

should not be omitted. But the swallow feeds on insects on the wing, and even tho it might hover around and alight on the ark it could give no information as to the condition of the ground. The author of this addition no doubt thought that he was contributing something confirmatory of the story; and, strange to say, he has found one eminent historical critic (Schrader) in this nineteenth century who agrees with him, and thinks the omission of the swallow a defect in the Hebrew record.

At length, in the beginning of the year following that in which he had embarked, Noah removes the covering of the ark and looks out no longer on sea and mist and rain, but on a wide expanse of land, rejoicing in the warmth and sunshine; and being the latest part submerged and from its height easily drained of saline matter, possibly already showing some signs of verdure. But still tho the waters had disappeared, the lower lands were not yet dry, and the cautious patriarch requires from his divine Protector an assurance of safety before he finally disembarks.

We thus have preserved for all time in the narrative of the deluge in Genesis a precious and unique record, from the standpoint of human history and divine revelation, of the latest of those great continental subsidences which, in the course of geological time, have been the means employed by the Creator for destroying and renewing the animal population of the land. Much can be learned from it, and I feel convinced that its few and simple delineations may yield further information on more thorough and careful study of the language employed, and its relation to physical phenomena. Scholars learned in early Oriental languages would find a richer harvest in thus studying the words of Genesis than in pursuing delusive hypotheses of disintegration, but they would need to emerge from their libraries and attain to some familiarity with natural phenomena before being qualified even to sit at the feet of the ancient writer whose work appears in this primitive history. In endeavoring to interpret it I have found the book of Job most helpful—a book I believe much older than is generally supposed, but whatever its age, the production of a writer having large acquaintance with nature, and familiarity with the terms of simple and primitive folk in expressing what they knew of its phenomena.

But the record of the deluge has its prophetic as well as its historical side. Noah is assured that certain ameliorations of the original curse will result from it, and will give important advantages to humanity in the new era. He is also assured that God will no more destroy the kosmos or inhabited world by a flood of water. Thus the deluge becomes the guarantee of a permanent continental age for man, and no mention is made of any of the other causes of physical destruction available to Omnipotence for the punishment of the guilty. That there are such powers we well know, and the very permanence guaranteed to the continents must give the more intensity to the accumu-

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