

Then & Now

by Bill Crews

Some four and one half millenniums ago the greatest physical disaster of all time encompassed the earth.

But it was not a mere “natural” disaster. It was brought about by the Creator of the universe who manipulated the forces of nature. It was designed to all but destroy humanity from the earth. I speak of the world-wide deluge which is chronicled in the Holy Scriptures, **Genesis 6-8**. Earth’s population of humans must have run into the millions, but every man, woman, boy, girl and infant perished in the waters that inundated the earth — except for the “*eight souls*” who were spared in the great ship called “*the ark*” (**1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5**).

There are those who refuse to believe that such a catastrophe ever occurred. But the physical evidence can be found everywhere on the face of the earth. The rock layers formed from sediment laid down by water all over the earth; the formations and canyons eroded by water all over the earth; and the graveyard of mixed fossils found all over the earth shout “**global and catastrophic flood.**” And one cannot accept the authenticity of the Scriptures, the reliability of its writers or the deity of Jesus without believing that it did happen. Moses wrote of it; Isaiah accepted it (**Isaiah 54:9**); Ezekiel acknowledged the story (**Ezekiel 14:14, 20**); Jesus not only endorsed it as fact, but used it to warn worldly and unconcerned people in view of the inevitable day of judgment (**Luke 17:26-27; Matthew 24:35-39**). Peter spoke of those who “*willfully forget, that there were heavens from of old, and an earth, compacted out of water and amidst water, by the word of God; by which means the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished*” (**2 Peter 3:5-6**).

But why did God’s patience wear thin? Why did He change His mind about allowing those people to live upon His “*footstool*”? Why did He pour out His awful wrath in such a judgment upon those whom He had made in His own image? Here is the answer of His revelation: “*And Jehovah saw that 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 Jehovah that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. And Jehovah said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the ground; both man, and beast, and creeping things, and birds of the heavens; for it repenteth me that I have made him*” (**Genesis 6:5-7**). Think of it! Man sank so deep in sin, and drifted so far away from the righteous standard that God had given him that **every imagination** of the **thoughts of his heart** was **only evil**, and that **continually**. The truth must have been hated, and twisted, and distorted; every righteous virtue must have been held up to ridicule; every devious argument must have been made; every effort to extract any physical and sensual thrill from thoughts, words and deeds must have been put forth. Men must have become sex-oriented, pleasure-obsessed, sin-committed, money-mad, and power-devoted. They must have lost sight of the very purpose for which God had put them upon the earth in the first place (**Ecclesiastes 12:13; Micah 6:8; Acts 10:34-35**). Human responsibility must have been banished. God’s will must have been completely forgotten.

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