

archs down to *Noah* and his sons, and their names also, with all those before the confusion and dispersion at *Babel*; and likewise the names of places, as of the garden of *Eden*, from נֶגַד delight, pleasure, it being a very pleasant place; and the land of *Nod* from נָדַד to wander about; *Cain* being an exile and wanderer in it: now these being the names of persons and places before the confusion of tongues, clearly shew what language was spoken before that time, namely the *Hebrew*, which therefore seems to be the primitive one.

*Fifthly*, It is notorious that the law and the prophets, or the books of the old testament, were written in the *Hebrew* tongue. The law was written in it on two tables of stone by the finger of God himself, and the sacred books were written in the same language, under divine inspiration. Now it is reasonable to conclude, that the same language God wrote and inspired the prophets to write in, he himself spoke in to *Adam*, and inspired him with it, or however gave him a faculty of speaking it, and which he did speak, and therefore may be concluded to be the first and primitive tongue.

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