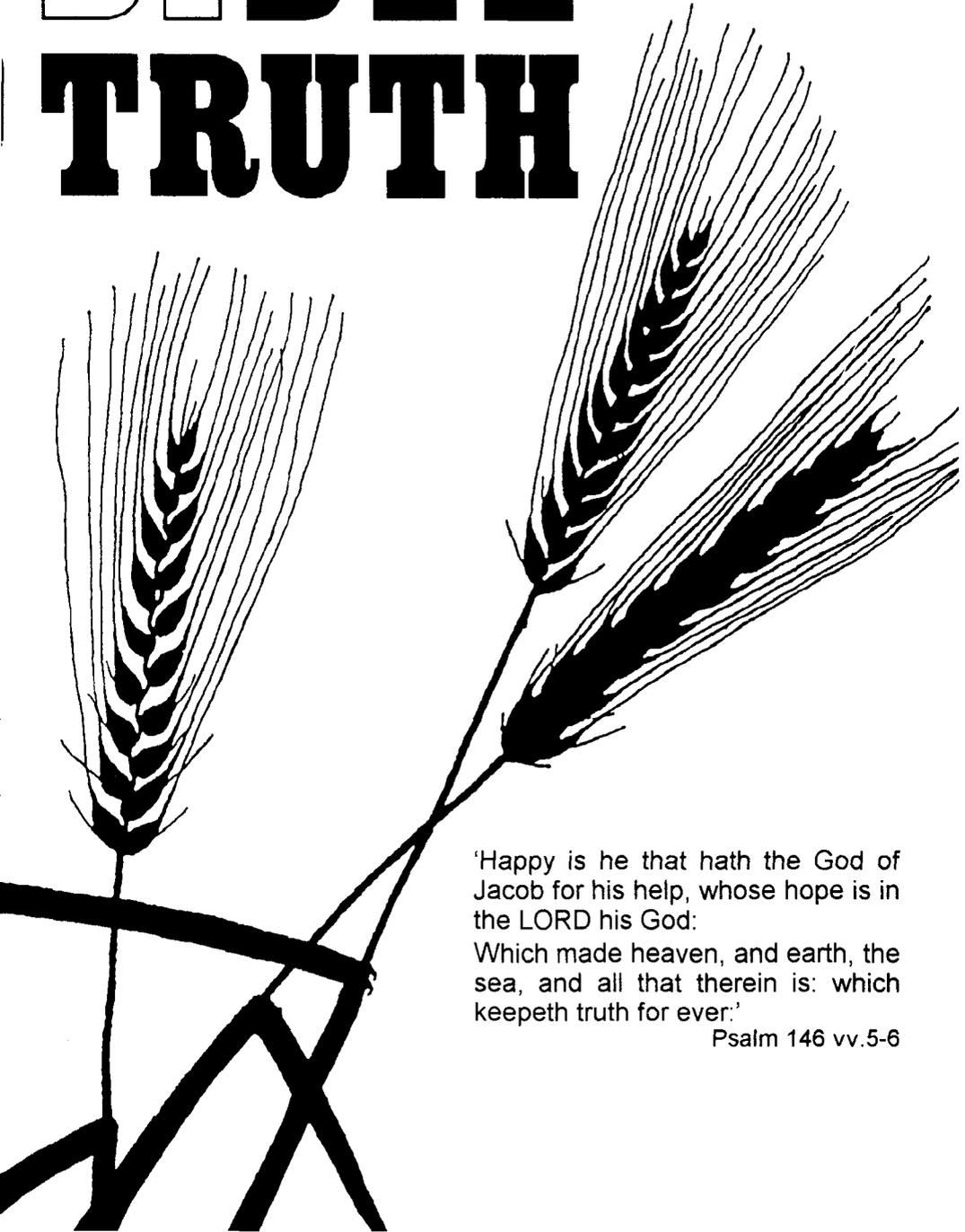


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'Happy is he that hath the God of
Jacob for his help, whose hope is in
the LORD his God:

Which made heaven, and earth, the
sea, and all that therein is: which
keepeth truth for ever.'

Psalm 146 vv.5-6

THE BRONZE AGE COSMIC CATASTROPHE

by Dr Michael D. Bennett

An interesting article in the Sunday Times on 14th December 1997 reported that: 'Dr Benny Peiser, an anthropologist from Liverpool John Moore's University, has analysed 500 excavation reports and climatological studies from the sites of ancient civilisations and found that they all suffered huge changes in climate at exactly the same time. Previous explanations for the collapse of the ancient civilisations have pointed to warfare, volcanoes and earthquakes. But Peiser's findings show that worldwide devastation could only have been provoked by an external cosmic event.' 'The findings could solve the puzzle of why successful empires from across the globe all apparently collapsed at roughly the same time in about 2350 BC, despite the fact that they were independent of each other and all flourishing until their sudden demise.'

The following examples of Bronze Age societies which collapsed about 2350 BC were given in the Sunday Times article:

GREECE - Flooding occurs with more than half a mile of coastline lost to the sea.

EGYPT - Flourishing First Kingdom that built the Sphinx collapses amidst **floods** and fires. Lush farmland turned to desert.

MIDDLE EAST - Dead Sea region, once busy with markets and farms, reduced to desert by fire and **floods**. Mesopotamian city states collapse.

INDIA - Indus valley civilisation flooded.

The article advanced the theory that the common cosmic cause of destruction was a cataclysmic shower of giant meteors which destroyed the great Bronze Age civilisations in Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece by provoking a series of natural disasters.

It seems highly significant that in every case cited above the historical telegram includes a specific reference to 'floods', 'flooding' or 'civilisation flooded'. Bible students will find this of particular interest, and will doubtless wish to link the destruction with another cataclysmic shower, namely, Noah's flood which, according to the Bible, resulted in the sudden destruction of all advanced civilisation on earth.

'And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. ... And all flesh died that moved upon the earth,....'

Genesis ch.7 vv.18 & 21

Bible students will be greatly heartened by this new theory, if only because the Bible's earth view of past and future catastrophes which suddenly destroy civilisation has for long been attacked or ridiculed as being unfounded and unrealistic. The new recognition of evidence for catastrophism is, therefore, most welcome, representing as it does a seachange both in the interpretation of events in ancient history, and in views concerning the probability of cosmic global disaster striking again in future centuries.

What Bible students will find most heartening is the date given for the cataclysmic destruction of Bronze Age societies - namely, about 2350 BC. This is because it coincides closely with the date for Noah's flood, obtained by a fundamental acceptance of the Bible's historical account - namely about 2,302 BC. How is this date arrived at?

Working back from the dates of historical events mentioned in Scripture, fixed by astronomical events at the time of the Assyrian and Babylonian Empires (such as the battle of Qarqar on the Orontes in 853 BC), it is generally agreed by scholars that the 40 year reign of Solomon was about 970-930 BC.

Next the Bible states that Solomon began the construction of the Temple at Jerusalem in the 4th year of his reign (c. 966/5 BC) which was in the 480th year after the Exodus from Egypt by the children of Israel. If so, the Exodus was about 1445 BC.

'And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.' 1 Kings ch.6 v.1

The Bible also tells us that the Passover at the Exodus was on the 430th anniversary of an important event, which further study proves was when Abram, then aged 75, left Haran and began to sojourn. If so, Abram was aged 75 in 1875 BC, and so he was born in about 1950 BC.

'Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.'

Exodus ch.12 vv.40-41

Finally, simple arithmetic summing the ages of the patriarchs at the birth of each successive generation from Noah (who was 600

years old at the time of the flood) until the birth of Abram, gives the total interval from Noah's flood until the birth of Abram of about 352 years. [N.B. These figures, found in Genesis chapter eleven verses ten to twenty-six, are too many to cite in full here, but the following verses give typical examples:

'These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood: And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah.'

Genesis ch.11 vv.10 & 12

If so, Noah's flood occurred in about 2,302 BC which, as already noted above, is in very close agreement for the proposed date of the cataclysmic destruction of Bronze Age societies - namely, about 2,350 BC.

Sadly this striking coincidence went unmentioned in the Sunday Times article. One can only speculate on the reason for this omission. Certainly many authors would not wish to provide any support for a fundamental approach to Bible truth. However, knowledge of what the Bible actually says is at such a low ebb today that the omission of a reference to Noah's flood may just reflect ignorance. The mission of Bible Truth Magazine includes reporting and interpreting current world news to make such interesting connections in the light of Scripture.

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