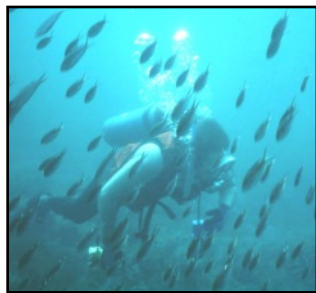




# GOD did it FIRST!

## DIVERS AND SUBMARINES



**H**UMAN beings can't breathe under water. People who wish to dive have to take their air supply with them. When they do, they are copying the method used by Water Spiders (right). They build their nests under water, and take bubbles of air down with them, so that when their babies hatch out, they have air to breathe.

Water spiders couldn't have gradually evolved this way of life — and why would they want to go below the water in the first place? We believe that God designed them to do this in the beginning.



This American submarine is called *The Nautilus*

Modern submarines sink below the sea by filling tanks with water. The water is pumped out to allow them to rise again. Did you know that a sea creature, known as the **Nautilus**, was using this method long before people invented submarines? It has compartments inside its shell, and uses them just like a submarine, taking water in and pumping it out, to allow it to sink or rise.

Fossils show that the Nautilus has not changed. Like the water spider, this points to creation by God, not gradual evolution.



A water spider in its bubble nest



The Nautilus can sink and rise, just like a submarine

## WHITER THAN THE SNOW?

Even the whitest sheets, washed with the best detergent, look less than white when compared with the pure white of fresh snow. It's really impossible to wash clothes so that they are as white as snow!

Can anything be whiter than snow? The Bible says that our lives are spoilt by the wrong things we say and do. This is called sin. The first people on earth, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God, and people have been disobeying God ever since. One of God's servants, king David, did something very wrong, but afterwards he was really sorry. He prayed to God to forgive him: "Take away my sin, and I will be clean. Wash me and I will be whiter than snow." (*Psalms 51: 7*). When God forgives us, our lives become whiter than snow in His sight.

To make a way for us to be forgiven, God came to earth as a man. His name was Jesus, who lived a perfect life. Comparing our lives



The sheets don't look very white compared with snow!



with His is like comparing washed sheets with snow; even our best is not good enough. But Jesus died on the cross to take all our sins away. That's how we can become "whiter than snow." God wants us all to live for ever with Him, and Jesus rose from the dead to make that possible. The Bible says that "nothing unclean" will enter heaven (*Revelation 21: 27*). If we want to go to heaven we must ask God to forgive us, believe Jesus died for us, and let Him make us clean.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

"Your sins are red like deep red cloth. But they can be as white as snow." (*Isaiah 1: 18*)

### BIBLE VERSE:

Different colours of (1) hat, (2) hair, (3) shoes, (4) scarf, (5) trousers, (6) gloves, (7) cheeks, (8) shoe soles, (9) extra snowball, (10) snowflakes added.

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:

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## The Great ICE AGE?

Why did it happen? Are there any clues in the Bible?

## LIKE A HUGE FRIDGE!

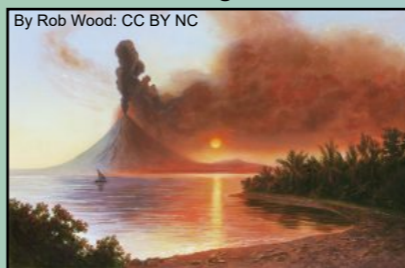
**M**ANY parts of the world have snow and ice during the winter. This melts during the summer, except near the north and south poles, and on high mountains. Long ago, before the great flood of Noah's time, the whole world was warmer than it is today. Even places near the north and south poles were much warmer. Fossils of plants and animals — including dinosaurs — which could only live in a warm climate, have been found in some of those places. After the flood everything changed, and many parts of the world were covered in thick ice and snow. For hundreds of years this didn't melt during the very cold summers, but became deeper and deeper as more snow fell. This time in history is called **The Ice Age**.



Most people have a refrigerator in their home. Fridges work by *evaporation*. You sometimes feel the same effect when you come out of a bath or shower, or leave the sea after a swim. As the water on your body begins to evaporate you feel cold, and may even start to shiver. After the flood, the world would have been like a huge refrigerator! The Bible tells us that "God made a wind blow over the earth. And the water went down." (*Genesis 8: 1*). This means that lots of the water evaporated, turning to clouds of water vapour. But very cold weather is not enough to make an Ice Age. There needed to be a lot of moisture to make heavy snow. So, as the oceans cooled down after the flood, clouds full of moisture would have caused fierce blizzards, dropping loads of snow in the colder parts of the world. As the ice and snow piled up, and it became colder and colder, the Ice Age began.

## Did volcanoes help to cool the earth?

The Bible tells us that when the great flood began "the underground springs split open." (*Genesis 7: 11*). This means that the earth's crust was breaking up, and volcanoes under the sea would have erupted. The remains of hundreds of volcanoes have been found around the world. Most are now dead, but could have been active during the flood, and for a long time afterwards, before the earth recovered.



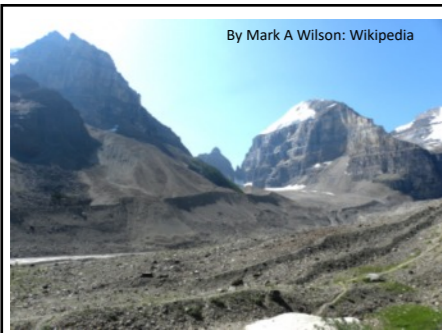
Volcanoes send huge clouds of dust into the sky which can block out the sun's heat and light, making the earth colder. When the gigantic Mount Tambora (left) erupted in Indonesia in 1815, it blotted out the sun so much that, in parts of America and Canada, 1816 was called the 'year without a summer.' Many crops died. Lots of volcanoes erupting during and after the flood would have produced lots of dust and helped to create the Ice Age.



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

[Ice Age evidence](#)  
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[Treasures of the snow](#)  
[Mammoth Mystery](#)  
[Puzzle Corner](#)  
[God did it first!](#)  
[Submarines and Divers](#)  
[Whiter than the snow?](#)

## EVIDENCE for the ICE AGE



By Mark A Wilson: Wikipedia

There is some good evidence that there really was an Ice Age. The huge sheets of ice, and rivers of ice called glaciers, carved out U-shaped valleys as they moved slowly across the land. They also made scratches and grooves on the rocks, as they swept sand, gravel and stones along with them, leaving behind fragments of rocks



A glacier is a river of ice



An Ice Age boulder

called *glacial till* (above left). They also swept boulders along, which are often found stranded in strange places where they were left when the ice melted.

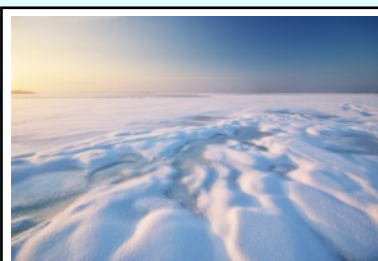
The Bible doesn't mention the Ice Age, but there are verses about snow and ice in the book of Job. "Have you visited the treasures of the snow? The waters become hard as stone. The water changes and turns to ice as hard as rock. Even the surface of the deep ocean is frozen." (Job 38: 22 & 30. *The Living Bible*) "The cold comes from the strong winds. The breath of God makes ice. And the wide waters become frozen." (Job 37: 9-10). So Job may well have known about the Ice Age.



Great Lancashire Valley, Cumbria. England, is a U-shaped valley formed by a glacier in the Ice Age

Photo by Terry Kearner, Flickr.

## NATURE NOTES by the editor



A layer of snow acts like a blanket to protect plants underneath

Snow is very cold, as you will discover if you pick some up in your hands. But did you know that snow can also keep things warm? In very cold countries, a thick layer of snow is like a blanket. It protects plants growing underneath from the worst of the cold, which might otherwise kill them.

On a clear winter's night, the earth's heat escapes into the air and the temperature quickly falls. However, if there is snow on the ground the soil

underneath will be much less cold. Snow keeps things warm because it is made of tiny ice crystals which have air trapped inside them — a bit like bubble-wrap.

Eskimos — people who live in the Arctic — sometimes build snow houses from blocks of snow. These are called igloos. Eskimos don't live in them, but sometimes build them for shelter when they are hunting in the cold. You may think it would be cold inside an igloo, but actually it can be quite warm even though the temperature outside may be as low as  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ! The snow walls protect those inside from the icy winds. If you have a heavy fall of snow, you might like to build an igloo, like the one above, but please make sure a grown-up is around to help you. And let's thank God that even the snow can be useful, and help to keep things warm!

— Geoff Chapman



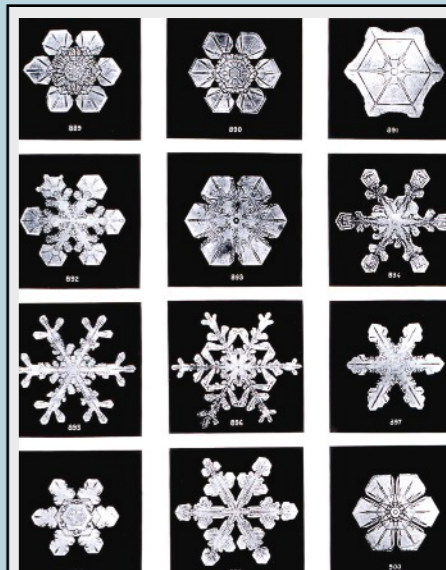
## TREASURES OF THE SNOW

Just think how many millions of snowflakes fall around the world every year. Snowflakes are made up of tiny ice crystals, like the one on the right. Around 100 years ago a man named Wilson Bentley (below) began taking photographs of snow crystals, and discovered that every one was different! Mr Bentley — who was nicknamed "snowflake Bentley" — said: "Under the microscope,



I found that snowflakes were miracles of beauty; every crystal was a masterpiece of design."

If you live where it snows, try capturing some snow on a glass slide (cool it in the fridge first), then use a magnifying glass or microscope to examine one of these "miracles of beauty." Think about the God who is so great that He can make each snow crystal different, and remember that He also cares about you!



Just a few of the thousands of photos taken by Wilson "snowflake" Bentley

## MAMMOTH MYSTERY

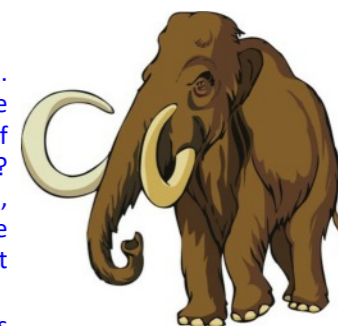
Mammoths were large hairy elephants with long tusks (right) which lived during the Ice Age. Humans hunted them and even painted pictures of them on cave walls. Some people have suggested that mammoths grew their thick coats to protect them from the bitter cold. Lots of their frozen remains have been found in parts of Alaska and Siberia, so did the Ice Age kill them? Many scientists believe the Arctic Ocean was ice-free, and the lands around it were fairly warm,

while most of Europe and North America were buried under huge sheets of ice. If so, the mammoths lived through the Ice Age, but were not directly affected by it.



Cave painting of a mammoth

When the Ice Age ended, the climate changed quickly, and as other areas became warmer, snow and ice quickly spread to where the mammoths lived. They were probably killed and buried by flash floods and mudslides or sudden dust storms. They would then have become frozen as the bitter cold set in, and remained frozen for centuries, waiting to be discovered by modern explorers. However, we may never find the real answer to the "Mammoth Mystery"!



## PUZZLE CORNER

Can you spot the **ten** differences between the two pictures below?



Cross out every other letter, beginning with the first, to read a promise from the Bible.

OYMOXURMSWID  
NASOABRQEKRSEI  
DMLAICKREADHEY  
ENPURQESDFCILX  
OBTDHUBSUFTLTP  
HKEQYZCMALNHB  
YEVABSEWRHCIQT  
MEPAFSJSBNUO  
XW

(Answers on the next page)