

# Key Events in Our History – The Universal Flood (Part 2)

Pastor Cliff Bergman - Pinawa Alliance Church

November 22, 2020

Genesis 6 - 9

The Bible stands apart from all other books, for it is God's message to us.

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** (ESV) 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Very simply, we can conclude that because all Scripture is a message to us from God, it is reliable and entirely trustworthy. That is true not just on matters that may be categorized as spiritual, but whenever the Bible addresses history or science as well. Thus when we approach history and science, the Bible serves as the launching pad from which to begin our deliberations. That is particularly crucial when considering the matter of origins and events that take us back to the beginning of time.

The first verse of the Bible introduces us to God and the first cataclysmic event in recorded history, the creation of the heavens and the earth. That is followed by a summary of God's creation over the course of 6 – 24 hour days, culminating with the creation of Adam and Eve in the image of God. That was quickly followed by the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden which caused the second cataclysmic event. Humanity and all of creation were plunged into sin and depravity. The entrance of death into God's creation is something we are reminded of each day as thousands die from COVID-19.

The Flood of Noah's Day was the third event of cataclysmic proportion in history. It dramatically changed the face of the earth. The Bible not only tells us that the flood happened, but places it in history and provides insight into its results. As we examine the evidence all around us, it validates the Biblical record. That is important because the reliability and trustworthiness of the first 11 chapters of the Bible shapes how we approach the remaining 1,178 chapters.

Sadly, not only do secular scientists dismiss the global flood as a historical event, but increasingly professing Christians also reject the flood as global in nature. Previously I have mentioned that BioLogos is an organization which believes that when dealing with matters of science, the Scriptures must be interpreted in a manner that agrees with the claims of secular science. Thus, their assertion regarding how they understand the flood is no surprise since the claims of the secular scientific community shape how they interpret the Biblical account. They boldly state, "The scientific and historical evidence is now clear: there has never been a global flood that covered the entire earth, nor do all modern animals and humans descend from the passengers of a single vessel."<sup>1</sup> They proceed to contend that the flood account

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://biologos.org/common-questions/how-should-we-interpret-the-genesis-flood-account/>

should be understood figuratively, rather than in the straightforward manner it has been almost universally understood for more than 4,000 years. Despite their lofty claims of a high regard for the Bible, their position on the flood, as well as on creation, the historicity of Adam and Eve, and the Fall in the Garden of Eden, is nothing other than an assault on the integrity and trustworthiness of all of Scripture.

How one understands the flood or the days of creation may seem to be of little relevance as we cope with a pandemic, but just the reverse is true. If one cannot accept the straightforward reading of the flood account, which is rather precise in both what happened and when it happened, how should one understand other portions of Scripture? The chipping away of the integrity of Scripture on matters such as creation and the flood, slowly but surely erode people's confidence in Scripture as a whole. Jesus' words in Matthew 24.37 – 39 make it very clear He believed in the flood account. I have far more confidence in Jesus' assessment of the flood than I do in the claims of secular science, or the claims of Christians who are more concerned with not being out of step with the scientific community.

Perhaps you, like me, already accept the Bible's description of the flood at face value. Nevertheless, it may be helpful to at least provide an overview of the flood and the geological evidence that validates it actually happened just as it is described. In so doing, it reinforces the trustworthiness of the Bible and the confidence you can place in God's promises and provisions while you navigate through COVID-19.

I lack the expertise to answer all the questions that arise about how to interpret and describe the global effects of the flood on the world. Nor do I have the space to give you any more than an overview. I encourage you to turn to organizations like, *The Institute for Creation Research* (ICR) (<https://www.icr.org/>) or *Answers in Genesis* (<https://answersingenesis.org/>) where qualified men and women are able to address most of our questions. They also have endless and very helpful resources on most pertinent topics.

## **The Cause of the Flood**

The flood was God's judgment on humankind who had rejected Him and had become desperately wicked. The condition is summed up in,

**Genesis 6:5–6** (ESV) 5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

The steadily declining condition became intolerable when the descendants of Seth, the Godly line, chose to intermarry with the ungodly line of Cain. The result was that there was no longer any distinction between what the descendants of Seth or Cain believed nor how they lived. Both groups of people had embraced a culture of godliness and wickedness. As a result of the pervasive unrighteousness God chose to blot out life on earth.

**Genesis 6:7** (ESV) So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

## **The Preparations for the Flood**

Noah stood out from the multitudes for he was a righteous man and found favor in the eyes of God (Gen 6.8-9). God commissioned him to build an ark by which he, his family, and pairs of animals, birds, and creeping things would be preserved.

The dimensions God gave for the ark were 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high (15). Undoubtedly, God provided Noah with a lot more information than what is recorded in the Bible; Noah was surely given the first set of blueprints to guide him. The undertaking was enormous and occupied Noah for 120 years (3). He likely needed to assemble a crew to help him. His three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, were born during that time span (see 11.10), hence Noah would have been well into the project before they were of help. If Noah did engage helpers with his project, it is shocking that after they had been told many times by Noah the reason for the ark and the safety it would provide from the impending flood, that none of them heeded Noah’s warning. It is like scholars of the Bible failing to place their personal trust in Jesus for salvation or people who attend a church with some regularity throughout their lives, but never personally turning to Jesus for salvation despite hearing the Gospel.

At the end of the 120 years God had allocated, the ark was completed and Noah and the animals entered the ark. After waiting 7 days, the flood began. Don’t miss how God rooted His account of the Flood in history lest anyone conclude it was no more than a myth or that He intended people to interpret it in some symbolic or figurative manner.

**Genesis 7:11** (ESV) 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 forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.

## **The Characteristics of the Flood**

A discussion on the flood’s features usually involves consideration of two key points.

### **1. The Water For The Flood**

An important question is, “*Where did all the water come from and what happened to it?*” The source of the water is described in Genesis 7:11. Of particular interest are the *windows of heaven*. The image that comes to mind is the water in the atmosphere which we experience as rain or snow. However, if the amount of water in the atmosphere back then was similar to what it is today, there wasn’t nearly enough water. We need to go back to Genesis 1 for some very pertinent information about the water God placed in the heavens on the second day,

**Genesis 1:6–8** (ESV) 6 And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

God undoubtedly provides this tidbit of information to help answer questions we would have about the flood. It is rather clear from these verses that God put a sizeable amount of water in 2 places on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of creation. One body of water was in the heavens and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was on earth, and between the two was a division, or expanse. It would be presumptuous to conclude the amount of water in each place was equal in size; however, it seems reasonable to conclude that they were relatively the same size. It has been determined there are approximately 3,100 miles<sup>3</sup> of water in the atmosphere, or 0.001% of all the water on earth, which is 332,500,000 miles<sup>3</sup>. That is a ratio of 1 gal in the atmosphere to every 1,000 gal on earth. The account of what God did on Day 2 suggests God put a lot more than 0.001% of the total water in the heavens above. Perhaps there was as much as one-half above the earth, but certainly more than 0.001%. That water above has been referred to by some as a canopy. There is considerable discussion among Christian scientists about the nature of a canopy of water and the effect it may have had on over-heating the earth below. While there are many details we aren't given about how God managed the water above, we can be sure of this, He put it there and did so for the specific purpose of the flood. One of the effects the water above likely had and which is very significant is its impact on the climate on earth. The climate was very likely fairly uniform around the entire globe, which means the temperature on the poles was likely very similar to that elsewhere.

The balance of the water was on earth, some of it was in seas which were formed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of creation (1.9-10), while the remainder was sub-surface water. When the flood began

**Genesis 7:11–12** (ESV) 11 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 forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

God released the water in the heavens above and the sub-surface bodies of water from the great deep below and for 40 days the water burst forth onto the earth until the earth was covered. Initially the people outside the ark may have been enamored by the rain, but that was short lived as they came to realize Noah's warnings were real; judgment had come upon them and there was no escape. Just like multitudes today ignore God and the warnings that all will one day stand before Him and give an account of their response to Jesus' invitation to place their faith and trust in Him for their salvation.

In order to cover the highest mountains at the time of the flood, the mountains were obviously much lower, something which is apparent when examining the evidence on earth.

## **2. The Extent Of The Flood**

**Genesis 7:19–20** (ESV) 19 And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

The plain and straight forward reading of these verses makes it clear that the water on earth was so high that it covered all the mountains. Lest anyone doubt that inference from verse 19, we are told that the mountains were covered to a depth of 15 cubits, or more than 20 feet. One does not need to read too extensively to discover many believe the flood was only localized in extent. It seems the motivation for that conclusion comes from a desire to align their interpretation of the Bible in a manner consistent with an acceptance of evolution over millions of years. Since evolutionists have formed a framework for interpreting the fossil evidence according to a geological record encompassing millions of years, it is logically impossible to also account for a global flood which would have contributed endless fossils and geological evidence across the entire planet. Thus, those who accept evolution as the means of creation, if they are logically consistent, must also reject a global flood. Consequently, those individuals limit the scope of the flood to a localized region and often argue that the flood account in the Bible should be interpreted in a literary or symbolic manner or as a myth similar to that of other civilizations.

The Bible however, is very clear the flood was universal in extent. If it was only a local phenomenon, there was certainly no need to build the ark. God could have directed Noah and his family to move to higher ground and God could surely have preserved the animals and birds likewise. The universal flood makes it clear that those who chose to reject God and His provision of salvation will face judgement.

## **The Consequences of the Flood**

The flood had widespread and catastrophic consequences.

### **1. Death**

God followed through with His announcement of judgement on earth.

**Genesis 7:21–23** (ESV) 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 23 He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.

All humans, animals, creatures on earth, and birds of the sky, with the exception of Noah, his family and the animals on the ark died.

## **2. Catastrophic Change on Earth**

I will only give a brief overview of what happened to remind Christians that to believe the Bible's account of the flood in a literal manner doesn't require us to ignore the geological evidence, or set aside our brains and make some blind and irrational jump in the dark. When one begins with the Bible's description of what happened and then interprets the evidence from that perspective, one quickly realizes that that interpretation is not only credible, but fits the observable evidence far better than the proposal of evolutionists who dismiss the flood as ever having happened.

The destruction caused by unfathomable quantities of water released on the earth in such a short time would have exceeded anything imaginable. The bursting forth of the fountains of the great deep was far more than the devastating storm surges of even the most powerful hurricanes. The release of water was accompanied by earthquakes, volcanic activity, and tectonic plate movement that would have caused catastrophic tsunamis and apocalyptic flows of water. The water rose for 40 days and nights and prevailed for 150 days (7.17, 24). It was impossible for anything other than the creatures of the sea to survive. Thereafter the waters began to recede which took months to be happen (8.2 – 5). After spending just over 1 year in the ark, Noah and all the ark's occupants left the ark (8.13 – 19). During that year, the massive water flows when the water came upon the earth, as well as when it subsided would have deposited enormous sedimentation. All one needs to do is travel through the Rocky Mountains to see the layers of sediment. Those layers in the mountains are usually inclined; however, they obviously needed to be relatively flat when the sediment was deposited. Thereafter vast areas of the earth were uplifted to form the majestic mountain grandeur. That observation makes two things clear. First of all, many, perhaps most of the mountains we see now, never even existed when the flood began, and those that did exist were quite low. Second, there were tremendous land mass movements, or continental drift which resulted in the mountain uplifts and the creation of deep ocean rifts. Thus the capacity of the oceans greatly increased.

In many cases there is wide agreement between young earth creationists who hold to the literal Biblical account and traditional geologists. The disagreement with traditional geologists isn't so much about what happened, but when it happened and how long it took.

Since the highest mountains at the beginning of the flood were much lower and the oceans were not nearly as deep, there was adequate water to cover the entire globe at the time of the flood. Thereafter, land mass movements and mountain uplift resulted in the water of the flood receding as it made its way into deepened and larger oceans. Thus, the floodwaters of Noah's day remain on earth.

One only needs to watch the news following hurricanes or tsunamis to see the enormous destruction that accompanies them. Most of you will remember the

tsunami in the Indian Ocean which occurred in the early hours of Dec. 26, 2004. The tsunami, which was one of the world's largest and deadliest in 40 years, was triggered by a magnitude 9.1 Sumatra-Andaman Earthquake which occurred off the northwest coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. "According to USGS scientists, the sea floor near the earthquake was uplifted several meters. The displacement of water above the sea floor triggered the tsunami, which caused catastrophic levels of destruction in countries around the Indian Ocean basin." In one area of "Indonesia, at least 108,100 people were killed, 127,700 are missing and presumed dead and 426,800 were displaced by the earthquake and tsunami."<sup>2</sup>

Or consider land based earthquakes which cause untold destruction, or the impact of a volcanic eruption. On May 18, 1980 "Mount St. Helens cataclysmically erupted. A high-speed blast leveled millions of trees and ripped soil from bedrock. The eruption fed a towering plume of ash for more than nine hours, and winds carried the ash hundreds of miles away. Lahars (volcanic mudflows) carried large boulders and logs, which destroyed forests, bridges, roads and buildings."<sup>3</sup> The volcanic eruption of Mt. St Helens has proven to be one of the most significant events in exposing some of the fallacies associated with traditional geological interpretation of the evidence found around us. A decade after the eruption, rocks formed in the eruption were *dated* by labs that didn't know where the rocks came from. Those labs determined the age of the rocks ranged from 350,000 to 2,800,000 years old, while in actual fact they were only 10 years old. Canyons, not unlike those in the Grand Canyon, were formed in the aftermath of the eruption. Rather than taking hundreds of years or more to form, canyons with side walls in the order of 140 feet high were cut out in a single day.<sup>4</sup> A review of the geological information gleaned from Mount St. Helens makes it abundantly clear that many of the claims made by geologists about how features are formed and how long it took for them to happen, are seriously flawed.

Imagine if simultaneous and widespread catastrophic events of this nature occurred around the world. As people sometimes flippantly note, the destruction would have been of *Biblical proportions*.

The account in the Bible provides us with clues to correctly interpret other evidence which puzzles geologist. The remains of thousands of Woolly Mammoths, normally found in warm climates, have been found in the far north. Some of them were standing when they died and their remains have been found intact. The answer of course goes back to the dynamics of the flood. When the waters God had stored on Day 2 of creation began their deluge on earth, the previously tropic like conditions at the poles would have quickly changed into a giant deep freeze which instantly froze the unsuspecting and ill-prepared animals. The change in climatic conditions accompanying the rain also precipitated the formation of enormous glaciers and icefields which ultimately resulted in what is called an ice age. Glaciers made their

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usgs.gov/news/indian-ocean-tsunami-remembered-scientists-reflect-2004-indian-ocean-killed-thousands>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.usgs.gov/news/mount-st-helens-1980-eruption-changed-future-volcanology#:~:text=Forty%20years%20ago%2C%20after%20two,ash%20hundreds%20of%20miles%20away.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://creation.com/lessons-from-mount-st-helens>

way south leaving their trail behind. As an aside, some believe that the warming of our planet today is the continuation of the warming that has been going on since the ice age which followed the Flood.

### **3. Widespread Fossilization**

Accompanying the deposition of sediment around the earth were the remains of animals, birds, sea creatures, and so on. Fossilization of remains isn't something that happens over millions of years, but rather for fossils to be preserved they must be buried almost instantly or the remains would simply rot or decay or be eaten by predators. The flood provided conditions that would have produced innumerable fossils. Go the links I provided earlier to explore this topic further.

## **Conclusion**

There are numerous evidences that I could draw attention to, to confirm the flood really happened. Undoubtedly, there are some geological features and evidences in creation that are hard to understand. However, bear in mind that the scenario presented by evolutionists, is far from iron-clad.

In the meantime, I will continue to hold to the plain reading of the Scriptures. It is there where we are told the Flood concluded with a promise from God, symbolized by the rainbow, that He will never destroy the earth again with a universal flood (9.11 – 17). Every time we see a rainbow, it is not only a reminder of the promise He made that day, but also a reminder that He will follow-through with every other promise recorded in His Word to us. Continue to hold on tightly to His outstretched hand as you face trials and become anxious over the unsettling times we are in.

Remember,

### **Proverbs 18:10**

(ESV) The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

May the Lord remind you of the trustworthiness of His Word and minister to you through the song,

**Ancient Words** - Michael W. Smith

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSs7dJLKOkE&ab\\_channel=Lukemyersblog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSs7dJLKOkE&ab_channel=Lukemyersblog)