# THE DELUGE

By James L. Hall

Genesis chapters six through eight describe the great flood of Noah’s time. It was literally the greatest catastrophic event to affect the earth since Creation. In a previous monograph, I described the canopy and some of the scientific support for its existence. Now we will examine the evidence for this great event.

Scripture describes the beginning of the Flood in Genesis 7:11. Notice that the fountains of the great deep were broken up and followed by the windows of heaven being opened. This sequence is important. The fountains broken up would imply that volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tidal waves would have occurred.

Volcanoes would spew ash high into the atmosphere and precipitate the canopy. If this were a fact them we should find volcanic ash in the sedimentary rocks. This is precisely what one finds. Even in the ice and tundra of the Arctic and Antarctic, volcanic ash has been found hundreds of feet deep.

I personally found some volcanic ash sediment in Nebraska during the summer of ’86. I was collecting some fossil specimens for our museum in a formation that contained volcanic ash. The universal presence of volcanic ash in the sedimentary rocks gives credence to the scriptural account.

Scripture indicates that the waters prevailed upon the earth one hundred fifty days (five months) and upwards to fifteen cubits above the highest hills. It is rather significant that the author indicates the depth. Compare this with the dimensions of the Ark: three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. When the Ark was loaded it would sink to half of its height. This is the draft of the Ark or fifteen cubits. This means that when the Ark was fully loaded it would sink to fifteen cubits (draft) and would have to pass safely over the highest submerged hill. Remember the waters prevailed upward to fifteen cubits. This kind of accurate detail gives credence to the Flood account in Genesis. It should not be treated as allegory as some would have us believe.

The dimensions are also interesting in this respect. Consider the pre-Flood environment with no seasons, storms, etc. Two-thirds of the earth was probably dry land with the remaining one-third seas. In the time of Noah, the knowledge of shipbuilding was not far advanced, if in existence at all. Noah was told to construct a vessel of huge dimensions. If Noah dreamed up the size of the Ark, his knowledge was supernatural. How would he know about the draft of the Ark and the depth of the waters? The Ark was six times longer than it was wide. This is the plan that modern shipbuilders use and they have had the opportunity of drawing on the experience of centuries of shipbuilding. All of this points to the supernatural involvement of the Creator.

The Ark was designed to float not sail. Being shaped like a barge it would have a greater cargo capacity. Dr. Henry Morris has studied the stability of the Ark in a stormy environment using models. He found the Ark would have tipped almost vertical before capsizing, which again demonstrates the unique design.

The flood was on the earth for over a year. It is rather interesting to study what happened to the floodwaters at the close of the flood. Genesis 8:1-3 describes a wind, the stopping of the windows of heaven, and the restraining of the fountains of the great deep. According to the chronology of the flood, this would leave over 200 days for the waters to recede and the dry land appear.

It is obvious that the waters just didn’t dry up and evaporate into the clouds for there isn’t that much water in the present atmosphere. So where did the water go?

Scripture has the answer in Psalm 104:6-8. Here it says the mountains rose and the valleys sank. So for 200 days or more the mountains began rising and the valleys were slowly sinking. Consider Mt. Everest at 28,000 feet and the Marianas Trench at over 36,000 feet deep. The mountaintops are covered with fossils, proof of their being submerged in water. Geologists today know that the mountains are young.

So when one examines the flood events with the known facts of science he sees an agreement. This fact should make us realize that the flood was God’s judgment for sin and, as Peter said in II Peter 3:14, “that ye may be found…without spot, and blameless.”