

Joseph Smith, is that Noah built his ark somewhere in what we are pleased to call the Western Hemisphere, so far as we can discover. The ark rested on Mount Ararat a long distance from the place of starting, although at that time the earth had not been divided. So the flood could *not* have been a *local flood* as some wish us to believe.<sup>40</sup>

FLOOD WAS BAPTISM OF EARTH. Now a word as to the *reason* for the flood. *It was the baptism of the earth, and that had to be by immersion.* If the water did not cover the entire earth, then it was not baptized, for the baptism of the Lord is not pouring or sprinkling. These forms are strictly man made and not part of the gospel ordinances.

BRIGHAM YOUNG'S TEACHINGS ABOUT FLOOD. I will give a few quotations from the teachings of the leading brethren of the Church. President Brigham Young said of the earth: "*It has already been baptized.* You who have read the *Bible* must know that that is *Bible* doctrine. What does it matter if it is not in the same words that I use, it is not the less true that *it was baptized for the remission of sins.* The Lord said: 'I will deluge (or immerse) the earth in water for the remission of the sins of the people'; or if you will allow me to express myself in a familiar style, to kill all the vermin that were nitting, and breeding, and polluting its body; it was cleansed of its filthiness; and soaked in the water, as long as some of our people ought to soak. *The Lord baptized the earth for the remission of sins,* and it has been once cleansed from the filthiness that has gone out of it, which was in the inhabitants who dwelt upon its face."<sup>41</sup>

"Brethren and sisters, I wish you to continue in your ways of well doing; I desire that your minds may be opened more and more to see and understand things as they are. This earth, in its present condition and situa-

<sup>40</sup>Smith, *op. cit.*, pp. 414-436; Ether 13:2. <sup>41</sup>*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, p. 274.