

THE PREFLOOD WORLD

The Earth Before the Flood

Before the Flood, the earth was very different from the way we know it today. But it was also very different from the way most people imagine it to have been.

One enormously important fact concerns *the size of the population*. Most people imagine the ancient earth with very few people, but **there were probably about as many people on the earth before the Flood as there are today -- possibly even more.** We shouldn't be surprised at this, since people were living an average of about 900 years, with each woman producing possibly scores of children. Simple calculations show that there were likely somewhere between one billion to ten billion people, comparable to the six billion alive today.¹

An interesting difference in the pre-Flood world is that *all animals were tame*. There were no predatory animals. No animals ate meat till after the Flood. It was only after the Flood that God said in Genesis 9:3: "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." Many people think that the animals became wild after the fall of Adam, but comparing Genesis 1:8, where man was given permission to eat plants, with Genesis 9:1-3, where man was given permission to eat meat as well, indicates that **it was not until after the Flood that animals became wild, for their own preservation.**²

One of the most important differences about the earth itself before the Flood was a high invisible water vapor shield that surrounded the earth. Genesis 1:6-7 says that during the second day of the Creation Week God separated the waters of the earth into the waters below the atmosphere (the "firmament") -- the oceans -- and the waters above the atmosphere, the water-vapor layer. Today's earth is also enveloped by water vapor in the air, but if it all fell out as rain, it would rain for only a few hours. The water vapor layer that covered the pre-Flood earth fell as rain for forty days and forty nights in the Flood,³ so we can see how substantial it must have been, though it still allowed man to view the heavenly bodies and breathe a clear lower atmosphere.

A somewhat comparable high-altitude atmospheric layer has been found on the planet Venus, where a cloud layer surrounds that planet. Venus' surface can't be seen from telescopes on earth, but space probes have found that the atmosphere underneath the cloud layer is relatively clear. Aside from the fact that Venus' high-altitude layer is composed of sulfuric acid and is very foggy,⁴ we can imagine that this is somewhat similar to the transparent water vapor layer that covered the earth before the Flood.

This transparent pre-Flood water vapor layer produced a hothouse effect. Fossils have been recovered from all over the earth, including the Arctic and the Antarctic, that show that before the Flood the earth was covered with a lush, luxuriant, tropical form of life.⁵ Even though according to Genesis 1:14, there were seasons, they were mild⁶. The pre-Flood climate was not only mild but uniform everywhere.

Because the climate was uniform, there was no wind, whose sole purpose is to equalize temperature differences in the atmosphere.

Because there was no wind, no dust was stirred up. **Rain forms on dust particles (e.g., cloud seeding), but with no wind, the atmosphere was dust free. Therefore there could have been no rain, whose droplets must form around dust particles.**⁷ This is the scientific basis for the statement in Genesis 2:5-6 that says there was no rain before the Flood.⁸ Instead of rain, the earth was watered by a gentle dew. And no rain means no storms, no lightning, no tornadoes, no hurricanes. With mild climate, snow and ice were absent as were ice storms, snow storms and blizzards. **In short, the pre-flood watering system was mild and equable, with no lack (drought) or excess (floods).**

Another major difference about the early earth is that *all continents may well have been joined in one land mass*. We can easily see on a globe how the continents could fit together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, illustrating that **they may once have been joined and then shattered during the Flood.** Certain ancient legends support this idea. For example, the legend of Atlantis, describing a place that supposedly had an ideal climate and wonderful living conditions, is actually a corrupted description of the whole earth before the Flood. Atlantis is described as being all one huge circular continent that is now lost under the Atlantic ocean.⁹ The Atlanteans lived in a golden age of robust health, longevity and ease. But the people became wicked, and Atlantis was swallowed up by the waves of the sea. **It may well be that just as Atlantis was one continent, so the earth before the Flood was just one continent, which was lost under the Flood waters.**

The earliest extant version of the Atlantis legend was recorded by Plato in his *Timeaus*, but Plato and other Greek hilosophers got their legends from Babylon via Egypt, and the Babylonians knew of the Flood and of the pre-Flood world.

The possibility of a single pre-Flood supercontinent is implied in Genesis 1:9: "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so." **With the waters in one place, were the continents also joined in a single place?** Ancient maps showing a single world continent also seem to be corrupted memories of a pre-flood supercontinent continent¹⁰

Another difference in the earth is that *its surface was less rugged* than it is today. It was less mountainous. The average depth of ocean water today is about 12,000 feet. Since virtually all the waters that were involved in the Flood are now in the oceans,¹¹ and since everything on earth was covered by the Flood waters,¹² any mountains that were more than 12,000 feet tall could not have been covered during the Flood. Mt. Everest, the tallest mountain in the world, is 29,029 feet high, so Mt. Everest could not have been covered by the Flood waters. *But the Bible says that everything was indeed covered.* **This means that mountains before the Flood were no taller than some 12,000 feet.**

Also, *the crust of the earth was more stable* before the Flood. Proverbs 8:28 says that during the Creation Week God "strengthened the fountains of the deep."¹³ This means that

God placed large reservoirs of water *deep* below the surface of the earth, and the surface (crust) was *strengthened*, i.e., stable.

Volcanoes, earthquakes, and other geological instability was absent before the flood. The earth's crust was not unstable till the first day of the flood, when the "fountains of the great deep" broke up (Genesis 7:11). The waters gushed out and the crust of the earth suddenly very unstable.

Modern volcanism and earthquakes are a sort of "residual catastrophism" remaining from the forces of the flood, and have been declining with the passing millennia.¹⁴ Volcanoes, earthquakes and other modern tectonic activity are from the adjustment of the crust of the earth, even now several thousand years later, from this extreme devastation.

Astronomers have observed that on other heavenly bodies with solid surfaces, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and the moon, there is little to no crustal movement as there is on the earth. **This points to a unique structure in the earth, made to support life (Isaiah 45:18) but upset in the Flood.** This is not surprising, for the ground itself had been cursed: "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast harkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life" (Genesis 3:17-18).

Another result of the young earth and the mild, uniform climate was that there were *many more edible and nutritious plants* than there are today. **Through the centuries, as mutations have built up in plants, many are no longer good for food, and many have become nothing but weeds.** But the Bible, in Genesis 1:29, indicates that every plant before the Flood was both edible and nutritious: "And God said, Behold, I have given you of every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of the tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." **Fossils show that before the Flood a larger abundance of plants than we can imagine flourished everywhere.**¹⁵

In Genesis 1:12, all trees were *fruit* trees. **Thus plants now existing only as weeds were once good for food.** After the flood God allowed meat-eating partly to make up for "thorns and thistles" and other mutations making plants less useful for nutrition.¹⁶

All these facts about the earth before the Flood we need as foundational knowledge in order to understand the high quality of life before the Flood.

What Is Quality of Life?

Today we think of high quality of life as being based on machines and technology, such as medical technology, fossil fuels, mechanical devices, and electronic devices for communication and information processing. But when we strip away all the paraphernalia of modern life, we see that a high quality of life really requires only three basic things: *good health, good transportation, and effective transmission and storage of information.*

If we use this definition of high quality of life, we can see how far we have come since, say, the twelfth century AD in

Medieval times. Take health, for example. In Medieval Europe the level of health was very poor, with a life expectancy of some forty years.¹⁷ But in the last several centuries, especially since 1800, medical technology and improved dissemination of knowledge have helped the average human life span in much of the world to increase into the seventies.¹⁸

Pre-Flood people did not use technology as we do today, but this doesn't mean that they were primitive, as evolutionary thought would have us believe. Man before the Flood enjoyed at least as high a quality of life as we have in the West today, with excellent health, easy transportation, and effective transmission and storage of information. With technology, man in the West has only recently been able to reach a quality of life similar to that of man before the Flood.

Man's Health Before the Flood

Before the flood the earth as created in Genesis 1 provided many factors tending to make good health easy to maintain. After the Fall, people died of old age and murder, and no doubt diseases, accidents, and injuries took the lives of others. The long lives of patriarchs recorded in Genesis 5, however, clearly show that aging processes were slower than now, which means that at any given age, people were more robust, i.e., healthier.

Several main factors contributed to good health and longevity before the Flood. One was the presence of the water vapor layer. **Because the water vapor layer enveloped the earth, man thrived in the ideal climate everywhere he roamed, with nutritious food always available.**

There was a higher atmospheric pressure at the surface than today due to the weight of the water vapor layer. The weight of the water vapor layer generated *hyperbaric* (high pressure) conditions at the earth's surface. Even today, high pressure therapy is actually good for health, and **double the normal atmospheric pressure is therapeutic for wounds resisting normal healing.**¹⁹

The water vapor layer also shielded the earth from solar radiation and cosmic rays that cause harmful mutations. Cancers and mutations have propagated over the millennia so that now we have to fight genetic disorders with new difficulties arising to replace the diseases cured. But cancer and other mutations were very rare or nonexistent before the Flood.

Killer storms such as lightning, tornadoes, and hurricanes also did not exist and so posed no threat and could not shorten life. Also, because there was no need for the technology of modern days, there were no harmful man-made chemicals polluting the environment. Everyone breathed pure air, drank pure water, and ate pure food.

Another important fact to consider is that there was little degenerative illness. These illnesses are caused by nutritional deficiencies, which were rare before the flood due to the abundance of nutritious vegetation. Also, pre-Flood man ate no meat, and thus suffered little or none from the degenerative diseases caused primarily from animal fats, diseases such as

atherosclerosis, congestive heart failure, and senility resulting when nutrients necessary to metabolize these fats are lacking in the diet.²⁰ **The life-giving vegetation ensured the intake of nutrients necessary to maximize health.**

In an equally direct impact on health, there were few communicable diseases. Fewer microbial mutants existed, so there were fewer harmful viruses and bacteria. There had been no harmful types originally, for "...God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good. ..." (Genesis 1:31). **Viruses are apparently organisms that have lost some of their original genetic coding, possibly bacteria that have degraded into parasites.**²¹ New disease mutants have appeared throughout history.²²

Perhaps most important of all, though, is the fact that Adam was created mentally and physically perfect. There were no genetic defects ("genetic load") in the beginning. The water vapor layer protected the earth from mutagenic radiation, resulting in a low mutation rate. Heritable mutations in germ cells were thus only rarely produced and transmitted to future generations. In this early time people could still safely marry near relatives.²³ **Cain could have, and did, safely marry one of his sisters.**²⁴ Eventually mutations accumulated so that such unions were dangerous, and marriage between close kin was outlawed in the Mosaic code.²⁵ Even today most localities prohibit unions between first cousins.

In these early years of the earth's history, the average person, instead of inheriting faulty genes from his parents, inherited abilities that we may now see once every few decades or centuries in occasional prodigies. Mendelssohn, Rossini, and Mozart were all gifted but rare musical geniuses of recent centuries who produced beautiful compositions while still in their teens or younger. **But before the Flood, what we now consider genius ability would have been much more typical of the average person.**²⁶ Having this mental head start, and aided by the ideal environment, the average pre-Flood person stayed healthy, vigorous, strong, and mentally alert for hundreds of years, all with no conscious effort on his part.

With uniformly mild climate, a mild, equable water cycle, no storms, no geologic catastrophes, no predation, abundant nutritious vegetation everywhere, few diseases, and a low genetic load, it is easy to see why pre-flood health was sufficiently robust to allow longevities of nearly a thousand years. The long lives of antediluvian man became the basis of Babylonian and Egyptian legends of a past "golden age" when people were hardly ever sick and died only in extreme old age.²⁷

Transportation Before the Flood

Throughout post-flood history, mountains have been barriers to transportation and travel. Low altitude passes through mountains such as the Khyber Pass and the Cumberland Gap are famous places where migration was possible that was impossible over the mountains on either side. With the entire earth less mountainous before the flood, global travel was easier. **The general geography of the pre-Flood world -- only one huge continent -- shows us that people did not**

need to travel then the great distances that we do now to get somewhere.

Another factor enhancing transportation was the great human and animal vigor. When people did travel, because they were so vigorous -- and some were big, the Bible saying that there were giants in the earth in those days²⁸ -- they could run great distances without getting tired.

The tendency toward great stature gave a long stride capable of covering significant distance with every step. **The hyperbaric condition further prevented oxygen debt, and people could run as long as the body had sufficient calories to supply power.** To eat, the traveler stopped and partook of the abundant, nutritious vegetation available along the way. We can imagine pre-flood man beginning a run in the early morning, and at a pace of, say, 15 miles per hour, covering some 300 miles in the daylight hours. Such runs may have been as enjoyable and idyllic as they may have been commonplace.

But pre-Flood man was not limited to running under his own power. **Large animals, all tame -- possibly even dinosaurs -- could carry great loads.** Predators didn't yet exist. There was no animal fear of man, for God put fear toward man in the animals after the flood.²⁹

For travel of great distances today, the two major barriers are oceans and mountain ranges. But if the earth was all one land mass before the Flood, then there were no oceans to cross. And since the land surface was less rugged, mountains posed no real hindrance to travel. Fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gasoline) for mechanical transportation were not available before the flood.³⁰ But with mild climate and no storms, robust human power and tame beasts for extra power, and with no significant mountain or ocean barriers, mechanical transportation was not required. Man could get where he wanted to go without mechanical aids. **The lack of planes, trains, and automobiles before the flood did not equal primitivity.**

Information Transmission Before the Flood

The greatest barrier to information access today is the language barrier. **Before the flood there was no translation problem.**

All spoke one and the same language: "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech" (Genesis 11:1). In the West today, whole libraries of Chinese and Russian information are "off limits" not because of political barriers but because so few Western scholars can read the information. Every now and then new books appear that revise the Western version of history from to information finally translated from Chinese or Russian archives. Nevertheless, the West, Russia, China, and other distinct world regions are each isolated in their regional "information bubbles."³¹

Beside the language barrier and physical isolation, another hindrance to information access throughout post-flood history has been lack of ability to store and retrieve information. Today we store information in books or computer disks. Before the invention of printing, books were rare and

much information was lost. The average person could not read. **But before the flood, human longevity permitted a vast amount of information to be stored in the memory of life experiences.**

Three major factors made the transmission and storage of information easy before the Flood. One was that, as mentioned, everyone spoke the same language, at least as highly developed a language as ours. Another factor was that even though the population of the earth was huge, people could easily communicate with one another because they all lived on one continent. A third factor was that people lived a long time, and being closer to creation, their memories were more perfect, so they could remember amazing amounts of information.

Today anyone living as long as Methuselah would remember the American Revolution as life experience, not history to be memorized and then forgotten. **Much of what we look up in books or on the internet would already be in our memories if our lives were as long as before the Flood.** Further, long lifetimes made possible effective information retrieval. Anyone who has been fortunate enough to mine the wealth of history in the memories of aged grandparents knows how much information there is to be retrieved after a long life.

Imagine having many people living today who remembered perfectly -- *as life experience, not history* -- Columbus' voyage to the New World, or Martin Luther's famous "Here I stand!" speech at the Diet of Worms. This would completely change the whole concept of information storage. **Healthy "mental powers" before the Flood decreased the need for record-keeping.** Computers would probably be unthought of because they would be unnecessary.

Did printing exist before the flood? Possibly; die-stamped coins have been found in fossil-bearing rocks. These would have been stamped out on presses similar to the presses used for printing.

Technology Before the Flood

Pre-Flood men did have technology adequate to meet their needs. But they didn't have modern technical aids because they didn't need them. **The pre-Flood world may have had much technology, but if it did, it was not as necessary for maintaining a high quality of life as our technology is to us.**

Dwellings before the Flood did not need to be as complex as dwellings today. **There was no need for insulation because there was no severe heat, cold, wind, or storms.**³² Shelters were built just for privacy and for protection from other men, who, according to Genesis 6:11, were increasingly wicked. With no harsh weather, no fossil fuels were needed for heating or cooling, or air conditioning. **There was little need for mechanical building aids because pre-Flood men were vigorous and strong.** Jobs that would seem difficult or impossible to us without machines were simply of no consequence to them.

Genesis 4 mentions some specific antediluvian technology: producing agriculture, building cities, raising animals, making and playing musical instruments, and working metals such as

brass and iron. The very mention of these specifics means that pre-Flood man must have had other abilities not specifically mentioned. For instance, in order to make musical instruments, he needed knowledge of the physics of sound and how different materials would interact to produce music. In order to build cities, he must have had some system of engineering drawings and systems of trade and money to transport and buy and sell the materials required for the construction. Reading and writing would have been basic skills to support these more complex activities.

There have been pre-Flood artifacts found in fossil-bearing rock formed during the Flood: nails, vases, silverware, ceramic spoons, and some simple building and what appear to be possibly metal machine parts (see Table 1 on next page). Relatively few such artifacts have been found and recorded, and we can assume that, with the vastness of the Flood sediment, there must be many more such artifacts still buried. **They certainly indicate a pre-Flood technology that was far from primitive.**

An example of pre-Flood technology that is especially important is the Ark, whose characteristics are described in Genesis 6:15-16. **The Ark was a remarkable massive work, the largest example of pre-Flood technology we know of.**³³

Jesus compared pre-Flood days to conditions before He comes back the second time. He prophesied in Matthew 24:37-39: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

We tend to think of these verses as comparing the evil before the Flood with the evil of today, but this cannot be the entire meaning, because **there were only eight people saved from the Flood. There has never since been a condition on the earth as bad as this.** Never in the future will evil be as prevalent as before the flood, for the Church will always exist.

Since the flood, there have been many more than eight righteous, even in the darkest times. For instance God said to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:18, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." In Matthew 16:18 Jesus spoke of Himself, promising, "... [U]pon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Even at Christ's return, believers will be in all parts of the earth, partaking in daytime work on the sunlit side *and* in nighttime sleep on the dark side. Jesus predicted in Luke 17:34-36: "I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." **Even in the spiritually dark end times, the sad circumstance of only eight believers on earth will not be repeated.**

Matthew 24:37-39 therefore may also be referring to the ease of life, not just to the prevalence of evil. In both

TABLE 1. SOME PRE-FLOOD ARTIFACTS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Where and When Found</u>	<u>Conventional Geologic Age</u>	<u>References: author/page</u>
Silver-zinc vase (Dorchester Vase)	Dorchester, Eng., 1851	Recent, 100 KY	Jochmans 12, 13A fig. A; Corliss 656; Cremo & Thompson 798
Etched copper alloy coin/medallion	Lawn Ridge, Illinois, 1870	Recent, 100 KY	Jochmans 13-15; Cremo & Thompson 801
Rock-sculptured bust embedded in gravel (King Crowley Head)	Crowley's Ridge, Arkansas, 1921	Recent, 175 KY	Jochmans 19-20, 21A fig. A
Shoeprints	Near Managua, Nicaragua, 1884	Recent, 200 KY	Jochmans 6, 8A fig. I; Corliss 640
Inlaid tile floor under rock shelf	Near Edmond, Oklahoma, 1969	Recent, 200 KY	Jochmans 20
1½ in. clay "doll" (Nampa Image)	Nampa, Idaho, 1889	Recent, 300 KY	Jochmans 20-21, 21A fig. C; Corliss 458; Cremo & Thompson 802; Gentet & Lain 203
6 in. marble "doll" (Ohio Statuette)	Marlboro, Ohio, 1880	Recent, 300 KY	Jochmans 21, 21A fig. B
Drilled garnet beads	Australia, c. 1972	Quaternary, 1 MY	Cornwall 48-50
Mammoth tracks; sandal tracks	Near Carson City, Nevada, 1882	Quaternary, 2 MY	Jochmans 6-7; Corliss 645
Stone bowls, disks, human bones	Table Mtn., Calif., 1863-6	Pliocene, 12 MY	Jochmans 2-3; Lain & Gentet 252
Shoeprint with ribbed sole	Gobi Desert, 1959	Tertiary, 15 MY	Jochmans 7, 8A fig. E
Tile pavement below 10 ft of soil	Plataeu Valley, Colorado, 1936	Tertiary, 30 MY	Jochmans 22
Nail in sandstone	Kindgoodie Quarry, Eng., 1844	Tertiary, 40 MY	Jochmans 16, 16A fig. C; Corliss 651; Cremo & Thompson 797
Chalk sphere in lignite bed	Near Laon, France, 1861	Tertiary, 45-55 MY	Cremo & Thompson 799
Iron "cube" em- bedded in coal	Wolfsegg Mine, Austria, 1885	Tertiary, 60 MY	Jochmans 16-17, 16A figs. A, B; C Corliss 654
I and U indenta- tions in marble	Henderson Quarry, Pa., 1829	Tertiary, 65 MY	Jochmans 23, 23A fig. B; Corliss 657; Cremo & Thompson 797
Shoeprints	Carrizo Valley, Oklahoma, 1970s	Cretaceous, 100 MY	Jochmans 7, 8A fig. D
Metallic pipe-like objects in chalk	St.-Jean de Livet, France, 1968	Cretaceous, 120 MY	Jochmans 17; Cremo & Thompson 809; Corliss 652-3
Human bones and copper arrowhead	Gilman, Colorado, 1867	Jurassic, 135 MY	Jochmans 4
Shoeprint	Pershing Co., Nevada, 1927	Triassic, 225 MY	Jochmans 9, 8A fig. F
Ceramic spoon em- bedded in coal	Pennsylvania, 1937	Pennsylvan- ian	Wiant 74
8 k. gold chain embedded in coal	Morrisonville, Ill., 1891	Pennsylvan- ian, 300 MY	Jochmans 17; Cremo & Thompson 805
Iron cup or pot embedded in coal	Near Wilburton, Oklahoma, 1912	Pennsylvan- ian, 325 MY	Jochmans 17-18, 18A; Cremo & Thompson 806
Human footprints; parchment print	Near St. Louis, Mo., 1822	Mississipi- an, 345 MY	Jochmans 10-11, 8A fig. H; Corliss 637
Lozenge impressions in coal	Pittsburgh, Pa., 1822	Devonian 400 MY	Jochmans 23-24, 23A fig. C
Sandal print	Lake Windemere, England, 1948	Ordovician, 500 MY	Jochmans 11, 8A fig. G
Impressions of iron bars; giant print	Victoria Falls, Scotland, 1880	Cambrian, 600 MY	Jochmans 18-19
Shoeprint, trilobites embedded (Meister Pr.)	Antelope Springs, Utah, 1968	Cambrian, 600 MY	Jochmans 11-12, 8A fig. A; Meister 97; Cremo & Thompson 810
Grooved metal spheres	Near Ottosdal, S. Africa	Precambrian, 2.8 BY	Cremo & Thompson 813

CLAIMED ARTIFACTS THAT ARE NATURAL OR MODERN

Human skull made of coal (Freiberg Skull)	Freiberg, Ger., 1813	No date claimed	Wysong 373, 378; Frair, 37-38
Spark-plug device (Coso artifact)	Coso Mtns., Calif., 1961	Recent, 500 KY	Jochmans 15, 13A figs. B, C
"Wall" glyphs and pictographs	Chatata, Tenn., 1891	Quaternary, 1 MY	Jochmans 22, 23A fig. A; Corliss, 582

CLAIMED ARTIFACTS WITH INADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION

Ax head embedded in stump	Cincinatti, 1826	Recent, 50-75 KY	Jochmans 12
Six-in. iron nail in conglomerate	Peru, c. 1572	Recent, 75-100 KY	Jochmans 12
Copper hook and ring	Whiteside Co., Illinois, 1851	Recent, 150 KY	Jochmans 15
6d nail embedded in quartz	California, 1851	Quaternary, 1 MY	Jochmans 15-16
2 in. screw in feldspar	Abbey Mine, Calif., 1865	Tertiary, 20 MY	Jochmans 16
Alphabetic writing on slate wall	Hammondville, Ohio, 1869	Triassic, > 200 MY	Jochmans 23

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pre-Flood and end-time worlds, people evidently had and will have the luxury to engage in pleasures (eating and drinking) to the point of excess. A struggle for existence characterizes neither world. In each world, mankind would have sufficient leisure to pursue even needful and honorable activities prodigally and with an evil intent of continuous self-gratification.

Today, with our increased leisure time brought about by labor-saving technology, man's fallen nature again tempts him to use the gift of time for evil, not good. Our technology, which itself is neither good nor evil, can lead to a pervasive wickedness if used for illegitimate purposes.

The Road Back from the Flood

Man lived in a near-perfect world before the Flood, with ideal conditions in almost every respect. In spite of these circumstances -- *or perhaps because of them* -- man became increasingly wicked. So wicked, in fact, that God destroyed the whole earth by the global Flood.³⁶ The sediments laid down by the Flood were incredibly vast. If we compare the volume of the Flood sediments, using a pre-Flood population of, say, 10 billion, we find that one human fossil skeleton would be accompanied by about three billion cubic feet of

sedimentary rock.³⁷ **The pre-flood population could have been much more technological than we can conceive, and yet have left little trace.**

If the pre-Flood population had been, say, eight billion, this means that **the eight people were saved during the Flood were only one-billionth of the earth's population.** Noah and his family personally could have processed only a small part of the knowledge that the whole human race had before the Flood. Ever since Noah and his family got off the Ark, man has been struggling to regain knowledge lost in the Flood.

For example, ships the size of Noah's Ark may not have been built again until the mid-nineteenth century.³⁸ If this is true, **with the Flood occurring about 3000 BC, it took man about 5000 years to regain the same degree of shipmaking ability as before the Flood.**³⁹ Another notable example of regaining pre-Flood technology is the ability to work iron. Genesis 4:22 says that pre-Flood man could work iron, one of the most difficult metals to refine because if it contacts air it rusts, especially when molten for refining. Conventional history says that the first people who refined and worked iron on a large scale were the Hittites, who lived about 1000 BC. **So it took man about 2000 years to recover the pre-Flood iron-working ability.**

For thousands of years after the Flood, most people maintained a more or less constant standard of living, far below what the pre-Flood population enjoyed.⁴⁰ Then, during the Middle Ages, generally a dark period in the West, one event changed all that. That event was the Reformation.

The Reformation freed people from superstition, from viewing the creation as something to be feared or worshipped, and it helped people to realize that creation is worthy of study in its own right, revealing the nature of God (Romans 1:20). When scientists in the 1600s and 1700s began studying nature in this way, the result was a burst of scientific knowledge, medical technology, transportation technology, and ultimately computer technology.⁴¹ It culminated in the nineteenth and twentieth-century developments that we think of as characterizing Western culture. It has restored to us in modern times a quality of life similar to that enjoyed by people before the Flood.

Conclusions

People before the Flood had a high quality of life granted to them by virtue of the benevolent creation in which God had placed them. Today we must pay and constantly work to maintain the technological infrastructure providing these comforts, or we will find ourselves back in a dark age clinging to the edge of survival.

The source of modern technological improvements ultimately stems from the impetus given to science as a by-product of the Reformation. Obsession with a high quality of life today is leading to the conditions Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:38-39. **Obsession with physical ease, in pre-Flood days and today, leads to spiritual decay.**

Physical comforts are not evil in themselves.⁴²

Actually any circumstance can lead man into evil, even poverty (Proverbs 30:8-9). This is because man's depravity tempts him to use any excuse for abandoning God. **But in Western society today, the circumstances are those of physical luxury tempting people to sin.**

Notes. Bolding in quotations is added and is not in the original sources. I gratefully acknowledge the editorial abilities of Rebecca Henry Davis for much of the wording in this paper.

- 1 J. Henry, 2007, "Global Population Past and Present," <creationconcepts.org>.
- 2 After the Flood God put mutual fear between man and animals (Genesis 9:2), **ultimately for the self-preservation of each.** Without the mutual fear, mass slaughter could have ensued. It is possible that fallen man before the Flood was predatory in disobedience to God, but if so, the more fertile pre-Flood world favored the survival of animals despite human predation.

The very animals taken by God into the ark may have been those individuals most attuned to self-preservation, a useful characteristic for survival in the post-Flood world, but also a possible instigator of predatory behavior. Whatever the case, however, after the Flood the potential for mutual slaughter among man and animals existed, but the mutual fear curbed this tendency.
- 3 What caused the water vapor shield to fall out in the Flood? Genesis 7:11 and 17 say: "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ... And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth." **The fountains of the great deep broke up first before the Flood rains.** This crustal breakup was a great global volcanic cataclysm, which spewed debris high into the

atmosphere, unsettling the water vapor shield which had been stable till then..

- 4 The high-altitude layer of Venus is opaque, obscuring the surface. Through the 1960s speculation persisted that Venus might harbor a subtropical paradise. This speculation was driven by the evolutionary opinion that life could evolve under virtually any conditions. Indeed, it was once believed that, ". . . while it may be true that life is possible only on a planet at a suitable distance from a star, we must be aware of adopting a medieval attitude that the Earth is the measure of the Universe. For life has adapted itself, by evolution, to a wide range of conditions on the Earth: what limits can we set to its ability to adapt itself to a more widely diverse environment?" (Michael W. Ovenden, 1962, *Life in the Universe*, Doubleday, p. 16). Ironically, the evolutionary search for places that might harbor extraterrestrial life has caused a radical change in this opinion, as evolutionists have come to the realization that life can live only under "earth-like" conditions. Astronomers' first view of the lifeless surface of Venus was in the 1970s with the landing of the Russian Venera probes.
- 5 Fossils of pre-Flood life show large life forms growing luxuriantly with no evidence of harsh climate anywhere: "There is little evidence that climatic belts existed in the earlier history of the earth ..." (E.B. Heylman, 1971, "Should We Teach Uniformitarianism?," *Journal of Geological Education*, Vol. 19, January, p. 36).
- 6 From the beginning, one function of the sun, moon and stars was to delineate the seasons (Genesis 1:14-18). Thus there were seasons in the pre-Flood world. Fossils of tree and cold blooded animals buried in the Flood reveal growth rings caused by seasonal temperature changes. But the pre-Flood seasonal changes were mild, and did not take on the harsh extremes of temperature until afterward: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22).
- 7 **Without dust for condensation, ultrapure water freezes only at -40°C (-40°F).** A major source of dust particles for rain formation today is sea salt. **Without sea salt therefore little or no rain would fall today and the earth would be a desert.** But the ocean before the Flood was possibly fresh, having become salty in the Flood. **The post-Flood world needs the salty ocean for rain formation.** Today's rain cycle, though not as benign as the pre-flood water cycle, is good and shows God's continued mercy and care (Acts 14:17) for the post-Flood earth.
- 8 "And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: **for the LORD GOD had not caused it to rain upon the earth,** and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground."
- 9 L. Sprague de Camp, 1970, *Lost Continents: The Atlantis Theme in History, Science, and Literature*, Dover, p. 11 (Plato's description of Atlantis), p. 219 (the world according to Hecataios, the view held by educated Greeks in the interval between Solon and Plato).
- 10 C.W. Ceram, 1986, *Gods, Graves and Scholars*, Vintage, p. 338 (Babylonian map), p. 345 (Babylonian idea of the shape of the world); Joseph C. Dillow, 1981, *The Waters Above: Earth's Pre-Flood Vapor Canopy*, Moody, p. 9.
- 11 The oceans today contain 97% of the earth's water; only 3% is in lakes, rivers, glacial ice, under the ground as "groundwater," and in the air as water vapor (humidity).
- 12 The flood waters covered the highest mountains by 15 cubits -- about 22 feet (Genesis. 7:20). The was probably the draft of the Ark, i.e., the depth of the Ark that was below water when the Ark was fully loaded.
- 13 **The context of Proverbs 8:28 is Christ (personified as "wisdom") creating the world.** This passage is therefore a reference to creation outside of Genesis 1, one of many such creation passages in Scripture. Proverbs 8:28 also mentions the creation of the "waters above" (cp. Genesis 1:7): "... [H]e established the clouds above ... **he strengthened the fountains of the deep.**"
- 14 **Contrary to popular wisdom, the frequency and intensity of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and storms of all sorts is not increasing.** Geologic catastrophes and storms were more intense and frequent soon after the Flood than now. Records show constant storm activity back into the 1800s. Indirect evidence also indicates a constant level of storm activity several centuries back into the past.
- 15 Evolutionists have recognized the discrepancy between what fossils imply about past climate conditions and those of today: "It has long been felt that

the average climate of the earth throughout time has been milder and more homogeneous [uniform] than it is today" (R.H. Dott and R.L. Batten, 1971, *Evolution of the Earth*, McGraw-Hill, p. 298.).

- 16 The Bible gives only one reason for God's allowance of meat-eating after the Flood (Genesis 9:1-3): **meat-eating was associated with God's putting fear between man and animals, ultimately for the self-preservation of each (see Note 2).**

Other possible reasons for God's allowance of meat-eating include the following: (1) as an additional reminder to man of the death caused by sin; (2) as an additional source of protein which was became more difficult to obtain from vegetation in the world devastated by the Flood; (3) as a dependable source of essential amino acids after the Flood. Humans today must ingest eight amino acids which cannot be synthesized in the body. **It is possible that the first men and women could synthesize all 20 amino acids**, and thus could eat any plant and remain healthy indefinitely, an impossibility today. Vegetarians today must be very careful to eat a broad selection of vegetables and grains to supply the eight essential amino acids, but this care might not have been necessary before the Flood.

- 17 Medieval Europe is known among historians for its absolute lack of hygiene and bodily cleanliness. **People rarely changed clothes or bathed.** Lack of hygiene was one reason for the terrible Black Plague pandemics sweeping Europe from the 1300s to the 1600s. Earlier, the Crusading Europeans were also known to their contemporaries for their uncleanness (Lewis, 1982, p. 280): "[An Islamic] writer, possibly Ibrahim ibn Yaqub, ... comments on the Frankish practice of shaving as well as on other dirty habits. "You shall see none more filthy than they. ... **They do not cleanse or bathe themselves more than once or twice a year**, and then in cold water, **and they do not wash their garments from the time they put them on until they fall to pieces**."'
- 18 J. Henry, 2006, "Christianity and the Rise of Modern Science," <creationconcepts.org>.
- 19 Joanne Silberner, 1985, "Hyperbaric Oxygen Bounces Back," *Science News*, Vol. 128, October 12, p. 236.
- 20 Adequate intake of nutrients such as vitamin E assists in the non-pathological assimilation of animal fats. Vitamin E is available in whole wheat, but whole wheat is often missing in the typical modern diet. Fallen man also abuses his health by following unhealthy fads that cause degeneration, illness and death, e.g., acquiring excessive (cancer-causing) suntan or, a century ago, taking arsenic to become fashionably pale (*Sears Catalog*, 1902, p. 447, reprinted by Bounty Books, 1969. The *Sears Catalog* touted arsenic tablets as good for health: "DR. ROSE'S FRENCH ARSENIC COMPLEXION WAFERS. PERFECTECTLY HARMLESS when used in accordance with our directions ... [enhances] beauty of form and person by surely developing a transparency and pellucid clearness of complexion. LADIES, YOU CAN BE BEAUTIFUL. ... [Y]ou can make yourself as handsome as any lady in the land by the use of our French Arsenic Wafers"). **A lady dying of arsenic-induced anemia would indeed look pale!**
- However, we have not progressed beyond the old affinity for foolish fads. Fluoride, for example, is a cumulative toxin in the human body, yet is regularly added to drinking water on the questionable basis that it prevents tooth decay (see J. Henry, 2004, "Fluorides in Industry and Health," <creationconcepts.org>).
- 21 J. Henry, 2006, "Did Death Occur Before the Fall?: A Further Critique of the Progressive Creationsim of Hugh Ross," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 43 no. 3, December, p. 164.
- 22 For example, "as an epidemic disease, typhus did not exist in Europe until the fifteenth century" (Hans Zinsser, 1935, *Rats, Lice and History*. Bantam, reprinted 1971, p. 163).
- 23 Incest was never approved, as in the case of Lot's daughters bearing Moab and Benammi by him (Genesis 19:36-38).
- 24 This is the answer to the old question, Where did Cain get his wife?
- 25 Leviticus 18:6-18 prohibits relations between first cousins and closer kin.
- 26 Amadeus Mozart at age six gave virtuoso public piano performances and composed some of the world's greatest music before he died at 35 (Roderick MacLeish, 1984, "Gifted by Nature, Prodigies Are Still Mysteries to Man," *Smithsonian*, Vol. 14 no. 3, March, p. 71).
- 27 J. Henry, 2006, "Legends of the Creation Flood and Babel," <creationconcepts.org>; J. Henry, 2006, "More Legends of the Creation, Flood and Babel," <creationconcepts.org>.

- 28 Genesis 6:4: "There were giants in the earth in those days: and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

Even after the flood there were giants, as human stature decreased to the present level: (1) the sons of Anak (Num. 13:33) that made normal-size men seem like "grasshoppers"; (2) Og (Deut. 3:11) who slept in a bed 9 cubits long implying he was some 13 feet tall; (3) Goliath (1 Sam. 17:4), over nine feet tall. With larger stature, there was less need for mechanical building aids. Even after the flood, the pyramids, Stonehenge, etc., were apparently built only with body power while human strength was still relatively high.

- 29 See Note 2.
- 30 Along with most fossils, most coal and oil is a product of the Flood. The pitch Noah used in building the Ark was most likely not a petroleum pitch but a resin, possibly processed taken from vegetation living at the time.
- 31 This reality means that the formation of an end-time one world state will be much more difficult than is commonly assumed.
- 32 Pre-Flood seasons existed but were mild. See Note 6.
- 33 J. Henry, 2005, "Buoyancy and Stability of Noah's Ark," <creationconcepts.org>.
- 34 Before the flood, the mankind became so wicked that only eight people were righteous: "[Once upon a time] the longsuffering of God waited [persisted] in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, **eight souls were saved by water**" (1 Peter 3:20). The entire human population was wicked: "And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for **the earth is filled with violence** through them ..." (Genesis 6:13), signifying that no part of the earth was spared the wickedness of mankind. Further, individual persons were thoroughly wicked: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).
- 36 Genesis 6:11-13 emphasizes the pervasive wickedness of the pre-Flood world, with God telling Noah that He would destroy mankind along "with the earth" itself (v. 13) in order to ensure that the pre-Flood evil could not be easily resurrected.
- 37 With 5×10^{15} ft² of earth surface, 1 mile (5280 ft) average depth of lithified flood sediment covering the surface, and 10^{10} pre-flood population; then the volume of sediment per buried human being = 3 billion ft³.
- 38 The *Great Eastern* "was the largest ship afloat when launched" in 1859, and was 692 ft long. It had an iron hull (W. Owen, 1970. "Ship and Shipbuilding," *The Collegiate Encyclopedia*, Grolier International, Vol. 16, p. 439). Some Chinese junks of centuries ago may have matched the *Great Eastern* in size (J.R. Mills, 1960, "The Largest Chinese Junk and Its Displacement," *Mariner's Mirror*, Vol. 46, p. 147), and, "[T]here is evidence that ships approaching Ark length have in fact existed in ancient times" (John Woodmorappe, 1996, *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study*, Institute for Creation Research, p. 50). For instance, the legendary ancient Greek ship variously known as *Syracusia* or *Alexandris* is supposed to have rivaled the Ark's size (L. Casson, 1971, *Ships and Seamanship in the Ancient World*, Princeton University, p. 185).
- 39 **A tight chronology puts the creation at 4173 BC and the Flood at 2517 BC** (J. Henry, 2001, "What Is the Age of the Universe?," <creationconcepts.org>). 5000 BC for creation and 3000 BC for the Flood are convenient round-number dates.
- 40 This statement should be taken as a generality and not as applying to every person or culture up to modern times. The Seven Wonders of the ancient world were technological marvels, and Solomon's Temple may have been one of the costliest building – if not the *most* costly – since the Flood. See J. Henry, 2005, "Solomon's Temple and Solomon's Mines," <creationconcepts.org>.
- 41 J. Henry, 2006, "Christianity and the Rise of Modern Science," <creationconcepts.org>.
- 42 Pleasure, leisure, and luxury in excess tend to breed evil. For this reason God put man to work "for [his] sake" (Genesis 3:17) in the fallen world, i.e., to keep man from doing evil with time for too much leisure and pleasure-seeking. The leisure and luxury that sinless man would have used to glorify God we too often spend in godless pursuits.