALLAH (SWT) Destroyed the people of Ad only not the other people. The generations after the people of Ad came from the posterity of those people and the few whom ALLAH (SWT) Saved from the people of Ad (Prophet Hood and his followers).

From several Aayat in the Holy Qur'an [such as Surat Fusselat, Aayah #17, Surat Al A'araf, Aayat #73-78 and others] we learn that ALLAH (SWT) Has Destroyed the people of Thamood by sending on them some kind of very intense thunderbolts (may be acoustic or electromagnetic wave) which killed them instantly in their homes.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
 كَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ كَانُوا أَشَدَّ مِنْكُمْ قُوَّةً وَأَكْثَرَ  
 أَمْوَالًا وَأَوْلَادًا فَاسْتَمْتَعُوا بِخَلْقِهِمْ فَاسْتَمْتَعْتُمْ بِخَلْقِكُمْ كَمَا اسْتَمْتَعَ  
 الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ بِخَلْقِهِمْ وَخُضْتُمْ كَالَّذِي خَاضُوا أُولَئِكَ حِطَّتْ  
 أَعْمَلُهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ ﴿١٠﴾  
 الجزء العاشر سورة التوبة

Cited Verse #(8-9)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

As those who were before you, they were mightier than you, and more flourishing in wealth and children, they had their enjoyment of their portion and ye have of yours as did those before you, and ye indulge in idle talk as they did, they! their works are fruitless in this world and in the hereafter, and those are the losers.

(part 10, Surat Al Tawbah “The Repentance”)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
 وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنَ الْقُرُونِ  
 مِنْ بَعْدِ نُوحٍ وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ بِذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا ﴿١٧﴾  
 الجزء الخامس عشر سورة الإسراء

cited Verse #(8-10)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

And how many generations We Have Destroyed after Nooh (Noah), and enough is thy LORD to Note and to See the sins of His slaves.

(part 15, Surat Al Esra'a “The Night Journey”)

ALLAH (SWT) Has Destroyed the people of Nooh (Noah) by the great deluge. Prophet Nooh was the first Messenger that ALLAH (SWT) Has Sent to mankind. Accordingly, the people of Prophet Nooh were one of the early human generations on the earth. There is not a single verse in the Holy Qur'an indicating that the people of Prophet Nooh had a powerful or advanced civilization. The people of Ad came after the people of Nooh [cited verse #(8-11)]. As mentioned above the people of Ad had an advanced and powerful civilization. In that respect the first ancient civilization that existed on the face of earth was that of the people of Ad. After the people of Ad came the people of Thamood [cited verse #(8-11)] with their own civilization. After the people of Thamood came many powerful and advanced civilizations that no one knows about except ALLAH (SWT) [cited verse #(8-11)].

In Surat Al Nesa'a, Aayah #163 ALLAH (SWT) Says "We have Sent thee [Prophet Mohammad (ppbuh)] inspiration as We have Sent it to Noah and the messengers after him, and We have Sent inspiration to Ibraheem (Abraham) and Isma'eel and ...". This aayah together with cited verse #(8-11) suggest that the period of time known only to ALLAH (SWT) is that between after the destruction of Thamood and the era of Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham). This period of time may have lasted for hundreds or thousands of years, only ALLAH (SWT) Knows. In cited verse #(8-10) ALLAH (SWT) Says that He Has Destroyed generations after Noah. The word "generations" in this verse is plural. If the people of Ad and Thamood were the only generations destroyed after the era of Prophet Noah, the plural form of the word "generations" would not have been used [in the Arabic language there is a special form when referring to two things]. Therefore there were other civilizations that existed and were destroyed by ALLAH (SWT) during this period of time. The ancient Egyptian civilization lasted for many years, part of which was during the era of Prophet Moosa (Moses) who came long after Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham). Several other civilizations may have existed during the period from the era of Prophet Ibraheem and that of Prophet Moosa (Moses). Those civilizations as well as the ancient Egyptian civilization may have not been as much advanced and powerful as those destroyed by ALLAH (SWT) before them. In any event, the last ancient civilization destroyed by ALLAH (SWT) existed long before the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, that is long before fourteen centuries ago.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ نَبُؤُا الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ قَوْمِ  
 نُوحٍ وَعَادٍ وَثَمُودَ وَالَّذِينَ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ لَا يَعْلَمُهُمْ إِلَّا اللَّهُ جَاءَتْهُمْ  
 رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَرَدُّوا أَيْدِيَهُمْ فِي أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَقَالُوا إِنَّا كَفَرْنَا  
 بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُمْ بِهِ وَإِنَّا لَفِي شَكِّ مِمَّا تَدْعُونَنَا إِلَيْهِ مُرِيبٍ ﴿٨﴾

سورة إبراهيم

الجزء الثالث عشر

Cited Verse #(8-11)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

Have not the news of those before you reached you, the people of Nooh (Noah) and Ad and Thamood and those who came after them, none knows them but ALLAH, their messengers came to them with clear signs, but they put their hands up to their mouths and said “we deny what you were sent with, and we strongly doubt what you invite us to”.

(part 13, Surat Ibraheem “Abraham”)

## FLUCTUATIONS IN THE ANCIENT HUMAN POPULATION

The ancient civilizations of Ad, Thamood and others were completely destroyed by ALLAH (SWT). Such events, when they occurred may have resulted in dramatic and abrupt reduction in the population of mankind. Such reduction must have been more pronounced in the earlier destroyed civilizations. Those situations are different from the minor ripples in the population count due to natural disasters, epidemics and wars. As was explained earlier ALLAH (SWT) Saved His messengers and their followers before He Destroyed their people. The generations following the destroyed civilizations came from the posterity of those few survivors. This indicates that along the human existence on the earth, the human population did not increase continuously and gradually. The abrupt changes due to the destruction of civilizations along the course of history resulted in cyclic changes in the population count. According to the presented analysis of cited verse #(8-9) the highest peaks of the human population may have occurred during the period of time known only to ALLAH (SWT), also the most advanced civilizations (even

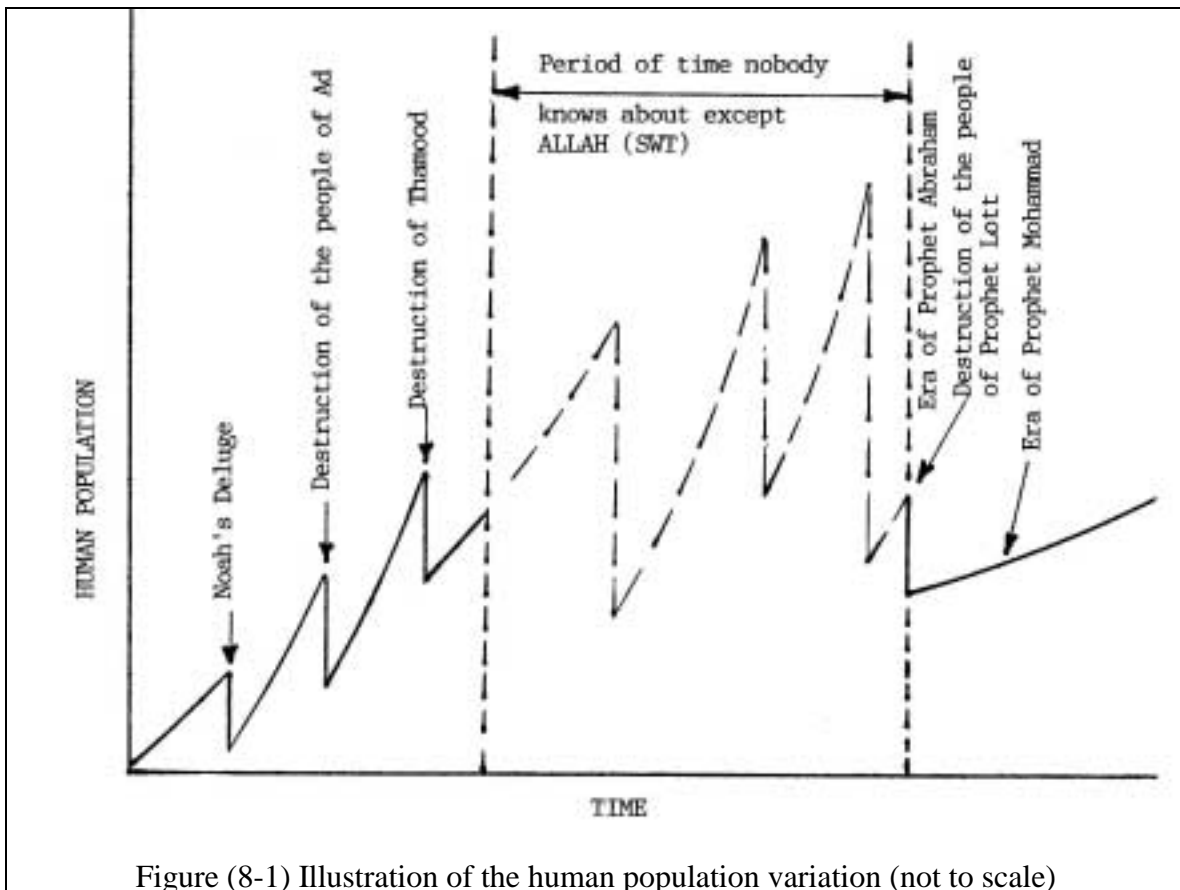


Figure (8-1) Illustration of the human population variation (not to scale)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَأَمَّا عَادٌ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ  
 بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُمْ  
 هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ ﴿١٥﴾ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا  
 صَرْصَرًا فِي أَيَّامٍ نَحْسَاتٍ لِنُذِيقَهُمْ عَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا  
 وَلِعَذَابِ الْآخِرَةِ أَخْزَىٰ وَهُمْ لَا يُنصَرُونَ ﴿١٦﴾

الجزء الرابع والعشرون      سورة فصلت

Cited Verses #(8-12)

**In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

As of Ad, they have unjustifiably behaved arrogantly through the land and said “who is more powerful than we are”, did they not see that ALLAH Who Has Created them is more powerful than they are, and they were rejecting our signs. So We Sent on them a furious wind through days of disaster to let them taste the torture of humiliation in this life and indeed the torture in the hereafter will be more humiliating and they will not find a way out.

(part 24, Surat Fusselat “Detailed”)

more advanced than the present or future civilizations) may have existed during the same period of time. On the other hand from cited verse #(8-6) it may be established that the destruction of present or future civilizations by ALLAH (SWT) is probable. Based on the verses cited in this chapter an illustration for the human population variation along the history is constructed and shown in Figure (8-1).



## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings in Chapter 8 may be summarized as follows:-

- ❑ In the early years of human existence on earth, the people were living in a single nation. This early single nation remained for several generations, which may amount to several hundreds or several thousands of years. They had their own language and they were intelligent enough to understand the messages which ALLAH (SWT) Has Sent to them with His messengers.
- ❑ Groups of people from the early single nation migrated to other locations and formed new nations.
- ❑ Each nation has a pre-assigned life span. The known history of the world reveals this fact. Nations have formed, flourished, reached to the peak of their prosperity then perished or swallowed by other nation/s.
- ❑ There are periods of time where the history of mankind was not disclosed in the Holy Qur'an. That is, during the course of the human history there were nations and civilizations known only to ALLAH (SWT).
- ❑ ALLAH (SWT) Has Destroyed many ancient civilizations (generations). The destroyed generations [plural] were living at scattered locations on the earth and they existed before the revelation of the Holy Qur'an that is before fourteen centuries ago.
- ❑ All the distinct groups (races) of people came from the posterity of other people. The words "*other people*" point to people who lived at other locations different from where their descendants live. A few of the *other people* migrated from their homeland to a new location where their population grew up. During their journey they may have mixed with other groups of people or they may have mixed with the locals at their new location if there were any.
- ❑ The ancient civilizations which ALLAH (SWT) Has Destroyed had superior knowledge for domesticating the land than what we have today and than what the following generations will have. Such knowledge enabled them to utilize earth resources efficiently and effectively. Not only that but they may have also discovered and used some earth resources that we are not aware of. Those destroyed generations lived way back before the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, that is way back before fourteen centuries ago.

- ❑ The ancient generations whom ALLAH (SWT) Has Destroyed had advanced technical and scientific knowledge that enabled them to build their might and to construct the infrastructure for developing the land. They were more advanced than the present civilization. They had more wealth and they were more fertile. They begot more children than the present generation does.
- ❑ The most advanced civilizations that were destroyed by ALLAH (SWT) existed in a period of time whose history is known only to ALLAH (SWT). That period of time is between after the destruction of Thamood and the era of Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham). This period of time may have lasted for hundreds or thousands of years, only ALLAH (SWT) Knows.
- ❑ Along the history of human existence on the earth, the human population did not increase continuously and gradually. The abrupt changes due to the destruction of the ancient civilizations resulted in cyclic changes in the population count.