

**LECTURES ON THE ORIGIN OF THE GLOBE:
A UNIVERSAL DELUGE - THE
DESTRUCTION AND RE-FORMATION OF
OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, THE ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS OF CREATED PRINCIPLES, AND
THE ELECTRIC PROPERTIES OF LIGHT, HEAT**

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Lectures on the Origin of the Globe: A Universal Deluge - the Destruction and Re-Formation of Our Solar System, the Essential Elements of Created Principles, and the Electric Properties of Light, Heat by George Brewster

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GEORGE BREWSTER

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BY GEORGE BREWSTER,

Author of Lectures upon Education — A New Philosophy of Matter, &c.

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P R E F A C E.

THE train of thought, which led to the production of the first five lectures of the following series, was suggested by a discussion, some two or three years since, with a Swedenborgian. The circumstances, which led to that discussion, were these: Being then the editor of a paper, and having made a remark editorially with regard to some of the opinions of a certain lecturer, upon the Swedenborgian notions of Genesis; he became offended at my dissent from those opinions, and sent me a challenge to debate the question with him. Having made it one invariable rule of my life never to shrink from the responsibility of defending ideas, which I may have advanced upon any subject, I, consequently, accepted the challenge. In the course of the argument, I was surprised at the strong infidel tendency

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of his opinions, which tendency became more and more clearly manifest, the further the discussion proceeded.

In combatting, for instance, opinions, which I advanced, respecting the conflagration and disappearance of stars, and the creation of new ones, he quoted Swedenborg, as his authority for the sentiment, that, when the stars disappeared, their light became veiled by an incrustation, like an egg shell, and was thus covered for years or ages, until, at length, by the self moving effervescence of the internal fires, that shell was burst asunder and thrown off around the central light in the form of worlds. Thus he evidently disclaimed, altogether, the agency of the Almighty in the origination of those worlds, and was, so far, a practical atheist.— Other absurdities, contained in the belief of that sect, came to light during that discussion, equally glaring, which convinced me of the infidel character and tendency of their whole system. Their claim to be worshippers of the God of the Bible, weighs not a feather in my

mind, when they virtually *mutilate* that Bible, and give to its Author attributes contrary to those which the Bible gives him. An imaginary Deity, clothed with all the attributes of the Jupiter of heathen mythology, might, for instance, be called by some fanatical errorists, the Jehovah of the Bible. But does that make him so? Certainly not; and we are not bound, by the pretensions of such a claim, to extend *charity* to the error.

These are some of the reasons, which have induced me thus to come before the public with a defence of the *authenticity* and *literality* of Genesis; which defence is sustained by arguments drawn mainly from Astronomy, Geology, and reason.

The last five lectures of the series, are more purely philosophical, and are devoted to the examination and illustration of the organic laws and peculiar properties of electricity, light, heat, and some of the other imponderable agents. The reason why I have introduced such subjects, in connection with a defence

of the Mosaic history of the Origin of the Globe and the Deluge, is, (if apology be needed at all,) because much is said in that defence about the effects of light, in producing the various phenomena of the creations of the six days, and the chemical changes resulting from its agency; and it, therefore, seemed quite appropriate, that the properties and organic laws of light and other chemical agents should be examined, in connection with the other subjects of this work.

Without further remark, by way of introduction, I shall, now, submit, to the candor of the reading public, this effort to defend truth and expose error.

COLUMBUS, Feb'y, 1850.

CONTENTS.

LECTURE I.

Introduction — The assaults which have been made against the Mosaic history of creation and the deluge, and the final conflagration and re-formation of our solar system — Two classes of opponents to the truth of that history, Infidels and Swedenborgians, the one denying the authenticity, the other the literality of Genesis — Their objections answered and refuted by facts and arguments drawn from Astronomy and Geology — Proper rules of Biblical interpretation — The meaning of the word "created," in the first verse of Genesis — Astronomical facts with regard to the conflagration, disappearance and re-formation of stars — The probable causes of their conflagration — The question, "what becomes of their material?" answered — The probable construction of our system from nebulous matter.....	9
--	---

LECTURE II.

The subject of the nebule considered and examined — The Hebrew idiom of the words "light" and "lights" — Probable meaning of the phrase, "God divided the light from the darkness" — The "first day" proven, by a variety of arguments, to have been a single literal revolution of the earth upon its axis — The various opinions of scholars upon this subject.....	35
---	----

LECTURE III.

The opinions of scholars examined — The geological formations of the first day, or the primary fossiliferous period — That day, although constituted by a single revolution of the earth, proven to be ages in length by those formations — David Christy's examination of geological data — The remaining days considered.....	59
---	----