



The 4th part in our article series examining evidences of a global Flood will focus on the relation of the Ice Age to the global Flood of Genesis 6 – 9. It may seem odd to make a connection between the Ice Age and the Flood, but hopefully it will become clear that there is a direct correlation between these two events which drastically changed our planet.

Evidences of an Ice Age

Multiple indicators in the earth’s geological record demonstrate that great amounts of semi-permanent snow and ice existed in parts of the earth that no longer have large quantities of such a wintery mix. Additionally, large glaciers are observed to be melting or moving, scouring out rock, and moving large amounts of earth and stone. The rock and debris that is carried along by the melting glaciers form “moraines.”¹ In our day, moraines exist in regions where no significant ice and snow accumulation is observed. This indicates that large glaciers once covered these regions and eventually scoured the landscape as they melted.



This photo shows what is called a 'moraine' in the Upper Engadin of the Swiss Alps.

It is thought that at the peak of the Ice Age, most of the northern part of the United States, along with all of Canada, and other parts of the northern hemisphere were covered in snow and ice.²

Pre-Flood Climate

To understand how an Ice Age fits in with the global Flood, we must realize that the climate prior to the Flood was extremely different from the present, and what it was like after the Flood. Genesis chapters 1 and 2 hint at what the earth’s climate was like prior to the Flood. Specifically, Genesis 1:6 – 10 informs us that when God was creating the universe, and our planet, He formed the earth with one large body of water, and one large land mass, and that He fashioned a layering of “expanses of water”³ dividing the waters that were below (the ocean) from the waters above (in the atmosphere surrounding the earth). Within the creationist community, there is a disagreement concerning what exactly these “waters above” were.



The stuffed Beresovka mammoth, in The Museum of Zoology, St. Petersburg, is a good example of life in the arctic regions in time past.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Stuffed_mammoth.jpg

However, most Biblical creationists believe that prior to the Flood, these “waters above” formed a protective layering surrounding the earth, insulating the earth from the harsh rays of the sun, and thus ensuring a temperate climate, conducive to vibrant life on all parts of the planet.⁴

¹ There are several different types of moraines - <http://nsidc.org/cryosphere/glaciers/gallery/moraines.html>

² <http://nsidc.org/cryosphere/glaciers/quickfacts.html>

³ Termed the “firmament” in the King James Version. This word literally implies a “vault of heaven supporting waters above”.

⁴ This would correlate well with the command of the Creator to His creation to “be fruitful, and multiply, and *fill the earth*”, found in Genesis 1:22, 28.

Some indications of a temperate global climate prior to the Flood include the discovery in the currently barren arctic regions of preserved plants and animals that normally are found in tropical regions.⁵

Why would we find fossilized tropical life in what is now cold, desolate areas of our world, unless the climate was much more temperate at some point in the past? These plants and animals may have been buried by the Flood of Noah's day, or perhaps they were casualties of drastic climate change following the Flood during the Ice Age.

Further, why is Greenland, a landmass that is frigid, and often very snowy, called Greenland? Perhaps, at some time in the past, the climate in the far Northern hemisphere was much more conducive to flourishing the flora of that region.

The Windows of Heaven

During the Flood, the "windows of heaven" were opened⁶ as the rains of judgment fell. Many creationists believe that these "windows of heaven" were not just typical rain clouds, but rather they were probably the atmospheric layering collapsing inward as they deluged the earth. Also during the Flood, the "fountains of the deep" opened, which is likely a reference to subterranean water chambers, and perhaps to volcanic activity. These geological, and meteorological phenomena wrecked the earth's environment and atmosphere.

Post-Flood Weather Changes

Even after the rains had stopped, and the waters had receded, the planet's environment was still in upheaval. Creation scientists have posited that following the end of the Flood, there were still some weather changing factors⁷ occurring that warmed the ocean, while the atmosphere cooled due to volcanic particles insulating the earth from the warmth of the sun. These factors would have caused a good deal of the ocean waters to be evaporated, transported by clouds over the cooler land masses and dumped as snow, ice and frost. As these factors played out, they would have caused a good deal of frozen precipitation to accumulate in a fairly short amount of time, resulting in a prolonged period of severe cold in certain regions of the world⁸ spawning the Ice Age.⁹

Fast or Slow Accumulation

Secular scientists have theorized that multiple "Ice Ages" occurred over hundreds of thousands of years in the distant past.¹⁰ However, this theory is based upon a uniformitarian bias. In reality, catastrophes play a great role in shaping our planet's landscape, and often accomplish in hours or days what might otherwise take a long time under normal circumstances. One creation scientist, a retired National Weather Service meteorologist, has estimated that it took only around 500 years for the maximum average amount of snow and ice, of over 2000 feet to accumulate.¹¹ This scientist bases his calculations upon good science, and a biblical chronology. A modern example of rapid snow and ice accumulation seems to confirm his theories on the Ice Age. During the 2nd World War, some American fighter planes en route to Europe crash landed in Greenland. The planes were abandoned, and later



⁵ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3631764.stm>; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/5034026.stm>; <http://www.icr.org/article/what-turtle-fossil-doing-arctic/>

⁶ Genesis 7:10

⁷ Such as sub-marine volcanic activity and tectonic plate upheaval. See: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n2/setting-stage-for-ice-age>

⁸ <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/fit/flood-caused-ice-age>

⁹ We use the term "Ice Age" here, based upon our belief that there was only one Ice Age. However, many secular scientists believe that there were multiple ice ages over a period of several hundreds of thousands of years.

¹⁰ http://earthguide.ucsd.edu/virtualmuseum/climatechange2/01_1.shtml

¹¹ <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n2/setting-stage-for-ice-age>

covered by over 300 feet of layers of ice and snow over the decades following the War.¹² This demonstrates that thousands of years are not required for ice and snow to build up. Rather, massive amounts of frozen precipitation can accumulate in a matter of a few short years.

Drastic Climate Change

Interestingly enough, in the recent past, secular scientists propounded the theory that our planet was entering a time of global cooling.⁶ Just as with the modern concerns with global warming, the scientists of the last century spread fear that the earth would be drastically affected by these changes in global temperatures. However, what we need to remember is that the earth's temperature will increase dramatically one day, as it burns with a cleansing fire, just as the Flood waters once cleansed the entire earth.⁷

We would do well to take that warning seriously, and help others get ready for the climate change that really counts for eternity!

¹² "Lost WWII plane finally due in UK" http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6232954.stm

⁶ <http://www.newscientist.com/mobile/article/dn11643-climate-myths-they-predicted-global-cooling-in-the-1970s.html>

⁷ 2 Peter 3:9 - 14