



Chinese Traditional Religions

Genesis 11:1-9

John Long, FBC BA Dec 7, 2008



Objectives:



- Comparison and contrast the traditional Chinese religions (i.e., Chinese folk religion, Confucianism and Taoism, and even Atheism).
- Understanding the different practices to more effectively reach out to Chinese.
- Providing a linkage of China in the Past history and Future in view of Christianity movement



Pre-historical China

- The Heavenly Sovereign (天皇);
- The Earthly Sovereign (地皇);
- The Human Sovereign (泰皇 or 人皇),

The *earliest* identify them as:

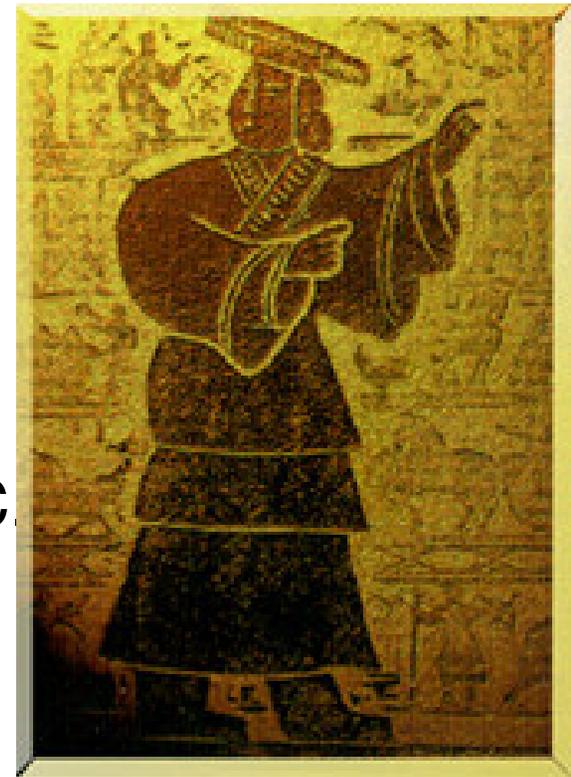
- Fuxi (伏羲)
- Nüwa (女媧)
- Shennong (神農)

Fuxi and Nüwa are respectively the god and goddess, husband and wife credited with being the ancestors of humankind **after a devastating flood.**



China's History before Confucius

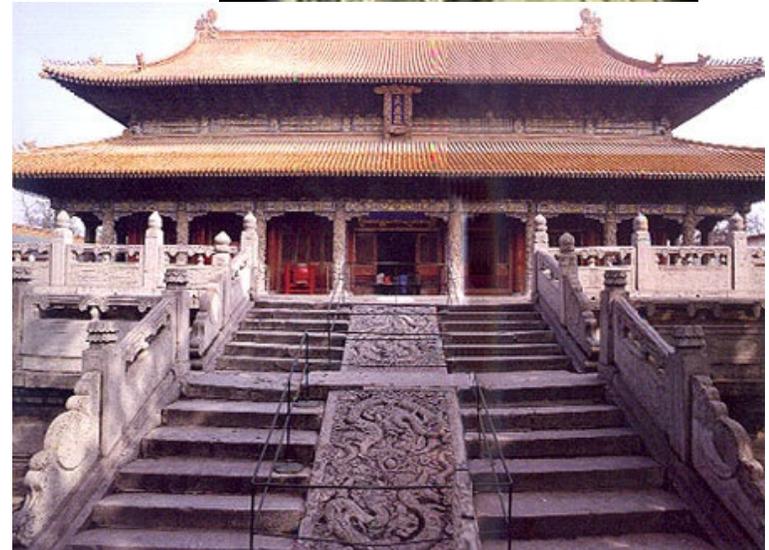
- The “Yellow Emperor”
- Xia Dynasty
 - 2070 B.C.–1600B.C.
- Shang Dynasty
 - 1600B.C.-1046 B.C.
- Zhou Dynasty 1046 B.C. - 256 B.C.
 - “Spring and Autumn” period
 - 770 B.C. - 476 B.C.
 - “Warring States” period
 - 475 B.C. - 256 B.C.





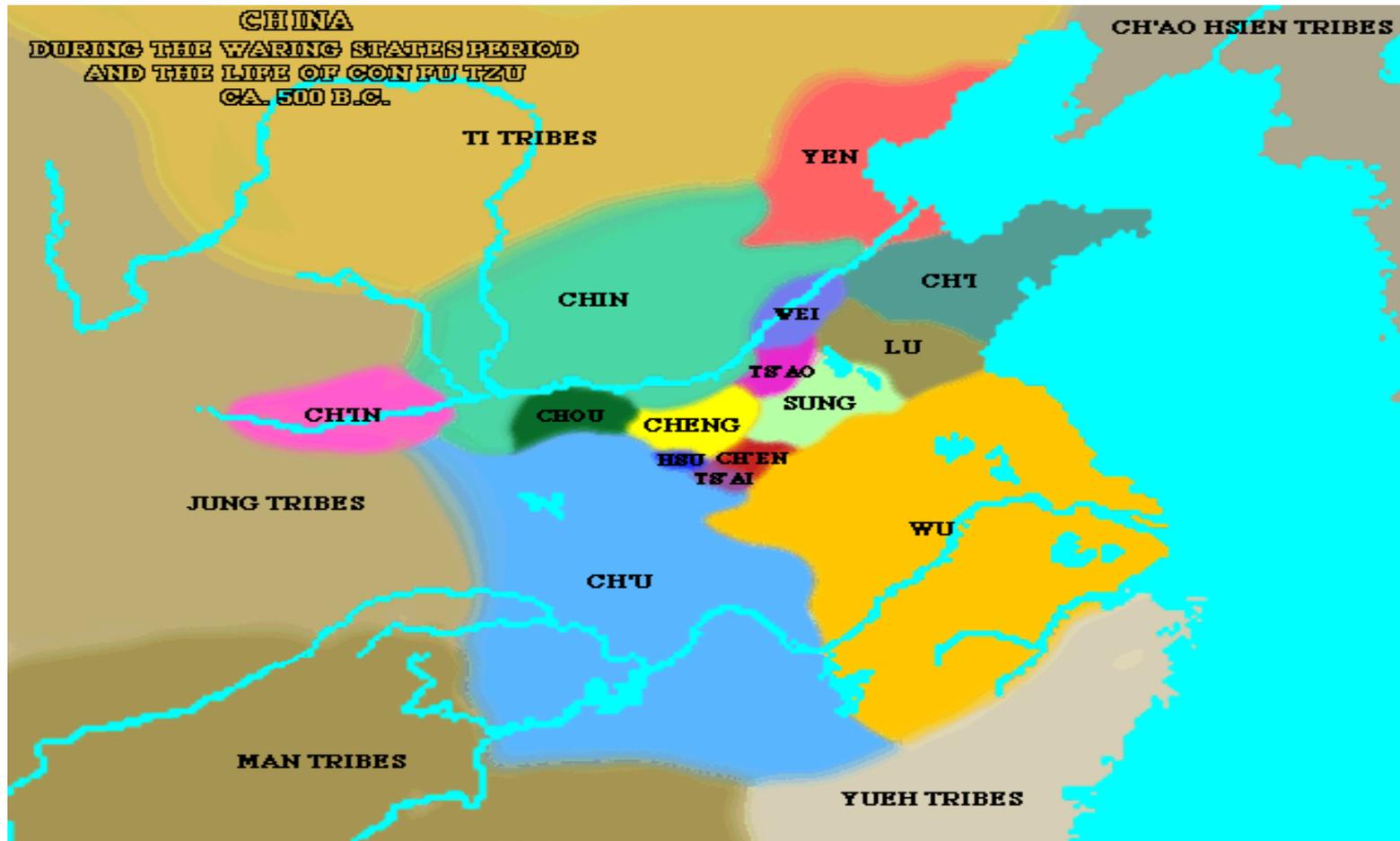
Confucius

- Born in 551 B.C.
- Died in 479 B.C.





China before Confucius

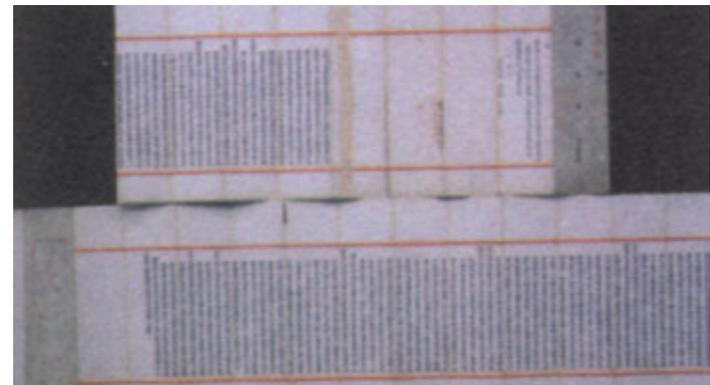




Confucianism



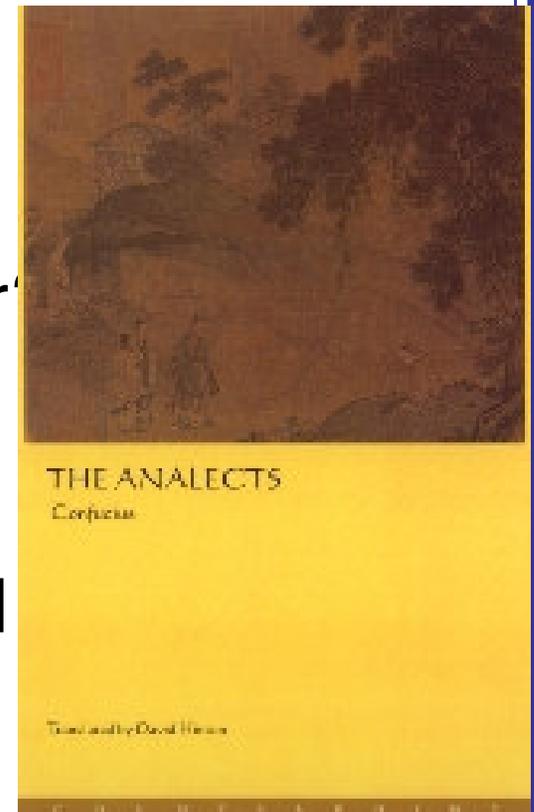
- Persecuted in Qin Dynasty
 - 221 B.C. - 206 B.C.
- But promoted by later rulers
- Reinforced by the civil examination system
 - “keju”: civil examination
 - from 605 to 1905 AD





Confucianism Influence

- Concerned primarily with restoring social stability and order
 - What is the basis of a stable, unified, and enduring social order?
- a complex system of moral, social and ethical philosophy
 - “only when character is cultivated are our families regulated; only when families are regulated are states well governed.”





Core Confucianism Values in Five relationships

Core Values	Relationship	Implications
Zhong (Justice, fealty)	ruler-subject	Hierarchical relationship
Xiao (Filial Piety)	father-child	Care for one's parents, not be rebellious. Show love, support and respect.
Bie (Separate Roles)	husband-wife	Generally, women are expected to be submissive.
Xu (Order)	elder brother -younger brother	The young are to respect the old
Xin (Trust)	friend-friend	Trustworthiness in the most treasured values



Li 禮

-
- Rites, ceremonies, proper behavior, and good manner
 - rituals, norms, institutions, or mores
 - the outer, conforming aspect of Confucianism
 - Performed in good faith, with everyone keeping to his or her proper role
 - Universal harmony - no need for physical sanctions, laws, or punishment



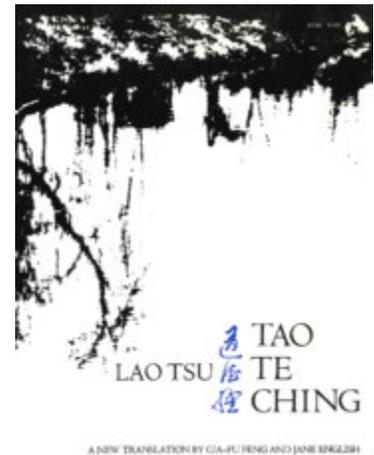
Ren 仁

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- Relationship between "two persons"
 - 'Do not do to others what we would not want others to do to us'.
 - Each role in the hierarchy of social relations had clearly defined duties
 - reciprocity or mutual responsibility
 - humaneness, love, kindness, benevolence, or virtue
 - the inner, reforming aspect of Confucianism



Taoism

- What defines Daoism?
 - the knowledge of natural categories
 - the manipulation of yin-yang correlations,
 - the concepts of self-cultivation taught by Laozi and Zhuangzi
 - empirical knowledge of plants and herbs, etc.





Taoist Values

- Taoism/Daoism valued speculative thought
 - Questioned and sometimes repudiated Confucian values
 - mocked ritual and propriety and decried group conventions
 - pessimistic about society
 - man is not capable of keeping order in society
 - social man is a misguided being
 - Naturalism - sought nature as refuge from man's world
 - scorned government, feared progress and civilization
 - wary of technical skills



Biblical vs. Chinese Timeline

Before Human History	3000 BC or earlier	2500 BC Chinese Language	1400 BC	Gautama Buddha (563 to 483 BC) Confucius 551-479B.C.)	Death & Resurrection of Jesus (30AD)	2008AD
		2852 to 2205 BC Chinese Documented History 'Yellow Emperor'	Oracle bone script (Chinese: 甲骨文 ;1300 B.C.)	At least the first 3 dynasties (thru 'Spring & Autumn 476BC) worshipped ' Shangdi ' (God of the Heaven)	Worship of Buddha did not come to China from India until 50B.C.	God of the Bible being re-introduced since European missionary
God created Universe & mankind	Tower of Babel (Nations & Languages)		Torah by Moses			

(See)



Bible Stories in Chinese

■ Chinese

- Hieroglyphic – sacred engravings
- Language Changes over time - this is Art not Science
- Chinese is the oldest (4,000 Years+), continuously written language in the world
- Characters are picture based, then combined simple pictures to express more complex thoughts

Let's consider the Bible stories and some of the traditional Chinese characters. Then from the evidence, you can determine for yourself whether the connection is a possibility.



魔

tempter

厶 + 儿 + 田 + 丿 = 鬼
secret man garden [alive] devil

鬼 + 林 + 广 = 魔
devil trees cover tempter

The Discovery of Genesis, C.H. Kang and Ethel Nelson, p. 4

Genesis 3:1-4

耶和華 神所造的、惟有蛇比田野一切的活物更狡猾。蛇對女人說、神豈是真說、不許你們喫園中所有樹上的果子麼。女人對蛇說、園中樹上的果子我們可以喫。惟有園當中那棵樹上的果子、神曾說、你們不可喫、也不可摸、免得你們死。蛇對女人說、你們不一定死、

Now the **serpent** was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the **trees** in the **garden**, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.



Lamb in place of Me to be Righteous (Gen.22:13)

Me - 我
- Lamb
羊

John 1:29

次日、約翰看見耶穌來到他那裡、就說、看哪、神的羔羊、除去[或作背負]世人罪孽的。

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!



First Man Created from Dust

造

to create

告土， 之

speaking dust, life mud *walk*

The Discovery of Genesis, C.H. Kang and Ethel Nelson, p. xiii

Genesis 2:7

耶和華 神用地上的塵土造人、將生氣吹在他鼻孔裡、他就成了有靈的活人、名叫亞當。

the LORD God formed the man from the **dust** of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of **life**, and the man became a living being.



Genesis 2:16-18

耶和華 神吩咐他**說**、園中各樣樹上的果子、你可以隨意喫。只是分別善惡樹上的果子、你不可喫、因為你喫的日子必定死。耶和華 神**說**、那人獨居不好、我要為他造一個配偶幫助他。

And the LORD **God** commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the **tree** of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

禁

*forbidden,
to warn*

林

two trees

示

*God
(abbreviated form)*



Boat (Ark) – Why 8?

船

boat

舟 八 口
vessel eight people

The Discovery of Genesis, C.H. Kang and Ethel Nelson, p. 55

1 Peter 3:20

就是那從前在挪亞豫備方舟、神
容忍等待的時候、不信從的人。當
時進入方舟、藉著水得救的不多、
只有八個人。

who disobeyed long ago when
God waited patiently in the days of
Noah while the ark was being
built. In it only a few people, **eight**
in all, were saved through water,



Online Resources + Credits

What are your thoughts about the stories behind the Chinese Characters?

Are they co-incidences or God-designed?

Want to know more? Check these out!

<http://students.washington.edu/cbsf/cool/Chinese.swf>

Resources:

True Son of Heaven

The Discovery of Genesis

God's Promise to the Chinese



Conclusion

John 14:6

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

I Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.