

The Firmament

Keep in mind while reading this chapter, though interesting, is making only a *theory* about the unobserved past. There is no way to describe for certain anything about the past, but scientific experiments today are suggesting that much of this is indeed possible. Scripture certainly describes a world that was much different prior to the Flood of Noah, so to be sure, there was a very good pre-Flood world, but as to why, we can only theorize. There is vast Biblical and scientific evidence showing a primordial paradise. Legends and traditions record that some people did not experience helpless old age; everything needed was already supplied. The Sumerians and Egyptians record that there was no sin on earth, the crocodile did not seize prey and the serpent did not bite. Even in China it was said that perfect virtue existed and the birds and animals were led about without restraint (Oestreicher, Impact 192). How could such events take place? The Bible clearly tells us they did and science certainly shows the earth to be much better in times past.

One of the major reasons this paradise existed was perhaps the firmament, or expanse, created by God on the second day. "And God said, 'Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.' So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so" (Genesis 1:6-7). During creation there was both a vertical and horizontal separation of water. The "horizontal" separated the dry land from the water and the "vertical" separated waters below from waters above, thus creating the firmament. Therefore we have an indication that water was involved in this canopy. We do not know for sure what form of water it was made of, but other possible clues come from the Hebrew word for firmament or expanse, which is *raqiya* (raw-kee'-ah). *Raqiya* means to flatten out and extend a solid vault or canopy. Another point about *raqiya* is that it also seems to refer to metal. For years Hebrew scholars have not known what to do with this definition of "firmament," so it has generally been accepted as just being a water vapor canopy. However, Josephus, a famous Jewish Historian records that the firmament was indeed crystalline (Josephus, Antiquities), as do other modern scholars (Harris, no. 862). There also seems to be some scientific evidence that supports a form of metal in the firmament.

An interesting characteristic of most metals is that they are clear in their pure form. In fact, when man went to the moon the visors on their helmets had a thin layer of pure, transparent, gold (*National Geographic*, 1969). Water is H₂O, meaning two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. When pure H₂O is compressed in experiments today, under extremely cold conditions the oxygen appears bluish, but the two parts of hydrogen are crystallized. At first the crystals appear transparent (can see through) and later they become opaque (can't see through). Since *raqiya* means to flatten or compress together and spread out, the water (H₂O) may have reacted in a similar way as seen in the above experiment, creating a firmament with hydrogen crystals (Baugh, Symphony).

Taking this a step further, microscopic examination of this crystalline, metallic hydrogen shows that a vast majority is transparent, allowing light to shine through. However, also present in smaller amounts are areas of opaque metallic hydrogen that are superconductive (*Popular Science*, 1989). This is important for two reasons. First, light

would shine through only those "veins" in the firmament which were transparent (Mao, p. 1463). But most importantly, the opaque, superconductive material would serve as a means to hold the firmament in place. Recent experiments of superconductive material show that it will suspend a magnet in the air. NASA showed a photograph of a man holding superconductive material between his fingers and above the material was suspended in mid air, a magnet. This would work both upside down and right side up (NASA, 1988). Keeping in mind that the earth is like a great big magnet, and the firmament perhaps having a superconductive, metallic, hydrogen, the firmament would be held in place (*Discover*, 1991). However, the above theory cannot be tested today and, therefore, we cannot say for sure this happened.

Hydrogen, when excited by energy, glows pink. This could perhaps explain why plants in the pre-Flood world grew much more abundantly than today (by hundreds of feet). This is not to say that the earth would appear pink but, rather pink light would be given off. It would be similar to looking through a pair of pink sunglasses where the world does not appear pink but all the colors seem more vivid. Research has shown that plants grow better in pink light, which fits exactly in the firmament model (Moses, p. 88). Still, yet another fascinating result of such a firmament is that it solves much of our problem with C-14 dating. As mentioned earlier, C-14 comes from N-14 being bombarded by cosmic radiation. The firmament would have filtered out the harmful, short wave radiation received from the sun and, therefore, C-14 would not be produced (even if the canopy was just water vapor). This means that living organisms before the Flood would have little or no C-14 in their bodies and, therefore, would appear extremely old according to the C-14 dating method.

The filtering out of the harmful, short wave radiation is **one** of the causes for life's longevity in the pre-Flood world. Studies of the average age of people on a geographical basis shows that people today live shorter life spans near the equator (Brown, Secret, p.92). Also, it is a well-known fact that the sun causes us to age much faster than normal. Once on the Oprah Winfrey show someone asked if there was anything to stop the aging process. The answer was that the best thing you could do was to refrain from going outside (summer or winter) without sunscreen on. The deadly, short waves of the sun are known to cause over 60 diseases today, all of which would be prevented because of the firmament (Peterson, Longevity). Keep this in mind as we will return to this subject soon. Another beneficial effect of the firmament would be greater air pressure with higher oxygen (higher oxygen without the higher air pressure could be harmful). Before the Flood, evidence shows we had roughly twice the atmospheric pressure and from 30-35% oxygen (compared to the current 21%) as seen in air bubbles trapped in fossilized amber (Berner, p. 1406). However, other evidence has caused some to believe it may have only been from 23 to 28%.

Higher air pressure is also what we would expect to see with the firmament because all of the atmospheric gases, which NASA shows have escaped nearly 200 miles into outer space (as far as gravitational pull would allow), would have been compressed underneath this canopy. At present our bodies are under about 14.7 pounds of pressure per square inch, but being born into this world we normally feel nothing from this pressure.

Although, when there are weather changes often times joints ache due to the change in pressure. Today, greater air pressure with higher oxygen is of great benefit to our bodies as we see from replication of such an atmosphere in hyperbaric chambers. A hyperbaric chamber is something that allows us to adjust the oxygen and air pressure in a controlled environment. Amazing things happen in hyperbaric oxygen treatment (HBO). Normally it takes from 7 to 21 days for an open wound to heal and 53 days to completely heal. However, with HBO this healing time can, on average, be cut in half, depending on the severity and type of problem (Fife, 1994). Dr. William Fife was head of the HBO lab at Texas A & M University where more research was done on this subject than in any other non-government center. Some of the research done at Texas A & M suggests that HBO treatment may cure Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Post Polio Syndrome, and heal migraine headaches within 30 to 40 minutes. Other near miraculous healings of gas gangrene and eardrum problems have been treated within one to two hours (Fife, 1995). In a few cases, people have shown near miraculous healing from arthritis and carbon monoxide poisoning. It was reported that one man was brought into a hospital brain dead as a direct result of carbon monoxide poisoning. This man was an organ donor so they wanted to try and purify his organs. They wheeled him and his life support system into the chamber and three days later the organs were purified because the man walked out of the hospital completely recovered, with complete memory (Baugh, Battle).

Increased air pressure has solved another problem. Paleontologists have struggled with the idea of animals such as the *pteranodon* actually being capable of flight, despite their 20-foot wingspans. The size and weight of this creature indicates that to become airborne it would need to run at least fifteen miles an hour and by appearance, they could not run at all. However, as airline pilots will attest, it is easier for heavy airplanes to take off at lower elevations because of the greater air pressure. With twice the atmospheric pressure before the Flood, which science (even evolution, but not on same time frame) is now supporting, the *pteranodon* would be able to take to flight with only a slight breeze. Larger animals such as the *brachiosaur* have been criticized too, because how could they get enough food for their huge bodies when plants were the only food on the menu? With higher air pressure animals have an increased metabolism and oxidation allowing them to receive maximum energy from the food they eat. Therefore, less food would be required. It has even been suggested that as a direct result of higher pressure and oxygen that mosquitoes would not even bite before the Flood. Today, it is the female mosquito that bites in order to receive nutrients from the oxygen in your blood. However, in the pre-Flood atmosphere the higher oxygen content and air pressure may have kept this annoying pest satisfied (Baugh, Symphony). Again this is something theorized about the unobserved past so we cannot be sure, but it would make sense with what the Bible says about a “very good” world.

The amount of carbon dioxide in the air is much less today than during the pre-Flood era (Walker, p. 164). It has been proposed that we had eight times the amount we currently have today (from 0.026% to .25%), which again fits perfectly with the creation model due to the vast quantity and quality of plants giving off carbon dioxide (Zimmer, p.32). The higher pressure and carbon dioxide content also explains why such lush, huge vegetation is seen in the fossil record. At Keio University in Tokyo, Japan, Dr. Kei Moris

did some fascinating studies on a cherry tomato plant (the kind that get about 2-3 feet tall and live about 2-3 months with cherry size tomatoes). He wanted to maximize the potential of this tomato plant's growth so he put it into a cylinder by which he could pump up the air pressure. His reasoning behind this was to enable the plant to take in more carbon dioxide quicker, but inadvertently he was recreating a pre-Flood atmosphere. Dr. Moris wanted to also get rid of the harmful rays of the sun so he brought sunlight to his basement through fiber optics, again inadvertently recreating the proposed pre-Flood world. After two years had passed Kei Moris had a cherry tomato plant that stood over 14 feet tall and had 903 tomatoes that were baseball to grapefruit size (Brown, Secret, p. 159). It eventually reached nearly 40 feet tall bearing almost 14,000 very large tomatoes (Baugh, Symphony). Being created as vegetarians (Genesis 1:29-30), this fits well into the "very good" world that God made.

Along the same lines, we read "But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground..." (Gen 2:6). This led to an experiment with "misting" plants by using the music of birds with certain oscillating frequencies to open the plants. While these pores were open, the leaves were misted with a plant nutrient enzyme. The results were a purple passion plant, which normally grows to about 18 inches, was grown to a Guinness World Record of 1,300 feet. Potatoes 10 inches long and cantaloupes the size of soccer balls have been grown. This process is called "Sonic Bloom" and can be Googled on the Internet. In fact, this patented process was used on apple orchards in Wisconsin, which averages 290 bushels/acre. Through "Sonic Bloom" they yielded over 500 bushels/acre and the fruit had a shelf life of five months instead of the normal 30 days. Cucumbers, soybeans, cabbages, tomatoes, cauliflower, and even redwood trees have been greatly impacted by this revolutionary agricultural system. ("Sonic Bloom," *Creation Illustrated*, Vol. 7 No. 2, 2000, pp. 24-31) Perhaps, this type of "misting" could have also created the plants we see in the fossil record.

Genesis 2:5 mentions that it did not rain until the time of the Flood and, therefore, natural streams watered the earth. With a firmament, a sub tropical climate would be expected all over the world because it would serve as a greenhouse, holding in the heat, but not getting too hot. High and low air pressure systems would not form, which would not allow clouds to form, which would not allow rain. This also explains why there was no rainbow before the Flood.

One final adjustment of our thinking about the pre-Flood world involves the electromagnetic field of the earth. Scientists have measured the electromagnetic field of the earth's atmosphere for over a century, and we now know that it has declined nearly 7% in only 130 years (McDonald, p. 14). Not only does this present a better atmosphere but also a young one. Accordingly, if we could go back in time only 15 to 20,000 years ago, we would have the electromagnetic field of a neutron star and atoms could not hold together; the planet could not exist. Likewise, in the next 2,000 years the field will cease and life will not be possible either (Rees, Robin p. 14).

Further evidence shows that the electromagnetic field influences the body in incredible ways. In fact, it affects everything from molecules to man, and without it, cells cannot

divide during the process of mitosis (Dubrov, p. 61). Evidence is also present showing that this much needed field was not only stronger in the past, but may have even held steady before the Flood, thereby creating a better atmosphere. How and why could this be? Answer: the firmament held the energy in place.

My favorite example of the benefit of the higher electromagnet currents on our bodies has to deal with snakes. Today, if one is bitten by a rattlesnake a long process of treatment and pain is the outlook, unless a person has a stun gun. Yes, a stun gun. I myself have one that delivers only 36,000 volts of DC current. If I were bitten, I would take the stun gun and zap myself near the bite, again perpendicular to the first zap, and a third time just because it felt good. I probably would not even go to the hospital after this. New evidence is showing that electricity can be a cure for all kinds of venomous bites, including bees, spiders, mosquitoes and snakes. Snake venom is made up of mainly proteins and enzymes which are chemically bonded together and, therefore, making them impossible for your body to assimilate in any beneficial way. However, electricity breaks those bonds allowing your body to take in the Protein, and it turns out to be beneficial to you. So in the pre-Flood world, after the curse, if you were bitten by a snake, it may not have affected you because of the higher electromagnetic field. Also, the wound from the bite may have healed much faster because the higher oxygen and pressure would aid in that, just as in HBO treatment today. I have given lectures where doctors have not heard of such a thing, while in other places, I have had doctors in the audience who have actually used this treatment. Nonetheless, it has been documented and proven to work in most cases.

The Brown Recluse spider is one of the most dreadful of all spiders. A Brown Recluse bite literally rots our flesh down to the bone. One 10-year old girl bitten by a Brown Recluse Spider (Fiddle back) was “zapped” on top of the bite while being grounded underneath the bite (under the arm). In 24 hours, all venom was gone. In fact, the Oklahoma State Medical Journal recorded that from September of 1988 to September of 1989, 21 cases were confirmed where a Brown Recluse Spider bite had been "zapped" for treatment and all cases were cured within one treatment (Osborn, p.9).

Regarding snakes, Dr. Ronald Guderian, a missionary doctor from Seattle, has successfully treated more than 60 humans with snakebites by electric shock. Tests have shown that the enzymes in snake venom are destructive to human tissue, but when these enzymes are first "zapped" and then put in test tubes with human flesh, they no longer destroy the tissue (Mueller, p.66-68).

One farmer was stung by a bee and was deathly allergic to bee stings so he began running to his house. On the way he felt his chest beginning to tighten and in his preoccupied state, he tripped over the electric fence. Need I say more? He was cured (Meuller, p.76). Many other examples have been recorded showing us what a great place the pre-Flood world must have been. If the world was like this, how come we are just discovering this now? We aren't discovering it, rather rediscovering it today! Ancient batteries have been found in Egypt showing not only the intelligence of man, but perhaps also past medical treatments. For years scientists did not know what these batteries were used for, but new

findings

show historical relating shock to medicine. Electric fish were used for medicinal purposes by the Greeks and Romans, while bronze and iron needles with electrical devices have been found in Seleucia, which may have been used for acupuncture (already a standard practice in China). The ancient Scribonius Largus wrote, "For any sort of foot gout, when the pain comes on it is good to put a living black torpedo fish under his feet while standing on the beach, not dry but one on which the sea much evidence electric washes, until he feels that his whole foot and ankle are numb up to the knees" (Down, p.12). All of this points to a forgotten age where memories of higher electric fields once aided in the fighting of diseases and other common ailments.

Combine all of the evidence above and we may have the answer to why not only plants were larger in the fossil record but animals as well. It appears nearly everything was better in the past. In the fossil record some dragonflies had wingspans up to 60 inches, cockroaches were a foot long, bison stood 10- feet at the shoulders and the saber tooth tiger stood 6 feet at the shoulders. Meanwhile, plants that are only 20 inches today, were 120 feet tall as seen in the fossil record. Sounds like a cherry tomato plant doesn't it? The graph below shows the ages people were living before and after the Flood. Adam had lived 930 years while Methuselah topped out at 969 years, but immediately after the Flood, the life span drops. Enoch, of course, was taken to heaven alive and, therefore, we can ignore him for our purpose here. The bottom line shows the age at which these people were having children, and again we see a sharp drop after the Flood. Notice the people who do have children at an old age must be disqualified from our example because God granted Abraham and Sarah a child in their "old age," which already at that time was considered to be a miracle. As we have shown above, the firmament collapsed as a result of the Flood and no longer did we have this much needed, "very good," protective device. After this, short wave radiation, lower air pressure, less carbon dioxide, less oxygen, and a lower magnetic field all contributed to a sharp drop in longevity. We must also remember that longevity would increase because of the fact that Adam and Eve were created genetically perfect until their fall brought about the curse of death, disease and suffering. Once the fall into sin came, genetic mistakes were passed down through the generations allowing for more disease to take place. After solar radiation became more prevalent post-Flood, these genetic mutations occurred on a faster basis. (A very pure genetic make-up answers how Cain could marry his close relative and still have healthy children).

Note: If dinosaurs lived as long as people, this could explain why some dinosaurs would be so large because many reptiles today never stop growing as long as they live, therefore, a 900 year old dinosaur could get very large.

Later on in the graph, at the time of Peleg, another sharp drop in lifespan occurs. As mentioned earlier, this may be the time at which the earth was divided and perhaps the Ice Age occurred. The cold, damp climate associated with this period may have contributed to the evidence of rickets that we see in the bones of Neanderthal man as well.

All fits well into the Biblical picture. So there you have it! We now may know why people were able to live longer in the pre-Flood world. One thing is for sure; they did live longer because the Bible tells us so.