

LETTER 98
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LOCATING NOAH'S ARK

While I believe that everything that is stated in the Holy Scripture is dependable and free from error, I think we must be very careful about adding our inferences and guesses to what is stated. The Bible states that the ark landed on Ararat. There is no statement there that it was not destroyed or that God caused that in any way it should be preserved for future ages. This does not prove that He did not do so. It simply means that we have no ground for certainty that He did.

My colleagues, some of whom are more familiar with science than I am, have told me that they see no reason why it might not be possible that the ark, if covered with snow and ice, should last many thousands of years without injury. At the same time they point out that we have no certainty, of course, that it was ever thus covered, and consequently should be hesitant about putting too much confidence in the possibility that it may be discovered.

The various evidences which you have brought to light, as far as I have seen them, may possibly indicate that a structure of tremendous importance is hidden in the mountains of Ararat; at the same time it is not at all impossible that all of these stories might have originated with someone's guess and not actually prove that anything of importance is there. Even if such a structure was there thirty years ago, it would still be possible that it might have burned down or been blown up at some time during this period.

If publicity were to be given to the fact that an expedition were going to discover it, and then nothing were to be found, it could easily have an effect exactly opposite to that desired, and result in tearing down faith in the Bible instead of building it up.

I looked at a map of Turkey and gained the impression from it that the Ararat region is a pretty large one. Before being certain that nothing of importance was to be found there, it might be