

ATLANTIS AND THE FLOOD

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It is suggested that the story of Atlantis, about which there has been so much speculation, may have originated in a tradition of the Flood which still existed in Egypt in Plato's time.

The tradition of the lost continent of Atlantis has often been recounted by those interested in traditions of by-gone days. Perhaps our generation would never have heard the story of Atlantis, had it not been for that famous Greek philosopher, Plato.¹ If there is any validity to the Atlantis story, perhaps Plato would have been more apt to have heard about it than modern historians, because Plato lived nearly two and a half millennia ago, closer to the time when that mythological sub-continent of some estimated 150,000 square miles, larger than Arizona and half of New Mexico combined, disappeared.

According to Plato, this sub-continent of Atlantis had a population estimated at some 20 million, and the people were the dominant race in that part of the world. Its influence reached as far east as Egypt, and it had a Mediterranean Empire. The inhabitants created a civilization where brotherhood and morality were dominant motives. But eventually selfishness and greed for material gain became obsessions, as happened to the other antediluvians. Perhaps this spelled their eventual doom, which doom was shared by the rest of the world in the days of Noah, who build an immense ark to ride out the destructive storm, brought on by the Almighty, Who created Heaven and earth.

The inhabitants evidently built canals to carry water for their crops. Hot Springs were believed to have abounded. Elephants and other African life were thought to have lived in the forests.

Also according to Plato, the Atlanteans were a religious people, believing that their gods dwelt in isolation atop the tallest mountains. It is typical of most non-Christian faiths, that their gods are hard to reach. Recall how the priests of Baal in Elijah's time waited all day trying to contact their god, but no luck. In the midst of the capital city of Atlantis, was the temple of Poseidon, encircled by a great wall coated with bronze, while their temples were decorated with gold and silver.

Plato placed Atlantis beyond the Pillars of Hercules, which is the Strait of Gibraltar. This is the present location of the Azores, a cluster of islands some 750 miles west of Europe in the midst of the Atlantic ocean.^{2,3} If this be the former location of Atlantis then we have a clue. We now know from submarine study of the Atlantic, that the Azores are that portion of the Mid-Atlantic ridge that shows above the surface of the ocean. Most of the mid-Atlantic ridge is submerged; but it constitutes the longest mountain range on earth, with its northern anchor point in Iceland, a recent volcanic island, with geysers and vulcanism.⁴ In fact we recall the birth of a very recent island off the shore of Iceland: Surtsey; which the present writer was twice scheduled to visit.

This submerged mountain system cuts the Atlantic Ocean roughly in half, and extends to the southern tips of Africa and South America. But what caused the sub-continent of Atlantis to sink? That will be a study in itself.

It has been speculated that Atlantis was blessed with a balmy climate. This could well be, since the whole earth is believed to have had a balmy climate before the world-wide Flood as described in Genesis. Most of the Flood waters probably came from "the waters above the firmament" that Moses described, at the time of Creation. This vapor blanket, many believe, could have produced a more equable climate than the present one.⁵

We have good evidence for this mild climate; flocks of mammoths and mastodons found ample food even above the Arctic Circle, where at present they would starve to death. One has but to watch the million tons of crude oil daily flowing south through the Alaska pipeline from Prudhoe Bay, on the Arctic Ocean, south 800 miles to Valdez, where it is loaded onto tankers. This alone attests to a former verdant vegetation in an area now too cold for much life.

Again, we look to the great Antarctic ice sheet, where on land have been found great deposits of coal.

Genesis records that turbulent rains kept coming down on the earth for forty days, until the tops of the highest mountains were covered. Naturally Atlantis would have been among the many areas of civilization that were drowned completely. Whether the mid-Atlantic range of mountains was above water before the Flood we don't know; but since the present Azores are now above water, likely before the great Flood, much more accompanying land was also above water. Thus we are safe in attributing the disappearance of Atlantis to the Flood.

The Mid-Atlantic Ridge widens to about 250 miles at the Azores, and this great platform, now submerged is some 678 miles in length, north and south. Before the Great Flood, this platform, then above water, could well have been the sub-continent of Atlantis. "In a single dreadful day and a single dreadful night", as Plato wrote, Atlantis disappeared. Plato evidently was not much of a uniformitarian, for such scientists would no doubt have stretched out this catastrophe to cover some millions of years. Even catastrophists would have stretched out Plato's "single dreadful day and night" to take some 40 days to drown Atlantis.

A recent writer, Muck, takes note of the discovery that some of the giant mammoths in the far north were frozen so suddenly that they had no time to swallow the grass in their mouths. At the circus I have seen elephants hold human heads in their mouths without swallowing them, but in this case I felt no atmospheric chill. But with the frozen mammoths scientists say that it would require a sudden drop in temperature to minus 150 degrees.⁶

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This very evening, as I write this we have watched unprecedented rains and floods in Central Texas that caused great loss of life and property, after some 20 inches of rain, or more. Many Creationist scientists view the Genesis Flood as the sort of flood we are now watching in Texas, where rivers are swollen far above their flood water banks, but many times greater. If scientists would recognize the Biblical Flood for what Scripture describes it to have been, they would not have to call on the supposed impact of some asteroid to explain the undoubted signs of former catastrophic events.

The new science of plate tectonics has been proposed to explain assumed major movements of the continents of the earth. It has been contended that at one time all of the continents were joined into one supercontinent. India was believed to have traveled from the Antarctic area to its present position attached to the southern part of Asia. A newer development subdivides the continents into a number of plates, like the armadillo.

While some scientists, including some Creationists, accept this new science,⁷ some have doubts. Paul Wesson of the University of Cambridge, for instance, has shown some 74 arguments against this whole notion.⁸ One objection to this theory is that according to it the western shore-line of Africa has apparently moved eastward, while the eastern shoreline has moved westward!

Would a better explanation be that the shore-lines of continents were moved by the Flood of Noah? Manifestly before the great Flood the ocean level was perhaps thousands of feet lower than at present. This in itself would have greatly enlarged the surface areas of the continents, leaving the western shoreline of Africa much further west, and the eastern shoreline farther east. That is in my opinion the only explanation possible. Continental travel would not match the evidence nearly so well.

Coal beds, formed at or near sea-level, have been found in the Indian ocean at about 6,000 feet below the

surface, attesting to the tremendous volume of water that covered the earth at the time of Noah. Flood geology answers a host of earth problems much better than any explanation contrived by mere human reason.

References

- ¹The story of Atlantis is told in the dialogues *Timaeus* and *Critias*, which may be found in any edition of Plato's works.
- ²It has been suggested that documents, maybe in the form of tablets, may have been handed down by the patriarchs, and that Moses may have used them in editing *Genesis*. See Wiseman, P. J., 1946. New discoveries in Babylonia about *Genesis*. Marchall, Morgan, and Scott, London. If so, is it possible that such documents may even have included maps of the antediluvian world? Jacob might have taken such things, which were in his keeping, to Egypt; and while Moses evidently had many of them, or copies, others, or, again, copies, might have remained in Egypt even until Plato's time.
- ³For a critical discussion of the notion that Atlantis was really the island Thera, see Isaacson, Israel M., 1975. Some preliminary remarks about Thera and Atlantis. *Kronos* 1(2):93-97.
- ⁴For some similar thoughts along this line see Heyerdahl, Thor, 1979. Early man and the ocean. Doubleday and Co., Inc., Garden City, New York. Pp. 359-361.
- ⁵Dillow, Joseph C., 1978. Mechanics and thermodynamics of the pre-Flood vapor canopy. *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 15(3): 148-159.
- ⁶Dillow, Jody, 1977. The catastrophic deep-freeze of the Beresovka mammoth. *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 14(1):5-13.
- ⁷Tippetts, Mark W., 1979. Pangea shattered. *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 16(1):7-15 and 83.
- ⁸Wesson, Paul S., 1972. Objections to continental drift and plate tectonics. *Journal of Geology* 80(2):185-197.
- (Editor's note.) As this item was being prepared for the press a further report about Atlantis appeared. A story on page 1 of the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, 3 April, 1979, states that Prof. A. A. Akshenov, a Russian oceanographer, reports finding, in the Atlantic off Gibraltar, a submerged group of flat-topped mountains, which, he believes, may once have been an archipelago. Moreover, there were what appear to be ruins of man-made structures.
- Dr. Burdick informs me that he has seen a similar account, originating in Moscow, and quoting Alexander A. Nesterenko, director of the Soviet Institute of Oceanography, and Andrei Akensov, an authority on underwater exploration.

References

- ¹The well known film, *Footprints in Stone*, is distributed by the Films for Christ Association, North Eden Road, Elmwood, Illinois 61529.
- ²Fields, W., L. Hemby, and R. Mehrens, 1978. Paluxy River explorations. Published by Wilbur Fields, 2313 E. 20th St., Joplin, Missouri 64801.

An Analysis of Darwin's Natural Selection (Continued from page 97)

- ¹⁸*Ibid.*, p. 433.
- ¹⁹Gray, A. 1860. The origin of species. *The North British Review*, Vol. 32:465.
- ²⁰Darwin, C. *Op. cit.*, p. 66.
- ²¹*Ibid.*, p. 64.
- ²²Macbeth, N. 1971. Darwin retried. Gambit, Inc., Boston, p. 50.
- ²³Leatherdale, W. H., *Op. cit.*, p. 206.
- ²⁴*Ibid.*, p. 181.
- ²⁵*Ibid.*, p. 149.

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A New Kind of Evidence

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the branch fell into it. But the tracks in the rock must have been made in the mud only a very short time before it hardened, or else they would never have remained. So the tracks in the rock must be no more than about 12,000 years old.

Nobody, as far as I know, has disputed that the dinosaur tracks found at the river are genuine. Thus, there must have been dinosaurs living about 12,000 years ago. This conclusion, it will be noted, follows whether or not the human tracks which many have found are genuine. On the other hand, when the dinosaur tracks have been shown to be comparatively recent, there is no reason to doubt that human tracks might be found in the same place.