

The World That Then Was

Radio Sermons



by Wayne Carver

*Mr. & Mrs. John Burket
2813 Syracuse Drive
Irving, TX 75062
(214)-255-5710*

Contents

Chapter	Page
1. The Physical World of the Antediluvians	1
(Genesis 1:31)	
2. Denizens of the Pre-Flood World	8
(Genesis 1:20-22)	
3. The Human Population of Adam's World	12
(Genesis 4:16, 17)	
4. The Culture and Civilization of the Antediluvian World	19
(Matthew 24:36-39)	
5. Moral Decline in a Golden Age	30
(Genesis 6:1-3)	

Introduction: The Paradox of Water

"Whereby THE WORLD THAT THEN WAS, being overflowed with WATER, perished" (II Peter 3:6).

The perfect world that God created to serve as a dwelling place for Adam and his progeny perished in the Great Flood. As we have learned in earlier studies, this Flood was sent by the Creator in the days of Noah. God's Holy Word does not tell us a great deal about that world. As far as the inspired record is concerned, the divine revelation concerning the physical characteristics, the population, and the cultural and moral characteristics of the world before the Great Flood is contained in Chapters 2 through 6 of the Book of Genesis. Although this is a highly-abbreviated record, it nonetheless provides limited information concerning all of the aspects mentioned.

However, the divine revelation is not the *only* record that God has left us concerning that world that perished. There is another record, written indelibly in large letters, in the very foundation stones of this present world. That record is the fossil content of the sedimentary rocks that cover most of the world's land areas. God has left this second record as a tombstone — as a memorial — to that world that felt the power of His judgment. That record is there in the ground to serve — both as a *memorial* to the former world and as a *warning* to the present world!

What were the physical characteristics of the world of Adam and the patriarchs? How was that world populated? What were the cultural, political, and moral aspects of it? These are the questions that we will try to answer from the two records that God has left us.

Land and Water Boundaries

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there were no more sea" (Rev. 21:1).

Beloved, have you ever stopped to consider that one of the strangest aspects of the new earth (that God will someday create) is

the absence of any trace of a sea? In this present earth, the great bodies of water are the predominant geographical feature. Our present oceans cover more than 70% of the total surface of this present globe! Yet, the new earth will have no more sea!

Water is a rather amazing substance. Without water, our planet would not be able to support life as we know it. What is more amazing still is that recent space exploration has shown our planet to be the only one in the solar system with more than a trace of water. But on earth, it is present in superabundance! Water is perhaps the most important compound on our present earth. But in spite of the basic and profound importance of water on the present earth, Holy Scripture declares that the new earth "will have no more sea"!

Genesis 1:2 reads: "*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*" So we have what might seem to man to be a paradox! On the first earth (as it was originally created by God) there was a universal sea, but on the new earth there will be no more sea! In like fashion, we learn from Genesis 1:2 that the original earth was enveloped in a universal darkness; but John writes concerning the new earth (in Revelation 21:25): "... *there shall be no night there.*"

On the first day of Creation, God broke the power of total darkness—He divided light from darkness, day from night. Similar to this work, on the third day of Creation, God broke the power of the universal sea by commanding dry land to appear. But in between those mighty works of God, another similar work took place on the second day of Creation. On that day, God divided the waters themselves into two great reservoirs. One of these reservoirs was placed above the *firmament*; that is, above the gaseous blanket of our earth that we call our atmosphere. The other reservoir was left below the firmament; that is, *on and under* the surface of the early earth. The exact meaning of the Hebrew words used to describe this division gives reason to believe that the division of the waters *from* the waters on the second day was most likely two approximately equal parts.

Since about half of the earth's total allotment of water was elevated above the atmosphere, we can then assume that the lands of the first earth occupied a great deal more surface space than the approximately 30% of our present world. It is reasonable to believe that at least half of the surface of the first world was land. Most likely the land area was considerably more than 50%.

t
r
s

This brings us to our first important physical characteristic of the pre-Flood world. It had much more land area than this present earth. All of this land was habitable to man.

t
a
e
t

During this study, we will consider a description of that first world which perished in the Great Flood of Noah. Most of us are aware that the scripturally-recorded information that we have about that world is relatively meager. However, the information that God *has* given us is adequate to piece together a relatively complete description of that great world.

1.

The Physical World Of the Antediluvians

There is one direct biblical reference that we cannot afford to overlook as we begin our study of the world that perished. This reference is found in Genesis 1:31: *"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day"* (Gen. 1:31).

When God completed His *creation, formation, and filling* of the original heavens and the earth, He inspected His work. Scripture indicates that He was delighted in what He saw and pronounced it "very good." Our God is a God of perfection, and what He pronounces "very good" we can be assured is good in the absolute! The finished Creation was perfect!

By His mighty creative works, God had made a perfect abode for man. It was perfect and complete in every detail. There were no thorns or thistles in that original perfect Creation. These things came later—after the sin of Adam—as we are told in Genesis 3:18. The earth produced abundantly everything that was needed for the comfort, wants, and pleasures of man. In Genesis 2:9 we read: *"And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."* In that perfect earth, there was no need of a struggle for existence for man—or for the animals.

It seems an obvious conclusion that the original earth contained no deserts or no barren wastes at all. The unique "greenhouse" action of the immense water-vapor canopy assured that there were no arctics, no tropics, or no storms. We are justified in concluding that the most enchanting islands in the south seas of our world today fall far short in helping us to visualize the conditions prevalent upon that perfect earth!

It is true that after man sinned, God found it necessary to pronounce a curse on His perfect Creation. Blight and imperfection

came upon that which was previously perfect. That pre-Flood earth became less than perfect as a direct result of Adam's sin. However, it should be emphasized that, although the curse that God pronounced became effective immediately, *the consequences were not immediately apparent to the fullest extent!*

God had said, "For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." The moment that Adam disobeyed God and tasted the fruit, death came upon him! *He died spiritually at that very moment! But physical death did not claim him immediately!* That body in which the immortal soul of Adam was housed was created to live forever. *That body defied death for 930 years!* Adam and all his tainted offspring lived as though they would *never* die!

And just as it was with man, apparently so it was with the rest of the creation. Although sin brought blight and imperfection upon the newly-created earth, its original glory did not fade at once. After sin and death came into the "world that then was," it was still vastly superior to "the heavens and the earth which are now" (II Peter 3:7). We can understand from the scriptural revelation that (and the evidence in the rocks verifies it) that world was a virtual paradise compared with the world that followed—*our world!*

The Glory of the Pre-Flood World

So, let's ask the question: "In what ways was that pre-Flood world of Adam better than our world?" First it was a world with more living space. The vast water-vapor canopy provided a "greenhouse effect" that ensured approximately equal heating to all parts of the globe. There were no extremes of hot and cold. The entire globe enjoyed a semitropical, springlike loveliness from pole to equator. There would have been no vast frozen zones, such as the Arctic and the Antarctic. There were no scorched areas caused by the intense heat of the equatorial zone.

That earth had no storm systems, because unequal heating of the earth's surface is what produces such systems in our world. The world of Adam was watered by heavy dews deposited each morning, and by rivers and streams fed by underground springs. Genesis 2:4-6, 10 tells us: "*These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 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. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads."

Since that world was not dependent upon rain for life-giving water, there was no dependence on rain patterns. The entire surface of the first world received abundant water. There were, therefore, no enormous desert areas such as our present Sahara, Gobi, etc. All of the vast land areas of that first world was habitable by abundant plant and animal life—and by man.

According to the Creation account, God separated the land from the waters on the third day. The record of this work is given 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."

Notice particularly that there is no specific mention of high mountain uplifts. But in Genesis 8:4, the first of these land masses uplifted by God to be mentioned after the Great Flood (in the scriptural account) were "the mountains of Ararat."

Therefore, there is good reason to believe that the mountains of the first world were relatively low. The vast mountain and desert belts of this post-Flood world have been of great hindrance to extensive settlement. These belts divide our continents into regions of fertile lands and wastelands. Such regions were totally absent from the first world, and therefore would not have presented a hindrance to settlement and habitation of *all sections* of the pre-Flood globe.

Our present world contains vast tundras as well as the ice-covered continents of the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Also, the high mountain regions of such places as India and South America are not fit environments for human population. In our present post-Flood world, about 40% of the existing land area is uninhabitable by man. And, remember, the total land area of this present world is only a little less than 30% of the surface of the globe.

But the first world had none of the barriers and hindrances of this present world. All of the land area of Adam's world was available for abundant human and animal population, and it

supported ample plant life. That world most definitely had a great deal more land area than this world. Approximately half of the water contained in the vast oceans of this present world was elevated above the atmosphere, in the world before the Flood. In the world of Adam, at least half (and perhaps 70%) of the surface of the globe was land area.

Let us take note: The pre-Flood world had vast expanses of land area, there were no natural barriers; and most likely, there was approximately equal distribution of natural resources. The pre-Flood race of men (throughout that vast expanse of land area) could, and did, live in plenty!

Can we actually *know* whether or not the pre-Flood world matched the description just given? Can we *know* whether or not it had waste areas? Yes, we *can* know that the pre-Flood world did have no uninhabitable waste areas. God has left us an undisputable record in the sedimentary rocks of this world. Fossils of plants, animals, and even men that have been found in the great Sahara desert of Africa show that this area was at one time covered by luxuriant vegetation. It was the habitat of a great variety of animal life — and it was once inhabited by man!

Similar fossil records are available in the Gobi desert of China and also in the deserts of India. Fossils of tropical and semitropical vegetation are found in Antarctica, and at the very fringe of the Arctic ocean. The record in the rocks bears out the record in the Scriptures!

The Climate of Adam's World

In our present world, the unequally-heated latitudes and the great mountain ranges divide the continents into clearly defined climatic and biological zones; but not so in the pre-Flood world. The great water-vapor canopy (the "waters above the firmament") provided for approximately equal heating over the entire globe — from pole to equator. The storm systems of our world are created by the dynamics of unequal surface heating and by the large bodies of water and the high mountain ranges.

But remember, all of these things were absent in the pre-Flood world. That world had no storm systems and no winds. Although

the humidity was high, the absence of weather dynamics prevented the formation of rain clouds; therefore both *rain* (and the *rainbow*!) were unknown phenomena.

Since conditions were such that humidity was near the saturation point at all times, only a slight drop in temperature was required to reach the dew point. Calculations of men who have investigated the subject show that the uniform temperature produced all over the globe was approximately 76 degrees Fahrenheit in the daytime. The temperature would drop about two degrees at night. The dew point would then be reached, and a heavy dew would result each morning.

And what do we read in Genesis 2:5, 6? “. . .for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth . . . But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.” By the way, this bears repeating — since rain clouds could not form, there would have been *no rainbow*! God’s covenant of the rainbow for this world (spoken of in Genesis 9) has highly significant meaning!

The Testimony of Geology

Is it only speculation to speak of the pre-Flood world as a “veritable paradise”? No, it definitely is not! Although there are but meager written records, there is another kind of record that God had preserved for us. This second record is reliable; it is true; and it is written in large and legible letters in the very foundation rocks of our present world. Our reference is to the fossil record — and it is found in great abundance on every part of the globe. The fossils do not lie, even though modern man has chosen to build a falsehood upon them. The fossil record has been preserved by God for a purpose. This record is the inscription on a tombstone erected to the memory of that first world! And it is there to serve as a warning for this present world!

As regards the climate of the pre-Flood world, the fossils show that it enjoyed a uniformly-mild climate in (what is now) both high and low altitudes, and all over the globe. The fossils in our rocks testify to a perfectly uniform, nonzonal, mild, and semitropical-to-tropical climate all over this planet!

This is not to say that the climate was *exactly* the same everywhere. There were some minor differences, but no extreme ones.

Geologists concur in their acknowledgment that in *all* geologic history (recent ice ages excepted), the temperatures in polar parts of the world *were much warmer than those of today!* And the equatorial parts of the world were *less* warm than they are today!

For an example of such testimony, here is a direct quotation from the geologist, Alfred W. Wallace, found in his book, *The Geological Distribution of Animals*: "There is but one climate known to the ancient fossil world as revealed by the plants and animals entombed in the rocks, and that climate was a mantle of springlike loveliness which seems to have prevailed continuously over the whole globe. Just how the world could have thus been warmed all over may be a matter of conjecture; that it was so warmed effectively and continuously is a matter of fact."

Admittedly it is difficult for us today to imagine a world like that of Adam and his immediate descendants. But the fossil record testifies to the fact that there was neither Arctic nor Antarctic. And neither were there any steaming jungles of the equatorial regions!

It is natural to ask, "How could things have been so different in that early world; and what caused such a vast change?" The only plausible explanation is the biblical account of the "division of the waters from the waters" and the resulting protective water-vapor canopy — then the collapse of this canopy at the time of the Great Flood of Noah!

The Waters Above the Firmament

The records left in the rocks and the ice of our present world testify to the fact that a great change *did* come upon our planet at sometime in the past. A change came, and it came suddenly. As silent witnesses to this fact, we have the thousands of great woolly mammoths found frozen in the flesh in the great ice-covered tundras of Siberia.

All of the geologic evidence supports the fact that earth did undergo a great catastrophe at some time in the past! And the biblical account of the Great Flood describes just the type of catastrophe of which our present world presents ample supporting testimony.

At the time of the Great Flood, the water-vapor canopy that the Bible calls "the waters above the firmament" was caused to condense

and to fall to earth as torrential rainfall, for a period of forty days and forty nights. This canopy had been provided by God for the protection and benefit of that first world.

What did the water-vapor canopy do for that pre-Flood world? First, the sun's energy that penetrated the canopy diffused approximately equally over all zones of latitude, and a mild subtropical climate prevailed everywhere. The canopy served to bring about conditions similar to those in a "greenhouse," with a temperature about 76 degrees Fahrenheit. The harmful rays of the sun (especially those most active in the aging of living things) were intercepted by the canopy. As a result, men and animals lived to ages of long duration.

Storms and rainfall were unknown in the world of Adam; therefore, the rainbow was first seen after Noah left the ark and God established His covenant with him. Extremes of hot and cold, either as a function of latitude or a function of season, were not possible.

But at the time of the Great Flood, the water-vapor canopy was caused to collapse. It was the source of the rain that came from "the floodgates of heaven." The immediate effect of the removal of the canopy was a radical and sharp change in the climate. Storm action began as the earth was heated unequally. Genesis 8:1 tells us, ". . . and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged." Then the seasons became sharply divided, and there was "a seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter." By the way, this passage from Genesis 8:22 tells us *exactly* when the correct "principle of uniformity" for our present post-Flood world was inaugurated!

2.

Denizens of the Pre-Flood World

"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good" (Gen. 1:20-22).

With such favorable climatic conditions, it is easily seen that the plant and animal life of that first world would be vastly superior to that of this world. And, so it was, as testified to by the fossil record in the rocks! With respect to the various living things, there seems to have been fewer "varieties" within the "kinds" — and there was a wider distribution of these "varieties" all over the world. There is a distinct deterioration of the animals and plants which "are now," as compared to those that "then were."

The Great Dinosaurs

Let's consider one example. We have all seen pictures and read about the giant prehistoric reptiles known as "dinosaurs." Their fossils have been found in every continent, sometimes in great numbers. Some who have studied them think that they must have been as numerous as the buffalo on our great plains a century ago. In size, the dinosaurs range from that of a small dog to well over 100 feet in length. Some lived on land, some in water, and some could fly!

These creatures were reptiles — cold-blooded animals. One of the characteristics of this type of animal is that it continues to grow as long as it lives. The long life span, the ideal living conditions, and the abundant food supply of the first world probably explains their great size. The lizzards of our present world may well be the descendants of the dinosaurs. However, they are impoverished because of the severe environment of our present world.

Let's look at an interesting passage found in the Book of Job. These words are found in Job 40:15-18: "*Behold now behemoth, which*

I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron."

Job seems to be describing a variety of dinosaur that still lived and walked the earth in his day! That day was on this side of the Flood, even though it *was* during the earliest centuries of this world.

Many believe that all the great dinosaurs perished in the Flood, and they have been inclined to ask, "Why didn't Noah take dinosaurs aboard the ark? God told him, '*And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; . . .*' (Gen. 6:19). Wasn't Noah disobedient when he failed to take dinosaurs into the ark?"

Probably Noah *did* take dinosaurs into the ark! He *was* obedient to God, and he *did* take seed of every living thing! Remember, God *did not* instruct Noah to take *adult* animals. The advanced age of some of the dinosaurs is what accounted for their great size. The young dinosaurs were probably quite small in size, and there is nothing that would have restricted Noah from taking young dinosaurs aboard the ark. (It was God who made the actual selection.) Seed of the great dinosaurs were carried aboard the ark, and some survived for at least a few centuries.

The question, then, is, "Why don't we have dinosaurs living today?" There are several reasons. First, the more austere living conditions of this world did not permit many varieties to survive for more than, at most, a few centuries. It does seem that there is scriptural evidence that great dinosaurs were present in this world just after the Flood.

Almost every culture found in our modern world has a "dragon myth." There is a great deal of similarity in the descriptions of these so-called "mythical beasts," *even in widely-separated cultures*. It is reasonable to believe that these so-called "myths" may be based on truth — *and that truth is the existence of dinosaurs in the first few centuries of this world!*

The passage from Job 40:15-18 is the description that God gives to Job of a beast called "behemoth" — a beast with which Job was evidently familiar. Although many Bible scholars have attempted to relate this description to animals that are known in our modern world, the careful reader will note that it is difficult for certain

items in the description to be reconciled with any of the modern beasts selected. Behemoth does seem to relate very closely to what we call the prehistoric dinosaur!

Similarly, in Job, Chapter 41, another beast called "leviathan" is described. The entire chapter is devoted to a description of this beast, but let's read just a few selected passages — Verses 14-17: "*Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about. His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal. One is so near to another, that no air can come between them. They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered.*"

Then, in Verses 19, 20: "*Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth.*" Not only does the description resemble the prehistoric dinosaur, it also sounds amazingly like the "dragon myths," doesn't it?

Again, there are many who believe that Job is the oldest book in the Bible. Certainly, there is evidence that Job lived not too many generations on this side of the Flood. The book is filled with many passages that point to a vivid memory of it. And, within this book, there is significant scriptural evidence that beasts which resembled the great dinosaurs lived even in Job's day.

Many of the smaller reptiles that exist today are probably descendants of the "seed" of the giant dinosaurs that Noah carried on the ark. Many of the giant reptiles could not long survive in the austere post-Flood world. But Job does give evidence that such animals *did* once exist in the very earliest centuries of this post-Flood world.

Antediluvian Animals and Plants

There most definitely *were* giant reptiles in that first world — these were the great dinosaurs. Also, associated with the fossil dinosaurs, there are found many other animals that are now extinct, or that are found only in tropical climates. These include elephants, lions, tigers, camels, among others.

Here are just a few specimens that have been found preserved in the sedimentary rocks of our world: Fossil birds have been

unearthed that are over *ten feet high*. (By the way, this is two feet taller than the largest ostrich of our present world!) Fossil snail shells over *one foot* in diameter have been found! There are fossil lobsters that are over *six feet* in length! Fossil frogs *six to ten feet long*, with heads up to *20 inches long* have been uncovered! There are fossil bats that are the size of modern sheep!

That which applies to fossil animals also applies to fossil plants. The first world contained giant trees, giant ferns, and giant grasses. All varieties of plants appear to have been widely distributed. A great abundance of magnificent fossil specimens of all subtropical-to-tropical varieties have been found all over the globe.

But the proof of the great quantity of vegetation in that first world is the abundant *coal beds* found in every continent of our present world. There was literally a "mountain of coal" discovered in Antarctica by the Byrd expedition. Our coal beds represent God's way of preserving those magnificent trees of that first world for the generations of today!

It has been estimated that it requires ten to fourteen feet of vegetable matter to produce a seam of coal *one foot* in thickness. Many seams of coal exist that are forty to fifty feet thick! In Wyoming there is a strip mine with a seam that varies from sixty to ninety feet in thickness!

Now, this does not mean that this vegetation grew "in place." The currents of the Great Flood washed these tremendous masses of vegetation into great piles that were buried together. The coal seams themselves yield fossils that show this kind of flood water action.

The oil deposits that are so nearly depleted today represent the remains of the *oil* of the plant life — and also the fatty parts of a great number of pre-Flood animals! Think how many millions must have died to produce the gasoline and fuel oil that we have burned during the last seventy-five years! This resource is certainly not unlimited!

By the way, the oil crisis today seems to give us some insight as to why end-time wars will be fought by soldiers on horseback. What good are today's planes, ships, and tanks without petroleum to fuel them?

The fossil record testifies both to the abundance, and to the superiority, of the plant and animal life of the pre-Flood world, as compared to the plant and animal life of this world. That record *does not* tell a story of long years of slow "evolution" upward, even though the secular world of our day has chosen to incorporate such a story. Rather, it tells the story of a great catastrophe — a great judgment of God — upon a world superior to that which now exists. The plant and animal life of our world represents that which "evolved *downwardly*" from the mark of perfection of God's original creation!

3.

The Human Population Of Adam's World

"And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch; and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch" (Gen. 4:16, 17).

What about fossil men? Are they also found in the rocks of our world? Do they exhibit superior characteristics over mankind of this world, similar to what we have found in the plant and animal kingdoms? It may come as a surprise to some, but the answer is "Yes"! Fossil men *have* been found; and they seem to have been magnificently proportioned! Examples of what anthropologists call "*Cro-Magnon*" man have been found in scattered locations all over the globe. Some of these specimens range up to ten feet in stature. It is not unreasonable to believe that these fossil men are samples of the pre-Flood population.

By the way, human footprints have been found in fossil form that measure over fifteen inches in length, and with a stride of over six feet! We are reminded of Genesis 6:4: "*There were giants (nephilim) in the earth in those days: . . .*"

Now that we have brought up the subject of pre-Flood man, let's consider what the Bible — and the fossil record — have to say about

them. Specifically, what can we know about the human population figures of that world? Can we really know *anything* about the population figures of that first world? Was the population of "the world that then was" small, or great?

Population Growth

The story of the Great Flood is told in Chapters 6-9 of the Book of Genesis. The story of the fall of man is told in Chapter 3. Only two chapters intervene between these two records; hence, we tend to think of the first world as being short in duration. *However, this is just not so!* That world endured considerably longer than any kingdom or empire of this present world!

The exact chronology of the first world is revealed in Genesis 5. Although there is a slight disagreement between the Hebrew text (from which our English Version is translated) and the Septuagint text (the ancient Greek Version of the Old Testament), we find that a minimum time of 1,656 years passed between the Creation and the Great Flood. One thousand, six-hundred, fifty-six years is a long time, both in our world and in that world. Since A.D. 327 (1,656 years ago) the world population has grown from a few hundred million to something over four billion. One thousand, six-hundred, fifty-six years was an entirely sufficient time for the human race of the first world to expand and take possession of the earth as God had commanded in Genesis 1:28.

There is no denying that the common view is that the population of the first world (that number that died in the Great Flood) was relatively small. But this just does not follow when one begins logically to study the subject in light of the scriptural revelation. In our world, 1,656 years is sufficient time for the human race to grow to enormous populations. And, keep in mind, conditions for population growth in our world are vastly *inferior* to those of the first world!

The Bible indicates that original man had a far greater vitality of mind and body than we. This should be obvious by just considering the great number of years he lived. The climatic conditions, the abundant food supply, the unlimited natural resources — all these factors were ideal for rapid population growth and were conducive to longevity.

Now, please don't misunderstand the point we are trying to make. What the *exact* population of the first world was at the time of the Great Flood is, of course, a matter of conjecture. We simply cannot know the exact number. However, logical reasoning and a little mathematical exercise *can* establish an "order of magnitude." Some may find the results of this exercise rather surprising!

Statisticians tell us that today the average life expectancy is approximately 70 years. Man, always ready to pat "man" on the back, likes to attribute this "tremendous increase in life expectancy," to "man's giant strides in modern medicine." But, *is* this such a tremendous increase? Moses lived 1,400 years before Christ was born, and he wrote (in Psalm 90, Verse 10), "*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, . . .*" So things really haven't changed much, have they?

But, be this as it may, *now* during only about thirty to thirty-five years of this 70-year life span is *man* (or, to be more specific, *woman*) capable of reproduction. In spite of this, families of eight, 10, 12, 14 or even more are not impossible — and were common not too many years ago. Now, if modern man, with a vitality much lower than pre-Flood-world man, and with a life span only a fraction as long, can reproduce in this way, don't you think that pre-Flood-world man could do equally as well? With conditions the way they were, it would not be unreasonable to think that the population reproduced at ever *higher* rates.

Certainly, the span of years over which each individual was *able* to reproduce was much longer. First-world man lived for periods exceeding 800 years. We are told in Genesis 5:15 that Mahalaleel begat a son at the age of 65 years. Enoch begat Methuselah at age 65 (Gen. 5:21). Noah was 500 years old when he begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

This is scriptural proof that antediluvian man was capable of reproduction for a period of from 400 to 500 years of his life span! We are certainly justified in believing that first-world families were quite large. Remember, Cain took his immediate family and was able to build an entire city!

Let's review the facts. Scripture assures us that first-world man lived for extremely long periods of time. Scripture also tells us that

first-world man was capable of producing offspring during approximately 500 years of his long life span. The records of Genesis 4 confirm that the antediluvian patriarchs *did* father children over at least that kind of time span.

There are several Scripture references that support the conclusion that pre-Flood-world families were quite large. One of the better indications is the scriptural history of Cain. In Genesis 4:14, Cain says, ". . . everyone that findeth me shall slay me." Could we assume that he would have spoken that way if the entire population of the world had consisted of just the members of one modern family? Again, in Genesis 4:16, 17, we read that Cain went into the land of Nod, and there built a city. A family consisting of only a few children would not be able to build a city!

World Population Just Before the Flood

Based on what we have deduced from Scripture, it is certainly not unreasonable to assume that an average pre-Flood-world family consisted of *at least* 18 to 20 living and marriageable children. (This is probably extremely conservative!) There is an exponential equation that statisticians use to relate population growth to the *average number of marriageable children per family, average length of life span, and average generation length*. Several years ago this author had occasion to program this population growth equation into a Sigma-Five digital computer. This was done so that some reasonable estimates of the population of the first world at the time of the Great Flood could be made. The results were rather surprising!

According to the genealogy of Genesis 5, there were *ten* generations between the creation of Adam and the Great Flood of Noah. The total time lapse during this period was 1,656 years. If we assume that each pre-Flood-world family produced 20 children who lived to adulthood and produced children of their own (a figure that is probably quite conservative), and if we assume that the average generation (that is, the time from birth until that individual produced his 20 children) was 166 years, and the average life span of an individual was five generations (or 830 years), *then the computer tells us that there were 2,222,199,040 people living at the time of the Great Flood!*

These assumptions are quite realistic, considering what the Bible tells us about the pre-Flood world! And it turns out that it's about

the most conservative estimate that we can make. If we assume shorter life spans — along with this, fewer children — the population number actually increases! It is because shorter life spans lead to more generations during the 1,656-year time period, and therefore there are more multiplications. One computer run assumed that 15 generations lived between Creation and the Great Flood; and even though only 10 children per family were assumed, the total population at the time of the Flood was over 15 billion! Whether we've ever considered this point or not, it seems that we have to assume that the population of the first world was at *least* as great as the population of the world today!

It begins to be apparent that pre-Flood-world man *did* carry out one particular command of God. In Genesis 1:28 God told man to "be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth." In this regard, pre-Flood man was obedient! The Scripture tells us (in Genesis 6:1) that "men began to *multiply* on the face of the earth." And soon "the earth was filled" — but also, it was "filled with violence" (Gen. 6:11, 13)!

If the computer numbers approach the true first-world population, then it would be reasonable to assume that man had scattered far beyond the immediate vicinity of the Garden of Eden. Man had actually taken possession of the whole earth! This is why God found it necessary to destroy all living things on the face of the earth! This He did because of the wickedness of man.

It would not have been necessary to bring judgment on the entire face of the earth *if* man had been confined to a small area. Remember, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, but He did not destroy the *whole world*! God punished Nineveh, but He did not destroy *all* of *Asia*! God punished the apostasy of Israel, but He did not destroy the *whole Roman Empire*!

God brought judgment upon the wickedness of the first world, and in so doing destroyed a human population that numbered into the billions! This should serve as a warning to our world and the wickedness of our day. For, if God ". . . *spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, . . .*" (II Peter 2:5). "*He that hath an ear, let him hear . . .*" (Rev. 2:29).

Where Are the Fossils?

As pointed out, logical reasoning (based on scriptural evidence) shows that the population of that first world — the world that died in

the Great Flood of Noah — numbered in the billions. Again, we can reasonably assume that the population of that world was at least as great as the population of the world today. It could easily have been greater!

This brings us to a question that may be bothering some of those who read these words. Sometimes the question is asked, "Why, if the population of the first world was so large, don't we find *more* fossil men?" Actually, quite a few *have* been found. Fossil specimens that are classified by anthropologists as "Cro-Magnon" (which they consider as an early specimen of modern man) have been found in fairly great numbers all over the world.

These fossil finds do not merit a great deal of publicity for two reasons: First, they are relatively plentiful; so finding a new specimen does not cause a great deal of stir among the anthropologists themselves. Second, since they are classified as "Homo sapiens" — that is, modern man — there is not the degree of interest on the part of the public that is associated with what is considered to be a human-like creature that can be placed lower on the so-called "evolutionary" scale.

Actually, specimens of fossil men that can be classified as anything but "Cro-Magnon" are extremely rare. For the most part, these specimens consist of such meager bone fragments that it is really hard to know for sure what they are.

The race of men that anthropologists call "Cro-Magnon" are actually larger in size and seem to represent a race superior to modern man. Since "Cro-Magnon" is the only fossil man that seems to be rather plentiful, and since he seems to fit the biblical description of pre-Flood man, it is logical to assume that "Cro-Magnon" is actually the preserved remains of a small part of the pre-Flood-world race.

There are several reasons why we would not expect to find a great number of fossilized pre-Flood-world men preserved in the rocks of our world. One reason is that man's higher intelligence and greater mobility permitted a large part of the first world's population to avoid quick burial under conditions that were right for fossilization. In support of this, it should be noted that the rocks of our earth do not contain nearly as many specimens of the higher

order animals as they do of the lower orders. This seems to bear out what appears obvious: The more intelligent and the more mobile the creature, the less the chance of fossilization.

But there is a much more important reason than this as to why only a relatively-few fossilized pre-Flood-world men have been found. *The pre-Flood world's great population centers are at the bottom of this world's seas!* There are several reasons for making this statement. First, the pre-Flood world had a great deal more land area than this world has. By necessity, a part of that first world's land areas *have* to be covered now by ocean waters. But there is even stronger reason than this. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah in judgment for their wicked ways, and He covered these ruins from the sight of man by the Dead Sea! It is reasonable to assume that God has similarly buried the wicked remains of the population centers of the first world by this world's great seas.

God has told us in His Word that He has done this. Let's read Revelation 20:11-13: "*And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. AND THE SEA GAVE UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN IT: and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*"

We know that throughout the history of our world many men have been lost and buried at sea. However, this is not sufficient reason for this prophetic statement concerning God's great judgment. The "dead which were in" the sea refers to those billions who died in the Great Flood! Their remains are presently at the bottom of our oceans!

What a magnificent world that pre-Flood world must have been! Why did God find it necessary to destroy it and those billions of men and women who lived in it? The answer to this question can come only after one considers the cultural and moral conditions of that great pre-Flood-world civilization.

And ". . . the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" (II Peter 3:6).

4.

The Culture and Civilization Of the Antediluvian World

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 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" (Matt. 24:36-39).

It was in this way that our Lord Jesus Christ (in His Olivet Discourse) spoke of the time of His second coming. The Lord said, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the (days of the) coming of the Son of man be" (v. 37). It is obvious that the Lord was informing His disciples as to what they should look for in terms of social, moral, and spiritual conditions on the earth at the time of His return. In order that we fully understand our Lord's words, it seems necessary that we know something about the spiritual condition of man, and about the civilization of the pre-Flood world. It is fitting that we now investigate this subject.

Let's see if we can piece together a broad picture that shows us the general level of enlightenment and progress of the human race in that world that existed before the Great Flood. Let's also see if we can find out anything about the social, moral, and spiritual conditions that prevailed during Noah's early life. We all realize that Scripture has not devoted a great deal of space to this subject. But the meager space so allotted is literally loaded with information, though some do not realize this fact.

The Secular Concept of Early History

Before we look at that picture, let's consider what our secular history books tell us about the early history of man. Willis Mason West in his book, *A Short History of Early Peoples*, provides an introduction to the subject of the first men on earth that is typical of the approach of secular history. This is a textbook of ancient history

that only a few years ago was widely used both in the United States and Canada.

Here is a direct quotation from Mr. West's opening chapter: "The first men were more helpless than the lowest savages in the world today. They had neither fire nor light, no tool or weapon except their hands, and chance clubs or stones. We do not know a great deal about the earliest steps upward, towards civilization, but they must have been very slow. The first marked gain was the discovery by some savage that he could chip off flakes from a flint stone by striking it with other stones to give it a sharp edge, a keen point, a convenient shape for the hand to grasp. This invention lifted man into the first stone age. In Europe the stone age began at least 100,000 years ago."

Another widely-read secular historian, H. G. Wells, in his book, *Outline of History*, describes early man in a similar way, but with much greater detail. This book has had a tremendous distribution throughout the world, and it has been translated into a great many languages. Mr. Wells uses the style of an on-the-scene newspaper reporter, and he writes both with clearness—and with total assurance that what he says is absolutely true! He speaks dogmatically as though he had actually observed that early race in their daily activities! And he gives the illusion that he has actually *watched* the steady upward growth of man over that 100,000-year period!

You will find that the very same views are expressed in the other secular textbooks used in our grade schools, high schools, and colleges. There is only one comment to express a knowledgeable Christian's heartfelt opinion of all of these: "HOGWASH"! Or, let's quote the language of the Apostle Peter: "For this, they *willingly* are ignorant"! Or, perhaps the words of the Apostle Paul are appropriate: "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools"!

Whether one believes the Bible is inspired or not, if that one is aware of the facts, he must admit that this Book is absolutely unique. As far as history and archaeology have been able to check it, it has been *proven* to be an absolutely reliable Book!

Let's emphasize this: The Bible has, over and over again, *proven* itself to be a reliable and accurate record of the most ancient of

historical events. Yet, when writing our secular history books, modern historians have ignored this source entirely. What they have written flagrantly denies the great truths revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. There is a fundamental conflict between the biblical revelation and our accepted version of early history. One of the two must fall — and it is *not* the biblical revelation that is to lose its footing!

The Biblical Revelation

To see the biblical view of the *earliest* man, let's read the conclusion of the story of the fall of man as it is contained in Genesis 3:22-24: "*And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*"

There is a fundamental and basic conflict between the teachings of our secular system and the revelation of the Bible as regards the history of early man. Whether one believes in the inspiration of the Bible or not, if he is honest about it, he will have to admit that, so far as man can check it, the Bible is absolutely accurate in dealing with history. History and archaeology have been able to check the Bible on a number of points, and it has proven to be absolutely accurate on all of these. The Bible has, over and over again, proven itself to be a reliable and accurate record of the most ancient of historical events. In fact, it is the *only* written record in existence in many large areas of ancient history.

Let us emphasize: Archaeological excavation and *honest* historical research have proven the Bible to be an absolutely reliable historical record. Yet, when writing our secular history, modern historians treat the Bible as though it were nonexistent! This is not only *unscholarly* and *unscientific*, but it is also *intellectually dishonest*!

Now, don't get the wrong idea. No one is going to deny that branches of the human race (during all phases of world history) *have* lived in caves as savages. There is considerable evidence to prove this—and, in fact, there are savages living in caves today! The fact

that large segments of the human race *have degenerated* to the level of savagery cannot, and will not, be denied!

Notice, we emphasize that cavemen are *degenerated* to their state of savagery. This state *is not* simply a stage on the "long climb to civilization"! All men started out with a knowledge of the true and living God! We have the testimony of the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:18-26: "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: . . .**" The description of this "Romans' downward road" continues on through Verse 32.*

In this passage, Paul tells us of the path followed by *all* men who choose to forget God. And this path leads eventually to savagery — *human nature follows the second law of thermodynamics!* There is continuous *decay* — not continuous *improvement*. We see a breed of savages developing in our own country today among the "street people," who have chosen to turn against all of God's standards and go their own way.

So we cannot conclude, or believe, that the entire human race sprang from a race of cave dwellers. We *have not* "evolved" from a race of savages! Even secular history itself provides ample evidence of this, *if man would only choose to believe it!* It is an *unwarranted* conclusion that the entire human race has sprung from a race of savages — *or from creatures even lower than savages!*

The account which the Bible gives of the early history of man is quite different from that of the "caveman" and "Stone-Age" myth of

secular history! *Man began as a special creation — and as a perfect being.*

Genesis 1:27 verifies this: *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; . . .”* The Bible says that man was created in the image of God, and this implies that the first man had a magnificent intellect. The Bible version of man's earliest history is entirely different from the secular “up-from-beast-to-caveman” theory. We are faced with a choice. Either the secular theory is correct, or the biblical revelation is correct. There is no way to harmonize the two.

God's Revelation of Man's Early History

The account which the Bible gives of the early history of man is, then, quite different from that of secular history. Again, man began as a *special creation* and a *perfect being*. We read again in Genesis 1:27: *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; . . .”* Man was created in the very image of God, and (as a part of this image) the first man was given excellent intellect.

The Bible tells us that from the very beginning Adam had the gift of human language. Genesis 2:19, 20 reads: *“And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all the cattle, and to every fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; . . .”* This is mentioned only incidentally, but it is a proof text that Adam had both a *keen intellect* and the *gift of speech*!

Notice that this incident presupposes several things: First, Adam must have had a remarkable insight into the nature of the various creatures. Otherwise, he could not have chosen names that would be suited to their characteristics. Second, Adam had a broad vocabulary. Without both *intelligence* and a *vocabulary*, he simply could not have named, with fitting designations, the things which God had made. I wonder how many of us could do that today!

Now, again, don't misunderstand our point. We are not trying to say that God gave to Adam all the material equipment we today commonly associate with the term “civilization.” We know that God

had provided a perfect earth as Adam's abode. God had commanded Adam to "fill and subdue it" and "have dominion over it." (See Genesis 1:28.) This means that Adam was left to work out a system of order — and a civilization — for himself. We are justified in believing that Adam started his career by inventing the most basic tools and implements.

We can probably assume that God taught Adam the use of fire from the beginning. That and his keen intelligence were all that he needed!

It is true that when sin came into the world, human intellect suffered. So did the rest of man's faculties! But even then, men of that first world remained superior to their descendants of this world. Cro-Magnon man, with his great stature, his large brain capacity, and his well-formed skeleton, probably represents the best of the pre-Flood race.

Adam and his race were certainly not savages. In Genesis 4:17, we read: "*And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch; and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.*" We are certainly aware that savages don't build cities! And, remember, Cain was the firstborn son of Adam! Enoch was only two generations away from the man whom God originally created!

Cain's Pre-Flood World Civilization

We find a most interesting scriptural record of the civilization of the pre-Flood world in Genesis 4:19-24: "*And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other was Zillah. And Adah bare Jabal; he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. And if Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.*"

Here, in this passage, we have, condensed — in just a few verses — a tremendously informative picture of the culture of the pre-Flood

world! We are told that there were those who lived in cities. And then we are told that there were others who preferred to follow the free and wild life of the nomad and cattleman. We are informed that musical instruments of both the stringed and wind variety had been invented. There were those who were sufficiently skilled to make such instruments. And there were also skilled artists to play them.

Tubal-cain was both an inventor and a master craftsman in brass (that is, bronze) and iron. He was also a teacher of such skills. This presupposes that a part of that early civilization was engaged in the mining of minerals. The art of smelting and purifying metals was known, and this kind of industry had been established. The molding and shaping of metal products was an accomplished art!

Notice very carefully the words that Lamech addresses to his wives in Verses 23 and 24. This is given in the form of a command coming from one who has absolute authority over the one addressed. It also may well be — and sounds very much like — the opening line to a poem, or ballad. Notice in these words that Lamech chooses to glorify both himself and his murderous deeds, which begins to give us insight into both the type of culture and the moral conditions of the civilization of Cain!

We are specifically told that Lamech was a bigamist. And he was only six generations away from Adam! We know that Adam had full revelation of God's will concerning the marriage relationship. This is given in Genesis 2:24: "*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife (singular!); and they shall be one flesh.*" We see how man had already rebelled, even in full knowledge of God's will — *even though Adam was most probably still living!*

Lamech had violated God's commandment concerning the marriage relationship; he held his two wives in bondage; he engaged in self-glorification; and he used his strength to carry out his will on others! Revenge was a prime motivation of Lamech's life — and it was not just "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth"! Lamech's response was, "I have slain a man in reprisal for wounds I received, and I have taken the life of a young man in exchange for a hurt I suffered. If Cain is to be avenged sevenfold, *I am going to be avenged 77-fold!*"

Lamech seems to have made himself a wicked and powerful feudal lord, trampling down all those that dared get in his way! He was most likely one of those of whom God tells us. "The same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

The technical achievements of the first world were quite impressive. In Genesis 6:13-16, Noah is commanded to build an ark, the dimensions of which would be considered a large ship today! The instructions given to Noah presuppose that a considerable *knowledge of mathematics* was available to him, and also that he was skilled in mathematical computation. We have to presuppose also that Noah had possession of, and knew how to use, a variety of tools. Additionally, he must have had an advanced understanding of the art of building.

In summary, we find here in the pre-Flood world (at the very dawn of human history) various types of farming and ranching. We find a variety of industry and a variety of ways that men earned their livelihood. We find that various arts were highly developed and that there were inventors and inventions. The pre-Flood world had music and poetry. *Pre-Flood men had all those things in life that are found only in an advanced state of civilization!*

True, we cannot afford to assume that the civilization and culture of the first world were on the same level in *every part* of the inhabited earth. We have to assume that there *was* a distribution. But the Bible assures us that the mainstream of humanity was certainly not a race of savages!

Cavemen

In considering the picture of the culture and civilization of the pre-Flood world (that is given to us in Genesis 4:19-24), we conclude that some of Adam's world had all of the higher things in life that are found only in an advanced world.

We do have to be careful, though. We cannot afford to assume that the civilization and culture of the first world was on the same high plane in *every part* of the inhabited globe. We have to assume some sort of distribution, although it may not have been so pronounced as exists in our world today. We can be reasonably sure

that the same high level of civilization did not extend to all parts of the pre-Flood world. Individuals, or groups, that separated themselves too far from the parent stock, and "they did not like to retain God in their knowledge" (see Romans 1:28), became isolated from the mainstream of the race for a period of time, and subsequently declined and degenerated. We can justifiably assume that *many* travelled the downward road of Romans 1 and became savages.

So, there were most likely savages and barbarous cave dwellers in the pre-Flood world, just as there were (and are) in this present world. But the mainstream of the pre-Flood-world race had reached high peaks of civilization and accomplishment. In many ways, that world was just as advanced, or perhaps more so, than we are today!

By the way, the Bible actually confirms that there were cave dwellers in the earliest centuries of the post-Flood world. The Book of Job is considered by many to be the oldest book in the Bible. (Whether or not it was written before the Pentateuch is a matter of speculation, but the story this book relates goes back to only a few centuries after the Flood.) *Job* tells us of cavemen that lived in his day!

Job 30:1-8 describes our world's "cavemen": "*But now they that are younger than I have me in derision, whose fathers I would have disdained to have set with the dogs of my flock. Yea, whereto might the strength of their hands profit me, in whom old age was perished? For want and famine they were solitary; fleeing into the wilderness in former time desolate and waste. Who cut up mallows by the bushes, and juniper roots for their meat. They were driven forth from among men, (they cried after them as after a thief;) To dwell in the cliffs of the valleys, in caves of the earth, and in the rocks. Among the bushes they brayed; under the nettles they were gathered together. They were children of fools, yea, children of base men: they were viler than the earth.*"

In this passage, Job paints a vivid picture of those who "dwell in the cliffs of the valleys, in caves of the earth, and in the rocks." Job describes those human beings as "vile" savages. No doubt many of the "Stone-Age" artifacts that have been found and which have led modern man into the belief that *all* civilization sprang from a population of cave dwellers, were left by Job's "cavemen." These savages lived on this side (our side) of the Flood!

Archaeological Evidence

It is, of course, extremely difficult to know exactly what the world was like in Noah's day. However, in addition to those brief descriptive passages given in Genesis, there is another tremendously significant line of evidence that helps us know something about that world. The line of evidence I have in mind is that of *the technical stage to which civilizations were advanced at the very dawn of known history!*

It is an undeniable, yet most remarkable, fact of history that the oldest civilizations known to us of the present world were tremendously advanced in every way! These ancient civilizations were found in the valley of the Nile, in the valley of the Euphrates, on the Island of Crete, in Asia Minor, and in Southern Greece. Not only were all these civilizations highly advanced, they have many peculiar similarities as well. And although they were widely separated (from a geographical standpoint), they were at about the same stage of development at the same point in time! They show every evidence of having had a common origin!

All of these great civilizations are separated by only a relatively short period of time from the age of Noah — from the pre-Flood world! By the way, these great civilizations are simply just not explainable by the "caveman" theory! They are abnormalities which secular historians simply do not try to explain! But these advanced civilizations stand as powerful evidence — both for the falsity of the speculations of secular historians and for the truth of the biblical record!

We have previously considered the civilization and culture of the pre-Flood race. Based primarily on the brief descriptions given in Genesis, Chapter 4, we can know that civilization had advanced to a rather remarkable level before that world perished in the Great Flood of Noah. But we also have extra-biblical evidence that testifies to the advanced state of the pre-Flood world civilization. Again, the evidence in view is that of the elevated stage to which the civilizations of this world were advanced *at the very dawn of known history!*

Since these oldest-known civilizations were separated by only a short period of time from the pre-Flood world of Noah, this fact provides powerful evidence for the *truth* of the biblical record. We

must reiterate: These great civilizations just are not explainable by the "caveman" theory of human origin! There stand the great civilizations of Egypt and Babylon in all their glory — just as man was *supposed* to have been in the latter part of the Stone Age! The only plausible explanation for these highly-advanced civilizations is that they were erected by men who had *seen* the great civilizations of the pre-Flood world — and who reestablished replicas of them on this side of the Flood! This points a finger directly toward Noah and his three sons!

From the early great civilizations of our world, we can know that Noah and his family must have lived among a pre-Flood race that enjoyed many of the highest achievements of social and cultural maturity. In the oldest days of which we have written records, we find Egypt exhibiting a degree of civilization that is unexplainable — except on the theory that she had inherited knowledge from the advanced world that perished in the Great Flood.

Magnificent pyramids, still standing today, illustrate that ancient Egypt had an advanced architectural science. The masonry of these archaic Egyptian structures is unrivaled, even today! The proportion and structure of the Egyptian monuments also reveal that these people had an advanced knowledge of geometry, and of all mathematics. Archeologists have unearthed works of art that prove the sculpture of Egypt had reached near perfection. The art of picture writing (hieroglyphics) had been perfected. Egypt had a highly- and minutely-organized army, and also a civil service. Society in Egypt had divided itself into classes. There were wealthy lords, there was a middle class, and there were slaves. We also know that Egypt had acrobats, dancers, harpists, singers, and games of chance.

The records and remains of Babylon on the Euphrates (and the countries on the Aegean) show a similar state of development. On the Island of Crete, a palace has been unearthed that dates back to the dawn of present-world history. This palace spreads over *four acres of ground!* It is made up of beautiful halls, living rooms, corridors, throne rooms, and treasure rooms. Within these ruins, there are many beautiful frescoes that depict a highly-civilized and a brilliant life of lords and ladies of the court! What is especially amazing is that there are bathrooms with drainage systems that were superior to anything that was ever built in Europe up until the nineteenth century! The pipes could be flushed — and mantraps

were included to permit inspection and repair! Clay tablets with written records show that the art of writing among Babylonians was just as advanced as that of the Egyptians!

The Code of Hammurabi, discovered in Susa in 1902, dates back to the time of Abraham—or earlier. This is the oldest known complete code of laws in the world. The existence of this code proves beyond doubt that the people for whom it was made were already far advanced in civilization. There were laws against bribery of judges and witnesses in court. There were laws against careless medical practices. There were articles against careless and dishonest building contractors. The code defined property rights; it guarded against oppression of widows and orphans; and it provided for deeds, wills, marriage settlements, and legal contracts!

There is but one explanation! These nations continued where the civilization of Noah left off! The eight survivors on the ark transplanted the remarkable civilization of the first world into this world! The sons of Noah tried to rebuild the culture and civilization that they knew in their youth!

5.

Moral Decline in a Golden Age

“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years” (Gen. 6:1-3).

It is not unreasonable to conclude that man before the Flood had not only multiplied and become a great population, but that he had also taken possession of the earth. He had reached a high state of civilization and culture. In his rather brief span, pre-Flood-world man had achieved great things. It might be said that this was the “golden age” in the history of man. Many of the various mythologies

of our present world are just a faint and distorted memory of the great pre-Flood world! Think of the stories of Ulysses, Sinbad, Jason, and others. (And Atlantis!) the undersea city!

Moral Decay and Spiritual Degeneracy

But there is another, a grim, side to the picture! Running parallel to these great material and cultural achievements, we find a steady course of *moral decay* and *spiritual degeneracy*! As we have already seen, polygamy began early in the generation of Cain. Lamech committed murder — and boasted about it in a ballad to his two wives! Lamech indulged in self-glorification, and he lived to exercise his might over the weak!

In the two genealogies of Genesis 4 and 5, the development of the human race is traced through two lines that are fundamentally different. These two lines are headed by Cain and Seth respectively. In Genesis 6:2, Seth's line is referred to as the "children ('sons') of God." Cain's line is called the "children ('daughters') of men." Apparently, the traits that characterized these two brothers were passed on to their descendants. The Cainites were wicked and worldly. Like their father, they took no thought of God. The Sethites retained their father's faith in God and represented a line of believers. It was through Seth's line that the promise of the coming Saviour (made by the LORD God in Genesis 3:15) was kept alive.

As time went on and the race multiplied, these two separate lines gradually began to merge. The restraints of separation slowly faded away. The "children ('sons') of God" were influenced by their neighbors, and gradually became more like them. Soon the lines of separation were obliterated. The spiritual ruin of that first-world population moved toward completion when the *men* of the godly line began to intermarry with the *daughters* of the worldly line. This is what we are told in Genesis 6:1-3.

"That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose" (Gen. 6:2). These words tell us that the barriers of separation were broken. Members of the godly line no longer permitted themselves to be guided by the Spirit of God, but gave way to unrestrained license and freedom. The result was that the children (sons) of God were soon degraded to the level of the children (daughters) of men. Intermarriage was followed by total decay and corruption. The line of Seth eventually

became completely merged with the line of Cain — except for Noah and his immediate family!

The moral and social conditions of the latter part of pre-Flood-world history are vividly described in Genesis 6:4, 5: *“There were giants (nephilim) in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of the 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. 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.”*

“There were *giants* in the earth in those days,” says the Holy Spirit of God. The word translated “*giants*” (*nephilim*) is a Hebrew word that appears in only one other verse in the entire Bible. That second verse is Numbers 13:33, where the word is used to refer to the sons of Anak.

“*Nephilim*” has been translated in a number of ways. Martin Luther translated it “tyrants.” One lexicon defines it: “Those who fall upon others, brigands, thugs, tyrants.” But the connotation of *large size* and *great strength* is in this word also. I think that we are to believe that these “giants” were the famous, renowned warlords of the pre-Flood world.

They were apparently feudal leaders who made themselves great in the affairs of this world. By deeds of war for their own glory, they filled that beautiful first world with violence! They were godless in their personal lives and family relations, and they were unrestrained in their carnal lusts. They were violent and lawless in their actions toward their fellowmen. They showed no fear of God and no respect for any kind of law and order. The Bible gives us the “grains of truth” behind the great myths of the ancient civilizations.

The World System of Cain

“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. 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” (Gen. 6:4, 5).

Pay close attention to the Scripture above, and let us reiterate some facts: These "giants," or tyrants, of Genesis 6:4, then, were the powerful feudal leaders of the pre-Flood world. They were those who made themselves great in that world's affairs. By deeds of war, for revenge, and for their own personal glory, these mighty men filled that beautiful first world with violence. They were godless in their personal lives, and they were tyrannical in their family relationships. They were totally unrestrained in satisfying their carnal lusts! They were violent and lawless in their actions toward their fellowmen. They held no fear of God; and they had absolutely no respect for any kind of law and order except for that which was in their own strength! These men are, no doubt, the real characters behind the mythical "heroes" of the ancient civilizations.

Nimrod (the builder of the Tower of Babel who lived on this side of the Great Flood) — even after God had given men civil law in the Noachian Covenant — tried to follow the example of these pre-Flood "warlords." He proposed to set up a similar form of culture in our world. Also, the great feudal lords of the Middle Ages tried to return man to the pre-Flood-world cultural system.

Notice the Holy Spirit's use of the words "wickedness" and "evil" in the passage of Genesis 6:5-7: "*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. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*"

Those words are emphasized over and over again. The great warlords' — the tyrants' — the giants' thoughts were directed only toward doing evil! And, as these pre-Flood men thought — so they acted! Note: ". . . and the earth was *filled* with violence" (Gen. 6:11).

The civilization that lived before the Great Flood was apparently *not* a pagan or idolatrous people. Scripture does not promote this idea at all. Idolatry was a later development — it came *after* Nimrod and his Tower of Babel. These pre-Flood-world people were proud — but they were lawless — and they were totally unconcerned about God and His will! They enjoyed a life span of over 800 years, and they apparently lived as though they would never die. They took no thought of an afterlife — or of a judgment by an omnipotent Creator!

They were great and progressive in the things of the world, but they were materialistic and carnal in their philosophy of life. *In short, men in that pre-Flood world were very much like the men of civilized nations of today!*

The pre-Flood-world population lived *only* to satisfy “the lust of the eyes,” “the lust of the flesh,” and “the pride of life.” They were boasters — they were proud — they were violent — and they were blasphemers! They were “eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage.” *They were satisfying the flesh!*

The Lord reminds us of this when He tells us what the post-Flood world — our world — will be like at the time of His second coming (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.*”

God's Judgment

Therefore, God pronounced a judgment on that first world: “*And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; . . .*” (Gen. 6:6, 7).

Let's summarize our picture of “the world that then was”! The physical world of the pre-Flood race was great and beautiful beyond our present powers of conception. The race of men of that world had increased to a population of great numbers, and they had taken possession of the earth. The pre-Flood-world race was a superior race in the affairs of the world — progressive, cultured, and enterprising — but they were also arrogant, godless, and wicked! Because of their wickedness, God wiped them away and blotted out their memory — and with them, He even destroyed the earth and everything that lived upon it! *Should not we take warning?*

“*Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men*” (II Peter 3:6, 7).

It may be later than we think!

The End