



THE MOVIE "NOAH"

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Part I, II, and III

INTRODUCTION

Some people - Christians and non-Christians alike - find various portions of the Bible difficult to understand and/or believe primarily due to plain ordinary unbelief and/or secular scientific arguments. Several examples are the Bible is not perceived as the inerrant word of God and God could not have created the universe-earth-man in six days. However, the portion of scripture that most people find either unbelievable from a scriptural point-of-view or impossible from a scientific perspective is the biblical account of Noah's ark and a world-wide flood that destroyed the earth and all living land and air creatures that were not on the Ark.

As an example, a well-known Christian apologetics organization recently had the opportunity to staff a "Creationist" booth at an annual convention of the National Education Association (NEA) in Los Angeles. The NEA is one of the most anti-Christian lobby groups in the United States, and is also the world's largest public education group (2.7 million members). However, the NEA had the opportunity to hear the truth regarding scripture as found in God's inspired word. Interestingly, the most common topic that was consistently used by doubters to ridicule the Bible was Noah's Ark and the Global 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?
- How did Noah have the expertise to build a wooden ark?
- How could a boat that big be made from wood and not self-destruct in a flood?
- And so on.....

Not surprisingly, the modern view of Noah, the Ark, and the Flood is presented in the secular media, many churches, and various seminaries as a cute fairy tale (Fig 1), or placed in the category of a joke.



Fig 1: Noah's ark is often presented as a cute fairy tale

Currently, a significant amount of attention has been focused on the new movie "Noah" that was financed by Hollywood (Paramount pictures), produced and directed by a self-proclaimed atheist (Darren Aronofsky), and billed as "inspired" by the story of Noah. Before its release the movie has generated a significant amount of polarizing opinions that center on the perception the movie does not portray "literal scripture." As an example, the movie has been totally rejected by many Muslim organizations and attacked by the Christian Right for its secular portrayal of scripture.

Regardless of a person's viewpoint of the biblical accuracy of the movie, it will generate a substantial amount of interest in the Bible, the biblical account of Noah, the Ark, and the Flood as well as providing an opportunity for witnessing (remember that I Peter 3:15 admonishes Christians to "always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is within you").

As a result of the directive in I Peter, let's briefly overview the movie Noah and then look at the biblical account of Noah, the Ark, and the Global Flood as found in Genesis, chapters 6-9. Additionally, we will also look at some of the scientific implications that support the Genesis account of Noah.

THE MOVIE NOAH

A recent national review of the movie Noah was titled *"Noah unleashes a flood of discussion"* and was subtitled *"The film follows Scripture closely."* Another national movie critic subtitled the movie *"An accomplished cast and gutsy storytelling raise this adaptation of a biblical tale to mythic proportions,"* and *"the movie interpreting the Bible as myth and telling one of its most fantastical tales as a grand and dark cinematic fantasy. Here is a myth that allows Creation and Evolution to live in the same film, a touch of cosmos with just a hint of In The Beginning."* These comments share a common theme of biblical lore and storytelling that has generated a considerable amount of positive and negative comments. However, the primary question should be - is the movie biblically accurate and should Christians support Hollywood in their attempt to visually reproduce scripture? After watching the movie on its first day of release (March 28), my wife and I had the same two opinions:

- The movie is not biblically accurate.
- We would **not recommend** the movie to other people.

Without divulging the movie storyline, the following are the five primary highlights and the important disappointments in the movie (that were also contrary to scripture):

Highlights

- Man named Noah with three sons.
- Noah builds an Ark similar to biblical specifications.
- Mankind is depicted as extremely wicked.
- There is a flood that appears to cover the entire earth.
- The Ark successfully saves its cargo of humans and animals.

Major Disappointments

- The movie is dark and becomes darker towards the end.
- Noah is cast as a harsh and sinful man (psychopath).
- Noah was not sure of what God wanted him to do.
- God never speaks to Noah.
- Rock monsters (called Watchers - who were fallen angels) helped Noah build the Ark and protects Noah.
- Noah has no interaction with his neighbors.
- The Ark was crowded with animals that were put to sleep with incense.
- There is a "stowaway" on the ark who tries to kill Noah.
- Noah threatens to kill a member of his family on the Ark.
- Noah and his wife, Shem and his wife, Japheth and Ham (no wives) are the only part of Noah's family depicted on the Ark.
- Shem's wife is depicted as bearing twins on the Ark.
- The movie ends with Noah depicted as a drunk.

THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT AS FOUND IN GENESIS CHAPTERS 6-9

As an alternative to the movie story of Noah and the Noahic Flood, let's look at what the Bible clearly delineates about Noah, the Ark, and a Global Flood (along with supporting scientific evidence) with the intent to increase our understanding of Genesis 6-9 and highlight the scriptural elements that can be used to fulfill I Peter 3:15. Let's begin with the narrative in Genesis 6:5-8.

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.

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.
- *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.'
- *And finish it, leaving 18-inches from the top*: Leave an eighteen-inch opening from the top for a window for light (and potential ventilation).
- *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 capsize resistance, sea-kindliness, 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' 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 Tesseractonteres 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 to construct a seaworthy vessel of wood existed 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.*" Remember, 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.

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:* A 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 God 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 the earth was originally an unbounded mass of water and the watery deep means abyss like deep that 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 can contribute 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 (Continental Rift?).
- As hot magma rose into these cracks, seawater also flowed into these cracks and flashed instantly into steam that 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 secular 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 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. 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 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 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, and that's exactly what we find based on the description of the flood in Genesis 7-8. As a result, 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 Himalaya mountains (and others as well).

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, 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 called Varves) preserved in rock layers show that 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 (using alleged evolutionary timescales) 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” (using alleged evolutionary timescales) while the Tapeats Sandstone remained wet and pliable.

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 was 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 does 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.

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.

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