

000545

REF ^r
Mrs. Richard Forest
~~no~~ # 1
Ferndale, New York

Dear Mrs. Forest: ^f

Your letter of February 24th ~~en~~ has been given to me, and I am glad indeed to do what I can to answer the question that you have raised. First, let me add my thanks for ~~that which was received at the~~ ^{the check that has been turned over to our} Treasurer's Office ^{to help in} ~~as your~~ ~~contribution toward~~ this phase of the ~~Le-e~~'s Lord's work. We depend much on the gifts of God's people, and even more on their prayers, as we endeavor to train men to serve effectively in the ~~harf~~- harvest field of our wonderful Saviour.

The Bible very ~~lx~~ clearly teaches that before the flood men lived a great deal longer than they do now. After the flood, longevity rapidly declined.

As we read ~~lx~~ the account in Genesis of the conditions before the flood, and the account of conditions later on, it seems evident that there was a marked change in the condition of the world. We know now that there are various belts of ozone and of other materials that surround the world at various distances from the earth. Recently, I read a statement by a scientist in ~~whi-h~~ which he expressed his fear that if a 100 megaton bomb were to be set off about 60 miles above the surface of the earth, it might conceivably destroy one of the belts which protect us from an excessive bombardment of cosmic rays, and might thus ~~make~~ ^{produce} such changes in the climate or in other ~~for~~ features of the earth as to make it impossible for human beings to live ~~there~~- here.

This statement ~~fitw~~ fits in with the possibility that the ~~en~~ conditions of the upper atmosphere may in some ways ^f have been very different before the flood, so as to ~~x~~ permit far greater longevity than is possible today.

Of course, this is only a conjecture. We do not know the ~~xxx~~ cause of the