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Preface

Come along with us as we travel to a time long ago when the world was very different than it is now. Our story takes place toward the end of the Great Ice Age in what is now central Europe. A small group of people have settled in a valley with several caves in its sides. These caves served as protection from the fierce winds and the wild animals that lived in the valley.

We will spend a summer with 11-year-old Jabeth and his tribe, living near a great Ice-Age glacier. The summer season had to be spent preparing for the long, cold winter, which came very early. Provisions needed to be gathered before the snow set in, or it would be difficult to hunt game. Blizzards lasted many days, and travel of any kind was impossible.

Many people are confused about what “cave men” have to do with the Bible. Where do they fit? Or do they belong at all? They are the descendants of Noah’s sons, Ham, Shem, and Japheth. After God confused languages at the Tower of Babel, the people spread out all over the world (Genesis 11:1–9).

These were not the backward and ignorant savages usually depicted in books or movies. They were the descendants of people who built cities, herded livestock, played musical instruments, and made tools of bronze and iron (Genesis 4:17–22). The Ark, built by Noah and


his sons, was huge, and survived the greatest and longest storm the earth has ever seen. The Tower of Babel was an incredible engineering feat. No, these were not savages, but descendants of men who were intelligent and skilled.

After the languages were confused, people who spoke the same language formed into groups. These groups, because they spoke different languages, separated and went in different directions. As the “families” grew larger and larger, they separated into new families. As these new families traveled farther and farther, their languages gradually changed, as did their life-styles. Each family group had to learn how to survive in the land where they had migrated.

Of interest is that, as the tribes developed into very different cultures, they carried with them stories of the great Flood and the one true God.

The family units—called tribes or clans—who traveled north, had to deal with colder climates. One group of people, known as the Neanderthals, were once mistakenly thought by some to be primitive apemen because of their brutish appearance. We now know that they were true men, most likely suffering from rickets and arthritis caused by the cold, dark climate of the world after the Flood.

In our story, the Beetle-Brows are Neanderthals. They were given the name



“Neanderthal” because the first Neanderthal bones were found in the Neander valley in Germany.

Jabeth’s tribe are the people we call Cro-Magnon. These people were named after a cave in the Dordogne district of France, where their remains have been found.

As the families began to develop different cultures, they also began to develop physical features unique to each group. At first the family groups—therefore the gene pools—were fairly small. Traits such as skin color, hair texture, body build, temperament, etc., became dominant within each group. This was the beginning of what we call the different “races.” However, there is really only one race—the human race.

The entire world could easily have been populated in a few hundred years. It did not take millions of years, as many believe. In recent years, archaeology has confirmed that many civilizations appeared about the same time, only a few thousand years ago. Highly developed civilizations sprang up all over the world, after short periods spent hunting and gathering.

A pattern seems to have occurred over and over after the Ice Age. When a tribe moved to a new area, they looked for a temporary location to set up camp. Then they searched for a more permanent site for their village or city. Archaeologists have mistaken these temporary sites as evidence of a “stone-age culture.”

Temporary homes could have been made of stones, hides, or sticks; even caves were still used. The people would need time to find out if an area could support them. Would there be enough water

and game? Would the ground be fertile enough to grow their crops? If they were skilled at working with metals, they would need time to search for veins of ore. This might take years, and in the meantime the tribe had to survive off the land as best they could. They hunted, fished, and gathered fruits and nuts. Some groups have continued this style of living up to the present time.

Protection became a very important issue: not only from wild animals, but now men also feared other men. As the tribes developed, some had become warlike, while others preferred a life of farming and caring for their animals.

Some tribes became great nations. They captured the best sites for their big cities and built large armies. Some tribes preferred rural areas, while others, not able to survive, died out.

The nomadic tribes carried articles from one area to another over great distances. Trade routes soon sprang up, and people began the difficult task of learning other languages.

It must have been a frightening time for the people who lived during the Ice Age, because so many changes were taking place. The climate was going through drastic changes. They didn’t know what the future would hold. Where would they live? Would there be enough food? Would they be able to survive in a harsh world?

Part I — Chapter 1

Survival in a Harsh World

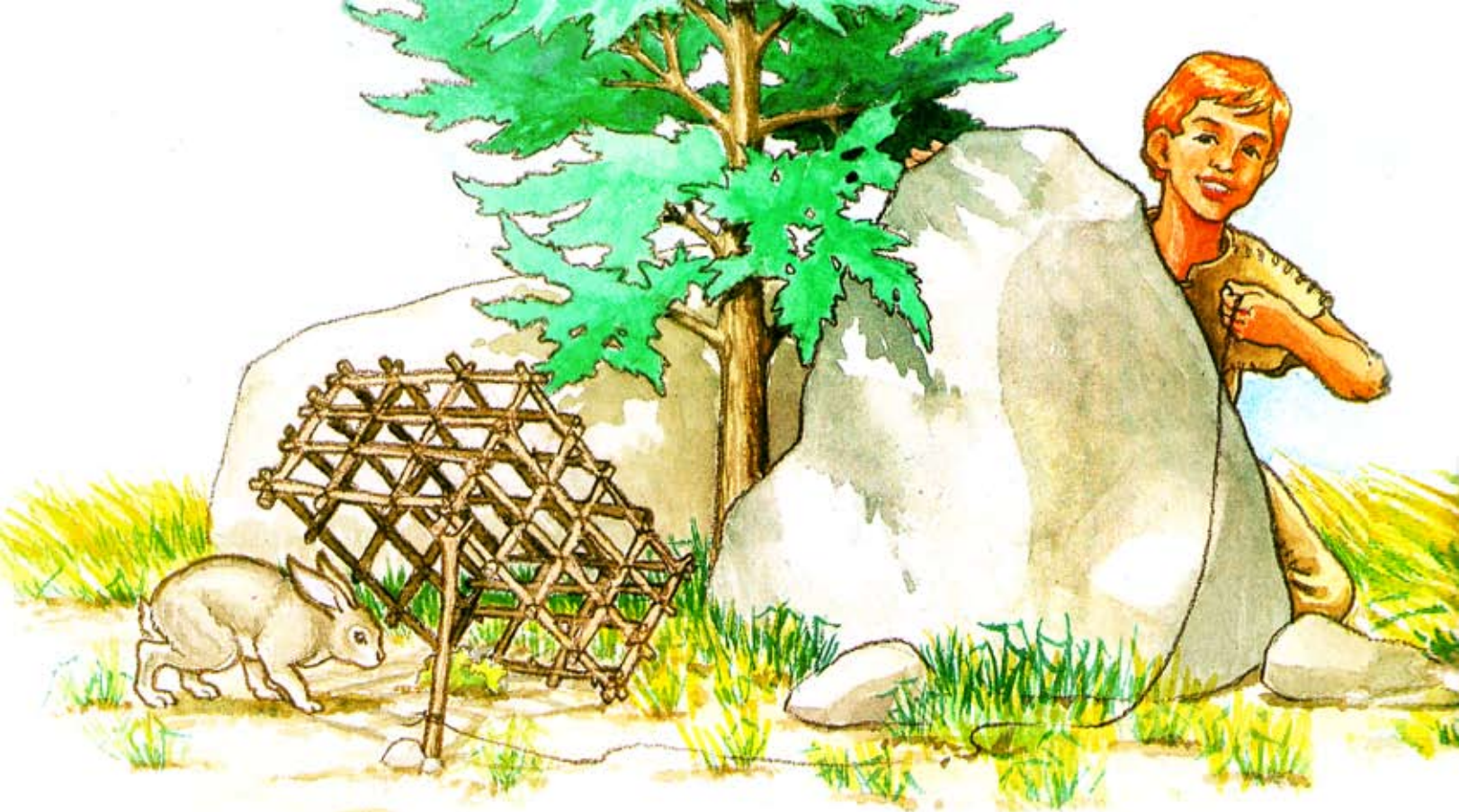
The scream of an enraged saber-toothed tiger pierced the stillness of the night. Jabeth, jolted out of a deep sleep, sprang up to a sitting position as a shiver of fear went down his spine. Thar, ready to defend his master, began snarling and tried to lunge toward the cave entrance. Jabeth quickly put an arm around the shaggy neck of his wolf dog to calm him.

Grandfather was already on his feet throwing more wood on the fire. The fire was all that separated them from the pacing tiger. The tiger turned and disappeared into the blackness of the

night. Jabeth felt safe. The tiger would stay away for the rest of the night.

Jabeth lay back down and burrowed deeply into his warm animal furs. A stream lay outside the cave, and many animals would come there to drink at night. The saber-toothed tiger the children called “the old-toothed one” often hunted antelope and reindeer by the stream. Sometimes he would climb the slope leading to the cave, but the fire near the entrance would keep him out. Tonight, he would seek easier prey elsewhere and leave Jabeth and his family alone.





Daily Life

Many thoughts wandered through Jabeth's mind as he lay waiting for sleep to come. "This was one of the best days I've ever had. I trapped and killed my first rabbit; it was delicious. Father was very impressed with my hunting skill.

"It was fun helping Father dig a pit trap, yesterday. It was hard work and took all day. I hope an antelope or reindeer falls into it.

"Grandfather said there was a time when we didn't need to preserve food for winter. The weather was warm all year around. It must have been wonderful with no cold snow or freezing nights. I can hardly wait for Grandfather to tell us more of what it was like. Grandpa is so wise; he knows just about everything. He's been through many hunts and is very brave." A feeling of comfort stole over Jabeth as he drifted off into dreams of life before the cold.

The next day, Jabeth could hardly wait for the sun to set so Grandpa could start telling stories.

Grandfather was his favorite story teller. Evenings by the cave fire were special times. With the fire close to the cave entrance and the strong walls around them, they felt entirely safe. Ten fur tents lined its walls and kept them warm in the clammy cave. Five tents lined one side and five were on the other. Two adults or three children slept in each tent. The cave walls were equal to the combined height of five men. Columns of rock, covered with black soot, reached down to the floor in the back of the cave. Small tunnels led off the main cave room into small chambers where the children loved to play.

From his cliff home, Jabeth looked down on the grass blowing in waves across the plain. A few scrubby trees dotted the landscape. Jabeth saw a herd of reindeer grazing in the distance. The sun was slowly sinking behind the hills. The sky displayed a brilliant array of reds and oranges. Winters might be very cold, but the summers were very beautiful.

Ice Age Cave Art



The illustrations in this book show some of the animals that have been depicted in paintings, drawings, and sculpture by Ice Age artists. The illustration on page 24 and 25 shows a cave painting of a bison, representative of the great herds that roamed the grasslands of Europe during the Great Ice Age. Some of these beasts had horns up to four feet wide. Hunting these animals for their meat and hides must have been dangerous.

Another awesome creature found in Ice Age art was the 12-foot-long aurochs—or wild bull—known as the ancestor of all domestic cattle. It stood almost six feet at its shoulder. The powerful, dangerous, and swift aurochs were the original “cattle kind.” From the population of seven aurochs in the Ararat region (Genesis 7: 2), many different cattle breeds have developed over the centuries. The last aurochs died in 1627 in

Poland. The Ice Age painting above this illustration of the aurochs is based on an original work discovered in the Lascaux Cave in France. A similar painting is shown in the illustration on page 11.

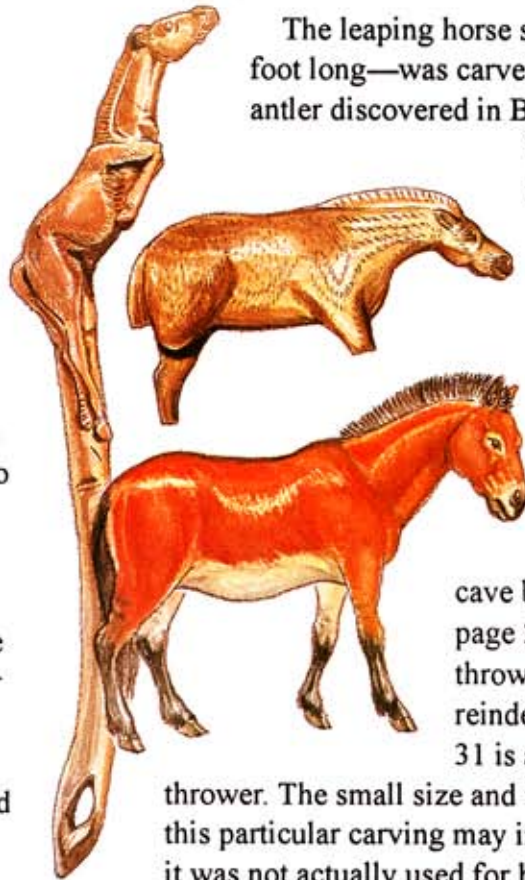
The horse was a popular subject for Ice Age artists, as well. The wild horses depicted in Ice Age art were small and stocky. They had short, stiff manes and rather shaggy hair. These horses were killed by men both for food and for use of their skins. One of the most beautiful examples of sculpture inspired by the wild horse is this three-inch-long carving of mammoth ivory from France. The horse’s stiff mane and coarse, hairy coat have been carefully rendered by tiny scratches in neatly patterned rows. Similar sculptures are shown on pages 38 and 48.

The leaping horse sculpture—about a foot long—was carved from a reindeer antler discovered in Bruniquel, France.

Some experts have identified it as a spear thrower. Spear throwers were used to help project a spear a greater distance with greater force. The two men on the right hand side of the

cave bear hunt illustration, page 23, are using spear throwers. One of the reindeer hunters on page 31 is also holding a spear

thrower. The small size and fine workmanship of this particular carving may indicate, however, that it was not actually used for hunting, but was a ceremonial object perhaps used to commemorate or celebrate a successful hunt.



Chapter 7

The Great Ice Age

Grandfather was a good observer of nature. However, he only partially understood why the climate was changing and why the Great Wall of Ice was melting.

The Ice Age affected all the world, especially the middle and high latitudes. In Europe, glaciers developed on the mountains of Norway and Sweden. Because the nearby ocean water was warm, it took many years before these mountain glaciers spread downward into the lowlands of those countries. Eventually, as the oceans gradually cooled, the snow and ice covered all of what is now northern and central England, Denmark, northern Germany, northern Poland, and northwest Russia.

Ice covered nearly all of Canada and much of the northern United States, as well. The snow and ice extended all the way into northern Missouri.

A gigantic ice sheet eventually covered Greenland and the continent of Antarctica. Smaller ice caps covered the Swiss Alps and other mid- and high-latitude mountain ranges of the world. Volcanic dust in the stratosphere also cooled the tropics. Thus, many tropical mountains had ice caps at their summits.

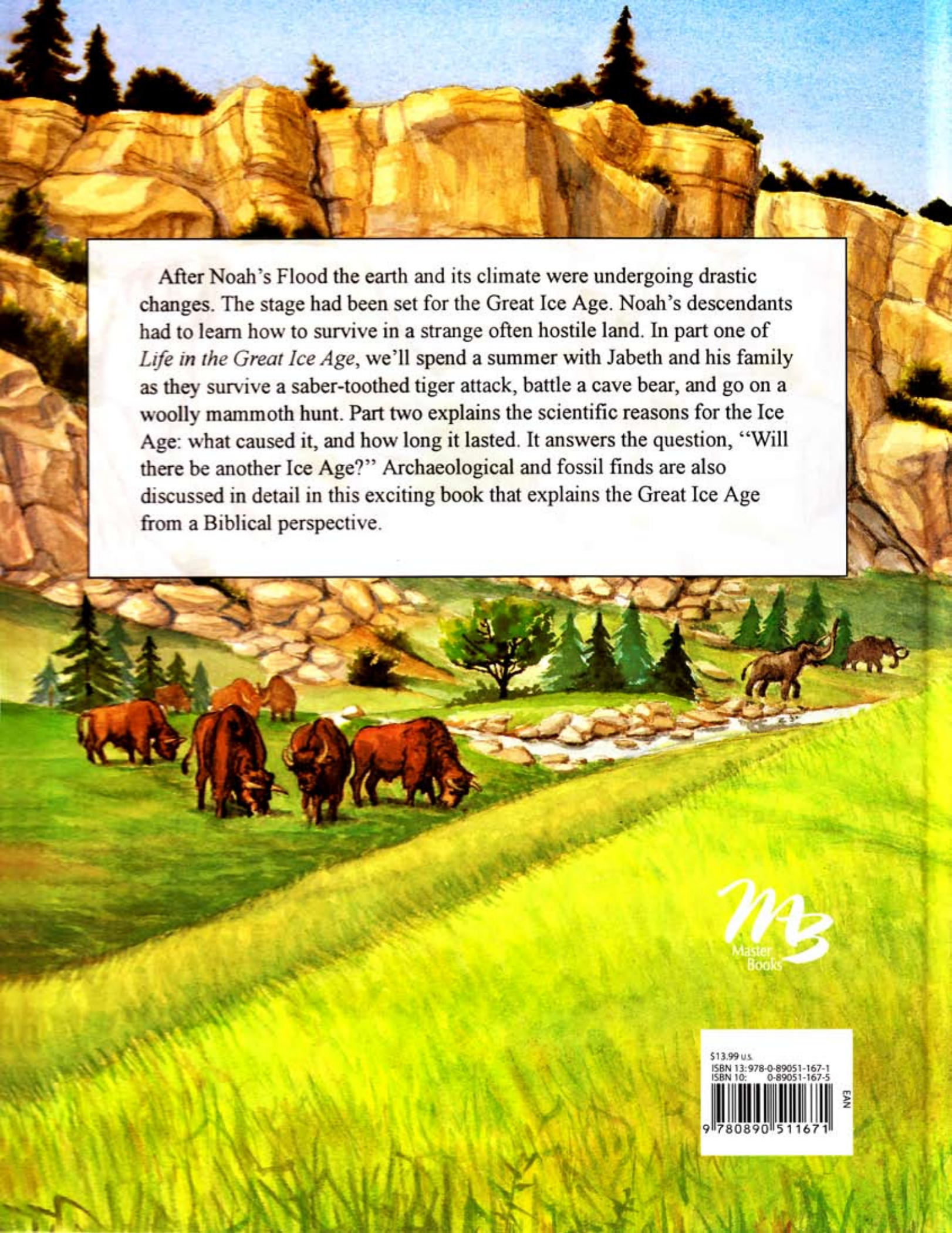
Cause of the Ice Age

Over the years there have been many ideas and theories on the cause and number of ice ages. A good theory is one that best fits the physical evidence. Noah's Flood and the changes in the climate due to volcanic ash and warmer oceans best explain the cause and development of the Ice Age.

Some may think that an ice age needs colder winters. However, winters now are cold enough.



Ice Age glaciers covering North America, Greenland, and Iceland.



After Noah's Flood the earth and its climate were undergoing drastic changes. The stage had been set for the Great Ice Age. Noah's descendants had to learn how to survive in a strange often hostile land. In part one of *Life in the Great Ice Age*, we'll spend a summer with Jabeth and his family as they survive a saber-toothed tiger attack, battle a cave bear, and go on a woolly mammoth hunt. Part two explains the scientific reasons for the Ice Age: what caused it, and how long it lasted. It answers the question, "Will there be another Ice Age?" Archaeological and fossil finds are also discussed in detail in this exciting book that explains the Great Ice Age from a Biblical perspective.

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