

TWO WORLDWIDE FLOODS

PART III

AS SEEN IN THE OPENING CHAPTERS OF GENESIS
PRE- AND POST-FLOOD METEOROLOGY & HYDROLOGY

By Arlen L. Chirwood

A basic understanding of meteorology and hydrology, as different things in these two sciences pertain to that which occurred during the Noachian Flood (and even the previous Flood in Genesis chapter one), will help one to understand that which God brought to pass at this time. And, along with this is “the times of restitution [‘restoration’] of all things” in Acts 3:21, which fits into the overall scope of the matter as well.

Pre-Flood Meteorological Conditions

First, meteorological conditions, as we know them today, did not exist prior to the time of the Flood during Noah’s day. Prior to this time, with what was evidently a vapor canopy enveloping the earth, above the atmosphere, the entire earth could only have existed in a greenhouse-type setting (though not in a true greenhouse-type setting, for air masses moved about [Gen. 3:8 — translate “cool” as “breeze,” evidently associated with God’s *Breath*; Heb., *Ruach*]). Temperatures would have been fairly uniform throughout the earth, with no polar caps covered with ice, as we know them today.

And this accounts for man during modern times finding such things as the remains of vast quantities of tropical vegetation and tropical animals encased in ice in the Arctic regions.

With this greenhouse-type setting, meteorological conditions could only have been quite different from those existing on the earth today — a condition which lasted for over sixteen centuries, from the creation of Adam to the Flood during Noah’s day, ten generations later.

During this time there were no weather systems of the nature seen today (high and low pressure areas, frontal zones, developing thunderstorms, etc.).

Post-Flood Meteorological Conditions Differences — Pre-Flood, Post-Flood

The whole of the earth’s present weather system was set in motion at a time in the past, with this system and the motion of this system both introduced and sustained by two things:

- 1) *First, by the sun producing an uneven heating of the earth’s surface.*
- 2) *Then, forces produced by the rotation of the earth governing the movement of air masses resulting from the sun’s uneven heating of the earth’s surface.*

Remove the first, *the uneven heating of the earth’s surface*, and there would be no air masses of the nature under discussion for the forces produced by the rotation of the earth to move (*i.e.*, different pressure systems, frontal zones, etc.). Apart from the first, *the uneven heating of the earth’s surface*, the complete worldwide weather system, as it exists today, would change completely.

One will search in vain for any mention of “rain” falling during the period extending from Adam to Noah. There was no uneven heating of the earth’s surface — something necessary to produce conditions which would lift air to higher altitudes, cooling the air until it reached its condensation point, at which time the water vapor in the atmosphere would condense and fall back to the earth as some type precipitation (rain, snow,

etc.). Apart from this sequence, which begins with the sun producing an uneven heating of the earth’s surface, resulting in conditions which will lift the air (convection, frontal zones, air masses moved over mountainous terrain), there can be no rain or any other type precipitation.

These conditions did not exist in the antediluvian world. Thus, there was no “rain” (Gen. 2:5). Rather, God provided for “a mist from the earth” to ascend and “water the whole face of the ground” (Gen. 2:6).

Also during this time, with harmful rays of the sun evidently being filtered out by the vapor canopy above the atmosphere (along with a probable difference in atmospheric pressure from that which exists today, due to the presence of the vapor canopy above the atmosphere), man lived for hundreds of years and could beget children during at least much of this time (*e.g.*, Noah begetting sons at the age of five hundred in Gen. 5:32).

The average life-span of man during this time, covering the ten generations from Adam to Noah (excluding Enoch, who was translated), was *nine hundred twelve years*.

But once the vapor canopy had been removed, allowing the sun’s rays to come through unfiltered (with a probable change in atmospheric pressure on earth as well, due to the loss of the vapor canopy above the atmosphere), *man’s longevity was cut in half almost immediately* (Shem, 600 years; Shem’s son Arphaxad, 438 years; Arphaxad’s son Salah, 433 years). Going on two more generations beyond Salah, *man’s longevity was cut almost in half again* (Peleg and his son Reu, both 239 years; Reu’s son Serug, 230 years). And by the time of Abraham, three generations beyond Serug, ten generations beyond Noah (350 years from the Flood to the birth of Abraham) — with a continued, progressive genetic deterioration within man — *the length of time man lived was down to between one and two hundred years* (Abraham, 137 years; Isaac, 180

years; Jacob, 147 years; Joseph, 110 years). And man today fares worse yet.

Once the waters above the atmosphere had all fallen through the opened floodgates of heaven, doing away with the greenhouse-type conditions which had previously existed on earth, meteorological conditions as we know them today came into existence. *An uneven heating of the earth's surface by the sun* — something which had not heretofore existed because of the vapor canopy surrounding the earth — set all of it in motion.

At this time, Noah and his family were in the ark above the Ararat mountain range, floating on a deep, shoreless ocean. And, apart from any lapse of time (after God had closed the floodgates of heaven and had stopped the subterranean waters from coming up), God began a restorative work.

Revealed Means of Restoration

At this time, on the 150th day, at the termination of waters coming down from above and up from below, God's Spirit or Breath began to move over the waters (Gen. 8:1 [restorative activity which *MUST* be patterned after and done for the same end result as previously set forth and established in Gen. 1:1-2:3]). Then God immediately began to raise and lower different land masses (v. 3; Ps. 104:5-9), causing different bodies of water to move from one point to another.

Some Bible students knowing or understanding that which Scripture has to say about God restoring the earth in Genesis chapter eight, causing dry land to reappear above the waters, often give little thought to "how" this was brought to pass.

Ignoring that stated in Ps. 104:5-9, some think in terms of *an evaporation of the water over time*, which, of course, is not feasible at all. Water doesn't simply evaporate and then just disappear. Rather, the evaporation of water saturates the atmosphere, and the atmosphere can only hold so much water content before it becomes completely saturated

(depending on the pressure and temperature of the air being saturated).

The atmosphere (regardless of the pressure and temperature) can actually hold *very little water content before it becomes completely saturated* (an amount equivalent, at the most, to just several inches removed from a given body of water into a given part of the atmosphere). Then, once the atmosphere has become completely saturated, the evaporated water (now in vapor form) will, at some point in time, condense and fall back to the earth in the form of rain, snow, etc.

This is the type water cycle existing on earth today — moving evaporated water from the oceans over land areas, with this water vapor later condensing, falling back to the earth, and eventually finding its way back to the oceans via rivers, etc.

In short, had God not acted following His closing the floodgates of heaven and the subterranean sources which had produced the waters flooding the earth, evaporation over millenniums of time would never have lowered that water level more than just several inches.

Apart from any of that water seeping into the ground (the only possible alternate would have been an escaping of waters into space), a continuous hydrological cycle would have been going on for the entire time — from Noah's day to the present day (over forty-three hundred years) — lowering the water level several inches by evaporation and then bringing it back to the same level again as this water vapor condensed in the atmosphere and fell back upon a shoreless ocean as precipitation.

The manner in which God restored the earth in Genesis chapter eight (though not a restoration to Edenic conditions, as in chapter one) will explain numerous things (e.g., the water-ravaged western United States, particularly the Grand Canyon [evidently formed by water rushing toward the Pacific basin from the Rocky Mountain area as the former was being lowered and the latter was being raised], or the tangled skeletal remains of

dinosaurs buried beneath what are today dry river beds in northwestern Colorado [at Dinosaur National Monument], among other places).

Then, a Day Yet Future

During "the times of restitution ['restoration'] of all things" — when the Messianic Era is ushered in — God is going to reverse all of this. The vast quantities of water which once existed above the atmosphere are going to be placed back up there. Meteorological conditions will change accordingly, Edenic conditions will once again exist, and man will once again live for centuries.

In fact, man in that coming day will live for the duration of the Millennium, in a natural body, moving right on into the eternal ages in this same type body.

When Adam was created, he was created in *an undying, natural body, designed and created by God to exist forever*. And man is going to one day be brought back into that state.

This is the future for mankind and the earth, foreshadowed by events surrounding two Floods in the opening chapters of Genesis (1:1-2:3; 7:11-8:14).

This is seen in the first by a Sabbath of rest which followed six days of restorative work, foreshadowing 6,000 years of restorative work followed by a 1,000-year day of rest, the coming Messianic Era.

And this is seen in the second by that which occurred relative to the experiences of Noah's three sons and their descendants following the Flood, foreshadowing future events having to do with Israel and the nations, with the Messianic Era in view.

(For additional information on the preceding, refer to the author's pamphlets titled, "The Sons of Noah" [Parts I, II] and "After the Flood" [Parts I, II].)

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