

WESTERN WATCHMAN

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“Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” Psalm 127:1.

Genesis 8:22: While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Job 38:22: Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?

From January 19-22, 2010 a major storm system marched off the Pacific Ocean to onshore California, Arizona and much of the Southwest United States. This storm system devastated parts of this vast region and produced copious quantities of rain and snow. It not only relieved (but did not eliminate) much of a 10-12 year drought in the region, but may also serve as a micro-model of the processes creationists believe brought on an Ice Age soon after the completion of the Genesis Flood.

PREAMBLE TO A STORM. Scientists from the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) in Dallas have been conducting some serious research in a number of scientific disciplines intended to explain how Creation took place, and how various earth processes forever altered the surface of the planet during and after the judgment of the Flood. ICR scientists have been preparing computer models designed to explain that the Earth’s surface is a product of catastrophic change, not the long, slow processes promoted by non-creationists who subscribe to the doctrine of uniformitarianism. As part of an ongoing FAST research program (Flood-Activated Sedimentation and Tectonics), they are developing models of weather conditions that apparently existed after the Flood that brought on an Ice Age characterized by the rapid accumulation of snow and ice at high altitudes and latitudes. The glacial systems we see today are remnants of one of the most interesting periods of Earth history. But, since models are theoretical and designed to explain occurrences lacking first-hand observation, measurement and recording, the discussion below draws its force from reasonable speculation based on similar effects observed today within the confines of a scientific investigation.

First however, a bit of background information that brought about the Ice Age. According to Scripture, the earth was created and completed very good: Genesis 1:31. Further examination of Genesis 1 reveals that God created waters separating the Earth’s atmosphere where man would live from the rest of outer space. Some creationists believe these “waters above” consisted of an ice crystal canopy perhaps 20 miles above the surface. This canopy had metallic properties but was not a metal, was transparent and the optical properties God created in it provided earth dwellers with a magenta glow in the sky by day and deep purple at night. This canopy permitted hyperbaric conditions on the surface with an atmospheric pressure 2 to 3 times greater than today. Higher concentrations of oxygen and carbon dioxide were in place to permit plant life to

proliferate and animals and humans to live much longer than today. It also protected the planet from damaging ultraviolet radiation and intense short-wave radiation such as cosmic rays from penetrating to the surface when the Second Law of Thermodynamics began. The canopy insulated the planet, preventing the loss of long-wave radiation and providing a benign greenhouse effect. Day-to-day temperature variations were slight. There were no seasons, therefore no snow or ice to define a winter season. There was no atmospheric circulation or high and low pressure systems, therefore no damaging winds, clouds or rain. Excessive heat, if there was any, would have been absorbed by the prolific plant growth providing food for large mammals and dinosaurs whose waste products were recycled throughout the pre-Flood biosphere.

With the arrival of the Flood in Genesis 7:11 everything changed. When the fountains of the great deep broke up, the pre-Flood land masses were quickly overrun with water. Explosive, worldwide undersea volcanism, unknown from Creation, tore out of the ocean to great heights and blasted holes in the protective canopy. Over the next forty days the canopy disintegrated and “rained” itself out. With its destruction, long wave radiation responsible for keeping the surface warm could now escape into space. Land masses began cooling. The newly formed oceans, probably warm before the flood, became even warmer due to the effects of widespread undersea volcanism. In places, the water may have achieved temperatures of at least 100°F. Later, around the time of Peleg in Genesis 10:25, further continental separation took place, new land forms appeared, and collisions between land masses hoisted landforms into major mountain ranges. Atmospheric high and low pressure systems formed and with these came warm and cold fronts, clouds, wind and rain and, at higher altitudes and latitudes, snow and ice. With these changes, conditions were created that permitted the beginnings of an Ice Age.

In today’s world, the formation and effects of hurricanes and other tropical storms are well known. Although various mechanisms have been proposed to explain their formation, including the so-called oceanic convection and equatorial-front theories, in the Northern Hemisphere these storms often form north of 15° latitude between June and November where prevailing easterly trade winds clash with the doldrums, permitting low pressure systems to form over warm water where there is sufficient heat energy to permit tropical storm formation. These storms cannot form in higher latitudes because waters are colder and do not possess thermal energy needed to produce tropical storm effects. Storms forming over oceans north of 30° in cooler water are more influenced by prevailing westerly winds, and have been called “extra-tropical” storms. Although not as potentially devastating as hurricanes, extra-tropical storms may produce sustained winds in excess of 50 miles per hour and the same counterclockwise cyclonic circulation about a center of low pressure as is found in tropical storms and hurricanes.

In the warmer waters of the western Pacific from Vietnam north to the Marianas, the Philippines and Taiwan, tropical storms often form into Category 5 super-typhoons, with winds about the eye wall in excess of 156 mph. In the western Hemisphere Gulf of Mexico, warm water contributed to the formation of a powerful Category 5 hurricane named Gilbert in 1988. This hurricane was subject to close scientific investigation

almost since its inception and advance from the eastern Caribbean Sea; it produced the lowest barometric pressure ever recorded to that time, and had eye-wall wind velocities approaching 200 mph. It devastated Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and, after a brief period of reformation in the Gulf, finally made landfall in Mexico south of Brownsville and Corpus Christi, Texas. When moving over land the vast resources of energy in warm water are cut off, so a tropical storm rapidly loses wind velocity and precipitation output.

HYPERCANES PRODUCE AN ICE AGE. This discussion now enters into theoretical realm because the storms discussed, if indeed they did occur, have not been observed or recorded by man. However it is reasonable to assume that such storms could have occurred. Their mode formation is the same as hurricanes and their sustenance is also the same – vast quantities of warm water. So the modern hurricane or typhoon is a good model to explain the occurrence and characteristics of the mysterious hypercane.

It may be shocking to some, including those employed in the generation of electricity that a globally-warm Planet Earth, a planet substantially warmer than we see today actually brought about an Ice Age. Today politicians, the media and those scientists so-called who support the unscientific theory of man-made global warming, actually missed their calling to sound an alarm about a type of warming that in reality would, to some extent, threaten the planet with utter extinction. What apparently happened in the time period between Noah and the call of Abraham in Genesis 12 is truly amazing. It is one time the forces of nature, without the hand of man, produced continental collisions, explosive volcanism offshore and onshore, and tremendous oceanic storms that probably contributed water to carve the Grand Canyon, other canyons and with these occurrences, an Ice Age. Let's consider how these processes had their beginnings.

In Genesis 10:25 the Bible says that four generations or about 100 years after Noah and son Shem walked off the Ark, and in the time of Peleg, the Earth was divided. When this division occurred, new continental and sub-continental land masses formed in approximately the configuration we see today. ICR scientists have estimated that earthquakes occurring during these separations may have exceeded 13 on the Richter scale. Do you think this is impossible? Think again. In December 2004 during a 9.2 earthquake on Sumatra, Indonesia that produced a devastating tsunami between India and Southeast Asia, the entire island of Sumatra was jolted about 400 yards from its previous position. The continents were divided in part to fulfill one command God had given all mankind through Noah and his family to multiply and replenish the earth: Genesis 9: 1, 7. Within three generations after the Flood waters abated, mankind was attempting to construct a New World Order in the land of Shinar under the rule of rebellious Nimrod. An expression of this rebellion was the construction of a tower that would permit man to reach heaven on his own terms: Genesis 11:4-5. With mankind concentrated in the vicinity of this first Babylon, God came down and forced the people to scatter by confounding their languages: 11:6-9. Unable to sustain this empire under Nimrod, the people finally scattered to the far corners of the globe over land bridges or whatever seafaring craft was available. When the scattering was complete several generations later, the earth was again divided to cut off any further attempts to construct another

Tower of Babel. Peleg's name in Hebrew means both "division" and "earthquake" according to Strong's Concordance. Although the land masses had been cooling for some time after the Flood with snow and ice falling in high altitudes and latitudes, it was the hypercanes forming in the Pacific Ocean that really started an Ice Age in North America.

Again, to understand the formation and characteristics of a hypercane, understanding the formation of a hurricane is a necessary first step. But there are assumptions built into the hypercane model. First, it is assumed that oceanic waters were quite warm everywhere except in the most northerly polar regions of the hemisphere, where some cooling had probably taken place since the Flood. Second, it is assumed that Coriolis forces were already in place so the weather systems were advancing across the Northern Hemisphere much as they do today. Third, it is assumed that upper-level winds were not strong enough to produce shear, which would limit the size of a storm and even prevent its formation altogether. Fourth, with warm water everywhere, storms like this could form in mid-latitude oceanic waters just as surely as they could form in the tropics. Finally, because warm water provided the energy to develop and maintain these storms, they could form anytime of the year and not just in the summer. A storm forming in the ocean at 30-50° N. would be expected to move generally from west to east, threatening the western United States, Mexico and Canada within this range of latitude.

Once a storm began to form, it would draw its power from warm ocean water. This process, combined with what is called latent heat of condensation (heat released when water vapor becomes liquid) adding more fuel, would cause a storm to achieve power and violence unlike anything ever observed or recorded on planet Earth. A hypercane, once fully formed, would measure more than 1000 miles in diameter with horizontal winds about the eye wall as strong as the most violent tornadoes, or in excess of 300 mph. Hurricane-force winds (>73 mph) may be found 500 miles from the storm center. Vertical updrafts and downdrafts may exceed 100 mph. Precipitation outputs in the area of the eye wall may exceed 10 inches of rain per hour. Simply put, no breathing land animal or human could survive this thing in the open. The air would be filled with spray too thick to breathe, too thin to swim in and loaded with airborne soil or rock debris. Long before making landfall, the storm would blow down or blow away any plant life in the storm's path and alter landforms with rapid wind and water erosion.

With the center approaching but still hundreds of miles at sea, the storm would send bands of moisture hundreds of miles inland. When these bands advanced to higher altitudes, rain would become snow, most notably in the months from October through April. Since it is reasonable to assume the rain output in lower elevations was great, one can also assume that corresponding snow accumulation at high altitudes was also great. Using a ratio of 10 inches of snow per inch of water, a storm lasting for two days in a given location with 1-2 inches of rain per hour, would translate into about 500 to 1000 inches of snow for one storm. If a hypercane produced five inches of rain per hour for a 2-day period, this would translate into 200 feet of snow. It is not hard to understand that a succession of these storms would rapidly accumulate so much snow that its weight

alone would compress it into ice. Even just 50 years of this activity would overwhelm high latitudes with sufficient snow to form several thousand feet of sheet ice and at high altitudes, active alpine glacier systems which at one time could have buried all but the highest peaks.

What ultimately brought about the demise of the hypercane and with it, the Ice Age? Today it is well known that a hurricane cannot sustain itself as water temperature decreases. There were at least two processes that stopped the formation of hypercanes: (1) the storms had removed sufficient heat from the Pacific Ocean basin, thus limiting tropical storm and hurricane formation to the tropics between 15-30° N.; and (2) as glaciers and ice fields began melting, cold water entered the ocean on the northern and eastern fringes of the Pacific. Through the process of oceanic circulation and currents, the colder water replaced the warmer surface waters, retarding tropical storm formation above 30° N. Today hurricanes and typhoons may advance into colder northern waters from the tropics, but diminish rapidly.

When sufficient warm oceanic water and the water vapor it produced was no longer available to feed the massive snow and ice fields left in the wake of the hypercanes, these frigid bodies began to shrink in size over time. This is what glacial geologists call wastage or a negative glacier budget. Cold runoff water reentered the oceans contributing to a cooling process especially noteworthy along the coastlines. This process continues to this day. One may therefore conclude that fewer, smaller alpine glaciers and extensive continental ice sheets restricted mainly to Greenland and Antarctica are not necessarily a product of global warming, but rather from cold water restricting the formation of cyclonic storms necessary to restore these features to Ice Age dimensions.

EL-NINO, THE PINEAPPLE EXPRESS AND THE JANUARY 2010 STORM.

Warm water provided the energy for the output of rain and snow from the recent Southwest storm. In this case, it was the so-called “El Nino” effect that occurs in winter when warm ocean water advances farther north from the Equator in the eastern Pacific than is considered normal. When this occurs, low pressure systems advancing from offshore locations near the American Southwest become energized, producing high wind, heavy rain, and at altitudes above 6,500 feet, heavy snow. The recent storm was in response to an El Nino, and as a result, vast areas of the Southwest from Cape Mendocino to the Baja, from Mexico to the Great Salt Lake and west of the Continental Divide were either drenched or buried. Although a complete list of precipitation totals over the three-day period is not possible here, a sampling includes 8.2 inches of rain in the Sonora Desert 35 miles north of the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, 56 inches of snow in Flagstaff and 100 inches of snow near the top of the Arizona Snow Bowl (about 11,500 feet) in the San Francisco Peaks. The rain produced rapid runoff almost everywhere, causing the Agua Fria River to achieve an all-time record flood crest in the area of Black Canyon City about 45 miles northwest of the Phoenix Airport. Elevations above 8,000 feet in southwest Colorado received up to four feet of snow and some areas received more. Finally, east of the Rockies the storm reformed with moisture provided from the Gulf of Mexico, dumping more than a foot of snow across North and South Dakota. This

was no ordinary storm, so it can serve as a micro-model to explain the very real possibility that hypercanes may have indeed produced an Ice Age.

The Pineapple Express is somewhat different from an El Nino in that it does not require warm water offshore to produce large quantities of moisture inland across the Southwest. In this case, warm moist air from the tropics south of Hawaii becomes entrained in the sub-tropical jet stream during winter months and advances farther north than usual. Again, the area affected is the American Southwest west of the Continental Divide. The warm tropical air rises over coastal landforms and low plateaus producing copious rainfall, then rises higher over the Mogollon, Coconino, and Kaibab Plateaus in Arizona and other high plateaus in the southern half of Utah before arriving at the San Juan and Elk Mountains in Colorado where numerous 14,000-foot peaks are located. Because this system is warmer, snow may fall only above 7,500 feet but will fall in quantities similar to the El Nino. The Pineapple Express loses much of its moist character after crossing the Continental Divide or when forced to move south because of cold air mass influences from Canada and the northern United States.

In summary, the planet is not in the original condition God created back in Genesis 1. The present surface of the Earth is a product of judgment, not slow changes taking place over millions or billions of years. It is true that the processes of judgment that radically and rapidly changed the planet from Genesis 7:11 to the time of Abraham are not nearly as active now as they were then in most areas. This does not mean however, that science should concur with an old-earth viewpoint in place of facts contained in the Word of God. To do so eventually lead scientists to become gods unto themselves without accountability to a Supreme Being, worship the creation and deny the Creator. The Bible does not contain the details to piece together a full understanding of a violent storm that, as far as one can tell, has never been observed or recorded by man. Still, Earth processes have under their control the loving Hands of an omnipotent, omniscient, gracious and merciful heavenly Father who sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross, be buried, and rise from the grave on the third day by the power of God. He took away the sin of mankind and offered a free gift of eternal life for those who don't do any more or less than simply believe on His Name: I Corinthians 15:1-8, John 1:12.

Let's increase our understanding of science and the simplicity of salvation through Jesus alone by simply taking God at His Word. Good day.

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