

Newsletter August 2015

In last month's newsletter we discussed biblical creationism as opposed to cosmic and geological evolutionism. By neglecting the only credible written account that we have of the origin of all things, mankind devised his own theories based upon insufficient data derived from presently observed physical impressions of creation – completely ignoring the probability of an intelligent cause originating in the mind and activity of an all-powerful supernatural being. To the evolutionist, a cause is not even relevant inasmuch as in their minds everything came about as a colossal accident of matter, energy, and time having no intelligent purpose. In this newsletter we shall expand upon this discussion to include biblical catastrophism as opposed to geological uniformitarianism – specifically as pertaining to the great flood described in the Genesis record.

If Scripture is regarded by evolutionists at all, the Genesis flood is characterized as a regional flood that affected only a small area of the earth's surface, inasmuch as contemporary rains and storms could not produce a world-wide flood. Nevertheless, God's written Word gives us credible information regarding God's purpose in bringing about a global flood as a severe judgment for mankind's sinful rebellion. It also gives us a record of the flood's devastating effects, but we have not been given specific information regarding the underlying natural processes that were employed by God in carrying out this terrible destruction. For believers of sound faith this detailed information is not all that important, but when faith is being undermined by speculative secular theories that directly oppose the Genesis account, we must make an effort to put forth a reasonable hypothesis regarding this information that corresponds with Scripture lest many of the faithful be subverted toward a secular mindset. As in our earlier study of the creation of the universe and the earth, creation science again helps us fill in underlying geological details of the Genesis flood, which the Bible only implies as being of lesser importance than its purpose, effect, and aftermath.

Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology* proposing a consistent geological evolution of the planet earth was first published in 1832. Lyell was a contemporary and personal advocate of the work of Charles Darwin as recorded in his *On the Origin of the Species* published in 1859. Lyell's geological uniformitarianism denies any catastrophic geological events since the Ice Epoch, which Lyell originally set as having ended at 1,000,000 BC. Later he was forced to revise that date radically downward to 35,000 BC as a consequence of his observations of water erosion rates measured at Niagara Falls. Uniformitarianism states that all earth changes have been unfailingly slow and uniform following that time. The evolutionist only acknowledges changes brought about by erosion caused by wind and water and occasional localized disruption of the earth's surface due to volcanic eruption and earthquakes. On that basis, he must fully reject any possibility of a global flood having taken place because such an event would contradict his secular interpretation of physical evidence found in layers of the earth's surface that are being used to support today's secular hypothesis of geological evolution. The Genesis flood as described in Scripture was most certainly a catastrophic event of the first order of its kind, and it is summarily dismissed by evolutionists because it happened quite suddenly and cannot be explained by naturally reoccurring incremental processes over a long period of time.

Assuming that the actual date of the creation of Adam was somewhere near 4004 BC (a biblically supported date that we discussed in detail in last month's newsletter), biblical genealogies found in Genesis Chapter 5 would indicate that the flood must have occurred somewhere near the year 2350 BC. Considering early man's vast active lifespan, the population of the earth could have easily increased to somewhere near 10 billion within the 1650 years between Adam's creation and the cataclysmic flood of Noah's day. Mankind could likely have spread out over nearly all of the earth's surface – which may have originally consisted of a single interconnected land mass. Scripture tells us that the human race had become exceedingly depraved since Adam's fall – so evil in thought and action that God determined to destroy all mankind with a massive global flood. God determined to preserve future generations of humanity through saving eight people consisting of Noah and his wife and Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth along with their wives (cf. Ge.6:5-13,18).

God preserved Noah and his family in a great vessel referred to in Scripture as an ark (Hebrew: *taybaw* meaning a “box” or a “casket”). The construction of the ark was an extraordinary project undertaken by Noah at God's specific direction, taking him 100 years to complete on dry ground. It was designed as an enormous oblong box-like barge consisting of three decks – each of which was divided into rooms, stalls, and nests. The ark's specific dimensions, as given in Scripture, are recorded in cubits, where a cubit is loosely defined as the length of a man's arm from his fingertips to his elbow. Assuming an 18-inch cubit that would be about average

for a man's forearm today, the ark's overall dimensions would have been about 450 feet in length by 75 feet in width and about 45 feet in height (cf. Ge.6:15) with a probable draft of about 22 feet. It may very well have been larger, perhaps exceeding 500 feet in length, because larger-sized cubits could have been in use in Noah's day – assuming a taller stature of man at that time (cf. Ge.6:4). The ark had no prow, and no sail or other means of motive power inasmuch as its sole purpose was to float upon great surging waters without rapidly spinning or capsizing. It was greatly fortified to carry an extremely heavy load that would eventually consist of Noah's family (cf. Ge.7:7) as well as a broad sampling of every air breathing animal and bird found upon the earth. God caused these representative animals to come to Noah and to enter into the ark in pairs – male and female (cf. Ge.6:19,20) over a period of seven days prior to the flood (cf. Ge.7:4). Noah was 600 years old when the flood waters finally came upon the earth (cf. Ge.7:6).

The primary cause of the flood was unquestioningly God Himself as He executed divine judgment. Concerning secondary natural causes of the flood, which God may have employed in carrying out his command, creation scientists must apply careful speculation in association with the biblical accounts without doing them violence. At the same time, he must consider all of the remaining physical evidence available upon today's earth. As we pointed out in last month's newsletter, many creationists believe, through a very literal interpretation of the text of Genesis 1:7, that a water mantle or canopy covered the early earth. It is apparent that this water mantle no longer exists today. Therefore, it is believed that at the time of the flood, the mantle gave way to produce the copious amounts of rain that continued unabated for 40 days and nights. Moreover, the Genesis account states that a huge volume of water contained within the ocean depths was released across land areas in great tidal waves to the extent that they and the rain together eventually covered over the peaks of the highest mountains of that day by at least 22 feet (cf. Ge. 7:11,19,20).

To satisfy this further condition of great tidal waves, some creation scientists have put forth an hypothesis that the eruption of a massive volcano (or series of volcanoes) took place, thus disrupting the water mantle. Others speculate that a sudden reversal of the magnetic poles of the earth broke the mantle – assuming that such a reversal is possible. Either event could have simultaneously set forth massive earthquakes causing great ocean tsunamis. Still another hypothesis, which seems to more closely account for all of the physical evidence as well as closely agreeing with the Genesis account, is that a large cosmic mass was directed by God to pass in close proximity to the earth at the time of the great flood.

The moon's craters as well as features of the earth's surface clearly demonstrate catastrophic damage that has been caused by large meteors in the past, and the contemporary astronomer is quite aware of many other objects in space, known and unknown, that could someday cause widespread destruction upon the earth through collision or close passes. Although the mathematical likelihood of such an encounter at any given time is very low, it could be only a matter of time until such an event must take place in the future. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to assume that God could have arranged just such an encounter to initiate the great Genesis flood. The scenario for just such a catastrophic encounter will now be considered in more detail.

A large cosmic mass passing nearby and becoming trapped within the gravitational field of the earth within an elliptical orbit would have brought forth enormous alterations to the earth's surface through multiple passes before it finally escaped into outer space. It would not only have disrupted the water mantle resulting in extremely heavy rain over a great period of time, but through gravitational attraction it could have alternately lifted and dropped the ocean floors as it passed by and the earth turned on its axis – causing great chaotic flood surges of ocean water, which together with the heavy rain could have very well submerged the entire earth's surface in a relatively short period of time.

Although this cosmic mass could have been an asteroid, a large comet would in many ways better account for all the physical evidence that remains upon the earth today. A comet consists of a frozen mass of water, various other gases, and still smaller amounts of rock and other minerals. If this large orbiting mass at the time of the flood was a comet, the ice would eventually begin breaking up, releasing large amounts of water and ice in the process. Its water would have added to the rainfall flowing from the mantle nearer the equator, while its ice may have been attracted intact by the earth's two magnetic poles. Remains have been found of great mammoths living in northern regions of the earth that were instantaneously frozen where they stood thus substantiating the general hypothesis of a very sudden freeze of the polar regions. The resulting build up of ice at the poles would also account for the geological ice age in which great glaciers surged outward from the

earth's poles – but at a much more recent date than evolutionary geologists would suppose.

The flood waters prevailed upon the earth for 150 days (cf. Ge. 7:21; 8:3) after which the rain stopped and the fountains of the deep were also turned off (cf. Ge.8:2). When the great orbiting mass (asteroid or comet) finally escaped the gravitational pull of the earth into space, the oceans would have receded even deeper into their beds in response to the released gravitational pull and the collapse of empty cavities that had once held water under the ocean's floor – thus providing a much deeper basin than before to contain the increased amount of water the earth's surface had received. It is speculated that mountains before the flood, may have extended to a height between 5 and 7 thousand feet above sea level at most. They were forced upward to much greater heights as the ocean floors receded. Today's Mount Everest, for instance, is more than 25 thousand feet high and still other mountain ranges of today greatly exceed the probable heights of antediluvian mountains.

Although neither an asteroid nor a comet is mentioned in Scripture in connection with the Genesis flood, thus making it impossible to be dogmatic about this hypothesis, some credence to this theory can be found in the Book of Revelation in which God's wrath will a second time be loosed upon the earth out of heaven. In the future, a great catastrophic astral display will come about followed by four trumpeted judgments (cf. *CRC* Book III, pages 624-628). During the third trumpet judgment “...there fell a great star [Gr: *astare'*] from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters” (Re.8:10). This future astral approach will not involve a close encounter, but a direct impact. The Greek word *astare'* could be interpreted figuratively as a glowing meteor or a comet. We should note, however, that a literal star is gaseous and has no solid core. Although tsunamis can not be discounted as being produced from this future encounter, this second judgment will not result in a massive flood of water over the entire earth's surface, but will instead signal a fiery assault on the earth and its inhabitants from out of heaven (cf. 2Pe.3:6,7).

The ark eventually became grounded on mount Ararat as the waters began to recede (cf. Ge.8:1-4). When Noah stepped out of the ark, some 371 days after having entering it, he would have walked out into a vastly different world from that which he would have previously known – yet one with which we are more familiar today. God gave Noah his promise, through the sign of a rainbow, never to destroy the earth again by a great flood (cf. Ge. 9:12-16). The rainbow may have been a new phenomena inasmuch as diffused lighting conditions under a water mantle may not have been sufficient to have earlier produced this effect, or it may be that God only assigned a new significance to it as a symbol of his promise to Noah. The stars, which may have been visible as blurry light sources through a translucent mantle, would have then shown out as bright clear pinpoints of light against a very dark night sky in the mantle's absence. The sun would no longer have been seen as a bright light in the sky, but an extremely bright orb, and the moon would have clearly shown forth the scarred face that we see today.

In the absence of the mantle, direct heat radiating from the sun was concentrated at the equator causing the ice sheets to recede toward the poles over a relatively short period of time. This equatorial heat would also have set up enormous atmospheric systems of weather in opposition to the much colder regions near the poles bringing forth high winds, storms, and massive hurricanes and typhoons much like that which we experience today. Moreover, the mantle would no longer exist to protect the earth's inhabitants from harmful radiation emitted by the sun thus speeding up the aging process in both animals and mankind. As a consequence, we find that the lifespan of man rapidly receded from an average age of 900 years before the flood until it rapidly fell to today's average life expectancy of 70 years (cf. Ps. 90:10).

A time-line based upon sedimentary strata fabricated by evolutionists in support of their position regarding a long and slow process of evolution is commonly found in many science textbooks. The evolutionist considers those layers as having been slowly deposited over vast periods of time in which he can read a record of an evolutionary process taking place over various eras each subdivided into various shorter periods. The creation scientist, however, views these layers as compelling evidence of the great surging effects of the Genesis flood wherein layers of soil, silt, and antediluvian fossil-remains were chaotically deposited one over the other in a relatively short period of time. The undulating title surges of the great flood would clearly account for the large sedimentary layers that we find deposited one upon the other all over the earth today, which contain the fossil remains of the antediluvian earth. They are composed of the remains of sea life, which came from the antediluvian oceans, mixed with the remains of various plants and animals that came from land areas in various overlapping layers. The extremely low radiation absorption rate of plant materials before the flood when

compared to today's more rapid rate gives the illusion through radiometric decay of vast age for these relics— if a uniform absorption rate of today is incorrectly assumed. Animal remains found along side buried plant materials give an illusion of their vast age as well – all of which the evolutionist embraces as factual.

Therefore, we find that initial knowledge and assumptions at the starting point must affect the outcome of any study. To theorize before one has sufficient data or to reject information out of hand because it does not suit our sensibility, causes one to twist the facts to fit a preconceived hypothesis that only satisfies our own inclination. This is hardly a sound scientific approach in which all credible evidence must be considered without personal bias – but, then, the evolutionist does not consider the biblical record credible. The geological evolutionist has made erroneous assumptions that could never have been made if he had considered the information contained in the written record provided by the very One who created the very object of his study. This intentional neglect is much like attempting to assemble a very complex device of which we have no knowledge concerning its final form or purpose by trying to figure out everything for ourselves instead of reading and following an assembly manual provided by its manufacturer – that we irrationally distrust as being irrelevant. The assembled device would very likely be nothing like that intended by its designer. It would not function properly if at all, and some leftover pieces would never fit in place.

In like manner, the evolutionist has thrown away the Bible as being untrustworthy and therefore beyond scientific consideration leading him to construct an untenable model which he nevertheless vehemently defends as scientifically factual. Today's educational institutions and the media at large consistently put forth the geological evolutionist hypothesis as proven fact, when in reality it is a failed hypothesis that cannot ever be satisfactorily proven. This places it in the same category of “junk science” along with the theory of organic evolution that was espoused by Charles Darwin. For that reason, evolutionism should be abandoned as a false religious philosophy that is held by the devout atheist.

Creation science considers all of the same physical evidence found on the earth and properly attempts to verify it with the biblical account, every step along the way. This account is better supported by existing physical evidence than is the failed hypothesis of evolutionism. Of course, scientific models constructed by creationists are hardly infallible because a certain amount of human speculation is unavoidably involved. Nevertheless, they must more closely resemble reality because God's written account of all that was involved in the origin of all things has been considered in their assembly. We readily admit that the specific scenario concerning secondary natural causes for the Genesis flood set forth in this newsletter may or may not be accurate in every detail, but it does clearly demonstrate that genuine science and biblical faith need not be mutually exclusive. It is not science, which is an honored discipline, that is at fault here, but rather radical unproven hypotheses that are incorrectly being put forth as “scientific fact” by devout atheists.

As elect Christians, who firmly believe in the integrity of the entire Bible as the very Word of God, dismissing any part of the creation record including the Genesis flood in favor of an atheistic philosophy thinly disguised as authentic science is not wise, nor is it rational. In denying the accuracy of the creation account, we must as a consequence question the reliability of all of God's Word. In doing so, we would need to abandon all sound evidential basis for our faith. If the Bible is riddled with gross errors at the very beginning how could we trust it when it later speaks of the doctrine of salvation to be found in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? We would only find ourselves adrift in the midst of a sea of devout atheists for whom there is no expectation or hope of eternal life to be gained through a gracious salvation from their sin – which they angrily refuse to acknowledge.

Evolutionism pertaining to the origin of the universe, the earth, and mankind as it has been exposed in this series of newsletters (June thru August 2015) is a component of the great satanic delusion that will overwhelm the earth in the days prior to the great judgments of God and the return of Christ to the earth (cf. 2Th. 2:9-12). Many once-sound biblically conservative churches have submitted to the overwhelming barrage of atheistic propaganda through total silence on this subject, while most liberal-minded churches have openly embraced it in hopes of remaining in good standing with the secular community. Today's pseudo-Christian has readily accepted this delusion as a matter of convenient compromise with the world, but any temporal church espousing this faulty fabrication must be abandoned by the elect believer as being both apostate and reprobate of the true faith. There is still a number of temporal churches that diligently hold fast to God's Word in opposition to the faulty secular teaching of evolutionism, but they are rapidly vanishing from the scene as we continue to approach the great apostasy of the last days. © Arthur J. Smith August 2015