

How Sin Changed the World!

By Al Felder

“And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Gen. 1:31)

Upon completing His creation, God looked upon all that He had made and said, “It was very good”. It was a world free from murderers or thieves. There was no strife, hatred, or jealousy. It was void of all pain and suffering. The animals had no fear of man nor did man have any need to fear various animals. The ground willingly yielded forth its produce for man to eat – all he need do was pick it. Above all of these blessings, the most wonderful thing about the world was that man lived in close contact with the Creator.

Unfortunately, this state did not last long. *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world”* (Rom. 5:12). That fateful day upon which man gave into temptation and disobeyed the Creator, sin was brought into God’s creation. Since that time it has had devastating effects on the entire world. It is our goal at this time to discuss these effects that we might have a greater understanding of the devastation that sin leaves behind.

In Genesis 3:16-19, the Bible gives an account of the effects of the sin that Adam and Eve committed. We find that as a result of sin, women have greatly increased sorrows or pains in childbirth. Sin had a direct effect on the physiology of women as it relates to pregnancy that had not existed prior to this time. After creating man, God gave them the command to, *“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth”* (Gen. 1:28) Prior to sin entering the world, Eve and all women would have been able to go through this process without the pain that they experience today. After sin, Eve’s and all women’s experiences in child birth would be different from what it could have been.

Also, her desire was to be to her husband and he was to rule over her. The husband’s rule over his wife did not come about as the result of sin. *“For Adam was first formed, then Eve”* (1Tim. 2:13). The order of creation established the husband’s headship over his wife. But when sin came in, there were bound to be differences of opinion, and the headship of man had to be made plain through the giving of the command. Sin had an effect on the relationship itself. Now men are harsher in their role and women are more inclined to be in opposition of this relationship.

To Adam, God said that the ground would be cursed as a result of his sin. He would labor and toil vigorously in order to have food to eat. Before, all man had to do was pick from the food that the earth had so bountifully supplied. ²⁰*For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope.* ²¹*Because the*

creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom. 8:20, 21). Creation itself had been changed from the lush paradise it once was, to a harsher place. As we will continue to see, however, not all of these changes came directly after Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden.

Although death did enter into the world as a result of sin, man continued to enjoy a long life span. A careful study of Genesis 5 teaches us that the average life span of a man was 912 years during this time. The pivotal turning point in the life span of man appears to be the flood. After the flood, Abraham lived 175 years. Moses lived to be 120, and not long following that the average life span of a man was 70 years.

The ground was indeed cursed by God as a result of Adam and Eve’s sin. *“And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed” (Gen. 5:29).* Yet, the climate continued to be pleasant. The fossil records indicate that at one time the earth possessed a warm climate. The African desert and the Gobi Desert of China contain fossils of plants and manmade tools indicating that they were once covered with luxuriant vegetation and inhabited by man. The Arctic Islands, north of Siberia, are densely packed with the remains of elephants and other mammals, along with dense tangles of fossil trees and assorted plants.¹

Scientists believe that the cause of the long life span of man during this time and the warm climate can be attributed to the same factor – the firmament. *“And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so” (Gen. 1:7).* This firmament was a layer of water in the form of vapor in the earth’s atmosphere. Of course, water vapor does exist in the atmosphere today, but not to the extent that it did prior to the flood.

Water vapor in the atmosphere is the principal absorber of harmful radiation. This vapor would have absorbed a much greater degree of the sun’s incoming radiant energy and distributed evenly over the earth causing the globally warm temperatures.² Also, the absorption of this radiation would have contributed greatly to the longevity of man.

With this globally warm climate, there would have been no battle of frontal climates causing violent storms. In fact, the scriptures indicate that until the time of the flood there had not been so much as a rain storm upon the face of the earth. *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house”*

¹ **John C. Whitcomb, Jr. and Henry M. Morris. 1972.** *The Genesis Flood.* Grand Rapids, MI : Baker Book House, 1972. p. 289.

² —. **1972.** *The Genesis Flood.* Grand Rapids, MI : Baker Book House, 1972. p. 306.

(Heb. 11:7). The scriptures further teach that God had a different system at this time for watering the earth. *“⁵And 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. ⁶But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground”* (Gen. 2:5, 6). This mist from the ground gave all plants the necessary water for survival.

During the time of Noah, God looked at man and took account of his deeds. *“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. 6:5). The time period between the creation and the flood is believed to be around 1,700 years based upon the genealogies recorded in the Bible. Mathematicians believe that it is possible for there to have been one billion people on the face of the earth by this time based upon the annual population increase of two percent and the longevity of man at the time.³ While man increased in number, he also increased in wickedness. A wickedness that was so great, God saw fit to destroy every living thing. *“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”* (Gen. 6:7). As it was with the sin in the garden, additional changes were going to be made to the earth by God as a result of man’s sin. Only one man and his family would be spared along with two of every kind of animal.

This judgment of God came in the form of a global flood. *“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened”* (Gen. 7:11). The flood was nothing short of a catastrophic event. Massive amounts of rain began to fall for the first time, exhausting the great layer of water vapor that surrounded the earth at that time. Underground water basins that had been trapped were freed contributing to the flood. This was the result of seismic and volcanic activity.

This water covered the face of the earth and the tops of the mountains. Scientists say that if the current ocean basins were pushed up to present sea level and all present water vapor in the atmosphere fell, there would be an average of 12,000 feet to cover the land. That being the case, the sea level prior to the flood was not as deep as it is today. The mountain ranges were much lower than their present level as well. Scientists believe that prior to the flood the highest mountain ranges would have only been 6,000 to 7,000 feet whereas they exceed 20,000 feet today. The Bible mentions this when it discusses the receding of the flood waters (Psa. 104:5-9).

³ —. 1972. *The Genesis Flood*. Grand Rapids, MI : s.n., 1972. pp. 25-27.

This event completely destroyed the world as it formerly existed. *“Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished”* (2 Peter 3:6). There is no doubt from the scriptures and the evidence left behind from the flood that Noah and those in the ark would have perished had it not been for the protecting hand of God. That is how devastating this event was. *“And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark”* (Gen. 8:1).

Man has tried to deny this judgment of God. *“³Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. ⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old and the earth standing out of the water and in the water”* (2 Peter 3:3-5). Today, man refuses to believe in the catastrophic flood of the Bible. Through the teaching of evolution man tries to say that the earth evolved over billions of years and denies the intelligent design of the Creator.

The fossil record that we have today can be attributed to the flood. In fact, fossils are very rarely formed today. The events of the flood were a perfect combination of events for the formation of fossils. Man has tried to look at the various layers of fossils and claimed that the progressions of evolution can be traced as it goes from simpler creatures to more complex. Consider this, invertebrates, vertebrates, etc. are found, not according to their place in the evolutionary chain, but according to their mobility and ability to delay their impending death from the flood.

Also, the dating methods that are used today are only accurate within a certain time frame. Radiocarbon dating, which is one of the primary methods used to determine the age of an item, can only be accurately used within a range of 5,000 years.⁴ Incidentally, this coincides with the earliest historical records that can be found of man.

Science can only understand what it can see and reproduce. As we have stated, the world before the flood perished. It was so different from ours in many ways that no accurate measurement can be made. Consider a burning candle in an abandoned house. It is now burning at the rate of one inch an hour. How long has it been burning, and, thus, how long has the house been abandoned? No one can know until it can be shown how high the candle was when it was lit, and how fast it was burning originally. This is the same problem that scientist face when trying to study the world.

⁴ —. 1972. *The Genesis Flood*. Grand Rapids, MI : Baker Book House, 1972. pp. 371-374.

Yet, because of man's unwillingness to accept a divine Creator, he has rejected the Biblical account and put in its place a false theory just as Peter, through the inspiration of the Spirit, prophesied that he would do. Many have even taken the words from this text and tried to twist them so that they could believe in some form of evolution. *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"* (2 Peter 3:8). Based upon this verse, men attempt to say that the days of creation were not literal days as we know them, but God, over the space of thousands of years, created the earth and all that is in it. This is called theistic evolution.

Those who take this view completely misunderstand the point of the entire text. The bible says one day is "AS" a thousand years, not is a thousand years. The skeptics of God's future judgment mock Him and say that it is not going to happen. They are willfully ignorant of the last time that God destroyed the earth. However, Peter informs them that the passing of time does not, in any way, affect the performance of God's promises or threats. He is not influenced by the passing of centuries or the lapse of time as man is.

Another change that came about after the flood had to do with man and the animal kingdom. God gave man "dominion" over the animals and both man and beast were given "every green herb for meat" (Gen. 1:28, 30). Up until the flood man had no reason to fear any animal and animals had no fear of man. *"²And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. ⁵And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it"* (Gen. 9:2, 5). Sin changed this relationship. Just as man's headship over the woman exists because of creation, man's dominion over animals continues to exist, but it has been greatly altered because of sin. Because of sin, man had to begin sacrificing animals to God, and in the instance of the flood, all living creatures with exception of those on the ark, died. Now, animals have a fear of man.

After the flood God once again gave man the instructions to spread out over the earth and multiply. *"And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply, bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein"* (Gen. 9:7). Once again, man did not obey God and sinned. *"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth"* (Gen. 11:4). Once again, rather than submit and obey, man sought to elevate himself to God's level. God seeing this wickedness took action. *"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand on another's speech"* (Gen. 11:7). Thus, at this very moment, God caused the different languages because of man's sin.

The reality of sin and its consequences are all around us. It has had, and continues to have physical effects on man – disease, death, pain, etc. It has affected the geography of the

earth and man's relation with the rest of creation. Culturally, man has been affected by sin through the confusing of the language and hatreds that have arisen over differences. Psychologically, man is without the peace of mind that his heart longs for because of sin. As bad as all of these consequences are, none of them compare to the spiritual effects of sin. *"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"* (Isa. 59:2). Regardless of how desperate, or how pitiful, man's condition has become, one thing is for certain: God had no obligation to a creature who so haughtily turned away from Him, His law, and His beneficence.

Whereas man sought to obtain the same level of God and rebel instead of submit and humbly serve, God sent Jesus to do what we so arrogantly refused to do. *"⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"* (Phil. 2:6-8). Jesus, being God Himself, and, thus, equal with God, humbled Himself in obedience to the Father in the way and manner that we should have done.