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*R.M. Huffman*

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More than a thousand years have passed since the fall of man and the exile from Eden. The earth has been cursed, humans scrape meager livings from the soil, and legendary beasts roam the wilderness. The Grigori, angels charged with watching over mankind, have abandoned their appointed angelic stations to take human wives. Their offspring are the Nephilim, giant warriors with birthrights both in heaven and on earth. When a leviathan attacks his lands, Noah, a hardworking farmer, must find a way to defeat it. He enlists Nephilim aid to protect his family from the monstrous foe. Bonds between the humans and the giants are forged in the heat of battle; however, harmony won by a hard-fought victory is short-lived. The Grigori have seized sovereignty of the ancient city of Enoch. What is more, their irresistible leader has become obsessed with Noah's enchanting bride-to-be. Friendships and faith are soon tested, as a devastating act of betrayal by the woman he loves thrusts Noah into the middle of a revolution against the fallen angels. Meanwhile, his Nephilim comrades must decide, once and for all, whether they will fight on the side of the humans or the angels, and their choice may mean the difference between the earth's salvation...or its damnation.

## Antediluvian Details

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## From Reader Review Antediluvian for online ebook

### Elizabeth Ray says

Okay, I haven't finished this book. It's not my usual fare- I like a lot of chick lit and because it is "heavier," it's taking me quite a while to finish it. But I won this on goodreads so long ago and feel bad I haven't reviewed it yet. So for a temporary review, this book is very, very good so far. I learned a lot more about the time before Noah from this book and am happy to say it doesn't contradict anything in the Bible (so far), but really expands upon the little detail we are given in the Bible. This is a great "guy's book" with lots of action and adventure. I love how supernatural creatures are part of the story as well. I'll update this when I finish. :)

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### Robert Mullin says

I have a weak spot for antediluvian fiction. That is to say, novels set before the deluge of Noah. Roughly one-third of recorded history takes place in a scantily-reported half-dozen chapters of the Bible, whetting one's appetite with a tantalizing and fascinating picture of the "world that then was" (2 Peter 3:6). So it was with great interest that I read the novel eponymous of the period, set with the intriguing tagline "his blood flows in your veins."

Now, because I know the biblical story of Noah, and know that all races on earth are descended from him (as they were once from Adam), I was a little surprised to discover that the line had very little to do with the novel itself. The story is indeed Noah's (most fiction set in that time period seems to be some variant of Noah's story; either from his perspective, or the wife of one of the sons, or some combination), but it does not really have much to do with his being the progenitor of the current human race. Instead, it is a completely fictitious account of his youth, focusing on the problems that occur when a serpent of a different kind enters the garden of his own idyllic life.

The novel starts with two events that are perhaps more relevant to the series as a whole than this story in particular: the death of Adam (the first man) and the arrival of the Grigori (the angels who left their heavenly abode for love of human women). Then it skips forward in time to Noah, whose life is thrown into upheaval when a Leviathan enters the river near his home, and starts preying upon humans and animals alike. The men of Eden (apparently near the Garden, but not in it, as humans were cast out a millennium before) go to an unlikely source for help: the city of Enoch, named after the son of Cain. There they seek the assistance of the Nephilim, demi-god offspring of the Grigori.

The Leviathan is in keeping with modern creationist thought on its identity, a sarcosuchus (something about which I have no firm opinion; this possibility makes about as much sense as anything else proposed, and more sense than some). Also consistent with young-earth creationism is the presence of several dinosaurs, many of which are used as mounts or beasts of burden. The first encounter with one briefly leaps in time for a modern definition for the clarity of the reader. Unfortunately, this is the only case in which this happens, so it takes a bit of imagination and familiarity with saurians to understand the references to other such animals. While these no doubt sit hard with evolutionists, the presentation is logical and not overdone.

The Leviathan's defeat brings about the potential for a union between the estranged lines of brothers Seth and Cain, and that is where the true trouble begins.

Huffman does an admirable job of presenting the pre-deluge world in a fairly realistic manner, particularly given the somewhat fantastic nature of some of its implications from scripture and pseudopigraphal literature. While I confess that I would probably have preferred a novel about another character, I do not fault the author for this; it is simply a byproduct of the fact that I have read so many different takes on the epoch, and Noah is a natural favorite for biblical historical and speculative fiction. Huffman's approach is unique enough to hold your interest throughout the story, and feels quite cinematic. His portrayal of the Grigori and Nephilim is perhaps one of the most sympathetic I have read, and is quite true to the source (primarily the book of Enoch). The content deals with adult themes, but none gratuitous or uncomfortable. Rather, they are part of the whole cloth from which the story is cut. The ending is perhaps a little less than satisfactory because it leaves you feeling as though the major events have not had quite the impact you might expect on the characters involved. On the other hand, it does cause the reader to speculate on how they will eventually tie in to the more familiar story, and where the fiction will lead into history. The only real quibbles would be the tendency of the point-of-view to wander whenever multiple characters are involved and a slight feel of detachment to the characters at times. This, however, could be the fault of the reviewer, and not the author, due to the aforementioned bias. Overall, the book is strong, with solid worldbuilding and an excellent vocabulary. Because the author is also an excellent artist, one could wish for an illustrated edition of this phenomenal-looking book, but I also understand that illustrated novels for adults are perhaps less in vogue these days than they once were. The story feels like a solid fantasy novel, but has the added benefit of being within the realm of plausibility.

Like the word "alien," "antediluvian" is both an adjective and a noun, and thus a powerful minimalist title to convey a concept. Since this story does not deal at all with the impending flood, nor does it foreshadow it, it might seem a misnomer, were it not for the fact that the seeds of destruction are planted within the novel's pages. Any story set in this period is going to require a great deal of speculation, and it's always interesting to see how some of the more mythic elements as well as creationist theories are drawn upon and synthesized to flesh out scripture. I will be very interested to see where Huffman goes with this series, and am looking forward to the sequel.

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### **David says**

a pretty good fantasy imagining of what the world before the flood was like. The adventures of young Noah, decently done.

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### **Brian Neises says**

Really enjoyed this book. I've always enjoyed the idea of an antediluvian novel, but the speculative nature is really a minefield. I thought the author did a great job creating a believable world.

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The only drawback for me was TOO MANY CHARACTERS. I could barely keep them straight and at times decided to just ignore the characters and focus on the action because it wasn't worth investing in knowing who the character was. An addition of a family trees would have been a huge help!

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## **Michael Kochuga says**

My review of this novel comes second hand. I actually gave this book to a friend as it is more within his realm of literature. He has thoroughly enjoyed the story painted by these pages and has found the religious lens through which the story is viewed very illuminating and appropriately handed. There is no hammering of God here, merely a world funneled through faith with a ample sprinkling of fantasy.

Review of a won copy via Goodreads...

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## **Sheila says**

There are lots of fantasy novels (and series) out there, set in an imaginary pre-flood earth with angelic powers and dominions, giants, monsters, and human beings. R. M. Huffman's *Antediluvian* offers the same sense of mystery, power and fantasy as the rest, while anchoring its characters in those long "gaps" of the Biblical account. Where others offer a frisson of surprise when a Biblical character appears, this tale offers the joy of history and mythology hinted behind the exploits of Canonical friends.

If Methuselah lived over nine-hundred years, are we allowed to ask what happened in between? *Antediluvian*'s author imagines battles, monsters and intrigue, adding high fantasy to the Bible's lists of births and death. The result is well-drawn, well-written and well-told, convincingly creating a culture where leviathans threaten villages, giant sons of angels seek truth, dinosaurs roam, and the fallen deny their God.

If you're a creationist, you'll delight in the young earth feel of this novel. If you're not, the fantasy should draw you in as surely as it does in any other pre-deluge fiction. And if you're just looking for a fun new series of monsters, myth and men, this looks like a good place to start.

Well-told fantasy with a surprisingly different and well-polished feel, this novel's pleasingly complete and well worth the read. And if the final passage does indeed hint at sequels to come, they'll be well worth looking out for too.

Disclosure: I won a free copy of this novel and I offer my honest review.

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## **Clifford Donathan says**

A fun page turner. I really enjoyed this book.

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## **David Dubrow says**

R.M. Huffman's research, writing, and attention to detail take familiar fantasy elements and transform them into something extraordinary in this pre-Flood adventure novel, one that is definitely worth your time. It's a fascinating story about the world-that-was described so sparingly in the Book of Genesis, where morning

mists covered the Earth in lieu of rain, Watcher angels gave into lust to lay with human women, and dragon-like sauropods were used as beasts of burden. The offspring of these human-angel couplings, the giant Nephilim, are major figures here, as are the more recognizable Biblical characters of Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah.

The narrative begins on a small scale, as the descendants of Adam, living in post-Fall Eden, are brought into cultural (and sometimes physical) conflict with the sons of Cain, living in the massive, decadent city of Enoch. It explodes from there into a larger story rife with horrific murders, shocking betrayals, and even a tragic seduction. Noah, the protagonist, is forced by events to move away from the more pedestrian role of farmer and architect into freedom fighter and prophet.

The lavish descriptions, speculative world-building, and vivid battle scenes make this a world you can look forward to visiting again in the upcoming sequel. Four stars.

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### **thebonebreaker says**

And just like that, I have a new favorite author!

When this book arrived in the mail, my 9-year-old son (who has yet to learn not to judge a book by its cover) immediately proclaimed, "that looks like an awesome book!" I am happy to say that my son was absolutely correct. Not only is it awesome, it is phenomenal!

This book is an epic in every sense of the word. It is full of intrigue, espionage, action, violence, and treachery, as well as several twists and turns. It has everything one could ask for!

Huffman has written an ambitious, captivating, and richly-detailed tale that thoroughly brings to life the Biblical World.

The book begins 930 years after Creation, when Adam is on his deathbed. It then jumps ahead 206 years later with Lamech swearing to teach his son (Noah) to hold strong to his faith, even if the world turns against him. (and we all know how that turned out)

From there, the story hurtles at a break-neck speed, eventually building into an intensely gripping, emotional story that explores the depth and power of love and forgiveness.

In choosing to tell this "real-world" story, (albeit heavily fictionalized) Huffman stands above other similar genres as he has fleshed out a world and characters that at one time did exist! (and even if you know your Bible, that does not mean there are not going to be any surprises in store)

I am now eagerly awaiting, with bated breath, the release of Book Two. I have no idea when that is going to be, but it won't be soon enough!

I would be amiss if I didn't also mention the publisher, Lampion Press, who did an outstanding job putting this book together - with its art, maps, glossary, pictures, etc.

You helped make the book even more enjoyable. Superbly done!

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**Liz says**

Was good the first few chapters. Totally a book for boys/men. haha! My husband loved it. Not me.

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**Jason says**

I really enjoyed the story. It went a very different direction than I expected. My only criticism is (for me) it seemed like the author used unnecessarily fancy words that pulled me out of the story ("distal to the elbow"? why not just "below the elbow" or "above the wrist" or "on the forearm"?). Luckily, the story kept pulling me back in and I'm looking forward to reading the sequel.

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