

**NOAIC DELUGE; ITS
PROBABLE
PHYSICAL EFFECTS
AND PRESENT EVIDENCES**

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S. LUCAS

**NOAIC DELUGE; ITS
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THE NOAIC DELUGE:

Its Probable Physical Effects and
Present Evidences.

BY THE REV.

S. LUCAS, F.G.S.,

AUTHOR OF "SERMONS ON THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS," ETC.; "CREATION:
REDEMPTIVE," AND "THE BIBLICAL ANTIQUITY OF MAN."

"That calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them on
upon the face of the earth."—*Amos* v. 8.

"In conclusion, he was quite content to adhere to the opinion
held by the French geologists, and formerly by several of our most
able writers, that the distribution of this superficial drift was in
the first instance diluvial rather than fluvial."—*J. W. Flower,*
Esq., F.G.S.

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P R E F A C E.

THE title of this work sufficiently explains its character and purpose; and, hence, any lengthened preface to it is unnecessary. It is largely unique. As was naturally to be expected, from its historical position and moral significance, the Noaic Deluge has engaged much attention, and has often been made to supply impressive moral lessons; but, unless that of the late Dr. Buckland, in his "*Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*," be regarded as such, we know not of any previous attempt, either to describe the physical effects which it would produce, or to trace and identify its present evidences. This is the task that is undertaken in the present work: with what success the task is executed must be left for others to determine.

Part of the same general ground here surveyed was also embraced in the author's previous work, on the "*Biblical Antiquity of Man*;" but he believes the reader will find little, if any, repetition,—the present work being composed entirely independently of the previous one, and, except its motto from Humboldt,

without one quotation from it. Then, in the previous work, the views which are at all similar to the views contained in the present one, were, more or less, necessarily scattered throughout its pages, standing related to the different positions sought to be proved, and finding their proper place respectively in Man's Biblical, Archæological, and Geological history. On the contrary, in the present work only *one* general purpose has been kept in view; and it has been sought to present to the reader at once the whole phenomenon of the deluge.

Then, most of the examples now brought forward, and especially those that are dwelt upon at any length, are distinct from those given in the "Biblical Antiquity of Man." The treatment of the subject is also, as a matter of course, more simple, being confined to the consideration of the one great theme which the title announces. The reader will here find the momentous subject of the biblical deluge, the findings of geology bearing upon it, and the theories which the adherents of geology have formed respecting the great antiquity of man, brought into one connected and comprehensive view. All these topics, the writer trusts, have been candidly dealt with. He, at least, feels conscious that no difficulties besetting his own

solution have been *designedly* overlooked or evaded ; and that no *facts* requisite to a just and impartial view of the subject have been omitted or distorted. Nothing, in short, has been *assumed* but the truth of Scripture statement,—this, as the author is fully persuaded, being abundantly warranted by the clear and manifold evidence, amid and on which its truth sits enthroned, and from which he feels assured that no attacks from the savants of science, or from unfaithful sons of the Church, can cast it down. Before the shrine of truth's great Author, the writer desires to present this attempt to assert and to vindicate its claims ; satisfied if he have only succeeded in arming any against the insidious scepticism of the day, in reclaiming any of its victims from its baneful power, and in restoring them to the calm and safety which flow only from an intelligent faith in the oracles of Eternal Love.

But, before closing this preface, it is perhaps necessary, that for the sake of precision and for the assistance of the general reader, we should define the few technical terms employed in this work. As far as was consistent with brevity, these have been studiously avoided, still some few have been used ; and it is important to state the sense in which we have em-

ployed them. The term *Pliocene*, of Sir C. Lyell, is used in the sense in which he himself first employed it—to express the period of time which preceded the Glacial epoch, and which closed at the commencement of that epoch. With this period, the *Pre-glacial* one of course synchronises. The “*Glacial epoch*,” is that period of intense cold which extended from the close of the Pliocene, to the beginning of the Pleistocene period,—when large portions of the globe were covered with glaciers and enormous sheets of ice, and other portions were submerged beneath seas filled with icebergs. This, at least, is the sense in which the phrase is employed in this work. The *Post-glacial*, the *Pleistocene*, and the *Quaternary*, when used in their general sense, are but different names for the same epoch—embracing the whole period which has elapsed since man’s first appearance on the earth, up to the historic age. When, however, we use the word *Pleistocene*, as distinct from the word *Prehistoric*, by the *former* we mean the antediluvian period,—or the period which intervened between man’s introduction on the earth and the Noaic flood; and by the *latter*, the time that elapsed between that flood, and that point in the past to which history carries us back.

It is difficult, of course, to draw any fixed and fast line between these different epochs of past time. Nor is it necessary. It is enough that we can separate them generally as epochs. Pliocene, Glacial, Pleistocene, and Prehistoric, are terms expressing real and distinct portions of past time, and portions presenting their own distinct characteristics. They can thus be defined with sufficient precision for every practical purpose; and with a precision sufficient for testing any theory that may be based upon their difference of age.