

An interesting speculation calls attention to the fullness and exactness of the description of the flood here given and relies on this fact to suggest that the flood record is based on an eyewitness account, perhaps a log book of Noah. If this be true, such statements as all the high mountains (19) may be understood to mean all those within the view of the observer. At any rate under the whole heaven (19) might mean no more than "under the whole horizon". Further, it is true that such words as "all" and "every" are sometimes used in the Old Testament in a limited sense, strange as this sounds to the modern reader. See, for example, 6s. 41:57; Deut. 2:25 and I Kings 10:24. Again the word "earth" may also mean "land" or "the inhabited earth". Thus, the local flood hypothesis seems to be a valid alternative.<sup>8</sup>

[This number 8 is a reference to C. M. Woods, The Living Way Commentary on the Old Testament, vol. 1: Shreveport, LA, Lambert Book House, 1972, p. 20. The entire paragraph is a quotation from that commentary.]