

THE BIBLICAL FLOOD AND THE ICE EPOCH. By Donald Wesley Patten.

Seattle: Meridan Publishing Co., 1966. 336 pp. \$7.50.

Here is a book that will have to be reckoned with. Undoubtedly it will be agreed with and disagreed with, but it must not be ignored. It is a surprising book, for its author is not well-known, its thesis not widely accepted, and its technical data almost overwhelming. But it has made an invaluable contribution to Biblical Christianity's veracity in the face of the attacks of evolutionary science.

The author's thesis is that through the agency of celestial or astral forces the earth became involved in a sudden catastrophe which resulted in the universal flood and the ice age about 2800 B.C. (plus or minus 500 years). This is, of course, in sharp distinction from the prevailing theory of uniformitarianism which states that long periods of time were required for accomplishing the geological and biological phenomena which we observe today. The author does not contend that the catastrophe referred to in Genesis as the flood was the first or that it will be the last. He simply believes that it was the worst. At that time he believes there were great ocean tides and upheavals which resulted in mountain systems on a global scale and in dumping of a vast volume of extremely cold astral ice on the earth's high latitudes. Too, he feels that there occurred then a sudden and permanent change in the earth's atmosphere and thus of its

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climate. Only such a view can account satisfactorily for the fossil evidence.

The book is amazingly broad in its coverage. Its chapters include discussions of the views of various uniformitarian authors and catastrophic authors, the tidal nature of the Biblical flood, evidence for astral catastrophism in ancient literature, the antediluvian canopy and its greenhouse effect, and deficiencies of Darwinian evolution.

The author contends that the astral visitor which caused the worldwide flood also caused the uplifting of mountains and the ice epoch at the same time. In this he differs from other writers who have opposed uniformitarianism, none of whom thought in terms of a celestial visitor as the cause of these events happening simultaneously. In other words, he is proposing a mechanism for the physical cause of the flood in a way that has not been done before.

In his discussion of the fossils--especially fossil men--Mr. Patten makes some important observations. He insists that the skeletal differences must be considered in connection with the forces which entombed the men, and he has one of the finest discussions of endocrinology in relation to "ape men" that the reviewer has seen. (p. 248 ff.).

Undoubtedly evolutionists will dismiss the book (if they ever read it in the first place) since it is always easier to reject

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than to recant or rethink. Let us hope others (especially so-called theistic evolutionists) do not fail to appraise the principal thrust of the book on the ground of some minor disagreement.

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