

versions, comminutions, deportations here and there of the original strata of the crust of our globe, can scarcely be conceived, and are still more difficult to calculate and explain exactly. In the waters, thus again, as at the creation, masters of the whole earth, God had an instrument by which his will, with respect to its crust and the changes to take place in it, might have full accomplishment, especially when we consider the long time during which the waters kept rising or prevailed, till they reached the height necessary to fulfil the Divine decree. It seems not clear whether the forty days during which the rain fell are included in the hundred and fifty days that the waters are stated to have prevailed. If they were included, the period would be five lunar months and ten days; and if they were not, it would extend to six such months and twenty-two days. What a time, even according to the shortest calculation, for the continued action of such a body of fluctuating waters, continually increasing, till they left no peak or pinnacle of the most elevated mountains of the globe visible! Who can calculate the effects of that action?

During this period of the increase and prevalence of the waters, when the mountains were covered, all ingress of the atmosphere into the earth by the chimneys of the volcanoes, if that is the meaning of *stopping the windows* of heaven, would cease; and the abyss, at or before the end of it, no longer vomit forth its waters by its innumerable mouths.

Having considered the *secondary* causes to which the Word of God attributes the *rise* and *prevalence* of the deluge, I must next make a few observations upon the means to which Divine Wisdom, Power, and Goodness had recourse to effect this, and to cause the waters to