



# **NOAHS ARK AND THE FLOOD**

**AIRED ON KDOV AUGUST 21, 2008**

**John Mittendorf & Perry Atkinson**

## **INTRODUCTION**

A popular area of secular ridicule and negativism that is directed towards creationism, is the story of Noah's ark and the world wide flood, particularly within the time frame of this event happening about 4,500 years ago. As an example, a Christian organization recently had the opportunity to staff a "Creationist" booth at the annual convention of the National Education Association (NEA) in Los Angeles. This organization is one of the most anti-Christian lobby groups in the United States, and is the world's largest public education group (2.7 million members). One topic that was consistently used by doubters to ridicule the Bible was Noah's Ark and the Flood. Here were some of the typical comments:

- How did Noah fit all of the animals including dinosaurs on board?
- Where did the Flood waters come from, and where did they go?
- Where's the evidence of a global Flood?
- How could the ark carry all of those animals?
- Was Noah intelligent enough to have built an ark from minimal specifications?
- And so on.....

Not surprisingly, the modern view of Noah, the ark, and the flood is presented as a cute fairy tale or placed in the category of a joke. However, the Bible clearly states that due to the extent of sin, God commanded Noah to build an ark, God brought two animals of each species to the ark, and the then known earth and all human life (except Noah and his family on the ark) were destroyed by a global flood. Obviously, this is in direct conflict with the current secular

opinion that a global flood never happened and all human descendents are the result of evolutionary descent from apes. Over the next few months on THE DOVE we will overview the biblical account of Noah, the ark, and the flood from a scientific and biblical perspective.

So, let's start with the sixth chapter of Genesis and consider what the Bible has to say about the flood. *Note: All following biblical quotes are taken from the New English Translation (NET Bible) unless otherwise noted. Additionally, the following text as found in Genesis 6:1-4 is **highly controversial** but begins the flood narrative in this chapter of Genesis. So, if it is a part of the flood text, let's consider its implications.*

## NOAH AND THE FLOOD

### GENESIS 6:1-4

*When mankind began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful. Thus they took wives for themselves from any they chose. So the LORD said, "My spirit will not remain in mankind indefinitely since they are mortal. They will remain for one hundred and twenty more years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the sons of God were having sexual relations with the daughters of mankind, who gave birth to their children. They were the mighty heroes of old, the famous men.*

**Sons of God:** The term "sons of God" occurs only here and in Job 1:6, 2:1, and 38:7. There are three major interpretations of this phrase:

1. Fallen angels view. Angelic beings that were not human. In the book of Job, the phrase clearly refers to angelic beings. In Genesis 6 the "sons of God" are distinct from mankind, suggesting they were not of human origin. Since the passage speaks of these beings cohabitating with earthly women, they must have taken a physical form or possessed the bodies of men.
2. Sethite view. Member's of Seth's line. Some scholars believe that the "sons of God" were members of Seth's line, traced back to God through Adam in Genesis 5, while the "daughters of mankind" were descendants of Cain. However, the text distinguishes the "sons of God" from mankind (which include the Sethites) and suggests that the "daughters of mankind" are human women in general, not just Cainites.
3. Kings or rulers view. Powerful tyrants, possibly demon possessed who viewed themselves as divine (see Psalms 82:1), and following the example of Lamech (Genesis 4:19) practiced polygamy. But usage of the phrase "sons of God" in Job militates against this view.

**One hundred and twenty more years:** The time remaining from this announcement of judgment to the coming of the flood. This does not necessarily mean that it took Noah 120 years to build the ark

**Nephilim:** The meaning of this word is uncertain. The only other place in scripture this word is used is Numbers 13:33 and refers to giants. According to the text, the Nephilim became mighty warriors and gained great fame in the antediluvian world. The text may imply they were the offspring of the sexual union of the “sons of God” and the “daughters on mankind,” but it stops short of saying this in a direct manner. Possibly the offspring of the sexual union of the “sons of God” and the “daughters of mankind”

**Mighty heroes of old:** The text refers to superhuman beings that held the world in their power and who lived on in ancient lore outside the Bible.

Of particular interest is the following possibility - - if the resultant offspring from the union of “the daughters of mankind” and the “sons of God” were a mixture of human and satanic angel, then the death of Christ and his subsequent resurrection on the cross would not apply to these “crossbreeds” as Christ died for mankind. This is also a possibility for the flood in addition to the wickedness of mankind as summarized in Genesis 6:5-13, thereby allowing God to start over again with mankind and destroy Satan’s attempt to mitigate the cross, redemption, and salvation.

#### GENESIS 6:5-8

*But the LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind had become great on the earth. Every inclination of the thoughts of their minds was only evil all the time. The LORD regretted that he had made mankind on the earth, and he was highly offended. So the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – everything from mankind to animals, including creatures that move on the ground and birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them.”*

*But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a godly man; he was blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God. Noah had three sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth was ruined in the sight of God; the earth was filled with violence. God saw the earth, and indeed, it was ruined, for all living creatures on the earth were sinful. So God said to Noah, “I have decided that all living creatures must die, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Now I am about to destroy them and the earth.” But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.*

**Every inclination:** People had taken their God given capacities and used them to devise evil. Evil had become dominate all the time. The words “every” and “only” emphasize the depth of human evil at this time. The entire human race had become corrupt.

**On the earth:** Earth is singular, so this can denote the entire earth. This can also be a rebuttal to the “local flood” theory.

**Mankind to animals:** Stresses the extent of the judgment in creation. The Hebrew text says “from man to beast, to creatures, and to birds of the air.” The use of presuppositions stresses the extent of the judgment in creation.

**I regret that I have made them:** God was embarrassed, grieved, or sorry that he had “made them.”

**The earth was ruined:** Mankind’s sin is viewed as having an adverse effect on the entire earth. Included are injurious testimony, deadly assault, murder, and rape.

**All living creatures must die:** All flesh is used of mankind and the animals, and all were guilty of moral failure. The animals were morally contaminated because of their association with sinful mankind.

**Noah found favor:** God condemns the human race, but he is pleased with Noah. God shows kindness and mercy towards Noah’s blameless and righteous character.

**THE DOVE will continue this series on the morning of September 18, 2008.**



# NOAHS ARK AND THE FLOOD

## Part 2

AIRED ON KDOV SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

John Mittendorf & Perry Atkinson

### INTRODUCTION

Last month on the 21<sup>st</sup>, we started a series on the “Ark” and the “Flood” and overviewed the beginning of the flood narrative as found in Genesis 6:1-13. Let’s continue with the sixth chapter of Genesis, verses 14-22, and consider what the Bible has to say about the flood, and specifically, the ark. *Note: All following biblical quotes are taken from the New English Translation (NET Bible) unless otherwise noted.*

### SCIENCE AND THE ARK

#### GENESIS 6:14-22

*“Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and out. This is how you should make it: The ark is to be four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Make a roof for the ark and finish it, leaving eighteen inches from the top. Put a door in the side of the ark, and make lower, middle, and upper decks. I am about to bring flood waters on the earth to destroy all the living creatures that have the breath of life in them. Everything that is on the earth will die, but I will confirm my covenant with you. You will enter the ark – you, your son’s, your wife, and your son’s wives with you. You must bring into the ark two of every kind of living creature from all flesh, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Of the birds after their kinds, and of the cattle after their kinds, and of every creeping thing of the ground after their kinds, two of every kind will come to you so you*

*can keep them alive. And you must take for yourself every kind of food that is eaten, and gather it together. It will be food for you and for them.” And Noah did all that God commanded him – he did indeed.*

- *Gopher wood*: The Hebrew word is “goper” which is often translated into cypress wood. Teak and cedar type woods were also common at that time. The exact nature of the wood involved is uncertain, however it was probably a resinous type wood
- *And cover it with pitch*: To cover, to smear, to caulk
- *And finish it, leaving 18-inches from the top*: Leave an eighteen-inch opening from the top for a window for light
- *450’ long, 75’ feet wide, and 45’ high*: Some translations use 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. Most authorities assume an Old Testament cubit is about 18” long hence the measurements of 450’-75’-45’
- *I will confirm*: Anticipates the unconditional promise made to mankind following the flood
- *Two of every kind will come to you*: God will take care of the details
- *He did indeed*: Underscores the obedience of Noah to all that God said

## ARK SPECIFICS

- Noah (a righteous man) is directed by God to build an ark.
- The instructions that were given by God made the ark unique:
  - The ark was a floating box, 450’ long, 75’ wide, and 45’ high
  - The ark was made from wood and had 120 years available for construction
  - The ark was six times longer than its width – the perfect ratio for stability
  - The ark could be tilted to almost 90 degrees and still right itself
  - The ark was nothing more than a floating box. Ark means box
  - There were three interior decks and an 18” opening at the top
  - The ark displaced 22’ of water, or, 50% of the ark was above water
  - The ark had a superior cargo carrying capacity as compared to modern ships as the sides were not sloped, there was no ballast necessary to keep the ark upright, and there was no space used by machinery to power, heat, and cool the ark
  - The ark contained 1.4 million cubic feet of interior space, or the equivalent of 522 railroad stock cars
  - One railroad stock car can carry 240 medium sized animals. As there were about 17,000 species of animals, it would have taken 146 stock cars to hold about 35,000 medium sized animals. Therefore, 60% of the ark was unused for animals

- God's directions to Noah only consisted of the measurements, type of wood, the use of pitch, an 18" opening at the top, three interior decks, rooms, and a door in the side. Therefore, we do not know what the finished appearance (beyond God's directions to Noah) looked like. The "long box" appearance of an ark is often used as it approximates the conventional "ark" look.
- Interestingly, a working replica has been constructed by Creationist Johan Huibers in Schagen, Netherlands. Johan built the ark of cedar and pine and did most of the work with his own hands, using modern tools and with occasional help. Construction began in May 2005. The project took about **three** years! The ark is now open to the public.
- The ark proportions have been tested and compared to other proportions at the Korean Research Center in Kiso, Korea, which is a world-class research center. Twelve different designs were tested and none could significantly outperform the biblical specifications (regarding capsizing resistance, seakindliness, and hull stress). The tests concluded that the ark could handle waves well over 150-feet. Remember there was a wind (Genesis 8:1) and winds create waves.
- It has been claimed that an ark made of wood and 450 to 500' long would exceed the maximum possible length for a boat made of wood as the long hull would flex in the waves, causing the planks to slide against each other and break the waterproofing seal and potentially the wooden structure of the ark. However, two recent discoveries from ancient shipbuilders have shed light on these concerns as follows:
  - The ancient Greeks described a catamaran galley (the *Tessarakonteres*) that was 420' long (almost ark-sized) in 210 B.C. Today, modern marine archaeology considers the *Tessarakonteres* a real ship
  - The problem of planks providing sufficient strength and eliminating the dilemma of the planks sliding against each other is solved by the use of cross-lamination, and edge-jointed planking using mortise, tenons, and dowels. This practice was used at least as far back as 1,400 yrs. B.C. and likely before that. Cross lamination is comprised of three layers consisting of the inner layer running horizontal, the next layer running at about a 45-degree angle, and the outer layer running horizontal. Therefore, the methods existed to construct a seaworthy vessel of wood in Noah's day
- Using the "long box" conventional look, another design is receiving some attention as a possible final design from a combination of ship designs that were common in Mesopotamian times and numerous tests that have been done by the Koreans. It is logical to assume that the dimensions God gave to Noah did not include the specific details of the final "look." Additionally, the Koreans have conducted tests on numerous designs and have concluded that

a long box type of ark would have been easily turned broadside to the windward side of winds across the waters. Therefore, another design is receiving attention and is submitted as a possible design that Noah might have used from ships that were built during his time. Of particular note are the specifics of this design. First, the back of the ark is equipped with a vertical appendage that would have eliminated “broaching” by acting as a weather vane that would have turned the ark into the wind and waves. Second, is a tapered end (or a submerged “bull nose”) that would point into the waves and would have offered more control to the ark.

- Several other items of note that have undergone scrutiny are ventilation and lighting, water, and food. Let’s take a quick look at each of these concerns:
  - Ventilation and lighting. Slatted floors would provide an upward flow of air as heat naturally rises (remember the 18-inch opening at the top of the ark?), wave motion can pump air throughout a vessel, and so on. Light could be easily provided by the opening at the top of the ark and oil lamps
  - Water. Water could be piped from rainwater tanks on the roof of the ark to upturned airtight containers that feed into a drinking trough. This would keep water available for weeks at a time before the containers would need refilling
  - Food. Initially, consider that life and conditions on the ark were different from the perspective that there was no reproduction of the animals during their time on the ark. So, whether it was a form of hibernation or some other consideration, no one knows, but we do know that God commanded Noah to “take for yourself every kind of food that is eaten, and gather it together. It will be food for you and for them.” (Additionally, until the end of the flood, man and animals were vegetarians. For an additional look at this, see Genesis 1:29-30, and Genesis 9:3. Although meat is not specifically mentioned in Genesis 1:29-30, the vegetarian viewpoint is generally accepted). Grains, hay, and other similar types of food can be easily stored and concentrated amounts would not require constant attention

For more information on this subject, see the following resources:

- Noah’s Ark, Thinking Outside the Box, Tim Lovett (book & DVD), AIG
- Noah’s Ark, A Feasibility Study, John Woodmorappe (softcover book), ICR

**THE DOVE will continue this series on the morning of October 16, 2008.**





# NOAHS ARK AND THE FLOOD

## Part 3

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John Mittendorf & Perry Atkinson

### INTRODUCTION

In August, we started a series on the “Ark” and the “Flood” and overviewed the beginning of the flood narrative as found in Genesis 6:1-13. In September, we overviewed Genesis 6:14-22. Let’s continue with the seventh chapter of Genesis, verses 1-16, and consider what the Bible has to say about the flood, and specifically how it engulfed the earth. *Note: All following biblical quotes are taken from the New English Translation (NET Bible) unless otherwise noted.*

### SCIENCE AND THE FLOOD

#### GENESIS 7:1-5

*The LORD said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and your household, for I consider you godly among this generation. You must take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, the male and its mate, two of every kind of unclean animal, the male and its mate, and also seven of every kind of bird in the sky, male and female, to preserve their offspring on the face of the earth. For in seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the ground every living thing that I have made.” And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.*

- *Seven each:* Seven pairs. Extra five pairs would be used for sacrifice
- *Two of every kind of unclean animal:* Male and female to continue the species

- *For in seven days:* It took seven days to load the animals on the ark before it started to rain. This also gave mankind an additional seven days to repent
- *I will cause it to rain:* No rain had fallen before this time
- *Noah did all that the LORD commanded him:* No hesitation, Noah obeyed God

#### GENESIS 7: 6-16

*Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters engulfed the earth. Noah entered the ark along with his son's, his wife, and his son's wives because of the floodwaters. Pairs of clean animals, of unclean animals, of birds, and of everything that creeps along the ground, male and female, came into the ark to Noah, just as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the floodwaters engulfed the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month – on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst open and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On that very day Noah entered the ark, accompanied by his son's Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with his wife and his son's three wives. They entered, along with every living creature after its kind, every animal after its kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, everything with wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life came into the ark to Noah. Those that entered were male and female, just as God commanded him. Then the LORD God shut him in.*

- *Six hundred years old:* The average age prior to the flood was 912 years old (omitting Enoch)
- *Came into the ark to Noah:* God directed the animals to Noah
- *All the fountains of the great deep burst open:* Subterranean waters bursting upward. The significance is that in this judgment, God was returning the world to its earlier condition of being enveloped with water
- *Floodgates of the heavens were opened:* The water canopy may have been used for rain
- *Forty days and forty nights:* Forty 24 hour days. The significance of the number 40 in the Bible is significant as it is regularly used to describe a trial culminating in victory. Examples are Israel wandering in the desert for 40 years, Moses 40 days on Mt. Sinai receiving the law, Elijah 40 days on Mt. Horeb, Jonah gave Ninevah 40 days to repent, Christ spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted, and the disciples spent 40 days with the LORD between the resurrection and ascension
- *Then the LORD shut him in:* The LORD closed and sealed the door. The single door in the ark (Genesis 6:16) is a reminder that **only** Jesus is the door to salvation (John 10:9 and John 14:6)

## GENESIS 7:17-24

*The flood engulfed the earth for forty days. As the waters increased, they lifted the ark and raised it above the earth. The waters completely overwhelmed the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the waters. The waters completely inundated the earth so that even all the high mountains under the entire sky were covered. The waters rose more than twenty feet above the mountains. And all living things that moved on the earth died, including the birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. So the LORD destroyed every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, including people, animals, creatures that creep along the ground, and birds of the sky. They were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark survived. The waters prevailed over the earth for one hundred and fifty days.*

- *Overwhelmed the earth:* The waters did not merely rise, they overwhelmed
- *Completely inundated the earth:* Repetition emphasizes the depth of the waters
- *More than twenty feet:* Hebrew says fifteen cubits, or about 22.5 feet
- *Birds of the sky:* Notice that marine animals are not mentioned
- *The waters prevailed:* The waters were stronger than the earth

## WHERE DID THE FLOOD WATER COME FROM - - AND WHERE DID IT GO?

To fully understand the scope of this question, we need to go back to the first chapter of Genesis and closely look at the creation account. First, in Genesis 1:2, it states “*Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.*” This verse states that the earth was originally an unbounded mass of water and the watery deep means abyss like deep which surrounds and underlies the earth. Second, Genesis 1:6-7 states “*God said, let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters and let it separate water from water. So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. It was so. God called the expanse sky.*” This verse states that an expanse (can be known as sky) was inserted between the watery earth and water that is above the sky. However, the narrative does not say how far above the sky the water was placed. This has led to two theories that are known as the “Vapor Canopy” theory and a recent theory that postulates that the water was moved out into space (interstellar space) about 20 million light years away from the earth. As the Vapor Canopy

theory is the more popular version, we will focus on a canopy of water above the earth that would be just above our known sky and probably be visible from the earth by looking into space.

### **VAPOR CANOPY THEORY**

The biblical narrative does not indicate how much water was placed above the sky so this is open for debate. What makes this theory probable were the conditions that were present and/or probably present from the presence of a water canopy prior to the flood (pre-flood earth), and can be summarized as follows:

- The barometric pressure would have been higher than our present 14.7 psi (probably over 30 psi). This contributes to longer health, better healing, etc
- A temperate climate would have been virtually perfect for growing vegetation. Conventional science cannot explain the presence of lush growth under the polar ice caps
- Ultraviolet rays from the sun would have been filtered out prior to reaching life on the earth and would have resulted in a longer life span. The average age of humans prior to the flood was 912 years
- The following three verses indicate the pre-flood sky was viewed as a molten mirror (Job 37:18, Daniel 12:3, and Ezekiel 1:22). Suspended ice crystals would have appeared as a “molten mirror”

### **SOURCE OF FLOOD WATER**

With the vapor canopy theory as a starting point for this discussion, let's shift gears and look at the following key phrases in Genesis 7:6-16:

- *“All the fountains of the great deep burst open.”* In the Hebrew, this phrase indicates that subterranean waters were bursting upward. The significance of this narrative is the power and destructive force of the great deep breaking open and allowing the upward travel of water to contribute to the rise of water on the earth. As a point of interest, Webster's Dictionary defines burst as *“to come apart suddenly and violently, explode”*
- *“The floodgates of the heavens were opened.”* Remember that prior to the flood it did not rain (see Genesis 2:5&6). Therefore, the rain came from a source that had not previously produced rain
- *“The flood engulfed the earth.”* The significance seems to be, among other things, that in this judgment God was returning the world to its earlier condition of being enveloped with water - - a judgment involving a reversal of creation

- *“The flood engulfed the earth for forty days.”* In the Hebrew, the significance of this narrative is that the waters did not merely rise, they prevailed over the earth, overwhelming it

With the preceding four portions of the flood narrative as a starting point, let’s look at the scientific implications of the source of the flood waters:

- First, there was water below and above the earth, so the amount of water was more than sufficient for a global flood
- When the flood catastrophe struck, the earth had been a time bomb waiting to go off
- Cold, dense material at the seafloor was floating on top of hot, lighter material deeper in the mantle of the earth (remember the earth is comprised of the core, mantle, and a crust)
- The seafloor suddenly broke open in the middle, while the edges began diving into the mantle below. This fracture likely spread around the entire globe
- As hot magma rose into these cracks, seawater also flowed into these cracks and flashed instantly into steam which resulted in supersonic jets of steam thundering into the upper atmosphere, carrying seawater with them
- Clouds of this ejected material spread out across the planet, cooled, and fell as torrents of rain on land and sea
- Simultaneously, as the cold ocean crust was replaced with hot, expanded magma, the seafloor rose, and with it, the sea level rose worldwide to inundate the then known earth
- As the land was inundated, the plummeting seafloor would have moved the singular land mass (commonly known as Rodinia from the Russian word “motherland” or Pangaea) and ultimately resulted in multiple land masses (North-South America, Europe, etc). The concept of moving land masses (plate tectonics) is accepted by creationist and conventional scientists alike, and is commonly known as Continental Drift. From a creationist perspective, continental drift would be a result of catastrophic plate tectonics which conventional science does not support
- Eventually this process subsided once all the cold material from the seafloor sank into the mantle. The torrential rains were shut off after 40 days and the fountains of the deep were halted after 150 days (or 110 days after the rains ceased)
- During the period of the torrential rains, there would have been significant volcanic activity that would have spewed a significant amount of volcanic ash into the atmosphere and assisting in the collapse of the water canopy (if present)

- When looking at the validity of the preceding flood perspective, is there any evidence of a cold, dense seafloor material collapsing into the hot mantle? During the past ten years, science has developed the technology to “see” if cold material existed at the base of the mantle. This technology discovered that indeed, portions of the “cold crust” had sunk the full 1,800 miles from the crust to the base of the mantle where temperatures are 7,232-degrees F. This suggests that the continents moved rapidly during the flood and that the flood occurred only thousands of years ago as opposed to the old earth perspective that would have resulted in the crust taking millions of years to sink towards the mantle. In this case, the sinking portions of crust would have melted before reaching the mantle
- Lastly, how could a flood cover high mountains such as Mt. Everest? It is believed that the “high hills and/or mountains” that were present before the flood were not the height of modern mountains, and were probably less than 15,000-feet high. Modern mountains such as Mt. Everest, the Alps, and the Himalayas were formed by catastrophic plate tectonics that indicates that during the flood, the continents were moving at speeds of feet-per-second by the rapidly moving plates. When two continents collided, mountain belts were uplifted as the earth’s crust buckled and warped
- To summarize the preceding theories, the perspective of catastrophic plate tectonics offers a plausible explanation for the mechanisms responsible for a global flood and the separation of the continents while modern science does not support the concept of a global flood and finds it difficult to explain the mechanisms for continental drift and the evidences of a global flood that are clearly observed (to be covered next month). Additionally, the concept of rain for 40 days (which seems to be the main portion of the flood narrative that most people remember) does not begin to explain the catastrophic damage to the earth during the global flood and the lingering affects that are still present today

## WHERE DID THE FLOOD WATER GO

Unlike the question of where did the water for the global flood come from, this question is more simplistic and can be clarified by the verse in Psalms 104:6-9 that states *“The watery deep (the same phrase as found in Genesis 1:2) covered it like a garment; the waters reached above the mountains. Your shout made the waters retreat; at the sound of your thunderous voice they hurried off - - as the mountains rose up, and the valleys went down - - to the place appointed you appointed for them. You set up a boundary for them that they could not cross so that they would not cover the earth again.”* Although there is some debate about this verse referring to pre-flood, post flood - - or both, the general consensus is it refers to the post flood time

scale. From the post flood perspective, this verse indicates the mountains were uplifted (evidence of “uplifting” can be seen in the mountains around the world), portions of the earth sank downwards, and the flood waters returned to the oceanic basins (remember the earth is comprised of 70% water and 30% land). Currently, it is believed that there is enough water in the oceans to cover the entire earth to a depth of over 2 miles (11,000 to 12,000-feet).

Next month we will continue with a scientific look at the flood and consider six evidences for a global flood, flood-activated sedimentation and tectonics, and catastrophic plate tectonics.

Additional information on this subject can be obtained from Answers magazine, October-December 08 issue, Volume 3, Number 4 ([www.answersingenesis.com](http://www.answersingenesis.com)) which gives a simple yet comprehensive overview of pre and post flood conditions.

***THE DOVE will continue this series in December 08***



# NOAHS ARK AND THE FLOOD

## Part 4

**AIRED ON KDOV December 18, 2008**  
**John Mittendorf, Perry Atkinson, and Dr. Andrew Snelling**

### INTRODUCTION

In August, we started a series on the “Ark” and the “Flood” and overviewed the beginning of the flood narrative as found in Genesis 6:1-13. During the following months, different aspects of the flood including Noah’s Ark were examined from the biblical and scientific perspective (the notes from September and October can be obtained from the Dove website [www.thedove.us](http://www.thedove.us)). In November, the Dove hosted the renowned Geologist Dr. Andrew Snelling who also is an expert in creation geology as applied to the flood narrative as found in Genesis. The November broadcast focused on *“where did the flood waters come from and where did they go?”* The first December interview with Dr. Snelling focused on *“three visible evidences for the flood”* and the second interview in December focused on *“three additional visible evidences for the flood and how the Grand Canyon was formed.”* The following notes will overview the three programs and interviews with Dr. Snelling.

*Note: All following biblical quotes are taken from the New English Translation (NET Bible) unless otherwise noted.*

### SCIENCE AND THE FLOOD

#### WHERE DID THE FLOOD WATER COME FROM

#### - - AND WHERE DID IT GO?

To fully understand the scope of this question, we need to go back to the first chapter of Genesis and closely look at the creation account. First, in Genesis 1:2, it states *“Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the*



*surface of the watery deep, but the spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.*" This verse states that the earth was originally an unbounded mass of water and the watery deep means abyss like deep which surrounds and underlies the earth. Second, Genesis 1:6-7 states *"God said, let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters and let it separate water from water. So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. It was so. God called the expanse sky."* This verse states that an expanse (can be known as sky) was inserted between the watery earth and water that is above the sky. However, the narrative does not say how far above the sky the water was placed. This has led to two theories that are known as the "Vapor Canopy" theory and a recent theory that postulates that the water was moved out into space (interstellar space) about 20 million light years away from the earth. As the Vapor Canopy theory is the more popular version, we will focus on a canopy of water above the earth that would be just above our known sky and probably be visible from the earth by looking into space.

## **VAPOR CANOPY THEORY**

The biblical narrative does not indicate how much water was placed above the sky so this is open for debate. What makes this theory probable were the conditions that were present and/or probably present from the presence of a water canopy prior to the flood (pre-flood earth), and can be summarized as follows:

- The barometric pressure would have been higher than our present 14.7 psi (probably over 30 psi). This contributes to longer health, better healing, etc
- A temperate climate would have been virtually perfect for growing vegetation. Conventional science cannot explain the presence of lush growth under the polar ice caps
- Ultraviolet rays from the sun would have been filtered out prior to reaching life on the earth and would have resulted in a longer life span. The average age of humans prior to the flood was 912 years
- The following three verses indicate the pre-flood sky was viewed as a molten mirror (Job 37:18, Daniel 12:3, and Ezekiel 1:22). Suspended ice crystals would have appeared as a "molten mirror"

## **SOURCE OF FLOOD WATER**

With the vapor canopy theory as a starting point for this discussion, let's shift gears and look at the following key phrases in Genesis 7:6-16:

- *"All the fountains of the great deep burst open."* In the Hebrew, this phrase indicates that subterranean waters were bursting upward. The significance of this narrative is the power and destructive force of the great deep breaking

open and allowing the upward travel of water to contribute to the rise of water on the earth. As a point of interest, Webster's Dictionary defines burst as *"to come apart suddenly and violently, explode"*

- *"The floodgates of the heavens were opened."* Remember that prior to the flood it did not rain (see Genesis 2:5&6). Therefore, the rain came from a source that had not previously produced rain
- *"The flood engulfed the earth."* The significance seems to be, among other things, that in this judgment God was returning the world to its earlier condition of being enveloped with water - - a judgment involving a reversal of creation
- *"The flood engulfed the earth for forty days."* In the Hebrew, the significance of this narrative is that the waters did not merely rise, they prevailed over the earth, overwhelming it

With the preceding four portions of the flood narrative as a starting point, let's look at the scientific implications of the source of the flood waters:

- First, there was water below and above the earth, so the amount of water was more than sufficient for a global flood
- When the flood catastrophe struck, the earth had been a time bomb waiting to go off
- Cold, dense material at the seafloor was floating on top of hot, lighter material deeper in the mantle of the earth (remember the earth is comprised of the core, mantle, and a crust)
- The seafloor suddenly broke open in the middle, while the edges began diving into the mantle below. This fracture likely spread around the entire globe
- As hot magma rose into these cracks, seawater also flowed into these cracks and flashed instantly into steam which resulted in supersonic jets of steam thundering into the upper atmosphere, carrying seawater with them
- Clouds of this ejected material spread out across the planet, cooled, and fell as torrents of rain on land and sea
- Simultaneously, as the cold ocean crust was replaced with hot, expanded magma, the seafloor rose, and with it, the sea level rose worldwide to inundate the then known earth
- As the land was inundated, the plummeting seafloor would have moved the singular land mass (commonly known as Rodinia from the Russian word "motherland" or Pangaea) and ultimately resulted in multiple land masses (North-South America, Europe, etc). The concept of moving land masses (plate tectonics) is accepted by creationist and conventional scientists alike, and is commonly known as Continental Drift. From a creationist perspective,

continental drift would be a result of catastrophic plate tectonics which conventional science does not support

- Eventually this process subsided once all the cold material from the seafloor sank into the mantle. The torrential rains were shut off after 40 days and the fountains of the deep were halted after 150 days (or 110 days after the rains ceased)
- During the period of the torrential rains, there would have been significant volcanic activity that would have spewed a significant amount of volcanic ash into the atmosphere and assisting in the collapse of the water canopy (if present)
- When looking at the validity of the preceding flood perspective, is there any evidence of a cold, dense seafloor material collapsing into the hot mantle? During the past ten years, science has developed the technology to *see* if cold material existed at the base of the mantle. This technology discovered that indeed, portions of the cold crust had sunk the full 1,800 miles from the crust to the base of the mantle where temperatures are 7,232-degrees F. This suggests that the continents moved rapidly during the flood and that the flood occurred only thousands of years ago as opposed to the old earth perspective that would have resulted in the crust taking millions of years to sink towards the mantle. In this case, the sinking portions of crust would have melted before reaching the mantle
- Lastly, how could a flood cover high mountains such as Mt. Everest? It is believed that the “high hills and/or mountains” that were present before the flood were not the height of modern mountains, and were probably less than 15,000-feet high. Modern mountains such as Mt. Everest, the Alps, and the Himalayas were formed by catastrophic plate tectonics that indicate that during the flood, the continents were moving at speeds of feet-per-second by the rapidly moving plates. When two continents collided, mountain belts were uplifted as the earth’s crust buckled and warped
- To summarize the preceding theories, the perspective of catastrophic plate tectonics offers a plausible explanation for the mechanisms responsible for a global flood and the separation of the continents while modern science does not support the concept of a global flood and finds it difficult to explain the mechanisms for continental drift and the evidences of a global flood that are clearly observed (to be covered next month). Additionally, the concept of rain for 40 days (which seems to be the main portion of the flood narrative that most people remember) does not begin to explain the catastrophic damage to the earth during the global flood and the lingering affects that are still present today

## WHERE DID THE FLOOD WATER GO

Unlike the question of where did the water for the global flood come from, this question is more simplistic and can be clarified by the verse in Psalms 104:6-9 that states *"The watery deep (the same phrase as found in Genesis 1:2) covered it like a garment; the waters reached above the mountains. Your shout made the waters retreat; at the sound of your thunderous voice they hurried off - - as the mountains rose up, and the valleys went down - - to the place appointed you appointed for them. You set up a boundary for them that they could not cross so that they would not cover the earth again."* Although there is some debate about this verse referring to pre-flood, post flood, or both, the general consensus is it refers to the post flood time scale. From the post flood perspective, this verse indicates the mountains were uplifted (evidence of "uplifting" can be seen in the mountains around the world), portions of the earth sank downwards, and the flood waters returned to the oceanic basins (remember the earth is comprised of 70% water and 30% land). Currently, it is believed that there is enough water in the oceans to cover the entire earth to a depth of over 2 miles (11,000 to 12,000-feet).

## SIX EVIDENCES FOR THE GLOBAL FLOOD

Why is it that many people, including many Christians, can't see the geologic evidence for the Genesis Flood? It is usually because they have bought into the evolutionary idea that the "present is the key to the past." They are convinced that, because today's geological processes are so slow, the rock strata and the earth's rock layers took millions of years to form.

However, if the Genesis Flood really occurred, what evidence would we look for? We read in Genesis 7 and 8 that "the fountains of the great deep" were broken up and poured out water from inside the earth for 150 days (5 months). Plus it rained torrentially and globally for 40 days and nights (the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished," 2 Peter 3:6). All air-breathing life on the land was swept away and perished.

So, what evidence would we look for? Wouldn't we expect to find billions of dead plants and animals buried and fossilized in sand, mud, and lime that were deposited rapidly by water in rock layers all over the earth? Of course! That's exactly what we find. Indeed, based on the description of the flood in Genesis 7-8. There are six main geologic evidences that testify to the Genesis Flood.

**EVIDENCE #1: Fossils of sea creatures high above sea level due to the ocean waters having flooded over the mountains**

We find fossils of sea creatures in rock layers that cover all the continents. For example, most of the rock layers in the walls of the Grand Canyon (more than a mile above sea level) contain marine fossils. Fossilized shellfish are even found in the Himalayas.

#### **EVIDENCE #2: Rapid burial of plants and animals**

We find extensive fossil “graveyards” and exquisitely preserved fossils. For example, billions of nautiloid fossils are found in a layer within the Redwall Limestone of the Grand Canyon. This layer was deposited catastrophically by a massive flow of sediment (mostly lime sand). The chalk and coal beds of Europe and the United States, and the fish, ichthyosaurs, insects, and other fossils all around the world, testify of catastrophic destruction and burial.

#### **EVIDENCE #3: Rapidly deposited sediment layers spread across vast areas**

We find rock layers that can be traced all the way across continents - - even between continents - - and physical features in those strata indicate they were deposited rapidly. For example, the Tapeats Sandstone and Redwall Limestone of the Grand Canyon can be traced across the entire United States, and up into Canada, and even across the Atlantic Ocean to England. The chalk beds of England (the white cliffs of Dover) can be traced across Europe into the Middle East and are also found in the Midwest of the United States and in Western Australia. Inclined (sloping) layers within the Coconino Sandstone of the Grand Canyon are testimony to 10,000 cubic miles of sand being deposited by huge water currents within days.

#### **EVIDENCE #4: Sediment transported long distances**

We find that the sediments in those widespread, rapidly deposited rock layers had to be eroded from distant sources and carried long distances by fast-moving water. For example, the sand for the Coconino Sandstone of the Grand Canyon (Arizona) had to be eroded and transported from the northern portion of what is now the United States and Canada. Furthermore, water current indicators (such as ripple marks) preserved in rock layers show that for “300 million years” water currents were consistently flowing from northeast to southwest across all of North and South America, which, of course, is only possible over weeks during a global flood.

#### **EVIDENCE #5: Rapid or no erosion between strata**

We find evidence of rapid erosion, or even of no erosion, between rock layers. Flat, knife-edge boundaries between rock layers indicate continuous deposition

of one layer after another, with no time erosion. For example, there is no evidence of any “missing” millions of years (of erosion) in the flat boundary between two well-known layers of the Grand Canyon - - the Coconino Sandstone and the Hermit Formation. Another impressive example of flat boundaries at the Grand Canyon is the Redwall Limestone and the strata beneath it.

#### **EVIDENCE #6: Many strata laid down in rapid succession**

Rocks do not normally bend; they break loose because they are hard and brittle. But in many places we find whole sequences of strata that were bent without fracturing, indicating that all the rock layers were rapidly deposited and folded while still wet and pliable before final hardening. For example, the Tapeats Sandstone in the Grand Canyon is folded at a right angle (90-degrees) without evidence of breaking. Yet this folding could only have occurred after the rest of the layers had been deposited, supposedly over “480 million years,” while the Tapeats Sandstone remained wet and pliable.

Note: Additional information on this subject can be obtained from Answers magazine, October-December 08 issue, Volume 3, Number 4 ([www.answersingenesis.com](http://www.answersingenesis.com)) which gives a simple yet comprehensive overview of pre and post flood conditions.

### **WHAT CAUSED THE GRAND CANYON?**

For years, conventional science has postulated that the Colorado River, much as we see it today, carved out the Grand Canyon over tens of millions of years. However, in recent years, secular earth scientists have increasingly rejected this idea as they now believe that great volumes of water rushing through the area played a much greater part in carving the canyon (commonly referred to as the Kaibab Upwarp). Additionally, it is also recognized that very little erosion by the Colorado River is happening today. Recognized examples of canyons that are quickly formed by great volumes of rushing water are:

- Burlingame Canyon near Walla Walla, Washington
- The volcanic eruption of Mt. Saint Helens resulted in canyons quickly carved in solid volcanic rock
- Snake River area in southern Idaho
- Today, the Channeled Scablands in eastern Washington are recognized as being formed by the sudden drainage of Lake Missoula

Therefore, the Grand Canyon was formed very rapidly by flood waters retreating off the continents at the end of the flood.

## CLOSING FLOOD COMMENTS

### GENESIS 8 & 9

- *Noah sent out a raven:* A raven will eat most anything
- *Noah sent out a dove:* A dove is much more selective in its food choices, which would indicate new life and thus Noah and his family could also survive
- *The waters subsided:* When the flood waters subsided, a new climatic beginning for the earth and its inhabitants was started. This consisted of evaporation from the oceans to the atmosphere, the formation of clouds, clouds providing rain over the continents, and the resultant water acting as runoff back to the oceans
- *Be fruitful and multiply:* Noah (and the animals that were on the ark) now face a world where longevity of life is greatly reduced and storms, severe weather, blazing heat, freezing cold, seismic action, radiation from the sun, and natural disasters would be common
- *Will be terrified of you:* The animals will fear humans from this time on. Evidently, they did not fear humans before the flood
- *I now give you everything:* Prior to the flood, mankind were vegetarians. Now, they can also eat meat
- *You must not eat meat with its life in it:* Because of the carnage of the flood, people might conclude that life is cheap and therefore treat it lightly. But God will not permit them to kill or eat anything with the lifeblood still in it, serving as a reminder of the sanctity of life

Finally, the flood provided the perfect conditions for a worldwide ice age as “ice age conditions” do not exist today. The post-flood era would have provided the following conditions:

- The oceans would have been significantly warmer, potentially up to 90-degrees F. This would have significantly increased evaporation and the amplified formation of moisture laden clouds
- The amplified moisture laden clouds would result in increased snow and ice
- Prior to the flood, there were moderate temperatures at the poles. Now, the poles experienced sub-zero temperatures as well as cooler land masses
- With the presence of increased snow and ice from the atmosphere, cooler land masses, glaciers would have quickly formed and resulted in an ice age

Note: Additional information on this subject and frozen Woolly Mammoths can be obtained from the book "Frozen In Time" by meteorologist Michael Oard, Master Books.

## **WHY 40 DAYS ARE BIBLICALLY SIGNIFICANT**

Regularly used to describe a trial, culminating in victory

- Israel wandering in the desert for 40 years
- Moses 40 days at Mt. Sinai receiving the law
- Elijah 40 days on Mt. Horeb
- Jonah gave Ninevah 40 days to repent
- Christ spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted
- Disciples spent 40 days with the LORD between the resurrection and ascension

## **WHAT CAN WE APPLY FROM THE FLOOD**

**Noah was a man of faith: Hebrews 11:7**

- If we have faith in God, we please God (Hebrews 11:6)

**Only one door into the ark: Genesis 6:16**

- Only Jesus is the door to salvation (John 10:9, and 14:6)

**Noah was safe in the ark: Genesis 7:16.**

- Jesus will keep us safe in eternity (Romans 8:39)

**Noah obeyed God: Genesis 6:22**

- Jesus said that if we love him, we will obey his commandments (John 14:15)

**God wants to save us: John 3:16**

- For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life





# **NOAHS ARK AND THE FLOOD**

## **Part 5**

**AIRED ON KDOV JANUARY 22, 2009**  
**John Mittendorf and Steve Johnson**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In August, we started a series on the Ark and the Flood and overviewed the beginning of the flood narrative as found in Genesis 6:1-13. During the following months, different aspects of the flood including Noah's Ark were examined from the biblical and scientific perspective. In November and December, the Dove hosted the renowned Geologist Dr. Andrew Snelling who also is an expert in creation geology as applied to the flood narrative as found in Genesis. The November and December broadcasts focused on "where did the flood waters come from and where did they go," the "six visible evidences for the flood" and "how the Grand Canyon was formed." Notes from these programs can be found on the DOVE website at [www.thedove.us](http://www.thedove.us)

This program will end the flood series by examining three controversial perspectives - - the ice age, woolly mammoths, and global warming. However, before we start, we need to mention several recent news items.

### **EVOLUTION SUNDAY**

- **Dr. Andrew Snelling will return to the Dove on February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 8-9 am and will be "live." He will answer any questions from the DOVE audience and briefly overview dating methods and their fallacies.**
- This year (2009) will usher in a new celebration, particularly for evolutionists - - the 200 year anniversary of Charles Darwin, and the 150 year anniversary of his book "The Origin Of Species." What makes these two anniversaries noteworthy is that more than 12,000 churches have signed up to celebrate

- evolution and actually hold "Evolution Sunday."
- With all of the recent news on Monday and Tuesday regarding the inauguration of our new president, two items went largely unnoticed and slipped under the news radar. The first item is the Monday posting on the Jerusalem Post website regarding the "enormous and historic" discovery of natural gas off Haifa in Israel, and has been called "one of the biggest in the world." The second item is Russia is currently engaged in building alliances with Iran, Libya, Syria, and Lebanon. Three reasons why these two news items are noteworthy is - (1) Ezekiel 38-39 tells us that Russia, Iran, Libya, and Turkey will all form a common alliance before attacking Israel from the North, (2) to come from the North (biblical geographical guidelines all emanate from Jerusalem), they need to come through Syria and Lebanon, and (3) Ezekiel 38-39 also tells us that Israel must be prosperous before Russia and her coalition marches on Israel (the war of Gog and Magog). In summary, tighten your seatbelt!

## THE ICE AGE

In general terms, an "ice age" is a time of extensive glacial activity that covers a relatively large area with ice. During the ice age, approximately 30% of the land surface of the earth was covered by ice. Today, only about 10% of the earth's land surface is covered with ice. Evidence suggests that the original created world was warmer than the present world as the earth probably did not have permanent ice until centuries after the flood. As an example, the entire Middle East, Israel, Egypt, and the Sahara in North Africa show evidence they were once well-watered, green, and fertile. What caused a drastic change in the earth's climate and a resultant ice-age or numerous ice-ages? Stated another way - - what conditions are necessary to cause an ice age? This question can best be answered from two diametrically opposed viewpoints as follows:

### **Conventional Science**

This viewpoint has progressed from a single ice age to upwards of 30 ice ages to the current philosophy of about 5 ice ages. This philosophy is similar to the theory of evolution in that it does not accept a biblical perspective, is based on large amounts of time (it is postulated there have been repeating ice ages for about 2.5 million years, with the last ice age occurring about 100,000 years ago and earlier ones lasting about 40,000 years), and is founded on a lack of evidence for the causes of an ice age. Several examples of a lack of evidences are, the August 18-25, 1997, issue of U.S. News & World Report had a series of articles on 18 great mysteries of science. One of the mysteries is "*what causes ice ages.*" The Popular Science magazine *Earth* stated that "*if they hadn't actually happened, the ice*

*ages would sound like science fiction,” and David Alt, Glacial Lake Missoula and its humongous floods, (2001), p 180: “although theories abound, no one really knows what causes ice ages.”*

From a conventional scientific perspective, the number of ice ages is unknown as well as the conditions necessary to create an ice age. Additionally, naturalists have used dates from ice cores as solid evidence against Noah’s flood and to support an age of the earth older than 6,000 to 7,000 years (Dr. Snelling will comment on ice core dating next month).

### **Biblical Creation Science**

The question of how an ice age happens and the number of ice ages that have occurred in the history of the earth is more easily explained from a biblical perspective and is provided by the flood account in Genesis. First, let’s consider what conditions must be present to cause an ice age and then we will look at the number of ice ages that have occurred.

Two conditions are necessary for an ice age to happen and are (1) cooler summers and land masses, and (2) heavy snow. From the history of the flood account from Genesis by Dr. Snelling, remember that the “fountains of the great deep” would have caused a catastrophic upheaval of the oceans and tremendous volcanic activity. This would have produced a shroud of volcanic dust and aerosols in the atmosphere that would have been trapped for several years after the flood. These particles would have reflected some sunlight back into space and caused cooler summers and land masses (ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica show abundant volcanic particles and acids in the sections associated with the ice age).

Additionally, the catastrophic breakup would have resulted in the bursting of the fountains of the great deep into the atmosphere and movements of the earth’s crust and volcanoes would have increased the temperature of the oceans (computer modeling has indicated up to 36-degrees F). As a result, the warm oceans would have a much greater level of evaporation than the oceans of today and a large amount of snow would quickly fall in the middle latitudes and polar regions (referred to as “snowblitz”). Under these conditions there would be no sea ice as a result of warmer oceans and rapid flood currents. It has been calculated that under these conditions, the average depth of ice over much of the Northern Hemisphere was about 2,300 feet, it took about 500 years to accumulate that depth, and would have taken about 200 years to melt as atmospheric conditions changed. Obviously, Greenland and Antarctica would have continued to grow due to their altitude and latitude.

So, to answer the previous questions of the conditions necessary to cause an ice age and how many were there, the biblical and better scientific answer is an ice age is caused by cooler land and summers, a significant amount of water in the atmosphere from increased evaporation of warmer oceans (resulting in much snow), and as the flood provided the perfect conditions for an ice age, there has only been one ice age! As a side note, there will never be another ice age as God has promised there will never be another flood (rainbow, Genesis 9:11-17).

## **WOOLLY MAMMOTHS**

When the subject of an ice age is debated, a subject that is normally considered is how millions of woolly mammoths were frozen in permafrost in Siberia with buttercups in their mouths and digestive tracts. This question gained popularity when the Birds-Eye Frozen Food Company did some research and concluded that it would take a sudden atmospheric change to drop the ambient temperature to a minus 150-degrees F! To add to the questions, numerous woolly mammoths have been found in standing positions, some suffocated, and some carcasses have broken bones.

First, what is a Woolly Mammoth? It is nothing more than a hairy elephant with hump on its back and large (very large) tusks. A popular opinion regarding the “quick freeze” of these mammals is based on the collapsing vapor canopy model that postulates that as the vapor canopy collapsed at the beginning of the flood the atmospheric temperature would have suddenly and significantly dropped. However, this theory is on shaky ground as the presence of a vapor canopy cannot be confirmed, and the catastrophic breakup of the fountains of the deep would have been exceedingly destructive.

A recent book, *Frozen In Time* by meteorologist Michael Oard details a very compelling case for another answer to the Woolly Mammoth questions. In his book, Mr. Oard details the significance of mammoth carcasses that perished while standing upright, death by suffocation, and broken bones. This indicates the mammoths were rapidly and completely covered, but does not explain how they are found in the permafrost layer (which would take too much time to sink into a soft or boggy ground and then freeze). Interestingly, the fact that these animals were grazers leads to the conclusion that Siberia was a huge grassland during the ice age! An interesting fact is that Siberian mammoths disappeared in Siberia and also everywhere at about the same time as well as other animals near the end of the ice age (about 4,000 years ago). This is interesting from the

perspective that conventional science believes that the mammoths survived all of the supposed previous ice ages, yet suddenly went extinct at the end of the last ice age when climate changes were supposed to be improving.

As the ice age and volcanism subsided and the climate became quite warmer, the difference in temperature would also result in drier conditions and would also cause strong, windy, dry storms. This would result in huge dust storms, especially just south of the ice sheets (resulting from the large temperature differences between polar latitudes and the subtropics).

So, were Siberian mammoths quickly frozen as conventional science postulates. Much evidence as delineated in the aforementioned book suggests that the rare intact carcasses are the result of unique circumstances. Although many of the Siberian mammals likely died from the cold, wind, trapped in bogs, and drought that came from the deglaciation period (melting of the ice sheets), Mr. Oard makes a strong case that the vast majority of the animals that are found were the victims of “wind-blown silt.” These animals were found in “muck” which is a combination of wind-blown silt mixed with a little clay and fine sand. An extraordinary amount of blowing silt would be deposited from the combination of strong winds, dry climate, glacial silt, and probably the exposed continental shelves. This can explain the carcass puzzles as follows:

- Some carcasses are found in a standing position
- Some were suffocated
- Millions of animals became entombed in rock hard permafrost
- Some animals have broken bones

The dust storms varied in intensity throughout the de-glaciation period, and the animals would have been buried fairly quickly.

## **GLOBAL WARMING**

As most people are aware, the film “An Inconvenient Truth” by former vice-president Al Gore presented global warming as an imminent threat to the planet and painted an alarming picture of a future in which mankind ultimately destroys life on earth. New claims and counter-claims are presented on a daily basis (*Global warming is now more consistently referred to as “climate change”*).

As an example, in December 26, 2008, the Mail Tribune ran an article titled “Faster Climate Change Feared,” and stated that as a result of the ice sheets melting, the sea level could rise as much as four-feet by the year 2100, and went

on to list other calamitous consequences. On the other hand, the December 27, 2008, issue of World magazine ran an article titled "Playing It Cool" and listed the following observations:

- Global warming has stopped
- A 231-page report by 650 prominent international scientists that documents skepticism of climate change
- Three quotes by renowned scientists as follows:
  - "Global warming has become a new religion, I am a skeptic" Nobel Prize winning physicist Ivar Gaiever
  - "People will feel deceived by science and scientists when they learn the truth," Japanese scientist Kiminori Itoh, a former IPCC member
  - "It is a blatant lie put forth in the media that makes it seem there is only a fringe of scientists who don't buy into anthropogenic global warming," Stanley B. Goldenberg, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

This diversity in claims leaves many persons (particularly Christians) uncertain about the real facts surrounding global warming. With these facts in mind, let's look a little further at Global Warming's top five claims:

**Claim #1: Global warming is really happening**

For over a century, the National Climatic Data Center has been monitoring temperatures from thousands of sites worldwide. The average global surface temperature has risen about 1.2F since 1880. So, from a narrow perspective, global warming is happening. However, this does not tell us the causes of the temperature rise.

**Claim #2: We are causing global warming**

To examine this claim, let's separate natural and human cause. First, since the ice age, the earth's temperature has fluctuated by only a few degrees and seems to be a result of natural changes such as volcanic eruptions and cycles in the sun's radiation (when the earth receives more energy from the sun, the earth gets warmer). So a variance of a few degrees is not only natural, it is nothing new.

Secondly, alarmists would have you believe that increased carbon dioxide emissions have triggered global warming. To understand this claim, it is important to understand greenhouse gases. These are gases in the earth's atmosphere that regulate temperature by holding in heat from the sun and are also vital for life. The primary greenhouse gas is water vapor. Carbon dioxide is the second most common greenhouse gas and provides only a diminutive fraction of the greenhouse effect. Although the burning of fossil fuels is adding more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, it does not mean that this is the primary cause of warming. Interestingly, higher concentrations of carbon dioxide may in

part be a result of warmer temperatures. Because the oceans have much more carbon dioxide than the atmosphere, more carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere when the oceans get warmer. Looking at the current evidence, it seems likely that both natural and human factors are contributing to a change in greenhouse gases but we cannot be completely sure without doing much more research.

**Claim #3: Global warming will cause many animals and plants to go extinct**

One of the most popular examples of animals that may be extinct and/or are struggling to maintain existence are polar bears. In reality, polar bears are flourishing. Melting glaciers and other similar changes can affect a variety of animal and plant species but the fossil record indicates that many plant and animal species went extinct after the global flood (i.e., woolly mammoths). Obviously, humans had no impact on these extinctions. Currently there are no documented extinctions resulting from global warming.

**Claim #4: The oceans will rise dramatically**

An Inconvenient Truth presents a model in which an ice sheet slides into the sea, raises the sea level by 20-feet, submerges much of the earth's coastline, and implies that this will happen in the next 50 years. Currently, there is no hard scientific evidence that gives this scenario credibility. According to climate models by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (which is an avid supporter of global warming), it is estimated that the ocean levels will rise about 16-inches during this century. Although this prediction could result in many inconveniences (without proper planning), it is not the widely predicted "doomsday" by global warming extremists.

**Claim #5: Global warming will cause an increasing number of weather catastrophes**

Although global warming has been blamed for increased tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, droughts, and extreme temperature fluctuations, there are two perspectives to keep in mind - - (1) extreme weather has never been out of the ordinary since Noah's flood, and (2) scientists of yesteryear did not have access to satellites and other similar modern equipment that can record weather events. This means that weather events in the past would have gone unrecorded making it difficult to validate whether fluctuations have either increased or decreased. Interestingly, a recent study in the journal Nature Geo Science concludes that global warming is not to blame for increased hurricanes and hurricanes are likely to decrease by the end of the century.

Currently, there is insufficient evidence to identify global warming as the cause of current or future extreme weather events.

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