

What the Bible says about the Great Flood

Why is what we believe about the Flood important?

**** A world-wide catastrophic flood accounts for ALL observed geologic columns.**

****If a recent world-wide catastrophic flood occurred, then how did animals survive? Since most, if not all land animals would be expected to die, then how did the animals reappear/re-evolve so quickly??**

****A world wide, recent catastrophic flood therefore eliminates the possibility for evolution as accounting for the animals currently present on earth. This is why the worldwide recent flood is hotly denied by those who believe in evolution.**

1) Uniformitarianism—still popular in the 60's and 70's; Slow accumulation of sediment from space leads to the formation of tall geologic columns. Lower lifeforms therefore are on the bottom, higher, more recent lifeforms are on the top. *“The present is the key to the past.”*

Problems: 1) Polystrate trees and fossils

- 2) The existence of fossils—millenia, or even just days leads to rotting
- 3) Fossilized animal tracks, rain drops and ripple marks
- 4) Numerous upside down geologic columns..
- 5) Formations higher than, and against the flow of rivers. [ex Grand Canyon]
- 6) Lack of what should be innumerable transitional forms

“They [scoffers] will say, ‘Where is this coming he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation. They deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.” 2 Peter 3:4

2) Punctuated equilibrium—[Over twenty years ago, Stephen J. Gould and Niles Eldredge proposed this, and is contrary to the Darwinian view of uniformitarianism] slow accumulation of sediment from space with little evolution followed by interspersed periods of rapid evolution in very narrow layers. This view is supported by Neo-Darwinianism, as classic Darwinianism has been all but abandoned due to its legion of problems.

Problems: 1) Polystrate trees and fossils

- 2) same issue about the existence of fossils in the uniform layers
- 3) This fundamentally admits that the geologic column does not support evolution, due to the lack of transitional forms [as admitted even by Darwin]. So the evolution occurred during a time when minute layers were laid down, over a short period, thus there was no time for many transitional forms to be fossilized.

4) Therefore, this theory does not prove evolution, nor does it support it. Rather it assumes that evolution happened, and claims that it happened during minute layers that therefore held no transitional forms.

3) Neo-catastrophism—Layers laid down by catastrophies separated by long periods of time during which little if no layers were laid down. This was proposed as the newest hypothesis since the geologic column has been admitted to be a picture primarily of catastrophe, as evidenced by fossils and observed to occur during eruptions such as Mt St. Helens!!!

- Problems: 1) Exact opposite of Uniformitarianism, in that Neo-catastrophism claims that time doesn't lay down layers, only catastrophies.
- 2) Lack of evidence as to what amount of time passed during the intermediary layers
 - 3) Polystrate trees and fossils

Scripture:

Numbers 23:19 [God is not a man, that he should lie...change his mind]

The theories of evolution are always changing. Your professor probably believed something different 20 years ago....

Romans 3:3-5 [let God be true and every man a liar]

I Corinthians 1:18-21 [has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?]

Questions:

- 1) Why did people live so long before and just after the Flood? Are those ages really right? Maybe their "years" were really "seasons" or "months".
- 2) Was the Flood really worldwide? Maybe it was just the 'known' world in the Mesopotamian region.
- 3) If the Flood was worldwide, then where did all that water come from? [Did it rain before the flood—what was the weather like before the flood?]
- 4) Where did all the Flood waters go after the flood was over, if it was a worldwide event?
- 5) What about dinosaurs? I learned that mankind wasn't on the earth at the same time as them, but went extinct millions of years before man appeared on earth. If the earth is young, then the dinosaurs were here with mankind.
- 6) If dinosaurs were here with man, then how did they fit on the ark?
- 7) What about the Ice Age? Where does that fit in?

Pre- and Post flood conditions of the world

"...in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water." I Peter 3:20

"He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness..." 2 Peter 2:5

"Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark." Genesis 7:23

1) Why did people live so long before and just after the Flood?

Pre-flood:

"Vapor canopy"; Gen 1:6 shows that there was water above the sky. This vapor canopy would provide a balanced **greenhouse effect**, warming the earth equally. [Like a blanket around the earth! Too thick and the earth might get too hot. Too thin and the earth'll get too cold.—discuss blankets!!!] This explains fossilized redwood trees found under the ice layer in Antarctica. Coal seams are found in Antarctica. Dense foliage fossilized near the North Pole. The vapor canopy would also have provided a **mild hyperbaric effect** (increased oxygen pressure in the atmosphere) and **Filter effect** (harmful radiation being prevented from reaching the atmosphere). These would explain the longer lifespans of those who lived in pre-flood times. Denser and larger foliage dominated the planet. The following fossils have been discovered worldwide: horsetail reeds 50 feet tall; beavers 7.5 feet long; dragonflies with 32 inch wingspans; 18 inch long cockroaches!! The hyperbaric environment allowed Quetzalcoatlus to fly with a 40 foot wingspan (scientists have difficulty explaining Quetzalcoatlus' ability to fly). All animals and humans were vegetarians pre-flood (see Genesis 1:29-31; compare to Genesis 9:2-3), since the foliage would have been so dense, nutritious and grew readily over the whole world.

The vapor canopy couldn't have been too thick, or else the greenhouse effect would be too great and temperatures too high. This canopy couldn't have provided any more than about 7 feet worth of rain. The deluge waters would come primarily from the great fountains of the deep.

The Hydrologic cycle:

Before Adam was created there was no rain upon the earth (Gen 2:4-6), but mists came up from the earth to water the land.

Are those ages really right?

Yes! Year [Sha-nah] means year. At the time Moses wrote, two parallel forms of "year" were used. A solar-year, which usually was 360 days, was used to adjust the lunar year calendars, which would be about 340 days. Either way, the word year meant a year just like you and I know a year, except for the adjustment of a few days here and there.

Plus, if "year" meant 'season', then all of Abraham's ancestors [except his Dad, Terah] had their children when they were about 7 years old, because it says they were about 30 "years". If "year"

means 'month', then we really have a problem, 'cause then they'd only be 2 ½ when they became fathers!!! **[Discuss how my grandpa used to say that it meant 'months', and also the Sea of Reeds thing]**

The Ancients were able to accomplish what they did because of their long life-spans.

*Discuss how many jobs you could master in 930 years! What they didn't have in numbers, they did with longevity, breadth of knowledge, and wisdom. **Job 12:12; "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?"***

What we accomplish today, we do so with numbers, and specialization.

*We see evidence of this with the pyramids, Stonehenge, Easter Island, among others. God commented on what man could do with this level of knowledge, wisdom, and longevity, and working together when He said, **"If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."** Genesis 11:6. **Our abilities were focused in the wrong direction, and God did something about it!***

2) Was the Flood really worldwide? Maybe it was just the 'known' world in the Mesopotamian region.

"Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark." Genesis 7:23

- If the Flood was local, why would he need to build an Ark? Why not take the eighty or so years you have before the flood comes, and just walk with your family to wherever the flood won't be? You can walk pretty far in 80 years. Remember, the earth is not yet divided (Gen. 10:25). He would be able to walk ANYWHERE where there is dry ground.
- If the flood was local, why would representatives of every land animal and bird need to come onto the ark? Birds would just fly to the next mountain, land animals would have representatives elsewhere on the earth.
- The Ark wouldn't need to be so big if only Mesopotamian animals were on board
- If the flood was local, why would the water rise to be more than 20 feet over the tops of the mountains for 5 months? Water seeks its own level, and would have spread out to other regions before covering mountains. Mountains couldn't be covered with water while nearby land is left untouched, the water would spill over to that land.
- If the flood was local, then God has repeatedly broken His promise when He said he would never send a flood like this to destroy the earth. [see Isaiah 54:9] Many local, destructive floods have plagued the earth since that day.
- The affect of the Flood on all mankind is likened by Jesus to the effect his second coming will have...on all mankind!!! A local flood, therefore would imply that Jesus' coming will only affect a local group of people, which is not what Jesus said.

3) If the Flood was worldwide, then where did all that water come from?

The fountains of the great deep {Primarily}[Oceanic and subterranean high pressure water sources] and the floodgates of the heavens [vapor canopy] {secondarily}

During the flood: [2518-2517 BC]

"chaos and judgment": "The springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened."—Genesis 7:11. The springs of the great deep would likely include water and worldwide volcanic activity. The floodgates of the heavens would likely refer to the vapor canopy being ruptured (? By a meteor, or the springs of the great deep precipitating it from below?). Volcanoes underwater would heat up the oceans and those on land would send ash into the atmosphere creating a "reverse greenhouse effect" (i.e. similar to what used to be referred to as a 'nuclear winter'). The Mid-Atlantic range is thought to be the scar of the fountains of the deep being opened. This 'scar' is composed of basalt rock, which is from the interior of the earth. The large sub-Atlantic rupture, with its worldwide ripple effect would explain why most all mountain ranges run parallel to the Mid-Atlantic range.

[Did it rain before the flood—what was the weather like before the flood?]

Yes, it did rain before the flood, but after the banishment from the Garden of Eden

The Hydrologic cycle:[describe this]

Gen 2:4-6

This passage not only gives us a lot of insight as to the conditions of the earth before the flood, but also shows us of the great mercy and kindness of our God.....

Before Adam was created there was no rain upon the earth (Gen 2:4-6), but mists came up from the earth to water the land.

With a vapor canopy, and lower mountains before the flood, the wind system would have been much calmer. A uniform global temperature would prevent hot air colliding with cold air and thus storms and tornados would not have existed. Wind and high mountains today contribute much to our water cycle. Before the flood, the water cycle was probably a somewhat less important means of watering the earth. Mists coming up from the earth [from the fountains of the deep] would have been the only source of water for the fields before there was man to work the ground [after the banishment from the Garden of Eden]. Rivers watered the Garden of Eden. After the banishment, rain would have come down on the fields, so that man could work the ground and vegetation could grow for him to eat. So the present hydrologic cycle would have played a role—alongside the mists from the fountains—before the flood.

that even when He is judging, punishing, and disciplining, there is at the same time a gracious provision for us, His image bearers, whom He loves.

4) Where did all the Flood waters go after the flood was over, if it was a worldwide event?

During the year of the flood, God used this mighty rupture of the fountains of the deep to raise the mountains and drop the ocean floors to create a place for all of this extra water to go. **Psalm 104: 7-9:** *“But at your rebuke the waters fled,... they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.”*

***If the entire earth’s surface were leveled out by smoothing out the mountain ranges and ocean floors, the waters in the oceans would cover the earth’s surface to a depth of 1.7 miles.

The uppermost layers of Mount Everest are composed of fossil bearing, water-deposited layers!!!

The immense amount of water flowing from high places suddenly into the dropped ocean basins account for the Grand Canyon, the Bad Lands, etc. This scenario was observed when Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980.

5) What about dinosaurs? [terrible lizards!]

6) If dinosaurs were here with man, then how did they fit on the ark?

Job 40:15-19

This passage shows that dinosaur creatures were on earth along with mankind.

Very young, smaller dinosaurs would probably have been the representatives on the ark. Remember, the ark was HUGE!!! [1 ½ football fields long, 8 stories wide, and 5-6 stories tall!]

Dinosaurs would have been on the Ark, and lived afterward. See Job 40, 41. The post-flood ice age killed most, but not all of the dinosaurs. Smaller “versions” continued to live on and be known of as ‘dragons’.

The pre-flood world had larger men and animals that lived longer:

Ex. Dragonflies with 3.5 feet wingspan! Footlong cockroaches! Etc

Ex. "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward--...(Gen 6:5)"

"We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim).

We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." (Num 13:33)

It is likely that dinosaurs roamed the earth in larger number and size pre-flood than post-flood. And their descendants, which were smaller and lived shorter lives came to be known of as dragons and large reptiles.

7) What about the Ice Age? Where does that fit in?

After the flood:

"The Ice Age": Warm oceans (due to hot steam from the fountains of the deep and sub-oceanic volcanoes), cool atmosphere (due to inverse greenhouse effect) were the immediate after-effects. Evaporation of the oceans led to glaciation inland. The sea levels continued to drop for another few hundred years, this is known of as 'maximum glaciation'. Then the glaciers receded as the "pendulum" of weather began to swing back to water movement from land back to the oceans. This phenomenon would cause areas that received great rainfall to become deserts (7 years of feast followed by 7 years of famine when Joseph was King over Egypt!!). This phenomenon also explains why there are oases in the deserts with crocodiles in lakes surrounded by hundreds of miles of desert! The drop in sea level would have allowed people to walk to all parts of the earth (i.e. the Tower of Babel when the people were scattered). The Bering Strait is a classic example of this.

Flood 2518-2517 BC

Ham- →Cush- ----→Nimrod[Tower of Babel]

Shem-→Arphaxad→Shelah→Eber→Peleg[earth is divided]—Peleg is born [2417 BC] when Shelah is 64 years old.

So the earth was divided sometime after Shelah was 64 years old, presuming that Nimrod was a similar age to Shelah, then the earth would have been divided in Nimrod's adult-hood. Probably the division happened just before, during, or just after the scattering at the Tower of Babel.

During Peleg's life[born 2417 BC—lived 239 years] (Shem's great-great-grandson) the earth is divided (Gen 10:25). The continental fractures that began during the flood, had by this time caused the continents to drift apart and detach. However, land bridges still remained (ex. Bering Strait). At the Tower of Babel (Gen 11), God scattered the peoples all over the earth. They were able to traverse these land bridges because of low sea levels (see above explanation of immediate post-flood weather patterns). Eventually these land bridges were either covered with water, or were torn in two because of continental drifts. That is how people made it to all parts of the earth! Notice one interesting fact: All over the globe you find structures that are similar in overall shape to the pyramids of Egypt (?towers of Babel?).

Lessons from Pyramids and Ziggurats:

Throughout their history, the pyramids of Giza have stimulated human imagination. They were referred to as "The Granaries of Joseph" and "The Mountains of Pharaoh".

Temple of Marduk and the adjacent Tower of Babel ziggurat which reached to 300 feet high.; This ziggurat is found in Iraq at the ancient city of Babylon. This site is a couple of hours south of Baghdad, and the Tower of Babel once stood there.

Pre-flood age of men:			
Adam	930 years	Enoch	365 years (“God took him away” Gen 5:24)
Seth	912 years	Methuselah	969 years (He died in the year of the flood)
Enosh	905 years	Lamech	777 years (He died 5 years before the flood)
Kenan	910 years	Noah	950 years
Jared	962 years		

Adam lived to see Lamech turn 65 years old. He did not live until Noah was born.

Post-flood age of men:			
Shem	600 years	Nahor	148 years
Arphaxad	438 years	Terah	205 years
Shelah	433 years	Abraham	175 years
Eber	464 years	Isaac	180 years
Peleg	239 years	Jacob	147 years
Reu	239 years	Joseph	110 years
Serug	230 years		

Prior to the flood, the average age of these listed was 857.5 years. After the flood had an average age of 317.1

Timeline	
4174 B.C.	The creation of Adam
2518-2517 B.C.	The Flood
2417 B.C.	Birth of Peleg (In his life the earth was divided; Gen 10:25)
2235 B.C.	The birth of Abraham
2160 B.C.	First promise to Abraham
2135 B.C.	Isaac is born
2075 B.C.	Jacob is born

1984 B.C.	Joseph born
1954 B.C.	Joseph made King over Egypt at age 30 (Gen 41:46)
1947 B.C.	Famine begins
1945 B.C.	Jacob and family come to Egypt (Gen 45:6; 47:9)
1940 B.C.	Famine is over
1928 B.C.	Jacob dies at age 147 (Joseph is 56 now)
1874 B.C.	Joseph dies at age 110 (Gen 50:26, Ex 12:40)
1844 B.C.	New Pharaoh oppresses Israelites (Gen 15:13; Acts 7:6)
1444 B.C.	The Exodus out of Egypt
1404 B.C.	Israelites enter the Promised Land
1051 B.C.	Saul becomes king
1011 B.C.	David becomes king
971 B.C.	Solomon becomes king
964 B.C.	Solomon begins to build the temple (I Kings 6:1)
931 B.C.	The Kingdom splits [Jeroboam and Rehoboam]
722 B.C.	Kingdom of Israel exiled by the Assyrians
605 B.C.	1st wave of Judah's Exile into Babylon; Jehoiakim
597 B.C.	Jehoiachin and 2nd wave of Judah's exile
587-586 B.C.	Final wave of the Exile of Judah
536 B.C.	Cyrus sends Jews back to Judah
444 B.C.	The call to rebuild Jerusalem (II Chron 36:21-23)
6 B.C.	The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ
4 B.C.	Death of Herod the Great