

AGE OF MAN, CAIN'S WIFE AND THE DELUGE (FAT)

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Age of Man

Genesis declares that the human race sprang from one parental pair.

This was formerly ridiculed, but, after the most careful and exhaustive examination of the physical characteristics of men of various races, Prichard, the father of modern ethnology, concluded that their common descent was unquestionably proved. Anthropology finds in all races the same anatomical structure, the same average duration of life, the same disposition to disease, the same mean temperature of the body, the same average movement of the pulse, the same period of pregnancy. There can be no reasonable doubt regarding the common origin of all races.

Acceptance of this has led to the suggestion that, to reach the present population of the world, man must have originated 2,000,000 years ago. But a simple calculation shows that the present population would have been achieved if the human race had doubled itself 32 times--and a period of 6,000 years would have been completely adequate for this. Indeed, but for wars, disease, flood and wild beasts, the population would have been far in excess of what it now is.

Cain's Wife

Among the mysteries of the book of Genesis, is the question often raised by the disbeliever or heckler is, "Where did Cain get his wife? " To some this is a real difficulty, but a little reflection presents an explanation.

The Bible definitely states that Adam had sons and daughters (Genesis 5. 3-4) and in The Scriptures of Truth, Collet has demonstrated very clearly that, before the death of Adam, the population of the world might have been well in excess of 20 millions. This estimate is an extremely moderate one, and it is probable that 200 millions would be a far more accurate figure. Among the rapidly-increasing population of those early days, it would not be difficult for Cain to find a wife.

No moral difficulty is involved in the marriage of near relatives in this case, since the law of Sinai had not then been given.

The Deluge

The Scriptural record of Noah's flood was long called into question, but the testimony of geology has now vindicated the record. The witness of the rocks in all the quarters of the globe conclusively prove the fact of the deluge.

Writing of his excavations at Ur, C. Leonard Woolley says, "Deep below several strata, composed of house refuse... was discovered, about the level of the outer plain, a clean water-laid clay about eight feet deep; below this, another stratum rich in flint chips and cores, pottery and a burnt brick of unknown type, and below this – a few feet above sea-level – virgin soil. Only a flood – and that one of unexampled magnitude – could have deposited the eight-foot bank of clay which we found, not in one spot alone, but in three, as much as 200 yards apart. The disaster which had buried the old settlement and caused a breach in the continuity of civilisation can, on the face of it, be nothing other than the Flood."

Confirmation of the Biblical account is to be found in the traditions of almost every country and in most of the ancient systems of mythology. Legends told in India, China, Polynesia, Australia, Africa and America are consistent with the Divine story in Genesis 7.

The remains of antediluvian mammoths in the Arctic regions is a further evidence in support of the Mosaic account. The state of these carcasses, with their reddened nostrils, coagulated blood etc. indicates sudden death by drowning within a short time of feeding (undigested meals were found in their stomachs, and often unmasticated food in the mouths of these beasts), followed by a freezing which has prevented disintegration and decomposition.

Excavation has discovered remains of an enormous number of incongruous animals, which would never ordinarily live in the same vicinity, buried together, and the only possible explanation can be some tremendous catastrophe. As Trumper appositively points out , "In face of a common danger such as a prairie or forest fire, all sorts of animals which normally prey upon each other, will herd together, their natural predatory instincts, or fear, as the case may be, being swamped by the greater terror of the approaching catastrophe. " It has often been claimed that the explanation of these buried animals, and of diluvial debris and sedimentary deposits, is to be found in the glacial theory of a great ice age, but, as the same writer has said, " The extent of cold and the continuance of it over a long period of time... would effectually have stopped the continued formation of glaciers and icebergs, and would not have allowed them to move, and the surface of the globe affected by this ice cap would have remained in a state of frigidity and rigidity."

It was at one time contended that the sea dd not contain a sufficient quantity of water to permit of a universal deluge, but the fallacy of this is evident when it is realised that the sea is over six miles deep in parts, whilst the Bible states that the highest point reached by the flood was fifteen cubits above the mountains (Genesis 7.20). Quite apart from this, the record states that " the windows of heaven were opened " (Genesis 7.11). In other words, " The entire antediluvian vapour canopy which had been suspended in the upper atmosphere since the second day of creation, fell upon the earth". (J C Whitcomb).

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