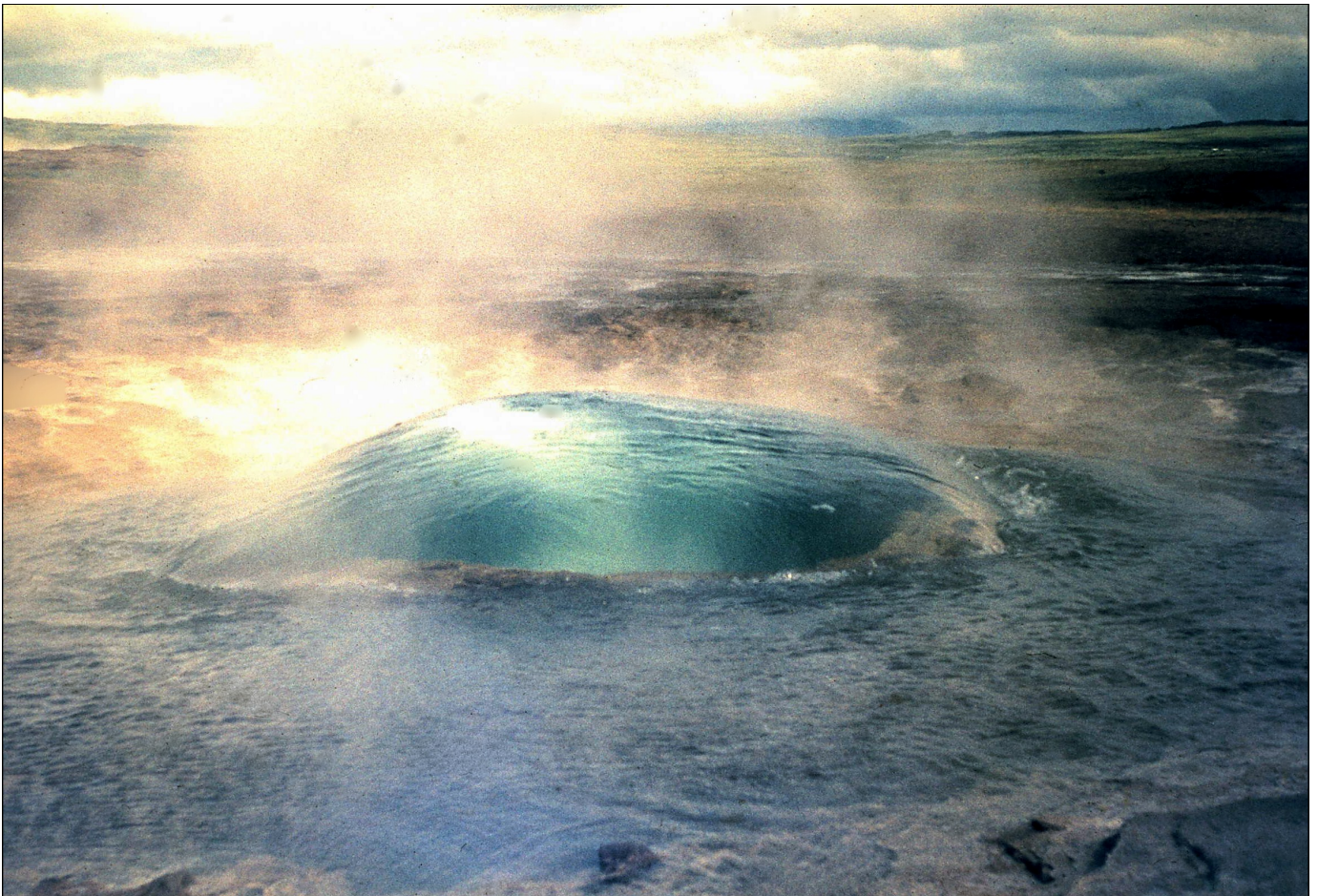


# GENESIS ACCEPTED



To discover what it is, turn to the back cover.

**NUMBER 18**

**May 2010**

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# NOAH

## 949 largely unknown years!

I'm sure we all have our favourite characters in the Bible. If I were to ask you to pick just one – excluding Jesus, of course – who would you pick and why? I'm sure our regular readers will have little difficulty in seeing that, if I had to select just one person from the hundreds of great men and women of the Bible as my top favourite, mine would have to be Noah. I think he was an absolutely amazing man of faith. He's in the list of the pick of the people of faith in Hebrews 11, where we read: *'...without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.'* (Heb. 11:6-7). So, no matter whom *you* would choose, Noah has to be up there with the best.

### Three Old Testament men of faith

Noah also gets an accolade from Ezekiel in chapter 14: *'And the word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out my hand against it and break its supply of bread and send famine upon it, and cut off from it man and beast, even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord GOD.'* (Ezek. 14:12-14) and then he continues a few verses later: *'Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out my wrath upon it with blood, to cut off from it man and beast, even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither son nor daughter. They would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness.'* (Ezek. 14:19-20). I love this reference to these three great men of faith because all three are commonly criticized by liberal scholars as never having existed, yet here they are in God's inspired Word being used as perfect examples of righteousness before Him. Their uninspired critics might not rate them but God does. Neither Daniel nor Job make it into the Hebrews' list yet Noah does – he's in both.

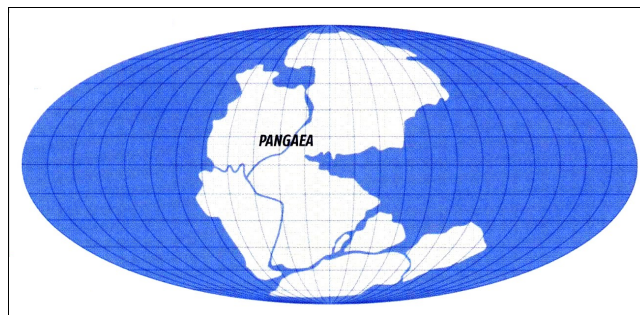
### Noah and Abraham

Some might argue that God made a covenant with Abraham and blessed the world through him by bringing the Messiah from his seed – and He did – but just a minute, He

did exactly the same through Noah. He saved the world through Noah; the covenant He established with him is still extant and its promises will hold good until the end of time (Abraham's have been fulfilled), and, of course, Messiah came equally from Noah's seed as He did from Abraham's. Jesus is as much a son of Noah as He is a son of Abraham. Actually every single male human being is a son of Noah, though it is possible that a few women have no genetic material from Noah and they come together only at Eve – as we all do too. Almost all of us are children of Noah but genetically we are nowhere near all being children of Abraham. I am not saying that Noah is better than Abraham – the Bible attests throughout its pages to the greatness of Abraham's faith in God's eyes – but Noah is right up there with the best in anybody's calculation, and he's my favourite character.

### The little we really know about Noah

So, come on, be honest, what do we know about Noah? Actually, directly from the biblical narrative, very little indeed. He died aged 950 – the third oldest man. (Jared (962) and Methuselah (969) were older, though I could contend that Adam may well have been the oldest in reality (see *Genesis Accepted* Number 4) since he



**Pangæa - the original supercontinent**

must have been given an age by God when He created him, which should be added to his 930 years actually spent living on this Earth. If God gave Adam an age of 40, which is not unreasonable, Adam would have beaten Methuselah by a year. Of the 950 years Noah lived we only truly know about one year in detail. That's one 950<sup>th</sup> of his life. I worked that out in terms of my life and it would amount to a detailed knowledge about me of three weeks and five days! If that's all anybody knew about me, they could hardly claim to know me, could they?

### A necessary caveat here

Okay, we believe that when God said: *'My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.'* (Gen 6:3), He was telling Noah that he had 120 years before the Flood came so he'd better get building the Ark. I'm happy

with that because 120 years has little meaning to us if it actually meant something else entirely. So we know that during those 120 years Noah faithfully constructed the Ark, which was a massive undertaking, and he initially had no help from his children, the first of whom was not born until 20 years after the Ark was commissioned. Genesis 5:32 tells us that he was 500 when he started to have children: Shem, Ham and Japheth, and Genesis 7:6 tells us he was 600 when the floodwaters came. They had to grow into men before they could assist their dad, so Noah must have been working without their truly effective assistance for around 40 years.

We have no details of what he did and how he did it in order to build the Ark, just that he did do it, in faith, believing what God had told him. So, if we add those 120 years to the one year of the Flood, we have 121 years, which is 12.7 per cent, or approximately one-eighth only of his life. 87.3 per cent of his life, apart from the sorry episode of his drunkenness recorded in chapter 9:18-27, and which could only have occupied less than a day, is unknown to us. So we don't actually know too much about Noah, do we? Therefore let's look at some of the bits we don't know, or don't readily recognize, and catch a glimpse of why I think his faith is remarkable and he's my favourite.

### The watershed of the Flood

Obviously the Flood was *the* defining moment of his life. Its coming vindicated his faith, which must have been sorely tested over the years by mocking from his enemies, and probably from his friends and relatives too. It was, however, a watershed in more ways than one. The world he left as he went into it wasn't at all like the world he encountered when he came out just over one year later.

### The world he left

By now regular readers should be aware that the physical world Noah grew up in was very different from the one he died in. Both creationist and evolutionary geologists recognize that the original arrangement of land and sea was one of each: one landmass and one ocean. The landmass, or supercontinent is usually called Pangæa (see diagram above) and it is thought later to have split up and the pieces drifted to their current positions to form today's continents. Creationist geologists are now calling this original supercontinent 'Rodinia', and are suggesting that it split up during the early stages of the Flood but then came back together temporarily, to form Pangæa, as the floodwaters were receding, before the continental pieces finally drifted apart. I am not yet convinced about this scenario but retain an open mind



on it because, with our astrocatastrophic scheme of close planetary flybys for the Flood and on-going post-Flood catastrophes, we do have a mechanism which could generate such movements. I don't believe that non-astrocatastrophists in the creationist field have such a powerful mechanism at their disposal - but that's an opinion!

Whatever the true scenario may turn out to be, the evidence points to the fact that Noah lived on the only landmass which had ever existed since Creation. Realising this helps us explain how all the animals he took into the Ark were able to get to him; they walked, or flew of course, and he didn't have to go and fetch them because the Lord would have sent them. It also tells us that sea-going boats were totally unnecessary for the people who lived then, so when God told Noah to build a huge vessel which could float, he would have been completely bemused as to what it was and why it would be needed - yet he did it, in faith! Yes, it is not unreasonable to imagine that small canoe-type boats for crossing rivers might have been used but the people had no need to put to sea.

#### What the supercontinent was like

Physically the supercontinent was low-lying. There were no mountains - these came in after the Flood (Everest is topped by sedimentary, fossiliferous limestone rocks).



Everest from Kala Patthar, Nepal

There would be low hills but they were not a barrier to communication or climatic influences. Every geographer knows that rivers today don't divide into four unless they flow on very low ground and bifurcate in a deltaic formation. The river which flowed out of Eden (Gen. 2:10-14) did this so it would have been shallow, sluggish and no threat to either man or beast. They could ford them all, or paddle across them, quite safely. This was not a violent landscape. Rain, storm, tempest and flood were unknown. The ground was watered by a mist (Gen. 2:6), and we know this peaceful scenario is true because the rainbow was unknown until after the Flood - God put it in the sky then as a sign of the covenant and promises He'd established with mankind and the animals through Noah (Gen. 9:8-17). Rainbows form after storms have passed over and the water droplets held in suspension by the up-currents of air in the storm catch the rays of



Rainbow over Assynt (NW Scotland)

the sun.

The climate was balmy because there were no seasons - God established these after the Flood (Gen. 8:22) - which means that winds were gentle, blowing mildly from the poles towards the equator from an almost vertical axis for the Earth. Clothing, we remember, was given for modesty not for warmth (Gen. 3:20). They lived under a greenhouse effect with high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and a water



Vegetation was lush and giant-sized

vapour canopy topped by a thick ozone layer to keep out harmful ultra-violet radiation. This ensured that vegetation was lush, luxuriant, abundant and often was what we would call giant-sized, because maturation rates were slower. This wonderful protective climate also ensured that life-spans were very much longer than after the Flood.

Of course it was not all idyllic. The Fall had a profound effect on both animal and human behaviour. From being totally herbivorous before the Fall, many animals became carnivores and scavengers, and, yes, there were some fierce dinosaurs roaming around! People became increasingly very violent, and we believe that this had a demonic origin as angelic 'Watchers', sent to instruct and act as guardians to mankind, corrupted their mission, left their proper dwelling place and polluted the gene pool, thereby making God determine to blot out this world and start again - but only after He had locked these spirits away permanently in *Tartarus* so they could never corrupt the Earth again (Gen. 6:1-4, 2 Pet. 2:4-5, Jude 6). These things we have looked at in greater depth

in previous articles (see Numbers 6, 7, 17).

This was the world in which Noah spent the first 600 years of his life. Then came the Flood and things were never the same again.

#### The effect of a changed world on Noah

After the Flood it all changed. Noah had to learn to live in a totally different world. The Earth's axis tilted, creating seasons and giving us today's winds and pressure belts.

The year seems to have lengthened slightly as the rotation slowed a little. The evidence for this is suggested by the dates given for the floodwaters in Genesis. They began on the seventeenth day of the second month (Gen. 7:11) and had abated on the seventeenth day of the seventh month (Gen. 8:3-4), which is recorded as being 150 days. That is a lunar month of thirty equal days, which would give us a 360-day year. With the rotation slowing and the sun rising and falling across the sky as never before, it is not surprising that post-Flood peoples took to astronomy and were obsessed with building observation monuments like Stonehenge (see *Genesis Accepted* Number 17).

The thick ozone layer was depleted allowing more harmful ultra-violet radiation to penetrate. The water vapour canopy disintegrated, more ozone mixed into the lower atmosphere and the carbon dioxide content was reduced, thereby lessening the greenhouse effect, cooling the global temperatures, particularly at the poles, and thus reducing human lifespans. Mountains had sprung up, continents had divided, snow and ice and rain and storms were to be a normal



Aging increases with exposure to ozone

part of life - clothes now became necessary for warmth. The Ice Age came approximately 100 years after the Flood and vegetation was not nearly as luxuriant. Noah learned farming after the Flood (Gen. 9:19) and had a much harder life gathering food and keeping body and soul together. His culture-shock was enormous. He would have to toil hard and shiver in the cold and wet. He would now not only be afraid of some of the animals, he would be afraid of the weather and other cosmic forces interacting with the Earth and which would bring regular catastrophes, and threats of greater catastrophes,

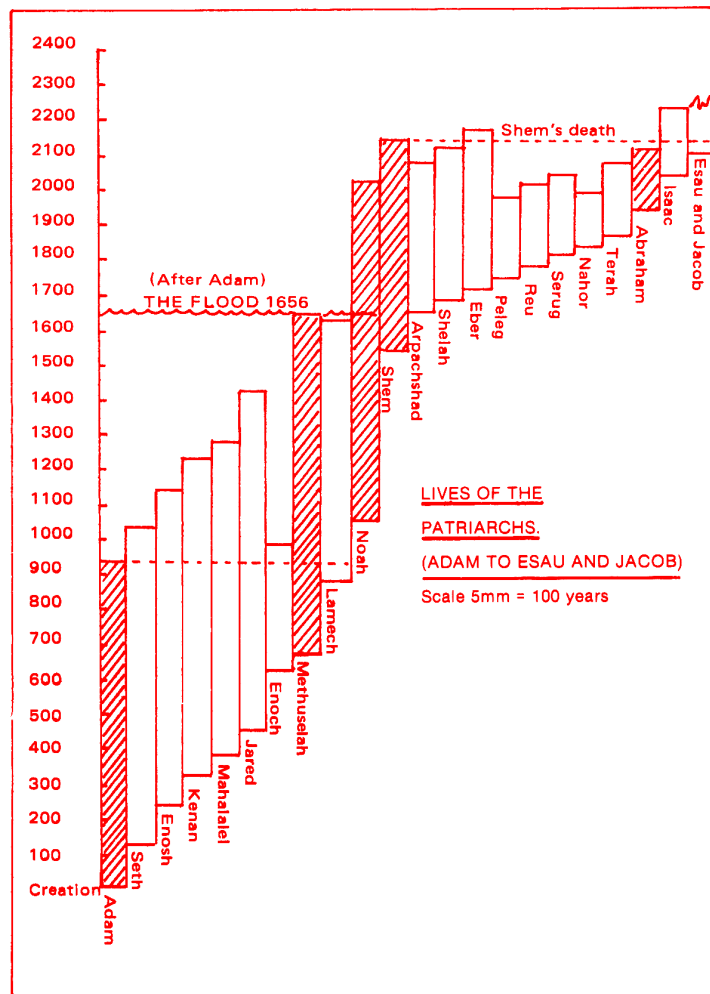
on to his family and their descendants. Just learning to survive was an enormous task for him but I feel certain that, great though they were, these were almost the least of his worries compared to the other things he had to deal with.

### The patriarchs Noah lived with

The chart (right) is very telling in the unwritten story of Noah. So let's consider the patriarchs he lived with.

The first thing we notice is that after the Flood they lived much shorter lives. Indeed lifespans tail off dramatically. Before the Flood the average age was 912 (leaving Enoch out of the equation because he was a special case). This fact, of course, is revision because we've mentioned it many times in the past. It tells us that something changed dramatically to effect such a difference. There is only one explanation for this and that is that the climate was vastly different, as we've already mentioned. Today many people are neurotic about climate change and their carbon footprint. We've just seen that before the Flood things were very different in this regard. We read about the 'Nephilim' in Genesis chapter 6:1-4, and older translations, like the AV (KJV) actually use the word 'giants' there. They existed after the Flood too and Goliath and his brothers – whom David's brother and others spent time slaying (1 Chron. 20:4-8) – were the last recorded remnants of these giants, or Nephilim. So vegetation was lush and luxuriant. Yes, with more CO<sub>2</sub> we got bigger and better everything: people, animals, crops, etc. in a warmer, milder climate.

Spiritually, however, the decline into ungodliness was amazing, rapid and must have been totally demoralizing for any godly man like Noah. Cain had murdered Abel in those very early days, but the real decline is said to have gathered momentum in Jared's time. Was this after Adam's death, and maybe even Enoch's translation, but before Noah's birth? It might well be so since at his naming, his father, Lamech said, *'Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.'* (Gen. 5:29) and his name means both 'repose' and 'consolation'. It is said in the *Book of Jubilees* (Chapter 4) that the 'Watchers', angelic beings, were sent to 'instruct the children of men, and that they should do judgment and uprightness on the earth' (pg. 27). Later some of them lusted after women, took some as wives and their ungodly offspring corrupt-



ed the earth with violence and wickedness which was to swamp most of humankind until only Noah found favour with God. Bear in mind that it is perfectly possible that by the time the Flood arrived there could have been somewhere in the region of 1,000,000,000 people on Earth at a conservative guesstimate!

We cannot imagine this happening to us. No matter how alone we might feel, no matter how much we feel the world is 'going to the dogs' as they say, there are always going to be Christians, with the power of the Holy Spirit in them, to provide some leaven in the lump. Noah was almost alone but he never wavered or gave up on God.

### Noah's relatives

Now let us look at the chart and see the people Noah knew and lived with. The first thing we notice is that both Adam and Seth were dead when he was born but both his father, Lamech, and his grandfather Methuselah, knew all ten of these pre-Flood patriarchs. Noah was actually born in the days of Adam's grandson, Enosh. He did not, however, know his amazingly faithful great-granddad, who also walked with God as he did: Enoch. So whatever Noah was doing as he walked with God, he was not following the observed example of Enoch. Thus his close walk with God at the level

we are talking about sprang from within him and was not derived. His faith was his own. That is not to dismiss or downgrade the faith of any of his godly ancestors, Lamech (his father) and Methuselah (his grandfather).

### Some of Noah's relatives pre-Flood

Let's think about Noah's pre-Flood relatives briefly for a minute and their effect on him. We notice that Methuselah died in the year of the Flood but his dad, Lamech, died some seven years before the Flood came. Death being a relatively rare thing before the Flood, he had to deal with that as his Ark project was reaching its climax, and then just before the Flood came, his beloved granddad Methuselah died. Since the Flood arrived in the second month (Gen. 7:11), we assume that Methuselah died in the first month and did not drown along with the sinners. But what about those sinners who did drown? Of all of the patriarchs listed before the Flood, apart from Noah himself, it is said, 'And he had other sons and daughters'. Thus Noah

had brothers and sisters (Gen. 5:30). He had aunts and uncles and cousins, and no doubt great aunts and uncles too, who would still have been alive when the Flood came and they drowned. Can you imagine how Noah must have felt as his own close relatives refused to believe him and they would not accept the offer of salvation he made to them. We can resonate with that thought as we all no doubt find our close, and much loved, relatives refusing to believe in the truth of God's Word. Can you imagine how he felt as the waters rose and he knew his brothers and sisters were outside drowning and he could do nothing more to help them – maybe some of them were, as we sing, 'almost persuaded', 'almost but lost'? His faith never faltered despite the kinds of pressure that would place on him. And we too must realize that no matter how we feel about these beloved ones, we must not waver in our faith and give up our own salvation because they harden, or hardened (if they are already dead), their hearts.

### A personal experience

I only ever knew one man who said that he knew if he died he was going to hell, if he didn't repent and get baptized. His wife was a committed Christian, one of our members, but Richard said he couldn't make the lifestyle changes necessary if he made his commitment to Christ. He felt he couldn't face his work colleagues and not still swear, join



in the smutty jokes and be hail-fellow-well-met, getting drunk along with them at times, if he became a Christian. He knew his lifestyle would have to change. He said he would get baptized when he retired aged 65 and would not have to face that and, as I said, he told us that he knew where he would be going after death if he died before he retired. I've known quite a few who didn't believe in God and heaven and hell, and who died not believing in the afterlife, but Richard is the only one I ever knew who admitted that he knew what would happen to him if he died in his present condition, and accepted what would be his fate. He was 'almost persuaded'. He dropped dead at 63 and his wife all but gave up on her own salvation because she wanted to be eternally with him. We thank God that she didn't, but it was a close call. I buried her as a Christian but thank God another brother buried Richard. I know conducting that funeral was very hard for him. And I think I can imagine something of how Noah felt as he heard the rain and saw the floodwaters rising as he peered out of the window in the roof of the Ark.



**Imagine how he felt as the waters rose?**

**When Noah was commissioned**

We mentioned earlier that Noah had no children 120 years before the Flood when he was told to build the Ark. He wasn't all alone, of course; he had Methuselah and Lamech to help him and no doubt others of his family would lend a hand. Some of them probably would have been faithful too and would have died naturally before the Flood arrived, so it would not have necessarily been all doom and gloom on that front. But when God made him His promise, He said: *"I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you."* (Gen 6:18). But he didn't have any sons, let alone any who were married, so Noah accepted the Lord's promise in good faith. He believed God and got on with doing what he had to. Was he even married when the promise was made, and did he marry afterwards so that the promise could be fulfilled? I believe so because look at how old he was when his children started to arrive. He was 500, by far the oldest man ever to become a dad, let alone a dad for the first time. This probably means that Mrs Noah was massively younger than he was (see

'Noah's Wife', *Genesis Accepted* Number 5). Noah never panicked about his lack of offspring. Maybe he was a case-hardened bachelor until he got the call from God and realised he had to get married to fulfil God's will for him. Whatever the truth, he was a man who knew how to walk with God and let God guide his life to the nth degree. Unlike Abraham he didn't strive to pre-empt the Lord's way of doing things in his life because the Lord seemed to be dragging His feet over fulfilling His promises!

**Some of Noah's relatives post-Flood**

Now look at the chart after the Flood. The amazing thing is that Noah was still alive when Abraham was born. If death was a rarity before the Flood, it was much more common after it. He knew sorrow heaped on sorrow as he saw many of his descendants die. He also saw the collapse of faith again, this time into rampant idolatry after the Flood until the débâcle of Babel. After that he probably couldn't communicate with all of his children. I would assume that he fell into the Semite language group so lost touch with Japheth, Ham and their offspring. He was a most unsuccessful preacher before the Flood and he wasn't much better after it. Did he waver? No. He knew that God does not call us to be successful; He calls us to be faithful.

**Noah fades into obscurity**

And didn't his faith take a battering over the 950 years of his life? Once his mission in the Flood was over, he fades into the background, almost like a John the Baptist after Jesus arrived on the scene with the attitude of 'he must increase and I must decrease.' The 'he' in question here would initially be Shem, his son, whom I believe became the great priest Melchizedek (see *Genesis Accepted* Numbers 1 and 3), or it could have been Abraham, who was to be the father of the Jewish nation. A great man of faith does not seek the limelight but only to serve, and remain faithful to the end.

**Concluding thoughts**

Nobody, apart from Noah and his family, has ever had to deal with two totally different physical worlds and completely relearn how to live and survive in the second one. Noah as head of the family would have had to shoulder the burden of that even more than the others, and they had absolutely no reference points to consult or fall back on. They were total pioneers. Nobody has ever had to deal with the issues of rampant, increasing sin which he did both pre- and post-Flood. Nobody has ever had to deal with faithlessness in their own family to the degree that he did, pre- and post-Flood. Nobody has ever risen to the heights of importance, where he was the only person who mattered and then sunk rapidly into total obscurity as he did,

and for so long – 349 years of uncharted life after the Flood is incredible. No doubt he helped Shem with his ministry as 'priest of God Most High' in Salem. No doubt he was a reference and teaching point for those who cared to listen. He suffered more vicissitudes on a percentage basis in his long life than we do in our very much shorter ones, but in all things he remained faithful. The victory, as we said, does not just belong to the successful but to the faithful.

I love the man and he's one I'd love to sit down and chat with in Paradise, if I'm allowed to. I can look at him and see the amazing task God gave him, and he did all that the Lord commanded him. To do what the Lord commands is what we need to do whether we understand it fully or not. To hang in when people won't respond to the message we are bringing, when even friends and family fall away and we feel almost alone and getting nowhere - then I remember Noah and my spirit is recharged. When I realize we may just be here for one mighty task and then we have to accept that others have to carry on as we gently support and then slip away unnoticed, except by God who never forgets us, I am encouraged. The more I think about Noah and the deeper I probe into his life and times and what he must have done and been, I'm left gasping at his faithfulness. What can life throw at me that it didn't throw at him, only more so? Faithfulness, stickability, determination to do God's will no matter what, and no matter the opposition, the willingness to allow God to use him for His purposes, these are the qualities I see in Noah.

Yes, we remember the Flood and the Ark and the animals, and rightly so, but that was only an eighth of his life at best, focusing on one nine-hundred-and-fiftieth of his life for the most part, but there's so much more to him than that. May we stop and think a little more about what we know and can glean about him from the unrecorded aspects of his life only hinted at in the Bible, and realise why he is the only one listed in Ezekiel and in Hebrews as an example of faith for us learn from, and follow. What a man!



**An electric rainbow**  
*Daily Mail 14.7.06*

# Risen Ape Or Fallen Man?

There are only two options available to explain the origin of mankind: either we are risen apes or we are fallen men. The first view is that man is moving on an ever upwards pathway towards some, as yet unperceived or undefined, perfection. Some Evolutionists debate whether evolutionary perfection has been reached or not but most would say that they don't know. The second is that man was created perfect and fell, and that he remains fallen and will for ever be so in this life. There is now no way his basic nature can be improved but that God, by His infinite grace, is prepared to restore the spiritual nature of those who turn to Him in repentance and ask for forgiveness. He does this because Jesus, His Son, paid the price of sin by dying on a Cross at Calvary some 2,000 years ago. The two views, as we have said before, are incompatible. Whilst both could well be wrong, logically speaking they can't both be right. Assuming that they really *are* the only two possible options, which view of mankind tallies best with the facts? This is surely the only way to judge between them.

## There is nothing new under the sun

It was Solomon who wrote that *'there is nothing new under the sun'* (Eccles 1:9), and this applies specifically to the nature of the human species. As we look around the world today, for all our modern technological advances, people are just as selfish, just as wicked, and just as immoral, as they have ever been. Indeed it seems that much of modern technology simply makes greater depths and variety of immorality possible. Things like videos, DVDs, the Internet and television, etc. have enhanced our lives in many ways and are, of course, morally neutral, but wicked people in the world merely see them as vehicles for greater evil and use them as such with alarming fluency.

On a broader scale, man's inhumanity to man has shown no sign at all of abating as a result of our nature becoming improved. The 20th century saw more genocide, mass murder and bloody wars than ever before. In this regard the evolutionary curve has definitely been dipping alarmingly. Much of the blame for this can positively be placed firmly at the door of evolutionary assumptions which have underpinned the world views, and therefore the thinking, which drives these genocidal regimes. History shows that peo-

ple today are as barbaric as they ever were. The wrappings may have changed as time has moved on, however, the basic natures of the 'beasts' involved are the same. Envy, greed, lust, lying, selfishness, sloth, pride, strife, jealousy and the like remain as common as ever, and do as much damage as they ever did, if not more.

It is the biblical model which certainly accords best with this scenario.

## Theistic Evolution

We said at the beginning of this article that 'there are only two options available to explain the origins of mankind'. There are many sincere believers who feel that this is too simplistic an understanding of the reality of the Creation and that there is a third option: 'Theistic Evolution'.

Theistic Evolution is an attempt to marry the scientific and the biblical explanations of origins. Those who subscribe to it have surrendered the 'How?' question to the scientist and seek to slot God somewhere into his scenario. They believe quite simply that the mechanism of creation was a process of evolution, but that it was a process somehow controlled by God. In other words, God used evolution as the method by which He brought mankind into being.

The strict evolutionary scientist does not want God in any part of the process; after all the Theory of Evolution was, in reality, promulgated as a means of eliminating that hypothesis from the scene. Evolution is to be seen as a purely naturalistic and mechanistic process which does not need divine intervention for it to run successfully. The Theistic Evolutionary scenario would, in fact, invoke the miraculous just as strongly as the Creationist scenario does. Indeed it would require a steady stream of miraculous interventions over thousands of millions of years instead of a neat and swift injection of miracles over six days. Theistic Evolution is not a naturalistic explanation at all and, whilst it dodges neatly around the issue of science versus the Bible, it creates more problems than it solves.

## Implications of Theistic Evolution

The believer who accepts the position of Theistic Evolution immediately surrenders the credibility of his belief system. He has to admit that God failed at almost eve-



The Theistic Evolutionary picture of Eden  
Used by permission of 'Answers in Genesis'  
[www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org).

ry level in His attempt to create a perfect world. This world is not perfect, never has been, and still has quite a way to go to arrive. God has already taken almost countless millions of years to tinker with it: a little change here, a little change there and let's see how that experiment works out. Such a God is impotent not omnipotent. He is also malicious since He cares nothing for the suffering of His creation as He is trying out His experiments. Death and decay, 'nature red in tooth and claw' (Tennyson) become the divine route to perfection. Indeed death is the great ally of the process since by death came the elimination of the weak and unfit to survive.

The biblical position on the nature of death is that it is a curse. It was not part of God's original creation or intention for mankind. Sin ruined the perfect world He had, in fact, created and death was introduced for the first time into the picture. Digging down into the sediments of the Garden of Eden you would not find fossil graveyards of creatures who died out millions of years earlier.

## The problem posed by evil

The Theistic Evolutionist has no answer to the problem posed by the presence of evil, pain and suffering in the world. So often God's goodness or His omnipotence are questioned because of its presence. This was a conundrum which bothered Augustine of Hippo. He postulated that the existence of evil presupposed either that God was not all powerful or He was not all good. Since Au-





**Augustine of Hippo**  
Portrait by Philippe de Champaigne (17th century)  
*Picture from Wikipedia*

Augustine would have wanted to maintain that God was both omnipotent and totally good, he could not have done so from within an evolutionary framework. It is only when we recognize that a good, powerful God created a perfect and pure world by His Word, without recourse to thousands of millions of years of painful experiment and failure, that we can begin to grapple with the problems posed by suffering in the world. This does not mean that the answers are easy but at least they are there.<sup>1</sup>

### Free Will

The easy way out of the dilemma posed by evil and suffering would have been for God to annihilate sin, or not have allowed it to exist. To do this would have meant that the truly created free will of mankind, with the right to exercise it in opposition to Him if so desired, would have had to have been withdrawn or refused. To pre-programme His creatures so that they always exercised their wills to do what was right and good, would not have been creation but extension. The gift of a genuinely free will could only be given if a genuine rebellion was a distinct possibility.

This does not mean that God actually created evil. The responsibility for that lies with the one who used his will in opposition to the commands of God, namely Adam. (That Eve and Satan too played a significant part in the process is not in question, but the ultimate blame is placed firmly on Adam's shoulders in the Bible.) Thus when sin occurred and all creation fell, the curse of suffering and death could truly be laid at Ad-

am's door, having not existed previously. For God to have blamed Adam for something which had been in existence for millions of years, and which He had been using to perfect His creation, would have been more than unfair, it would have been insane!

### God's answer

Oddly enough the power of God can be seen in that He never took the easy way out of the dilemma but chose to deal with sin, suffering and evil by bearing it Himself on the cross at Calvary, so that those who would choose to exercise their free will by loving and trying to obey Him could have fellowship with Him in a real, not a robotic, way. The fact that most do not choose to exercise their wills in this fashion does not negate the principle - or the desire of God in this matter (see 2 Peter 3:9 about God wishing all to reach repentance).

### The bottom line

It is very hard to look at innocent suffering, sometimes of an intense degree such as occurred in the Holocaust of Nazi Germany, and say that it is all down to sin



**Gypsy children in Auschwitz, victims of medical experimentation**

*Picture from Wikipedia*

and the curse which Adam brought on to the world, but that really is the very bottom line. The buck most definitely stops there.

### The true nature of death

As the Evolutionist looks at, for example, a sick child dying of cancer, he should rejoice that the weak and unfit to live are being weeded out and eliminated. But he doesn't usually feel that way at all because we all instinctively recognize that death is a curse. He feels it even less if it is his

child lying there. When the Evolutionist sees an old person wasting away and looking death in the face, he should be glad. But if that person is his father or mother, he has a sense of loss and longing for the parent to be spared if only for a little while longer. Death is a curse not a blessing, and anyone who would try to pretend that a good, loving God could ever use this means of bringing His Creation to perfection is not thinking logically. The Bible tells the Christian that death is an enemy and Jesus will destroy it (1 Cor. 15:26). The notion of Theistic Evolution runs completely contrary to what the Bible clearly teaches in this area.

The atheistic Evolutionist might possibly see death as a blind, unfeeling process but the Christian believer simply cannot do so. Theistic Evolution is actually a denial of everything the believer stands for so, as an option concerning how the universe was made, it is a complete non-starter when you realise it and get down to study its implications. This genuine but flawed attempt to marry science and faith in the God of the Bible, sincerely believed by so many, must be examined carefully in the light of the results of such a belief. *'By their fruit you shall know them'* (Mt. 7:16).

### Judgement and accountability

If our genesis is risen ape rather than fallen man, there is no need to answer for the wrongs we do. We may not be perfect at the moment but we are getting there. There is no hope of justice ever being exacted on the evil that people do to each other. Muggers, murderers, traitors, thieves, adulterers and cheats of every sort will always get away with it. Also those who have had rough justice from an imperfect legal system will have no hope of vindication. Might will always be right simply because might is more powerful, so truth become meaningless.

The concept of a reckoning in the next life, if not in this, is one which comforts those afflicted by evil and injustice. The notion that there is a better life awaiting for those who have had pain and misery all their lives in this life is one which helps many keep going. The atheist will deny this and call it wishful thinking. The theist anticipates a time of fairness and true justice from a loving God who stooped down to lift mankind up from his fallen state. The Theory of Evolution offers no such comfort since to the atheist life is meaningless chance. Theists cannot have it both ways. We are either risen apes or fallen men. We must decide which scenario is true to the data that we know but Theistic Evolution is a definite non-starter.

<sup>1</sup> Lewis, C.S., *The Problem of Pain*

# Flood Evidence

**Glacial Erratics** There is no doubt that many parts of the world, which are not currently covered by ice, once were. People ask when the Ice Age, or 'Ice Ages' as geologists usually designate them,



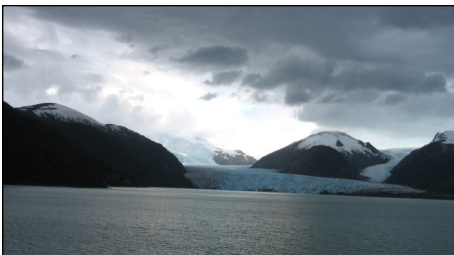
Antarctica - covered by ice

ended. If you lived in Greenland, or tried to live in Antarctica, you would be inclined to think they are still with us. In other places it is not difficult to see classic U-shaped val-



Glencoe - a once glaciated valley

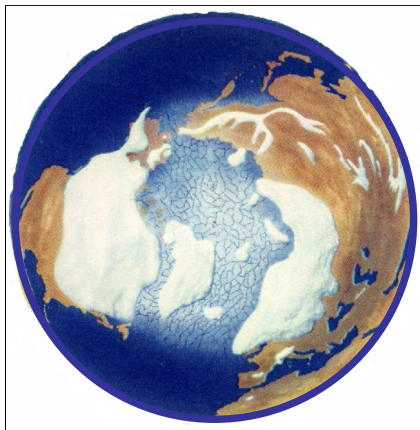
leys and many other surface features which speak quite eloquently that ice was once present and has left its mark now that the ice has melted. There are many examples in Britain, Glencoe (above), near Fort William (Scotland), being just one. Fjords, called lochs in Scotland, are drowned glacial valleys many of which still have glaciers spilling into them in some parts of the world.



Amalia glacier and fjord (Chile)

This is easy to spot in mountainous areas where the remaining scenery is frequently quite spectacular with craggy rocks, steep valley sides and tumbling waterfalls. But geologists tell us that the ice sheets often spilled over lowland regions and there they didn't carve U-shaped valleys at all. The diagram of the maximum extent of the Ice Age in the northern hemisphere - which we first saw in *GA* Number 12 - is confidently drawn based on a variety of evidence.

As ice pushes outwards it picks up rocks, grinds them down and transports them over many miles. By examining rocks left behind



Maximum ice cover in the north

once the glaciers, or ice sheets, melt, geologists can tell from where the ice picked up a rock and thus how far it travelled and the direction the ice moved. Valley glaciers often leave a mound of soil and rocks right at the limit of their maximum extent and these are called moraines. So, moving ice is known to pick up rocks from the areas over which it moves and then transport them, grinding them down as they go, into a mixture of fine clays and boulders. If rocks of a certain type are picked up and later dumped in an area where that type of rock is not found, such rocks are known as 'erratics'. They are 'erratic' because they shouldn't be where they are, so discovering from whence they came gives us the clue to the movement and extent of the ice. Or does it?

## Flood v Ice Ages

Well in many cases it does, but not, I believe, in all. There was a strange development of thinking about ice movement in the 19th century. Before 1800 most geological phenomena were ascribed to the global Flood of Noah's day. There is no permanent ice in Britain so nobody thought there had ever been any. But then men like Louis Agassiz began studying Alpine glaciers in the field and came to recognize that the special valley forms they carved could be found in areas not now under ice. Thus he realized that vast ice-free areas once had been glaciated. This was ironically manna from heaven to those who were aching to jettison Noah's Flood from the thinking of the scientific community. When Agassiz was postulating about Ice Ages in the mid-19th century, Darwin was postulating about evolution. They preferred slow-moving ice operating over millennia to a catastrophic Flood carving things out in just over a year. So out went the Flood and in came the Ice Ages. They decided that water was not powerful enough to move many of the erratics, some even came from over mountains and must have been carried uphill for part of their

journey, and thus ice became the sole mover of erratic blocks - in their minds - and there it still remains. Identify an erratic and geologists will unreflectively allow the glacial reflex to operate. Consequently many Flood deposits and water-borne erratics are wrongly assigned to the work of ice and go unrecognised for what they truly are.

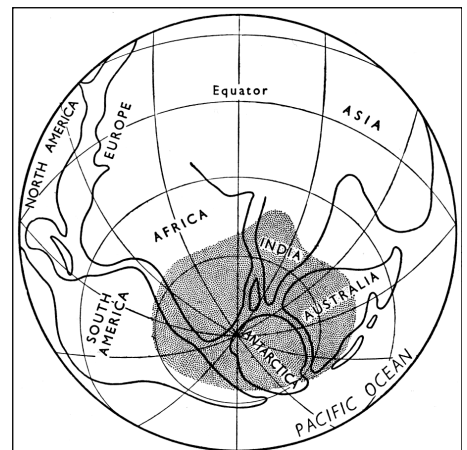
## South African erratics

The map on page 8 opposite amply illustrates what has arisen since the Flood concept has been abandoned by geologists. It shows tillite deposits (which is stiff clay with boulders of various sizes in it) in black, across South Africa and the arrows indicate the directions from which the ice is said to have flowed. The inserted box is just a closer representation of the supposed successive flows moving from west to east over the southern tip of the continent. The text in the book<sup>1</sup> describing it says this:

*'The tillite itself contains grooved and ice-faceted boulder and erratic blocks, some of which have been transported for hundreds of miles from the north... The glaciations were the work of thick continental ice-sheets that spread outwards like the Antarctic ice of today.'*

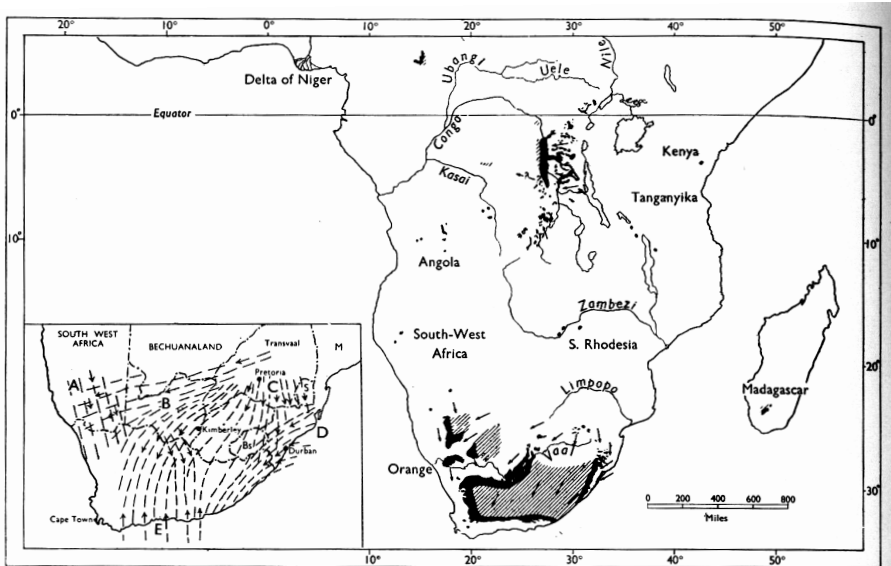
Did you notice on the map, or in the text, that the direction of the ice flow was from the north to the south? That, of course, is the general direction we expect the ice to have flowed in our country, and the northern hemisphere as a whole, but this is south of the Equator, so 'north to south' means it flowed from equatorial latitudes towards the pole. In other words it goes from hotter climates towards colder ones, which is completely the wrong way around by 180°.

No matter, this problem can easily be solved by saying that the land mass on which the ice was moving wasn't in this position at the time but was hovering around the South Pole where Antarctica is today. And below is the map showing the approximate supposed positions of continents in Carboniferous times - some '350,000,000 years ago' - when these Ice Ages are said to have occurred. But, oops!, South Africa is



<sup>1</sup> Holmes, Arthur: *Principles of Physical Geology*. Fully revised 1965, page 732-733.





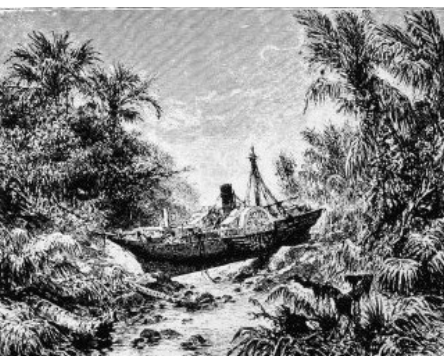
still in the wrong place; the ice would still be moving pole-wards! Maybe it's not an ice feature at all. Maybe it was the Flood which deposited this tillite and not ice, and that the rush of water sluicing around the globe was from north to south in these areas.

**The power of water**

Once the concept of the Noachian Deluge was downgraded, or seen at best to be a local event, it became easy to dismiss water erosion and deposition as being able to move these erratic boulders. However, since the Indonesian tsunami of 2004 it has made something of a comeback. We now respect the power of water a little more than we did before. A startling picture from that tsunami



has already been seen by readers in *GA* Number 11 where a boat was lifted on top of a house. In August 1883, when the volcano of Krakatoa erupted in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra, the resulting tsunami created 150ft waves which lifted the steamship Berouw just under two miles inland to a height of 30ft, pictured



below. All 28 people on board were killed. This ship is obviously much bigger than the boat which landed on somebody's roof at Banda Aceh (Indonesia) in 2004. You see, we are not talking about hurricane winds in a local area with the Flood; we are talking about tsunamis of amazing magnitude, never seen since, which ripped the Earth's surface apart, tearing up the old surfaces and redepositing them in various ways over vast areas. There is no problem with the power of water. The problem is in recognizing it for what it was and what it can do. We are not saying that all erratics are Flood deposits; some definitely are of glacial origin, but we must look carefully to see if we can identify Flood erratics.

**Norber Boulders (Austwick, Yorkshire)**

One of Britain's most celebrated boulder fields is in Austwick (Yorkshire). It is known as the Norber boulder field. Tales of their origin being laid at the door of giants throwing stones at one another were dismissed. It's hard to think why!

Here there are huge erratics of grit rocks scattered on a limestone pavement.



Where they have protected the limestone some now stand on a limestone plinth (pictured above), of around 18inches, as the surface beneath them has been eroded. By guessing at the erosion rate - and it is only a wild guess - a date for the end of the Ice Age is made by geologists. They pick 10,000 years but we would suggest some 4,500 years since the Flood.

The origin of the grit erratic boulders is about a mile away where the grit stratum

lies underneath the limestone. These erratics have been plucked from the grit bedrock and plonked on top of the limestone over-blanket. They show no evidence of a glacial origin other than simply being there, and their being there being interpreted thus. Dramatic scouring by the Flood is equally possible as an explanation. In the next valley, the Ribble valley, there is evidence of ice action moulding clay into elongated rounded humps of clay known as drumlins. Since



**Drumlin swarm at Ribblehead (Yorkshire)**

these are formed by the gentle action of ice losing its erosive power, it seems unlikely that the ice in the next valley would have the force necessary to pluck these huge erratics out of the bedrock and carry them uphill to what is now the Norber area. The Flood could do it easily and very consistently.

**Stonehenge again**

In the issue of *Genesis Accepted* Number 16 we raised questions about Stonehenge. We were not at all interested in how the people got stones from the Prescelly Mountains in southwest Wales to the Salisbury Plain, but many people are. These blue-stones, as they are known, are an enigma and recent research by Brian Jones indicates that they were not dragged all that way because it could not, and cannot be done. He postulated that they were transported by glacial action as erratics and were left littering the Plain at the end of the Ice Age; and the people just helped themselves - still an amazing feat.

I think he has the right idea but the wrong mechanism. Glaciologists agree that the furthest extent of ice in Britain runs from an approximate frontier rising north and dipping south again on a line joining the Severn to the Thames estuaries. In other words Salisbury Plain was either not under ice at all or so close to the edge as to be lying where it had all but petered out and was a spent force. For ice to have moved stones these sizes would have needed far more power than the ice here would have possessed. Water, sluicing around the globe in the Flood would have had no problem at all performing such a task.

**Conclusion**

Therefore it makes good sense to evaluate erratics by considering them as products of the Flood in many instances. To dismiss them by the now unquestioned axiom that there was no Flood is not good fieldwork. The ice may be getting far more credit than it deserves.

# Recent evidence for 'our' astro-catastrophic scenario

## Water on the Moon

In November 2009 there was a report in the *Daily Mail* (14th) that: 'NASA has found 'a significant amount' of water inside a crater on the Moon in a discovery that could pave the way for the first manned lunar base. The agency announced that last month's audacious attempt to smash two spacecraft into the Moon's rocky surface to find ice was a major success.

The £49million bombing raid threw up a mile-high plume of dust - which included chunks of ice locked away in a deep crater at



the lunar south pole. The bottom of the crater had not seen sunlight for billions of years.

NASA first found evidence of water on the Moon a decade ago but the latest revelation of significant quantities may bring closer the days when mankind creates a permanent lunar base using the water buried in the rocks to drink and generate hydrogen fuel. A spokesman for NASA said... "The discovery opens a new chapter in our understanding of the Moon".

Although one can be cynical about the nebulous term 'a significant amount' when it is not defined in the report, especially as the Obama administration is seriously thinking of removing funding for manned flights in space from NASA, nevertheless this report was followed up on 5th March 2010 with the following:

'NASA has discovered vast quantities of water on the Moon, rekindling dreams of a manned lunar base. Radar instruments revealed that craters near the Moon's north pole are packed with at least 600million tons of ice. The frozen deposits were found inside 40 small craters by a NASA radar instrument onboard India's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft. Five months ago, the space agency detected substantial water reservoirs at the Moon's south pole. Together, they could lead

to the creation of a permanent lunar base, using water buried in the rocks to drink and to generate hydrogen rocket fuel.

"After analyzing the data, our science team determined a strong indication of water ice, a finding which will give future missions a new target to further explore and exploit," said Jason Crusan, programme executive for the NASA radar. Water ice is essential to a manned Moon base, because drinking water is incredibly heavy and requires huge amounts of fuel to launch it into space.'

Leaving aside the 'billions of years' assumption in the report, this discovery is exciting news for the scenario we have been presenting in *Genesis Accepted* for the Flood and Ice Age mechanism (see *GA* numbers 11 and 12). Most Creationists try to present a scenario entirely based on completely Earth-bound mechanisms for both of these events. Thus they have no idea how this water got on to the Moon in the first place. I have not read anything about the current 'orthodox' scientific explanation but I would imagine they are going to be looking at a huge splash from meteorite or asteroid bombardment of our oceans millions of years ago. Or they could come closer to our position and suggest that it came when an icy body, such as a comet or icy/rocky fragment crashed into the surface of the Moon.

Briefly recapping 'our' scenario, we believe that one of the main sources of water for the Flood, and *the* main source of ice for the Ice Age, came when an icy planet, passing through the Solar System, came close enough to the Earth to melt and thereby dump water on to the Earth at the time of the Flood, that it then intertwined with the Earth at least for a further 100+ years until it disintegrated and dropped its ice, mainly over polar areas both north and south, thus causing the Ice Age. This scenario explains perfectly how water got to be on the Moon, since it is most unlikely that it was there at the time of its original creation on Day 4 of Creation Week.

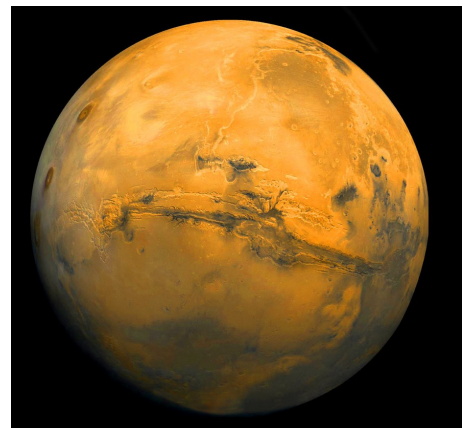
## Mars too!

Scientists are also well aware that Mars too shows massive evidence of water playing a major part in carving out its surface features. In our article 'Marvellous Mars', in *GA* Number 6, which largely concentrated on a picture of a lake of ice in a crater near the north pole of Mars, we mentioned that we would pick up on the



presence of water on Mars in later issues.

The picture above clearly shows a river valley, now dry of course, on the surface of Mars, and the picture below shows the greatest water feature of all on the planet, what scientists call 'The Grand Canyon' - only it is amazingly more massive than the Earth's comparatively meagre offering in Arizona!



It is 2500 miles long and up to four miles deep, whereas the Grand Canyon in Arizona is 277 miles long and just over one mile deep.

Neither of these features can be explained by small amounts of water coming from the occasional bombardment of the planet by some icy fragments; these can only have come from a huge inundation and the only slot for that to have occurred within a biblical framework is at the time of the Flood. The same mechanism which flooded the planet Mars and drenched the Moon in



water must have been what came on to visit the Earth and completely drown it, in combination with the other, Earth-bound, sources of water, namely precipitation from the break-up of the Earth's water vapour canopy and the breaking up of the crust to release massive quantities of juvenile water trapped under the surface and held there in the rocks.

There is therefore a consistent explanation for the inundations of the Earth, the Moon and Mars at the time of the Flood, and/or the Ice Age for Mars and the Moon, but it only holds up under a scheme of astro-catastrophism such as we have suggested in *Genesis Accepted*. Neither orthodox secular geology nor orthodox Creationist geology have any good explanation for the presence of water on Mars, and even less for the newly discovered water on the Moon. We, however, would expect this to have happened, though we would not necessarily have expected any vestiges of it to have remained for us to discover in our time. Nevertheless it is exciting that it has.

## Finally, the Chilean earthquake

On 27th February 2010 there was a massive earthquake off the coast of Chile, near to the town of Concepcion. It measured 8.8 on the Richter scale and this puts it only a little behind the Indonesian earthquake of Boxing Day 2004, which was 9.1 to 9.3. The resulting tsunami this time, however was not nearly as devastating. The wave was only 8.6 feet.

What is not realised is that scientists estimate that it affected the rotation of the Earth by shortening our day by 1.6 milliseconds and moved the Earth's figure axis by 3 inches. How it does this is explained briefly in a snippet from *Time Magazine's* article below:

'Earthquakes alter planetary speed in two ways. Shifting plates rearrange the distribution of the Earth's mass, causing it to bulge imperceptibly in spots it didn't bulge before and contract in others. That rearrangement should further shift the Earth's inclination, or figure axis (the axis around which the Earth's mass is balanced, which is slightly different from the north-south axis around which the Earth rotates) — in the case of the Chile earthquake, by about three inches. The law of conservation of angular momentum, however, requires that even under these exigent



circumstances, the Earth's angular momentum stays constant, which means the planet must step on the gas (or the brake) to accommodate shifting mass. The same thing happened in 2004 with the 9.1 Sumatran earthquake that triggered the tsunami. That earthquake should have shifted the Earth's figure axis by 2.76 inches and shortened its day by 6.8 millionths of a second, according to computer models.'

The pictures show graphically some of the effects of the Chilean earthquake.

What is of interest to us here about this earthquake is the effect it had on both the axis and the length of the day. Powerful though this earthquake was, it was in one small part of the globe. Some shifting of the land occurred but not too much in the overall scheme of things.

Now switch your thinking to the Flood of Noah's day. Here the crust split apart, continents slid around as mountains were raised and the resulting tsunami were beyond our imagination (contrary to popular ignorance the word *tsunami* is Japanese and is either a singular or plural word depending of its usage: like our words 'sheep' or 'deer'. Thus if you see it spelt in supposed plural form as *tsunamis*, that is a misspelling!). Enormous waves generating unimaginable force and power flashed around the globe churning up sediments and redepositing them in huge thicknesses all over the continents as we now know them and up to miles in thickness at times, e.g. the Grand Canyon rocks in Arizona.

The only viable mechanism for such things has to be the close flyby of a planetary body because the forces capable of driving such an event could not come from inside the depths of the Earth. Such interaction, we believe, caused the axis to tilt from its almost vertical position at Creation, thereby giving us seasons after the Flood, and creating serious differences between summer and winter, with winds, many violent as storms, clouds and rain now becoming the norm. They also drive ocean currents which modify our climates all over the world and from which we, in Britain, benefit in the presence of the Gulf Stream/North Atlantic Drift, which gives our very northerly latitudinal country a mild and equable climatic regime.



We noted in the account of Noah, on page 2, that the rotation of the axis was affected. That article was written before the effects of the Chilean earthquake were publicised, but if a relatively small event in 2010 could affect the rotation and the axis by measurable amounts, how much more could we expect the Flood to have altered things?

Yes, it's very nice indeed to have confirmation that the theories we have been presenting to you make a good deal of sense as scientists learn more of the workings of the Earth. Of course, it doesn't necessarily make our scenario correct but it gives us confidence that it might well be and hope that one day it will be seen by most to be so.

*Genesis Accepted* is published three times a year. All correspondence and cheques to:

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**Subscription: £5.00 per year. (£1.70 per copy)**

All quotations are from the *English Standard Version* of the Bible (Anglicized version, 2002), unless otherwise indicated.



Two seconds after the bubble on the front cover bursts the geysir of Strokkur erupts. It erupted at approximately twenty-minute intervals and lies next-door to the Great Geysir, from which this natural phenomenon takes its name, only Geysir now only erupts once or twice a year.

Cover picture: A geysir is about to blow. The super-heated water wells up from below and pushes up, pausing momentarily in a bubble just before bursting out in a spurting jet of boiling water some 50ft high. Strokkur, Iceland, 1973.