May 27, 1943

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Dear Doug:

Thank you for your letter of May 8th which reached me just as the Commencement rush was beginning to get well under way. I believe I have received each letter which you have sent me. During this Spring things have been pretty busy and I have put off answering them from day to day. Two money orders for $2.00 each have reached me to date and I thank you for them.

As for the dating of the Flood, the whole question is whether there are gaps in the geneology of Shem. Since we have demonstrable gaps in the geneology of Christ in Matthew as compared with the geneology and list of kings in the Old Testament, and since there are other places where there are gaps that are definitely provable in scripture, there is no reason to be certain that there are not such gaps in the geneology of Shem. If one considers that such gaps do not exist in that geneology, one will have the flood at about 2,500 B.C. and we have continuous archaeological evidences in various parts of Mesopotamia from a period of about 3,000 B.C. up to 2,000 B.C. and much later. It is my opinion that there are large gaps in the geneology and that the Flood is at least as early as 4,000 B.C. and possibly a great deal earlier than that. I do not think we know where events occurred prior to the Flood for there is no reason to think that the Ark dropped down anywhere near the place at which it had been lifted up by the Flood waters. It would naturally travel quite a distance in the midst of a storm so it is not at all surprising that we should have no archaeological evidence of the period before the Flood.

There are archaeological evidences of floods in Mesopotamia. There were large floods there along the river. I do not think, however, that any one of them was great enough to compare with the account of the flood in the Book of Genesis. Moreover, the evidence of floods from different cities there come from widely different periods and thus must represent different floods.