

GLEANINGS — July 12, A.D. 2015

"Global or Local?"

Today's Gleaning comes in part from an excellent book, Refuting Compromise, by Dr. Jonathan Sarfati, who also authored Refuting Evolution and other books.

Some in the church have compromised with the origins myths of "the big bang" and evolutionism when it comes to upholding the orthodox (Biblical) teaching on God's creation. Often going hand in hand with that error is another false teaching – namely that the great Flood was "local."

This is the idea that the great Flood did not inundate the entire globe of the Earth, but affected only the region of the Earth where Noah and his family lived. To the ordinary Bible student this sounds absurd, which of course it is! Nevertheless, there are some who hold to it, and Dr. Sarfati offers the following astute observations which underscore the utter folly of this error:

- Why did Noah have to build an ark? He could have walked to the other side of the mountains and avoided it. Lot and his family merely had to leave Sodom.
- Why did God send every kind of animal to the ark so that they would escape extinction? There would have been other animals to reproduce that kind if these particular ones had died.
- Why was the ark big enough to hold all the kinds of land vertebrate animals that have ever existed? If only Mesopotamian animals were aboard, the ark could have been much smaller.
- Why would birds have been sent on board? These could have simply winged across to a nearby mountain range.
- How could the waters rise to 15 cubits (8 meters [*a little over 26 ft., ed.*]) above the mountains (Gen. 7:20)? Water seeks its own level. It couldn't have risen to cover the local mountains while leaving the rest of the world untouched. Nor would a local flood take a whole year to subside.
- God would have repeatedly broken His promise (Gen. 9:11-16) never to send such a flood again, because there have been many local floods since then.

At 2 Peter 3:5-7 we read, "...by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

If the apostle did not believe that God's sentence of judgment against antediluvian wickedness was universal in scope, would he compare it – under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – to the future universal judgment? In other words, the day of judgment to come will involve every human being that has ever lived, and only those in Christ the antitypical Ark will escape. The judgment that came about 4,500 years ago involved every human being then alive; only those in the typical ark escaped.