



August 5, 2007

## *Water & Flood*

It is estimated that seventy percent of the Earth's surface is covered in water. As we look at physical things that reveal the power of the creator, we find that water is one of the most powerful of these manifestations. In the beginning the Earth was blanketed by water (**Gen 1.2**) and the spirit of God moved on the face of the deep. The Lord commanded that dry land should appear and it did so (**Gen 1.9**). A further description reveals that in the beginning the waters were gathered in one place. Today scientists believe that the planet was once covered with primordial oceans with a single land mass that has been named Pangaea. This is not entirely inconsistent with what the Bible states about creation. When God brought the great flood to destroy the evil of man during the days of Noah, the fountains of the deep were broken up (**Gen 7.11**) and the windows of heaven were opened. Water appears as an agent of judgment and retribution as God unleashes the destructive force of the flood. In our own time we have seen the devastation of land and humanity in the Tsunami resulting from an underwater earthquake in 2004. We have seen the results of more localized floods following excessive rain and hurricanes. The penetrating power of water is such that it will go where other elements cannot, will affect other things that cannot be reached and will remain long after. It is difficult to control and mankind remains powerless against the fury of flood. All of these things speak of the power and design of a creator. The miracle of water also stands as a phenomenon as well. H<sub>2</sub>O is a liquid at room temperature in spite of the fact that chemically it should remain in a gaseous state. Water expands when frozen, unlike other materials that contract. All of these things point to more than just the physical and chemical properties of water. Water destroyed the Egyptian army and protected the children of Israel as they crossed the Red Sea (**Ex 14.21-28**). Paul mentions this as a type of baptism in which the people were saved from their enemies and drawn under the protection of God (**1 Cor 10.1-2**). Water is essential for life. Most of the human body is comprised of water and all essential activities, neurological and chemical, occur in solution. A

lack of water kills as well as an overabundance of the same. Water intoxication, the dilution of electrolytes in the body, caused the death of a woman who participated in a radio station promotion last year and brought criminal charges against those who had conducted the contest. Water, or the sudden appearance of such, heralds a new birth. Christ is referred to as one who came by water and the blood, by the physical birth and the word of prophecy. It is water that flowed from his side in his death and it is water in a figurative sense that saves us when we join Christ in baptism, being immersed, for the remission of sins; the likeness of the death of the savior (**Rom 6.1-5**). Doing so is the statement of a "*good conscience*" (**1 Pet 3.21**), one that acknowledges God as the authority and Christ as master. Floods may also be malevolent, boding ill for those who have done evil (**Jer 47.2, Isa 28.2**). In these, and similar passages the aspect of judgment is brought out. There is also the combined element of power and a sense of finality. God foretells of the abundance of his blessings He will provide for all of mankind which is later brought about in the sacrifice of Christ and the establishment of the church (**Isa 44.3**). In other places we find that floods represent trouble, overwhelming problems that seek to engulf and destroy. From these the Lord provides protection (**Psm 18.4, Psm 69.2, 15**). Turning to the New Testament, the book of Revelation speaks of the persecution of the church and the forces that sought to destroy it. Surrounded by such massive opposition, the providence of God provides for the survival of the saved and the perpetuation of his purpose that not even Satan can thwart (**Rev 12.15-16**). The figure and reality of water and floods is such that God demonstrates his ability to create, sustain and save in spite of all things that oppose.

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