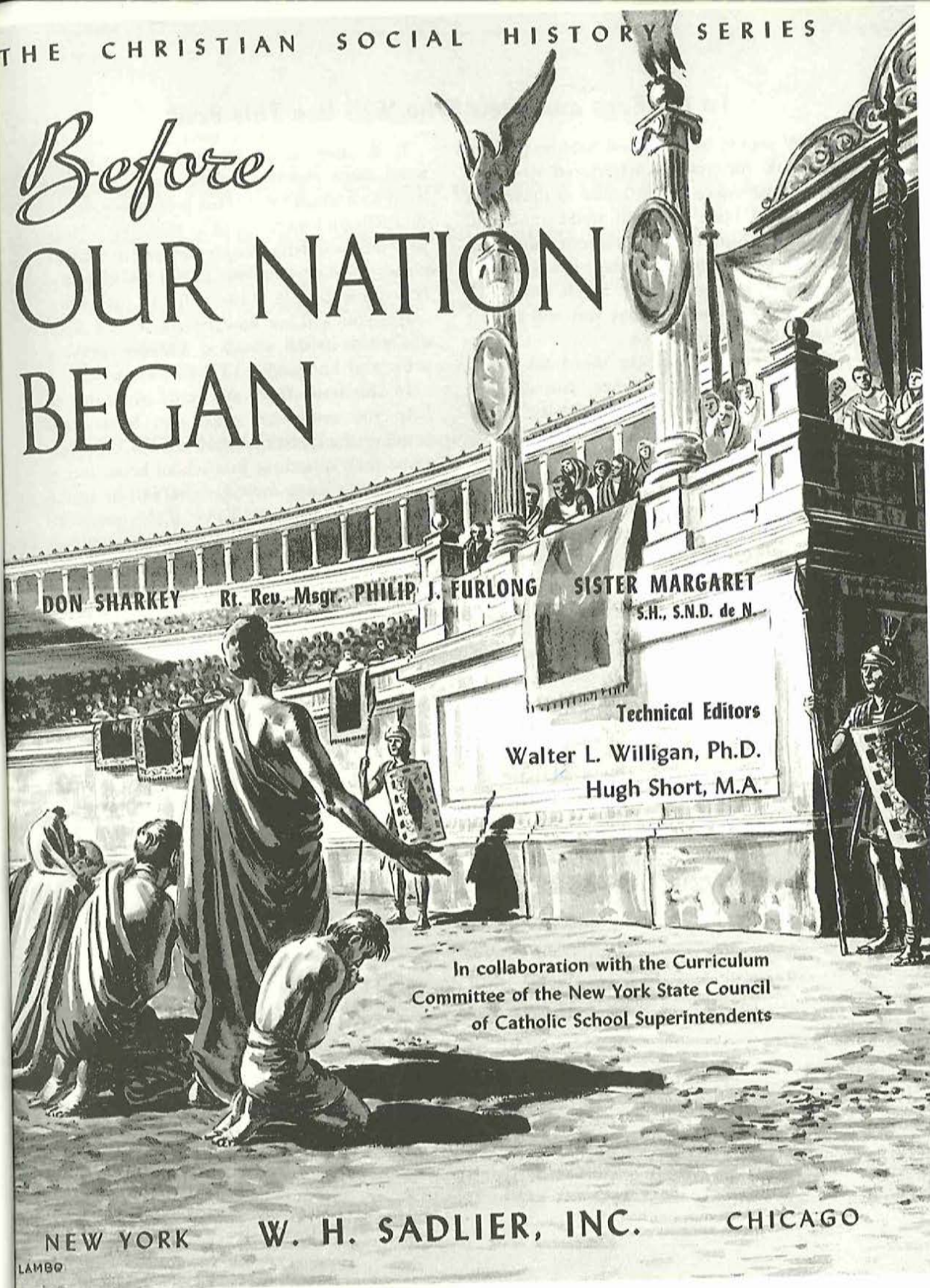


THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL HISTORY SERIES

Before OUR NATION BEGAN



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To the Boys and Girls Who Will Use This Book

Many people have worked hard to prepare this book for you. Authors, editors, and artists have worked long hours to make this the kind of book you will understand and enjoy. We think it is far different from most histories written for boys and girls your age. We know you will learn much from this book. We also believe that you will find it interesting and attractive.

The authors who wrote this book know how to write for boys and girls. You will find most of the sentences short and easy to understand. Most of the words are simple. Of course, you will find some new words, because you wish to learn new words every year. Most of the new words are explained. Some of them are explained as soon as they are used. Others are explained in the glossary at the back of the book.

We know that boys and girls like pictures, and we have given you many pictures. You can scarcely turn a page without finding a new picture. The pictures help make the book attractive. They also tell you many things. By looking at a picture you can tell what kind of clothes certain people wore, what kind of tools they used, and what kind of houses they lived in. It would be hard to tell you these things in words alone.

It is easier to understand history if you have maps showing where various people lived and where important events took place. You will find many maps in this book. Maps will tell you why people settled in certain places—near rivers, in fertile valleys—and how these people made a living. By using maps, you will see how people moved from one place in the world to another carrying skills and knowledge to their new homes.

In this book there are many questions to help you remember what you have read. Some of the questions seem more like a quiz game than questions in a school book, but if you answer them correctly you will be learning your history well. Some of the questions will help you to think, and it is very important that you learn to think correctly.

On pages 12-13 you will find ten rules by which God wishes us to live. You have learned similar rules in your religion classes. As you read this book, you will study countries in which people obeyed these rules. Unfortunately you will also read about people who broke these rules. You will find questions which will make you think about these rules. While learning about the people who lived in the past, you will also learn how God wants you to live in this modern world.

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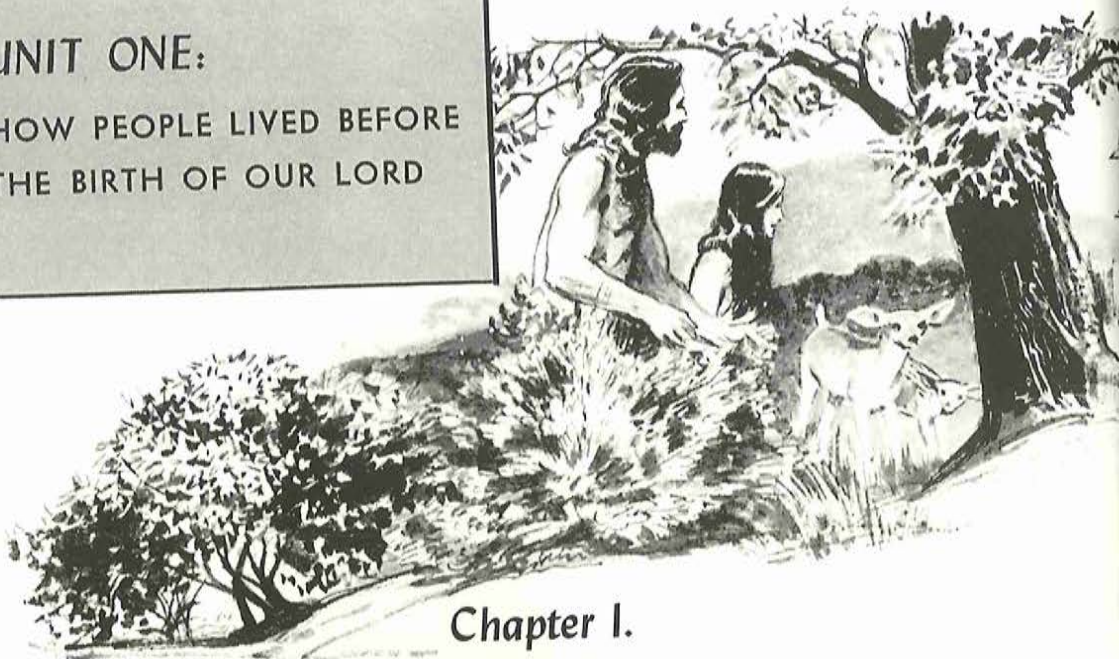
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UNIT ONE:

HOW PEOPLE LIVED BEFORE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD



Chapter I.

The People Who Lived Before History Was Written

FOR thousands of years, men did not know how to write. They could not leave a record of the things they did. The oldest written records we have are from about 4000 years before the birth of Christ. That was about 6000 years ago.

We say that people who lived before there were written records lived in prehistoric times. *Pre* means "before." *Prehistoric* means "before history was written."

Even though prehistoric people did not leave us any writings about themselves, we do know something about them. We have learned about them in two ways: (1) from the Bible; and (2) from clues which these people have left.

The first book of the Bible is called the Book of Genesis. It tells how God created the world. It tells about our first parents, Adam and Eve. This book was written by Moses 1200 years before the birth of Christ. Moses was inspired by God when he wrote this book. This means that God gave him special help. God inspired Moses and protected him from error. The Bible is called the "Word of God."

The people who lived in prehistoric times have left some clues which also help us to know something about them. We have found some of their tools and weapons. We have found pictures which they drew and the remains of caves and houses in which they lived. All these things help us to understand how prehistoric people lived and worked and fought. They have also helped us to know something of the religious beliefs of prehistoric people.

In Chapter One we shall read about the people who lived before our written records begin.

CHAPTER REVIEW

WHAT AM I? On a sheet of paper, write the numbers of the following incomplete sentences. Next to each, write the term listed below that best completes the sentence.

1. Man is able to invent many things because of his _____.
2. The _____ is the part of man that lives forever.
3. You commit a _____ when you disobey God.
4. God promised that the _____ would reopen the gates of Heaven.
5. The _____ was the first home of Adam and Eve.
6. God warned Noe and his family of the destruction that would be caused by the _____.
7. The time before history was written is called _____.
8. People who live in families and build houses are said to be _____.
9. A _____ is a group of clans which have united.
10. The men who wrote the _____ were inspired by God.

prehistoric	tribe
intelligence	Redeemer
soul	Bible
civilized	Garden of Paradise
sin	Deluge

WHO AM I? On a sheet of paper, write the numbers of the following descriptions. Next to each, write the name of the person who best fits the description.

1. I was the first man.
2. I was the mother of all the living.
3. I was the son of Adam and I tended sheep.
4. I was the son of Adam and I farmed the land.
5. I built an Ark to save my family from the flood.

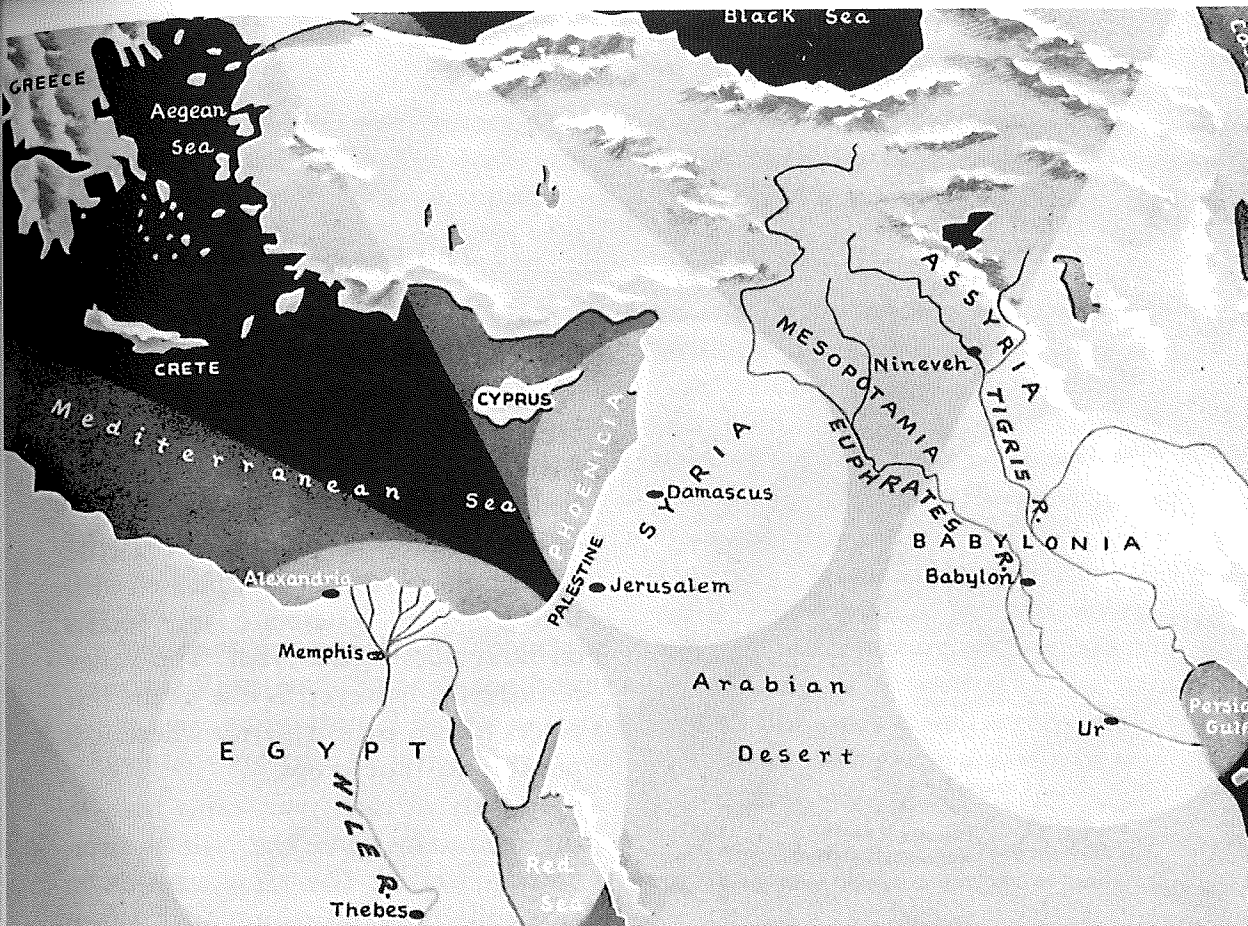
Cain Noe Abel Eve Adam

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT. Think carefully before you answer these questions.

1. Why did God make a companion for Adam?
2. Why is man so far above the animals?
3. Why is Noe called the second father of the human race?
4. Why did families try to live close together?
5. Why did many of the early people invent gods?

A WORD TO THE WISE. In the back of your book, you will find a list of words under the heading **GLOSSARY**. This means that the words listed are hard or unusual words that have been used in your text. Make a list of all the words in Chapter One that seemed difficult to you. Look them up in the glossary. Write down their meaning and their pronunciation.

[Note: If a word that puzzles you is not listed in the glossary, look for it in your dictionary.]



Chapter 2. Some Peoples of Ancient Times

FOR many hundreds of years, Noe's descendants moved from place to place, looking for land where they could grow their crops and raise their sheep. The rich soil of the Tigris-Euphrates river valley in Asia and the Nile River valley in Africa attracted many people to these regions.

Along the Nile, there grew up a great civilization with writing, art, government, and better methods of producing food. In the Tigris-Euphrates valley, man improved his writing. Other people, known as Phoenicians, who made their homes in the fertile land along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, helped spread civilization.

You can see these places on the map on this page. It was in these lands that the first great civilizations were developed. We shall read about these civilizations in Chapter Two, and we shall learn about the gifts these peoples gave us. We shall also learn how God chose the Hebrews to give us the greatest gift of all—belief in the One True God.