

Was the rain that caused the flood in the days of Noah the very first time it had ever rained?

Many of us have probably heard a preacher at least once in our lifetime that has made the claim that the rain that caused the global flood in the days of Noah was the very first time it had ever rained on the Earth. Does the fact that a preacher has made this claim make it so? Certainly not! As a person who became a Christian later in life, I soon discovered that the appeal of early gospel preachers to **"Speak as the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent"** was one of the greatest influences of my life which lead me, my wife, and my parents to become Christians. This being so, I often find myself concerned with certain things I hear preached as being a Bible fact, when in fact the Bible says something quite different. Hence the reason for asking the particular question under discussion.

What Some Brethren Have Said - Several years ago, a brother in Christ authored a book on **"The Noahic Flood,"** in which he made the statement, *"In fact, there was no rain prior to the flood (Gen. 2:5,6), nor was there a rainbow prior to God's setting His 'bow in the cloud' after the flood, a token that He would never again destroy the earth by a flood (Gen. 9:12-17)."* **Where in the Bible did this brother get his information?** I have read the scriptures he offers along with his statement, but I read nothing about these **"firsts"** (i.e. - first rain & first rainbow) that he speaks of. If it is because these scriptures are those that first mention the rain and rainbows, I could just as easily claim that Noah's ark was the **"first boat"** ever created since we cannot read of another boat in the scriptures until we read about the ark Noah was commanded to build. The problem with me making such a claim as this would be the same problem I have with some of my

brethren making the claim that the rain that attributed to the Noahic flood was the **"first rain,"** that problem being that all of us would be adding to the Word of God something that it just does not say! God has warned His followers from the beginning to the end of the Holy Scriptures about **"adding"** to His Word, (**Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; and Rev. 22:18**).

In this same book that my brother wrote, he claims that this **"first rain"** came from what he calls a **"water vapor canopy,"** which he says is the equivalent of the **"waters above the firmament"** that we read about in **Gen. 1:7,8**. He further claims that these **"waters above the firmament"** (a.k.a. - **"water vapor canopy"**) no longer existed after the days of the Noahic flood. If that be true, then I wonder if King David knew this when he spoke by inspiration of the Holy Spirit and said, **"Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters above the heavens," (Ps. 148:4; Gen. 1:7)?** My brother also claims that the entire earth was a **"tropical paradise"** until the days of the flood, and yet we know that Adam's punishment for his part in bringing sin into the world would be that God cursed the ground and said that **"in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field," (Gen. 3:17,18). Does that sound like a "tropical paradise" to you dear reader?**

What Does The Bible Really Say in Gen. 2:4-7? - Let us now read together, and examine closely, what **Gen. 2:4-7** does say, and notice closely the words in **bold** in order to help us understand this subject better. **Gen. 2:4-7** - **"This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown; for the LORD God had not**

caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground." Now, let us break these scriptures down to see what we can learn:

Context: Moses is writing about the **"history of the heavens and the earth when they were created," (Gen. 2:4).**

What Time in History: (1) **"In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens," (Gen. 2:4),** (2) **"before any plant of the field was in the earth," (Gen. 2:5),** and (3) **"before any herb of the field had grown," (Gen. 2:5).**

Weather Conditions: **"a mist went up from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground," (Gen. 2:6).**

Why a Mist?: Because **"the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth," (Gen. 2:5)** at that time.

Why No Rain?: Because **"there was no man to till the ground,"** at that time **(Gen. 2:6).**

So, from this small portion of scriptures we learn that there was a time when God had not yet caused it to rain. It was during that time that a mist went up from the earth to water the whole face of the earth. It was also during this same time period that mankind was still living in the garden provided for them by God and their food was provided by the herbs and fruit trees that God had placed in the garden for them, **(Gen. 1:29)**. But, this situation was about to change because Eve would give in to the temptation of Satan and partake of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She would then cause Adam to partake of the forbidden fruit **(Gen. 3:6)**, and mankind would soon be driven out of the garden, no longer able to partake of those herbs and fruit trees that God had provided there. In **Gen. 3:17-24** we read, **(3:17) Then to Adam He said, "Because you have**

heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': 'Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. (3:18) Both **thorns and thistles** it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the **herb of the field.** (3:19) In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (3:20) And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. (3:21) Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. (3:22) Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" (3:23) therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to **till the ground** from which he was taken. (3:24) So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life."

Conclusion: The situation before Eve, and then Adam, sinned was quite different than the way it would become after their sin and their punishment. In the beginning, God provided them with herbs and fruit that grew in the garden, a garden which they did not have to cultivate by their own toil, although they were responsible for tending it, (**Gen. 2:15**). The water for the garden, as well as the whole face of the earth, was provided by a mist. As part of man's punishment for sin he would now have to grow his own food, and that would be by tilling a cursed ground that brought forth thorns and thistles among the plants that man chose to grow. This situation remains the case for mankind until this very day! Those who farm, or simply try to grow a garden, will spray herbicides, insecticides,

and constantly hoe out the unwanted weeds from their plantings in order for them to mature to harvest. It seems plain to me that, if the reason for God not causing it to rain during man's stay in the garden was because there was **"no plant of the field," "no herb of the field,"** and **"no man to till the ground,"** then that situation would out of necessity change when there **were plants of the field, herbs of the field,** and a **man to till the ground,** and therefore **it would have rained long before the rain that attributed to the Noahic flood! If not, why not?**

The time span from the beginning of creation to the time of the flood is a little over 1600 years. Does it even seem logical to you dear reader, that the earth would never have seen rain for that span of time, nor a rainbow, both of which are part of nature that God created from the beginning? It seems that some of our brethren have tried in times past to make science prove the truthfulness of the Bible, whereas they should have been using the Bible to prove science. As for me and my house, we will simply take what the Bible says about these subjects, and respect the silences of God's Word as well, and pray that our brethren do likewise!

The End

All Scripture quotations taken from the New King James Version of The Holy Bible unless otherwise noted.

Lesson article authored
by
Edward R. Henderson, Jr.
Sigsbee church of Christ

Please write or email us for a . . .
FREE Bible Correspondence Course
2707 C.R. 115, Fort Payne, AL 35967
(freebiblestudylesson@sigsbeecoc.com)

Was The Flood Rain The First Rain?



**Bible Answers
for
Bible Questions**