

GENESIS – Lesson 22

Learn: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was being overflowed with water perished: II Peter 3:3-6

Read: Genesis 7:21-24; 8:1-22

After the Flood had ‘prevailed’ for 150 days, utterly destroying the “world that then was” (II Peter 3:6) and leaving the remains of multitudes of dead organisms buried in its sediments or still floating in its waters, God began to bring it to termination.

1. Genesis 8:1 says that God “remembered Noah, and every living thing....that was with him in the ark” Does God ever forget his own people? Lamentations 3:21-26

The term “remembered” as used here is a Hebraism for “began again to act on their behalf.”

2. What three things did God do to start Noah and those with him on their way to the new life that they would find in the new world?

Genesis 8:1

Genesis 8:2

Genesis 8:3

Before the Flood the temperatures on the earth were uniform, and so there would not have been any strong winds. But, with the vapor canopy gone, sharp temperature differentials would have been established between equator and poles, and great air movements begun. These would soon have been complicated by the earth’s rotation, so that the present complex system of atmospheric circulations would finally be started. The early phases in particular, would probably have been quite violent. With nothing but shoreless ocean, these winds would generate tremendous waves and currents, and vast quantities of water would be evaporated, especially in the equatorial regions.

Wind, waves, and evaporation could not possibly account in themselves for more than a minor lowering of water level. Somehow there must also be a drastic rearrangement of terrestrial topography, with continental land masses rising from the waters, and ocean basins deepening and widening to receive the waters draining off the lands.

3. Read Psalm 104:6-9. How does God explain what happened?

4. As God lifted up the mountains and created great basins, what happened to all that water that had covered the earth? v 3

5. Finally, the Ark “rested” from its work of carrying Noah and those with him. When did the Ark “rest?” vv 3,4

How long did the waters recede before the Ark “rested?”

Where did the Ark come to “rest?”

Other mountains have been suggested as the Ark’s resting place in Iraq, Ceylon, India, etc. But the region where Mt. Ararat sits in Turkey, which is called the mountains of Ararat, remains the most likely spot. Mt. Ararat itself is the highest of these mountains. There have been a rather large number of reported sightings of the Ark by explorers or travelers on this mountain during the past century, as well as during ancient and medieval times. A number of modern expeditions have been trying (unsuccessfully so far) to relocate the Ark with adequate documentation, something which earlier reports lacked. This would surely be the most important archeological discovery of all time, if successful.

6. Why might it be a good thing to find the Ark?

Why could it be a bad thing to find the Ark?

7. How long did it take to see the tops of other mountains, once the ark had rested?
vv 4, 5
8. What did Noah do forty days after the tops of mountains could be seen? vv 6-12

9. The dove returned; but the raven, a scavenger bird with no qualms about resting on unclean surfaces, stayed. It took two more weeks before the dove found a place to stay. Noah still waited another 29 days after the dove left to remove the Ark's covering (probably part of its roof). What did he see? v 13

10. Even though when Noah looked out and saw the ground to be dry, he did not yet leave the Ark. How many more days did he wait in the ark? vv 13, 14

11. When did Noah leave the ark? vv 15, 16

Scattered around on the land surfaces were occasional rotting carcasses and skeletons of the animals and people doomed in the waters of the flood, a vivid reminder of the ungodliness of the antediluvian world and of the fate from which God had delivered the survivors. Since the new land surfaces probably had been formed mainly from the prediluvian seas, filled with sediments and then uplifted, more such remains were buried in the sediments beneath the land surfaces.

These sediments were rapidly solidified, through the eroded and dissolved cementing agents present in the waters that had deposited the sediments, thus becoming the great beds of fossil-bearing sedimentary rocks that are now found everywhere around the world. The fossils so preserved were mixed and dispersed throughout the sediments, but were generally deposited in a certain statistical order, from more simple marine invertebrate organisms on the bottom to complex land vertebrates near the top.

12. How do we know that all the earth's present dry-land animals, are descendents of those that were on the Ark, and not some new kind, that "evolved" after the Flood?
vv 17-19

13. How do we know that the animals multiplied rapidly, and spread all over the earth?
v 17

The conditions of lack of competition, rapid multiplication, small inbreeding populations, and rapidly changing environments, were ideal to permit rapid variation to take place in each kind. This was not evolution, but rather opportunity for the originally created variational potential latent in the genetic system of each kind to become expressed openly in distinct varieties. Consequently, different varieties (or even species) could rapidly develop and become established in appropriate environments.

The sharp changes in temperature following the Flood, occasioned by the precipitation of the vapor canopy that had maintained the greenhouse effect over the world, led to the buildup of great thicknesses of snow and ice near the polar regions. These eventually radiated out in the form of great ice sheets, covering northern Europe and reaching down into the northern third of the United States in this hemisphere. The Ice Age probably lasted several hundred years or a thousand years-- but not millions of years as believed by evolutionary geologists. It undoubtedly had a profound effect on the earth's animal kinds, causing extinctions of those unable to adapt.

THE GENESIS RECORD pp215, 216 Dr. Henry Morris

14. What was the first thing that Noah did when he got off of the Ark? v 20

15. What two things did Noah show by his offering? Leviticus 17:11; Psalm 107:22

16. How did God respond to Noah's offering?
v 21a

17. What did the Lord say is the character of man? v 21

18. In spite of man's character, what promise did God make? vv21-22

19. How does the Lord's promise in vv21-22 give you comfort?