

# Christian Fundamentals

## The Flood

When we move through a Bible in chronological order the next significant historical event is the Flood. We cannot really ignore the flood in a look at Christian fundamentals because of the transformation it produced in the whole world. The world we now see is very different from that which was before the flood, and many scientists and archaeologists, by ignoring the flood, get all their dates wrong and it tends to move them towards evolution as an explanation for the existence of the world in which we live. *"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

*Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished".* These are the words of Peter, an apparently ignorant Galilean fisherman, 2000 years ago, an understanding by the revelation of God of what had taken place in the flood. The world then stood in the water and out of the water, it was really like a self-watering system. We read in Genesis chapter 2, *"But there went up a mist from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground"*. There was no rain just a mist like a dew and it watered all the earth. When the flood came the fountains of the deep were opened up and the windows of heaven opened, and all the water took on another position. That one event changed everything, and it is hard really to imagine what the world was like before the flood.

The reason for the flood. *"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repents me that I have made them.*

*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."* Sin had increased to such a state that there was continual evil before God. No wonder, when we consider where sin came from in the beginning. The earth was awful, so God had to do something, and the destruction of every living thing was the option, and it was to be by water. We read, *"All Flesh died"*, they were drowned in the flood. 40 days and nights of rain; there had never been rain on the earth, and the whole earth was covered in water, and it remained for 150 days. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. God looked on Noah favourably and saved him and his family, 8 in all, through the building of an ark in which all the creatures of the earth were to be housed, so that two, in some cases 7, of each creature were to be available to repopulate the earth. Noah and his family were told to go and replenish the earth. You can read it all in Genesis chapters 6, 7, and 8 and the timescales involved, all the wonderful truth which we can learn from the account in the Bible. God 'shut Noah in', in a sense they went through death, they went through judgement, to a supposed new start on the other side. The problem was that sin was still in the heart of Noah and his family, it had passed on to all people, and although Noah was upright in his life before God they soon fell below the glory of God, sin broke out, and sin still pervades our society today. The water of the flood could not take away sin from the human heart. All the peoples of the earth are descended from Noah's three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth. God set a rainbow in the skies, never possible before the flood, as a token to all mankind that He would never flood the earth again; as we read in 2 Peter, He *"is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* Noah found grace that he and his family should be saved, and God

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wants all to find that grace unto salvation through Jesus Christ in these days, before the end of this age.