

freely over everything in its way until it came to the foothills of Ararat, in the uplands of Armenia. There is nothing to countenance the traditional fancy that it rested on the highest summit of Ararat, only when the waters had considerably assuaged. Ararat was a range or a region rather than a single peak. Our witness speaks the ordinary language of men and tells us what he saw in all good faith. It is wholly gratuitous to make him responsible for any statement of facts that must have been beyond his personal knowledge. Read in that reasonable and common sense way, the difficulty between the Biblical narrative and geology disappears.

We might perhaps leave the matter here as freeing the devout reader of the Bible from any further embarrassment from this quarter. This, however, does not quite represent the whole position of the question at the present time. Such a solution might be sufficiently satisfactory if geological considerations were the only ones to be taken into account. But the problem is complicated by archaeology which now presents us with evidence that the age of man on the earth is somewhat greater than had generally been supposed, and that his dispersion at a very early period had been considerably beyond the limits of the Euphrates valley. Prehistoric remains of very great antiquity have been found, not only in Egypt, but even in western Europe, as well as in Babylonia, and no local deluge could have affected such out-lying tribes. In order that these should be destroyed, we would need to suppose a submergence of enormous extent, if not absolutely universal.

In view of this fresh aspect of the matter, the ground might be taken that from the Biblical narrative we have no more right to conclude the absolute universality of man's destruction than that of the other land animals. The terms used are similar. It would be sufficient to suppose that so far as the occupants of the ark knew, they were the only survivors. If there were others outside of the submerged area, they never learned of their existence. In any case they would be few in number and would be concealed in the recesses of distant