

the quantity of water required to cover the highest mountains, and if even we could imagine a cause proportionate to this effect, it would still be impossible to find another cause capable of causing the water to disappear; for, allowing Whiston, that these waters proceeded from the tail of a comet, we deny that any could proceed from the great abyss, or that they all returned into it, since the great abyss, according to him, being surrounded on every side by the crust, or terrestrial orb, it is impossible that the attraction of the comet could cause any motion to the fluids it contained; much less, as he says, a violent flux and reflux; hence there could not have issued from, nor entered into, the great abyss, a single drop of water; and unless it is supposed that the waters which fell from the comet were destroyed by a miracle, they would still be on the surface of the earth, covering the summits of the highest mountains. Nothing better characterises a miracle, than the impossibility of explaining the effect of it by natural causes. Our authors have made vain efforts to give a reason for the deluge; their physical errors on the subject of secondary causes, which they make use of, prove the truth of the fact as reported in the scriptures, and