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II. The Flood: "It grieved God at His heart", Gen. 6:6

We have arrived, at the end of 'Section I', at an important landmark, ^{and pt 2} namely: The creation of "the Heavens and the Earth were finished, and all the host of them", Gen. 2:1, at the culmination of which "God created man in His own image", Gen. 1:26&27. It is quite significant to note that at the conclusion of each metaphoric creative 'day', or rather 'phase', it is recorded that "God saw that *it was good*", Gen. 1: 4, 10, 12, 18, 21 & 25, however, it was at the creation of the human species, as the pinnacle of His handiwork, that His utter satisfaction was expressed: "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was **very good**", Gen. 1:31, at which point in this discourse that it was logical to propose the important question: *What is man?* ^{ARK} ^{Noah}

In the attempt to answer this rather loaded and complex question, it will assist us if we first contemplate some background facts in the following 7 further incontrovertible statements:

1. First, according to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), we are currently officially in the *Holocene epoch* which began **11,700** years ago, after the last well-documented and accurately-dated major ice age, *circa 16,000* years ago, which lasted for few thousand years, during which time all the so-called 'related' humanoid species, *aka huminides*, were completely wiped out from the face of the Earth, and for the same reason, the human race **cannot** conceivably be in existence more than **11,700** years.

2. Secondly, some scholars have argued that the name of the *Holocene* epoch, should be changed to the *Anthropocene epoch*, from *anthropo* for 'man', and *cene* for 'new', in the attempt to reflect the reality of the new and very young age of the 'modern' humans, or dare I say the 'only' genuine human race!

3. Thirdly, we need be absolutely clear as to what actually constitutes the 'modern' human race! We know from radio-carbon dating of the fossils of the so-called 'related' *huminides*, that some kinds of species have existed between **2.6 Million** and **40,000** years ago, in that the earliest known bipedal 'homo' species, the *homo habilis* and the *homo erectus*, have survived up to **300,000** years ago, and that the latest known species, *homo neanderthalensis*, is now extinct for nearly **40,000** years. These well-documented facts clearly indicate that there is a long and rather unbridgeable gap of around **28,300** years, or more, before the human race has ever existed. Moreover, there is

no identifiable link of a 'relative' from which the current human race **could** have 'evolved'*, that is conveniently called the 'missing link', which despite all the gallant efforts has not been, and never will be, found!

4. Fourthly, According to the computation of Biblical chronology by Archbishop James Ussher of Armagh (1581-1656), the age of the 'Creation'², is said to be approximately 6000 years, or more precisely, 6025 years, (4004 BCE + 2021 AD), based mainly on Scriptural genealogies, i.e., from Adam to the first cataclysm in 2348 BCE, as well as few notable and accurately documented historical events, e.g., the first Olympiad in 776 BCE, the Babylonian captivity in 586 BCE, and the death of King Herod the Great in March 4 BCE.

5. Fifthly, the difference of 5675 years in the aforementioned two calculated figures, as quoted from the Scientific (11,700) and Biblical (6025) chronology respectively, for the age of the 'creation' of the human race, is in the overall scheme of things not very wildly divergent, and they may even constitute an 'almost' full agreement between the scientific history and the inspired Word of God in the Scriptures.

6. Sixthly, in the latest taxonomic nomenclature, the human race is appropriately named: '*homo sapiens sapiens*'. The word *homo* is derived from the Latin word which means 'man', or if you like 'human', in order to oblige to the present-day ultra-fashionable 'political correctness' in order to establish gender neutrality, despite it being linguistically wrong. The word

* It will probably come as a surprise if I confidently declare that the "Theory of Evolution by natural selection", which Charles Darwin, the famous naturalist, had jointly devised with Alfred R. Wallace, may sit comfortably with the story of the 'creation' as very clearly narrated in the Book of Genesis, and detailed in the 3rd, 5th and the early 6th phases. Conceptually, it is seemingly an 'evolutionary' pattern, which included an accurate description of the stepwise sequential emergence of "grass, herb-yielding seeds and fruit-bearing" plantations, followed by all the "moving creatures that have *life*", i.e., *soul* (not *spirit*), in a precise orderly manner, starting with sea creatures: the great whales and the fowl of the air, and every creature that moveth: the cattle, things that creepeth and the beasts", *Gen. 1:11, 12, & 20-25*. In fact, it is noteworthy to record that what Mr. Darwin had successfully argued in his 1859 book, entitled: 'On The Origin of Species ... And the Descent of Man', which is accepted, without much controversy to the present day, by most evolutionary biologists, which may well apply perfectly to all the 'spiritless' species, but there is no evidence or any reasonable or convincing argument whatsoever that it applies to the 'Descent of Man'.

² Here, I should observe that although Bishop Ussher's calculations are scholarly, he was mistaken to apply them to the 13.8 billion years old 'Creation', *vide supra*, it should only apply to the age of humans, from Adam onwards. It was also by a very wild stretch of imagination that he had given it an exact date and a precise time of the 'Creation', namely: at 6 PM on 22nd October 4004 BCE! Unbelievable really. It probably contributed to the discrediting of the 'Creationists'.

sapiens, however, means 'being wise or sensible and astute', likewise, the purposeful repetition of '*sapiens*' is the terminology that the scientists have rightly selected to specify the identity of 'real' humans as a unique creature possessed of wisdom and sensibility. The old nomenclature, *homo sapiens*, is now obsolete. It was first coined to identify the topmost subclassification of the '*homo*' family, or the species of nomadic hunter gatherers and users of stone tools, and who were also capable of starting and managing a fire.

7. Finally, according to the Scripture, the creation of humankind is indeed quite unique, in that "The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul", *Gen. 2:7*. We are, therefore, made of a tripartite nature, namely: '*somatikon, psuchikon, et pneumatikon*', i.e., body, soul and spirit, *1 Thess. 5:23*. In this respect, as for the Body: "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground", and as of the Spirit: "God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life", and it was only then that "man became a living Soul", *Gen. 2:7*. The pronouncement: "God-breathed" is even more illuminating when read in the Greek language, viz. *theopneustos*: derived from *Theos*, meaning God and *pneuma*, the word for air or Spirit, i.e., God's Spirit, in that God, as it were, has imparted of His own Spirit only unto the 'non-evolutionary' human race, which has exclusively given humankind its special identity. It must be made absolutely clear that we are not just any per chance animal, which might have 'evolved' by a process of 'natural selection' from an antecedent chimpanzee or another less developed *Neanderthalic* predecessor!

It is quite true that, *Physically* and *Physiologically*, humankind and all the other beasts are rather similar, for "all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again", *Eccles. 3:20*. Accordingly, it may rightly be concluded that we do indeed share, with the 'lesser' species, very similar structure of the flesh and blood, or body and soul, respectively, e.g., the structure of the hearts, lungs, livers, and kidneys, etc., as well as the chemistry of the blood, are almost identical. Likewise, *Psychologically*, we may have a similar basic behavioural pattern of the soul, e.g., fear, fight, freeze, or flight, but we are utterly unique in the possession of the God-given spirit. The body and soul, including that complex and quite intriguing organ, to wit the brain, are subjects of advanced studies in comparative Anatomy, Physiology and Psychology, but because there is no evaluable comparative investigation, the spirit is almost unstudiable! So much so that even Solomon, the Preacher in the Book of *Ecclesiastes*, despite his legendary wisdom, was absolutely puzzled: "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit (if any be there) of the beast that goeth

downward to the earth?" *Eccles. 3:21.*

Having been endowed with the 'Spirit' of the Divine, surely this is the ultimate answer to the aforementioned proposed question, *viz., What is man?* In essence, humankind is: '**A Spiritual Being**'. Indeed, David the psalmist had so eloquently expressed it: "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well", *Ps. 139:14*. When compared with any other living creature, God created humankind in an utterly different way, for there is one crucial distinction, in this wise: "God said: Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... *and* So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him", *Gen. 1:26&27*. You will observe that the sentiment herewith expressed is two times twice repeated, not just for emphasis, but because we are uniquely furnished with '**God-like**' nature*, which the Lord Jesus has very clearly emphasised, when He said to the Samaritan woman by Jacob's Well in Sychar: "God is **a Spirit**", *John 4:24*. And being made in God's own likeness, we are, therefore, cognisant creatures, furnished with linguistic abilities to communicate rationally with one another, but more importantly with our Divine maker. In fact, that was God's sole purpose so that He might have an intelligible fellowship, individually and collectively, with the head of His creation. A relationship which the Lord Jesus so very clearly declared, when He said: "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in **spirit** and in truth; for the Father **seeketh** such to worship Him. God is a **Spirit**, and they that worship Him must worship **Him** in **spirit** and in truth", *John 4:23&24*.

The Apostle Paul also plainly debated with the intellectual Athenians at the Areopagus on Mars' Hill: "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of Heaven and Earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things, ... That they should **seek** the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being", *Acts 17: 24-28*. It pleased God that the *modern* human race is possessed of God-like traits, to wit: awareness, including self-awareness, and personality. Each one of us is individually potentially richly imbued with intellectual faculties, linguistic capabilities, and imaginative creativity in the

* This subject is discussed, *ad nauseum*, elsewhere and I will refrain from a repetition, but I most humbly refer you to two other Articles entitled: '*Emmanuel*' and '*The Holy Trinity*'.

Arts, Sciences, and the Industry. These are traits that only the human race is blessed with and can enjoy, and when properly utilized, are meant to be for the good of the entire human race and even the whole realm of nature. But more importantly, we also have the ability to evaluate matters and enjoy our Divinely-granted free-will. Accordingly, we have the liberty to determine how we conduct ourselves; we are able to differentiate between good and evil and are free to choose how we act. We are supposedly intelligent enough to know what does the author of our being expects, for "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" *Micah 6:8*. Regrettably, the human race kept not this wonderful first estate, and the initial Divine contentment proved to be short-lived! Sinfulness crept in unawares and in approximately 1556 years "it repented the LORD that He had made man on the Earth and it **grieved God at His heart**", *Gen. 6:6*, which in the overall scheme of things is a relatively minuscule period of time.

Henceforth, the stage was set for the first cataclysmic event which the inhabited Earth ever had, or have since, experienced despite the skepticism concerning the reality of events that took place in Noah's time. We will presently trace those events which unraveled the puzzling and complicated nature of the human race and the subsequent checkered antediluvian history with the consequential circumstances which led to The Flood:

a. First, according to the Greek and Roman chroniclers, the antediluvian period is known amongst historians as the *ádelon* i.e., the obscure period, because there are no surviving physical artifacts or any contemporaneous written records. It covers the era between the 'creation' of humankind and the first cataclysm. However, the undisputed account of the inspired Scriptures has comprehensively detailed the life and time of Noah in the Book of Genesis, *Gen. 1:13 - 6:14*, which was also referenced by the Lord Jesus in *Matt. 23:37*, thus confirming its authenticity.

b. Secondly, In keeping with the calculations of the accurate Biblical chronology, it is possible to conclude that Noah's Flood has taken place exactly in the year **2348 BCE!**

c. Thirdly, it is confirmed in popular culture, if any confirmation is ever deemed necessary, e.g., the account of The Flood of Ogyges, which is said to have occurred between **2376 and 2137 BCE**, and the Epic of Gilgamesh, wherein it is recorded that a flood has indeed occurred at the same historical period, which coincided with both of the aforementioned accounts.

d. Fourthly, there is some further convincing evidence of archeological sediment which was discovered more recently not many miles away from "the mountains of Ararat", the resting place of Noah's Ark as recorded in the Scripture, *Gen. 8:4*, in the Black sea area*.

e. Fifthly, the Ark itself, however, is not found, despite the many hoaxes. In fact, it will never be found, because to put it simply, the gopher wood of which the Ark was built, *Gen. 6:14*, must have decayed over time and almost certainly had completely disappeared ages ago. May I humbly refer you to further this discussion in more details in another treatise/talk, or my lecture tour, entitled: 'Noah's Ark: Myth, Mystery or Masterpiece'.

Let us now consider the contemporaneous reasons as to why 'The Flood' had to happen!

Humankind failed at the very first hurdle, whatever the ins and outs of the proverbial test in the prohibition imposed on our forebears from eating "of the tree of knowledge of good and evil", *Gen. 2:16 & 17*, be it real or symbolic, it is emblematic of subsequent behaviour of the human race in whichever 'Dispensation' and under whatever 'Covenant', *vide infra*.

Just consider for a moment the 'first' family on Earth, supposedly the role model for humanity. Initial v Adam and Eve, the parents of the human race, have exercised all the privileges of the idyllic status of perfection in its proper perspective, as they have enjoyed all their privileges, prerogatives and dominion over the rest of the creation, *Gen. 1:26*, as they communicated freely with the Almighty. Regrettably, this status was momentary, almost certainly less than 130* years. However, it matters not to ascertain exactly how long the period of *Innocence* have lasted, because with the 'Fall' it was very quickly abused, and those lofty *spiritual* advantages were subsequently reduced to the very basic, *physical* animal instincts:

First, the women: whose name is "Eve, because she was the mother of all living", *Gen. 3:20*, and thereby the educating example in the formative role model for her offspring, instead she typified the human worldly behaviour: she was beguiled by the serpent's craftiness and subtle deception, who in an incongruousness to God says: "ye shall not surely die... ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil... *and* the woman saw that the tree was good for food,

* Before the Flood: Dramatic new evidence that the Biblical Flood was a real-life event. A definitive and conclusive manuscript, by Ian Wilson, and Published by Orion Books Ltd., in 2001

* 130 years was the time when Seth, the 3rd son to Adam and Eve, was born, *Gen. 5:3*.

and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her", *Gen. 3:4-6*. Thus, proving beyond any shadow of doubt what John said generations later: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust the eyes, and the pride of life", *1 John 2:16*. Moreover, she misrepresented or rather embellished God's 'order' by a multitude of factual errors, e.g., she changed the tone of the pronouncement from "thou shalt surely die", *Gen. 2:17*, to "lest ye die", a subtle but significant alteration, and she added "neither shall ye touch it", *Gen. 3:3*, that was not the original instruction of God to Adam. There is nothing worse than becoming the wrong spokesperson for God and being a false advocate, like Eve, and for that purpose the devil, deliberately saying and doing things 'in the name of God', when He is totally 'innocent' and as such knowingly falsifying "The law of the LORD *which is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *that is* sure, making wise the simple", *Psa. 19:7*. For much of the trouble in the world today is still done under the false pretenses, which has arisen from some mistaken interpretations or worse still, deliberate and indictable falsehoods!

ii. Secondly, the man: Adam, the father of the human race and figure head of the family, whose excuse for failing to obey God's instructions was to apportion the blame on "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat", *Gen. 3:12*. Was he totally forgotten, or more likely purposely evaded the fact that it was he who received the instructions in the first place, *Gen. 2:17*, long before 'that' woman has ever existed? This same behaviour may justly be denominated the distinguishing characteristic of humankind, I mean – the blame culture. We hear it all the time, people as if they were saying 'it is not my fault', or 'it is in the genes' and 'I was made like this or that', and the endless debate of nature vs. nurture, and peer pressure. But when Adam and Eve "heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden", *Gen. 3:8*, only to hear the dreadful penalty and sorrowful sentences in the form of a painful birth, a life of toil, sweat and tears in tilling the ground, which instead brings forth thorns and thistles, and finally a lamentable death: "till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return", *Gen. 3:13-19*, "for the wages of sin is death", *Rom. 6:23*. "Wherefore, by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned", *Rom. 5:12*.

iii. Thirdly, the posterity: Cain, the eldest son, committed the first

crime in the world, and had thus set the worst example of inhumanity, murdering his own younger brother, Abel, regrettably 'in the name of religion'*, because "the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell... *so much so* that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him", *Gen. 4:4-8*. Not only was Cain a murderer he also lied about it, for when "the LORD said unto *him*: Where is Abel thy brother? He said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" *Gen. 4:9*. He then became a carefree, careless and fearful "fugitive and a vagabond in the Earth", who reprehensively "went out from the presence of the LORD", *Gen. 4:10-16*.

It is shocking that all of the above misdemeanours by the then 'first' family did not take a long time to emerge, perhaps all took place within the first **100** years in the life of the human race on Earth! Which was transmitted thereafter to the stiff-necked and disobedient posterity forever.

Thereafter, all manners of crooked behaviour and every sort of ungodly perversion subsequently prevailed, recorded in the early chapters of the Book of Genesis, *Gen. 4&5*, beginning with Lamech's bigamy, his boasting of murders and of another serious crime, vengeance which he proudly and openly bragged about: "for *I* have slain a man to *my* wounding, and a young man to *my* hurt" *Gen. 4:19-24*. Nevertheless, the worst was yet to come, for the so-called "sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair", *Gen. 6:2*, and ubiquitous shameless promiscuity has prevailed from thence onwards.

Alas, after only a mere **1656** years of antediluvian humanity, within ten generations of the human race, from Cain to Lamech, *Gen. 4:17-24*, and from Seth to Noah, *Gen. 4:25-5:29*, intense *spiritual darkness* dominated the human character, for in the relatively short period of time, the same God, who in the beginning saw that the creation of 'man' was "very good", *Gen. 1:31*, however, "it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the Earth... God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the Earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually", *Gen. 6:1-5*, and "the Earth also was corrupt before God, and the Earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the Earth and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the Earth", *Gen. 6:11&12*, and "the LORD said,

* A trend that we frequently see in the irrational fanaticism and misguided fundamentalism, be it in the historic so-called 'Christian' crusades of the dark ages, Aryan supremacy and Holocaust or the more recent 'Sectarian' violence, as well as the present-day retrograde 'Islamic' atrocious acts of barbaric terrorism, all of which is, very sadly, done in the name of God and religion!

My Spirit shall not always strive with 'man', for that he also is flesh", *Gen. 6:3*. This disheartening state of affair must have been exasperating enough, so much so that "it repented the LORD that He had made man on the Earth, and ***it grieved Him at His heart***. And the LORD said: I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the Earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air for it repenteth me that I have made them". God's patience had eventually run out with humankind, and He had no choice but to decree its elimination, "And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the Earth", *Gen. 6:6&7*. We hear the LORD God, as it were, saying: ***'enough is enough'***.

In conclusion:

And so, God commanded a swift anticlimactic end of the then known world. There and then humanity faced extinction, at a flash in the flush of the flood. According to the 'International Data Base' (IDB) which is published, and regularly updated, by the United Nations, and in particular the Data Tool of 1999 entitled: "World population from Year '0' to Stabilization", it was estimated that the world population in ***2378 BCE***, i.e. the year of the Biblical Flood, which perished in the overwhelming deluge was about ***14 Million***.

However, the gracious and merciful God decided to give the human race a second chance, and "Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD", *Gen. 6:8*. For by the grace of God, eight persons were then preserved from the deluge, four men and four women, namely: Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives, enabling a fresh start for humanity, "and of them was the whole Earth overspread", *Gen. 9:19*, throughout the then known world, namely: the Middle East, Africa and Eurasia, respectively.

And after the rescue was completed, "God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying: And I, behold, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your seed after you; ... I do set my bow in the cloud, ... and I will look upon it; that I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh, ... that is upon the earth", *Gen. 9:8-17*.

The Ark by which Noah and his family were rescued from the deluge, is a foreshadow of Christ Jesus, the Saviour of the world, who in AD 29, some 2377 years after the flood, nearly 2000, or to be precise 1992, years ago, endured the wrath of God in our stead during the 3 hours of overwhelming darkness on the Cross of Calvary, Matt. 27:45&46, Mark 15:33&34, and Luke 23:44-46.

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