

How is the weather in your part of the world? The New Year has opened with news headlines from different continents of unusually wild weather.

Here in Britain we have been experiencing strong winds, heavy rain, high spring tides and widespread flooding. Many homes have been without electricity for several days, including over Christmas itself.

Yet alongside all this winter misery we also hear that last year were recorded some of the hottest temperatures on record, in countries such as Australia, South Africa, in parts of Europe and in North America.

We are told that the Arctic ice sheet is becoming thinner, while at the same time we learn that a highly sophisticated Russian icebreaker has just become trapped in unusually thick pack ice off Antarctica!

Tsunamis, earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, floods, droughts, storms and famines are ever in the news. It seems we are in times of great turbulence and unpredictability. So what is going on? What does all this mean?

One reaction is basically to shrug our shoulders, taking the line that such catastrophes have always been occurring, and that these days we simply hear about them more quickly and graphically. There is clearly some truth in this, but this ignores the evidence that on a global scale extremes of climate and weather patterns are certainly becoming more frequent.

But as Christians, by God's grace we have been given another perspective on such happenings. For the Bible is filled with occasions when the Lord God our Creator used natural phenomena to speak very loudly and clearly to His creation.

The prime example is of course the Flood, as recorded in Genesis Chapters 6 - 8. The world had become filled with wickedness, and the human race, from which the promised "seed of the woman" would come, was being infiltrated by demonic forces (the so-called "sons of God" of Genesis 6.2). The Lord resolved to start again, which tells us much about His character, and His reaction to sin.

Many years of fair warning were given. The construction of a great boat on a hillside by Noah and his family and employed labourers would have caused much comment and howls of laughter. But it was a visual aid of clarity and mercy. There, before the eyes of anyone who cared to look, was testimony to what God was going to do. There was still ample opportunity for people to repent, and turn back to the Lord their Creator, the existence of whom would still have been widely known though rarely acknowledged by then.

The terrible global Flood duly came, in comparison to which current "natural disasters" look like the proverbial "walk in the park".

The strange thing is - this recent, massive, global Flood is entirely ignored these days! But the evidence that it happened as described is overwhelmingly strong - on scientific grounds quite apart from any scriptural grounds. The account of the Flood is no kiddies' fairy tale, or hotted-up myth from Babylon, or irritating local flood causing a bit of a nuisance for a few days. You might care to read Chapters 6 to 8 of Genesis again - does it read like a fairy tale? And are the lists of the generations recorded in Chapters 5 and 10, either side of the Flood account, just there for the fun of it, as "padding"?! Are they not there to root this extraordinary Flood in real factual history?

The plain fact is that for far too long we have all been brainwashed into writing off Genesis Chapters 1 - 11 as myth, legend and poetry. These chapters are nothing of the sort, as the Lord Jesus Himself demonstrates. (See for example Matthew 19.4 / Matthew 24. 36-39 / Mark 13.19 / and others). Let us remember that all things that have been made were made by Jesus Himself (John 1.3) - so He might just know what He is talking about!

(Incidentally the first eleven chapters of Genesis, including the Flood account, are covered in detail in the book "Six Days, Darwin or Both?", available on our website, [www.fsmins.org](http://www.fsmins.org)).

So we have scriptural precedents, notably the Flood itself, that God certainly uses natural phenomena to speak to His creation. Our reaction as Christian people today, when confronted with the unusual natural happenings around the world in our own day, is simply to ask - "Lord God our Creator, what are you saying to your creation in all these events?".

Once we ask that basic question, we shall find that His answers will not be long in coming! For are these events not modern-day warnings, stirring people up to return in repentance and faith to "the God of our fathers"? Is He not warning that time is running out, that the door of salvation will not remain open for much longer, and that the day of reckoning truly approaches?

What a ministry we are entrusted with, to make these things known in life, deed and word!

May the Lord find us faithful in His service in this new year of 2014.