The Flood in the Light of the Bible, Geology, and Archaeology


Having been privileged to hear some of this material in a series of lectures by the author, your reviewer was pleased to read it in amplified form in a well-written and well-illustrated book. The subject matter is presented in twenty chapters under a fourfold division: The World Before the Flood; The Biblical Account of the Flood; Extra-Biblical Evidence of the Flood; The World After the Flood.

In his introduction the author lists four reasons which have induced him to give careful thought and prolonged study to this material and finally to present it in book-form. In these reasons we find the objectives set for the volume, and we feel that they are well met. The book helps us to see the divine judgment of the universal deluge as the momentous event that it really was, inasmuch as it marked “the end of a world of transcendent beauty” and “the beginning of a new world, a mere shadowy replica of its original glory.” It makes us conscious of the prominent place assigned to the Flood in God’s inspired Word, written for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. It offers help to the Christian student in the temptations with which he is faced when he makes his first acquaintance with the theories which are set forth by evolutionary geology as it ignores both the Biblical account of Creation and of the Flood. Particularly valuable in this direction is the author’s critical analysis of the timetable of geological ages and of the theory of glaciation, propounded even in grade school geography texts. It finally reminds us how Scripture would have us see in the Flood a prototype of the Final Judgment. The author writes out of the conviction that the Bible “is the inspired Word of God, and therefore correct in every detail, also when dealing with fields of knowledge belonging to these categories, it is reliable and not merely representing in poetical or allegorical language the erroneous, naive, or limited views current at the time when it was written.” (Page 94.)
Flood geology (also creation geology or diluvial geology) is the attempt to interpret and reconcile geological features of the Earth in accordance with a literal belief in the global flood described in Genesis 6–8. In the early 19th century, diluvial geologists hypothesized that specific surface features provided evidence of a worldwide flood which had followed earlier geological eras; after further investigation they agreed that these features resulted from local floods or from glaciers. In the 20th century the Flood geology movement in America has steadily gathered momentum throughout the twentieth century. Ronald Numbers, a historian of science at the University of Wisconsin and a former Seventh-day Adventist, has shown that much of the impetus for the resurgence of Flood geology can be traced to the influence of Seventh-day Adventist founder Ellen Gould White (1827-1915). The major spokesman for Flood geology in the early decades of the century was self-taught Seventh-day Adventist geologist George McCready Price (1870-1963), who authored several books that defended catastrophic geology and