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(Genesis 7:11). At that time, *“the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water”* (2nd Peter 3:6). With such drastic climactic upheaval, it is reasonable to conclude an ice age would follow. All the moisture that had been stored in the upper atmosphere above and in the sub-oceanic fountains, which was all unleashed over forty days to cover the entire earth (Genesis 7:17, 19), had to be rapidly restrained. The storm began *“in the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month”* (7:11), *“and the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days”* (24). Then, *“the waters subsided”* (8:1), *“the rain from heaven was restrained”* (8:2), *“the waters receded”* (8:3), *“and the waters decreased”* (8:5). The flow was not constrained until *“the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month”* (8:4). It was seven months and ten days later that Noah and his household could emerge from the ark. *“In the six hundred and first year... in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried”* (8:13-14). Enough water to submerge *“all the high hills under the whole heaven”* (7:19) disappeared in the span of 190 days. Since seas were already in existence from the third day of creation (1:9-13), the flood waters did not merely recede into the oceans. Rather, *“God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided”* (8:1). Almost certainly, the wind blew the waters into places where they froze into glaciers, icebergs, and ice sheets. This is the most logical conclusion.

The flood was likely followed by the first ice age and Job was living through it, which is not to say he was inundated by frosty conditions, only near them and aware of them. An attentive reader can fix Job’s lifetime not many centuries following the deluge.

Job’s age contributes to a fair understanding of the timeline, as well. The book concludes: *“After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. So Job died, old and full of days”* (Job 42:16-17). He did not die at the age of 140, but continued to live that long **after** the events of the narrative were concluded. At the outset of the account, Job was already the father of ten children, at least seven of whom were adults (1:2-5). A casual estimate would put him above the age of fifty, and probably older, when the record begins. More specifically, Elihu said to Job, *“You are very old”* (32:6), having a *“multitude of years”* (7). Job could very well have been approaching or past the double-century mark when he died. Such longevity as this drastically narrows the window of when Job could have lived.

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Prior to the flood, men were living nearly a millennium. Adam lived 930 years (Genesis 5:5), and lifespans were steady until Noah’s generation. Seth lived to be 912, Enosh 905, Cainan 910, Mahalalel 895, Jared 962, Enoch 365*, Methuselah 969, Lamech 777, and Noah 950 (Genesis 5:8-31; 9:29). The only outlier in that portion of the family tree was Enoch whose earthly sojourn ended deathlessly (Hebrews 11:5). The average lifespan, including Enoch, was 857½ years, and excluding him, it was 912 years! For Job to have died *“full of days”* (Job 42:17), he must have lived later than this era.

Once *“the world that then existed perished”* (2nd Peter 3:6), when the firmament had released the rains, thinning the atmosphere, and thereby increasing solar radiation upon the earth, lifespans declined steadily until they reached a range that has remained steady ever since. Shem lived 600 years (Genesis 11:10-11), not even a third as long as his father Noah. The following three generations lived about three fourths as long as Shem, with Arphaxad dying at 438 years, Salah 433 years, and Eber 464 years (11:12-17). There was a reduction by half for the next three generations, with Peleg living to 239 years, Reu 239 years, and Serug 230 (11:18-23). Afterward, only one man lived past 200 years. Nahor died at 148 (11:24-25), Terah 205 (11:32), Abraham 175 (25:7), Isaac 180 (35:28), Jacob 147 (47:28), and Joseph 110 (50:22). Jacob was 130 years old when he met Pharaoh and the Egyptian king considered the age noteworthy (47:8-9), implying this was already an unusual age to attain in those days. Four centuries later, Moses died at the age of 120 (Deuteronomy 34:7), which was, by then, exceptional. It was Moses who wrote of the brevity of life, saying, *“The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away”* (Psalm 90:10). Job’s age places his lifetime as contemporary with the final half dozen generations recorded in the book of Genesis.

Calculations reveal that 582 years transpired between the end of the great flood and the beginning of Israel’s sojourn in Egypt (Genesis 11:10-26; 21:5; 25:26; 47:9, 28). This is when an ice age would have been observed and when lifespans matched that of Job’s.

Furthermore, the people whom Job knew match him to an end-of-Genesis timeframe. Job was visited by his friends: *“Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite”* (Job 2:11), as well as *“Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite”* (Job 32:2). Being a

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"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER"

HEBREWS 10:24-25

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Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

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Temanite, Eliphaz was descended from Esau's grandson Teman (Genesis 36:1-15). As a Shuhite, Bildad was descended from Shua, Abraham's son by his last wife Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2). Elihu traced his genealogy to Buz, Abraham's nephew (Genesis 22:20-21). Zophar's lineage is uncertain. Of the four people besides Job who are named in the book, two of them are direct descendants of Abraham, at least two to five generations removed, and one is a collateral relative of Abraham's. All three whose roots can be traced are the offspring of Terah, Abraham's father.

One of the most astounding facts regarding the genealogies presented in Genesis is that, even as lifespans were tapering off, older generations were still living. When Abraham was born, all ten of his forebears who lived since the flood were still alive! Abraham's life overlapped with his great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather Noah for fifty-eight years! This fits very well with something Eliphaz said to Job: *"Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, much older than your father"* (Job 15:10).

In view of all the foregoing, a chronological reading of Scripture should include Job between Genesis and Exodus.

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 12TH, 2025

JOB'S PLACE IN THE BIBLICAL TIMELINE

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Job's place in the biblical timeline is not as immediately apparent as other books. *"In the beginning, God created"* is rather conspicuous (Genesis 1:1) and *"in the days of ___"* is also obvious (Isaiah 1:1). The narrative of Job is not as straightforward about chronology because it is presented more as poetry than history. Although it is not explicit as to when it occurred, there are certain clues that can be put together.

Perceptive readers will observe abundant references throughout the book to cold weather. *"Ice"* is mentioned three times (Job 6:16; 37:10; 38:29-30), *"snow"* is referred to in six instances (Job 6:16; 9:30; 24:19; 37:6; 38:22), *"cold"* occurs twice (Job 24:7; 37:9), and *"frozen"* appears in two passages (Job 37:10; 38:30). Many references to *"snow"* outside of Job do so to compare the whiteness of a patient's leprosy (Exodus 4:6; Numbers 12:10; 2nd Kings 5:27) or to emphasize purity when a sinner is cleansed (Psalm 51:7; Isaiah 1:18; Lamentations 4:7), but Job's remarks about snow are literal. *"Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail?"* (Job 38:22). There is no other book with so much to say about cold weather as Job.

An enormity of coldness would be expected in a world that had recently undergone such a cataclysm as the great flood. Previously, the earth knew no rain (Genesis 2:5) until *"all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened"*

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