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A DIFFERENT WORLD

When we look around the world today, we see that it must have been very different in the past. Up north in the Arctic explorers have found fruit trees with the fruit still on them buried in frozen gravel beds. In northern Canada fossil impressions of palm fronds (leaves from palm trees) have been found. Scientists have even found dinosaur bones in parts of Alaska. Down near the South Pole giant redwood trees have been found under the ice. Wait a minute! Do you see the problem? These places are very, very, very cold! How could plants and animals that can only live where it is warm be found where it is cold?

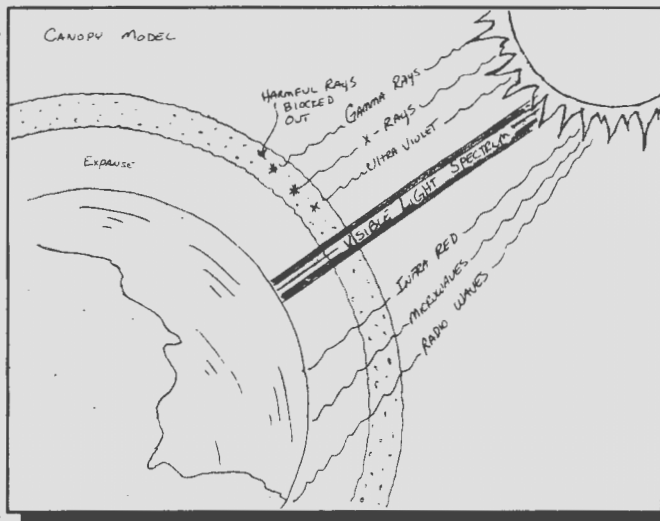
Many scientists believe that there used to be a canopy (like an umbrella or roof) of water vapor (water in the form of an invisible gas) completely around the earth. This idea was sparked from a verse in the Bible, Genesis 1:7... "**And God made the firmament and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.**"

This CANOPY could have acted like a greenhouse. The heat from the Sun would be trapped under all that water, so the Earth would be about the same temperature everywhere. There would not be any hot or cold spots like we have today. It would be nice and warm. Plants grow very well in greenhouses,

so plants were probably able to grow very well under this canopy, too. There wouldn't be any rain or wind either, because it takes differences in temperature to make rain and wind. In Genesis 2:5&6, God tells us that he had not sent rain (we don't see it until the flood). The Earth was watered with a mist.

This canopy of water could have done other things also. It could have blocked or filtered out all the bad rays coming from the sun (gamma rays, x-rays, and ultraviolet rays). These are the rays (or radiation) that many scientists believe cause aging and skin cancer. If these bad rays were blocked, then you would expect people to live a lot longer. In the Bible it tells us that people did live longer in the past, *a lot longer!* Adam lived 930 years, Enos 905 years, Enoch 365 years (he never died- God took him to heaven), Methuselah (the oldest man in the Bible) lived 969 years, and Noah lived 950 years! That's almost a 1000 years!

If people could live long lives in the past, you would expect that animals could too. Not only could they have lived longer, but they may have grown a lot bigger too. In the fossil record we find all kinds of plants and animals that are bigger than they are now. Today *beavers* are about 2 feet long, but scientists have found fossils of beavers 6 feet long! *Dragonflies* today are about 4 to 5 inches wide. In the past their wingspan was almost up to 3 feet wide! Other things



that have been found that are huge compared to what they are today: *snails* as big as tractor tires; *Trilobites* (like *cockroaches*) 2 feet long; *horsetail reeds* up to fifty feet tall (5 or 6 feet today); *mosses* two or three feet high (1 inch today).

It is interesting that reptiles can keep on growing their entire life. If dinosaurs were true reptiles as we believe they were, that might be how some of them got so big. If they were able to grow for nearly a thousand years, they could become huge!

When we look around the earth today we don't see a canopy of water, so if this idea was true, then where

is all the water now? In the Bible, God tells us that he made it rain for 40 days and 40 nights during the Flood. The clouds in the sky today don't have enough water to make it rain for 40 days. Some scientists believe that God made the canopy fall apart to make the rain for the flood. Another reason they believe that, is that after the flood men didn't live as long as they did before the flood. That wall of water was no longer there, so all the radiation that could make us get old is no longer blocked out. Today the average life-span is only around 70 to 80 years.

We must remember that this Canopy model is just an idea. But it is an idea that seems to fit with the Bible.

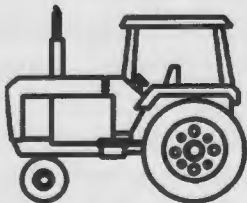
WORD SEARCH

Look for the words hidden in the puzzle below from words in the word list. The hidden words might be up and down, sideways, or slanted (not backwards!) All words come from **A DIFFERENT WORLD**.



WORD LIST

ARCTIC
EARTH
NOAH
SNAILS
ENOCH
RAIN
FRUIT TREES
FIRMAMENT
CANOPY
DRAGONFLY



RADIATION
FLOOD
GREENHOUSE
WATER VAPOR
SOUTH POLE
ADAM
METHUSELAH
COCKROACH
BEAVER



ASK EUGENE

Hi everybody! What a wonderful year 1996 turned out to be. The Alpha Omega's Children's team got to teach almost 4,000 kids (and about that many adults too) about God and His Creation, and about His son Jesus! And we saw 71 kids **SAVED** by accepting Jesus as their savior. All right! Did you know that you can help us in our ministry? It takes money to be able to go see all those kids and share with them. So if you would like to help us, you can send donations to Alpha Omega Institute. Your contributions will really help, no matter how big or how small. May God bless you! Love ya'll Eugene



JOKE BOX

1. What did the earth say to the rain?
2. What animals do you find in the clouds?

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Apples, Peaches, Pears, and Grapes
We did NOT evolve from apes
Jesus loves the little children
of the world!



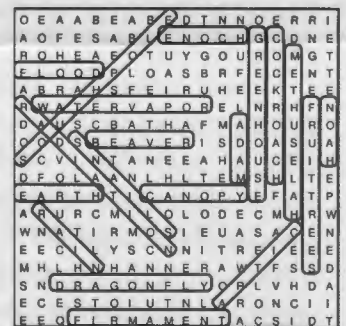
by Amy Oury
age 10

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ANSWERS

1. "If you keep that mud up, my name will be dear."
2. Reindeer (rain).



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