

The Physical & Biblical Evidence for Creation

VII. The Flood

Introduction

In 1961 *The Genesis Flood* was published by Whitcomb and Morris. This book is generally recognized as the catalyst for the beginning of the modern creation movement. Interestingly, the book didn't focus on creation; rather it explained the nature and power of the Flood. The authors argued that a cataclysmic flood better explained the creation of fossils and the rock layers rather than the long ages of uniformity. This was the theory proposed by Charles Lyell, who influenced Charles Darwin. Today more and more geologists accept the evidence for catastrophism. Some even call themselves "neo-catastrophists." However they still hold to long ages occurring between the layers.

1. The Flood...

- A. Who was Noah? He was the son of Lamech (Seth's line) and the grandson of Methuselah. His name means "rest." In Genesis 5.29 Lamech looks to him to bring rest from the curse that God had put upon the ground. The Sethites were the first to call on the name of the Lord (Genesis 4.26) while the Cainites were noted for their worldly accomplishments (Genesis 4.17ff).
- B. Who were the Nephilim? ~ylyypin> (*nephilim*) could be related to the word "to fall," hence "the fallen ones." Or it may be related to the word alp (*pala*), "to be wonderful." The translation "giants" comes from the Greek gi , gantej. There are three views: 1. The offspring of the line of Seth (sons of God) and the line of Cain (daughters of men). 2. The offspring of fallen angels (sons of God) and mortal women (contrary to Matthew 22.30). 3. The offspring of kings (often thought to be divine or semi-divine) and women. All the interpretations point to the further spiritual and moral decline of humanity. Jesus especially says that in the days of Noah men were "marrying and giving in marriage" (Matthew 24.38).
- C. Could Noah actually build a boat that would support all animals? God told Noah to bring in two of every "kind." The average size of all animals is about that of a cat. Meat-eaters can survive on vegetation and/or go into a state of dormancy. Although the ark would have presented tremendous engineering challenges, it was not impossible. For more on this see Tim Lovett's website: www.worldwideflood.com.
- D. The word "flood" in Hebrew is lwbm (*mabul*), and it refers to a violent, watery catastrophe. Outside of Genesis it is only found in Psalm 29.10. Here it is also associated with catastrophic scenes such as "shaking the wilderness," "stripping the forests." The Greek translation is kataklu , smoj (gives us the word "cataclysm").

E. What was the purpose of the Flood? Jesus tells us that the coming of the Son of Man will be like the Flood of Noah (Matthew 24.37-39). Peter clearly tells us that the purpose of the Flood was to keep us in mind of the final judgment (2 Peter 3.1-7).

2. Is the story of the Flood supported by geological evidence? The following is taken from <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n4/geologic-evidences-part-one>

Evidence #1—Fossils of sea creatures high above sea level due to the ocean waters having flooded over the continents.

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 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 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 Grand Canyon can be traced across the entire United States, 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 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 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 for 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 Grand Canyon—the Coconino Sandstone and the Hermit Formation. Another impressive example of flat boundaries at 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 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 Grand Canyon is folded at a right angle (90°) 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.

3. Theistic evolutionists insist on interpreting the creation story as ancient mythology. One of the problems with this approach is knowing where to stop. Was Abraham mythical? Was Noah mythical? Theistic evolutionists consider Noah and the flood to be either a mythical story or the account of a local flood.

The idea of a local flood contradicts the text in several ways:

God said He would destroy man and beast from the face of the earth (6.7, 13, 17; 7.4);
All the fountains of the deep were broken up and the windows of heaven opened (7.11).
All flesh with the breath of life went into the ark (7.15)
Waters covered the mountains by 15 cubits (7.20).
All flesh died, and every man (7.21, 22-23).
If the flood were local, it would have made more sense for Noah to move.

Flood legends from around the world are probably derived from memory of the true flood.

Gligamesh Epic

BABYLONIAN	BIBLE
Take the seed of all creatures aboard the ship	Gen. 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring.
I boarded the ship and closed the door.	Gen. 7:1 Come into the Ark Gen. 7:16 The Lord shut him in.
I sent out a dove . . . The dove went, then came back, no resting-place appeared for it, so it returned.	Gen. 8:8 He sent out a dove...But the dove found no resting-place . . . and she returned.
Then I sent out a raven . .it was the waters	Gen. 8:7 He sent out a raven, which kept

receding, it ate, it flew about to and fro, it did not return.	going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the Earth.
I made a libation on the peak of the mountain.	Gen. 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord (on the mountain) an