

## THE GENESIS FLOOD

A surface reading of our English translations may lead us to think that the Genesis flood was global. However, such a reading does not take into account the *expansive language* of the ancients and the fact that each Hebrew word can be translated into English by as many as 10 different words. When these factors are taken into account, the picture of the flood changes quite dramatically. Arguments that posit God's performance of supernatural activity when such is not part of the Bible account are made in order to salvage a particular interpretation.

The miraculous parts of the flood events are:

6:17: "I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth [*land*]."

7:11: "...all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened."

7:16: "Then Yahweh shut him in."

8:1: "God caused a wind to pass over the earth [*land*]."

Proposed scenario: *A massive regional flood*

All but 8 of humanity were destroyed; mankind having failed to comply with God's mandate to "Fill the Earth and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). Hence mankind inhabited only the lands within the flood region and not the entire globe. So, it was not necessary for the flood to involve other regions outside of the region inhabited by mankind. God had no need to destroy what lay outside of his target, namely wicked mankind. A regional flood of enormous proportions fits the biblical, biological, geological, geographical and logistic data better than does a global flood. The region would perhaps have included Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Syria, Lebanon, Western Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. There is proof that some of these areas have been under water in recent geological times.

### POSSIBLE SOURCES OF THE FLOOD WATERS

#### **THE THIN CANOPY THEORY**

❖ "...when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its **swaddling band**" (*Job 38:9*).

"The waters which were above the expanse" (Gen. 1:7) contained most of the water let through "the **floodgates of the sky**" (7:11). Such a relatively thin canopy (equal to less than the equivalent of 40 feet of water) would have kept the climate in a slight greenhouse condition. Yet the poles were still frozen back to, at least 40,000 years. If this canopy had fallen evenly over the whole earth then all animals on low-lying ground would have drowned. But there is no evidence for this. If, however, as a God-directed flood, the clouds containing canopy-waters were mainly drawn over the region of human habitation [as when God used an east wind to bring locusts upon Egypt (Ex. 10:13)] then the flood level caused by "the fountains of the great deep" would rise very substantially. "The **fountains of the great deep**" may refer to undersea seismic activity of a normal level in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean creating tsunamis across Asia Minor and through the Persian Gulf with such pressure as to raise the water level in the massive aquifer under the Mesopotamian valley. It has now been proved that an earthquake can trigger further earthquakes adding to the power of any tsunami.

#### **LARGE ICE COMET THEORY**

From the many flood stories the flood legend of the Algonquin Indians includes a falling star. If such a falling star had been an ice-comet carrying up to 60% water which then partially broke up as it entered earth's atmosphere a vast amount of water would be brought suddenly into earth's atmosphere thereby causing tremendous rainfall in the general region of entry. Or some massive chunks could impact the seas in the flood area, namely the Mediterranean and northern Indian Ocean causing a tsunami. Such ice-comets originate in the Kuiper Belt beyond the orbit of Pluto and occasionally break

free heading in toward the inner planets of the solar system where they are generally captured by Jupiter. However, a God-directed ice comet could bypass Jupiter and hit Earth.

## DATING OF THE FLOOD

Alexander Tolman, a professor in the Institute of Geology at the University of Vienna, compared the many legends of a great flood with the geologic evidence for a comet impact and was then able to date the flood to around 9,600 B.C. Professor of Astronomy Hugh Ross equates the Genesis 10 dividing of the earth in the time of Peleg with the breaking apart of the Bering land bridge. This is dated to about 11,000 years ago. Then calibrating for the change in life-spans from Adam to Abraham, he concludes that Noah lived roughly 30,000 years ago. However, it really is not possible to know when the flood occurred. (Please see STUDY 9 GENEALOGIES IN RELATION TO CHRONOLOGY).

## WHERE DID THE FLOOD WATERS GO?

“God caused a **wind** to blow over the land and the **water subsided**.” Likely the flow of the water was back into the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian ocean (*perhaps raising their pre-flood levels*). The rest of the water filled all of the low-lying areas, thereby creating the Black and Caspian Seas and a number of other lakes. The miraculously created wind would also evaporate much of the flood-waters back into the atmosphere.

## CAUTIONS CONCERNING INTERPRETATION OF THE FLOOD

- **Earth's geology** is the result of the seismic activity caused by the movements of the twelve tectonic plates for mountain building. This process, along with erosion, has continued to the present. Necessarily, primitive life-forms existed in the ocean prior to the rising of the land. Hence, sea shells and fossils would have risen with the land accounting for their presence on high mountains, including the Himalayas.
- The representative **animals** saved in the Ark were those that were important for the restoration and survival of human society after the flood. Animals which were *sheres* (swarming) or *yequm* (standing, which subsist), were not brought into the ark. Perhaps there were several thousand animals but not the 15,764 required to represent all of Earth's creatures.
- Worldwide **flood stories** do not necessarily provide evidence of a global flood, but of a regional flood of enormous proportions. The descendants of the flood survivors simply took with them the flood story as they migrated to all parts of the world from the landing site of the Ark. These stories vary greatly and perhaps some do not relate to Noah's flood.

## BIBLICAL REASONS WHY THE FLOOD WAS NOT GLOBAL

The language of the Flood does not include volcanism, mountain uplift, continent formation or boundaries of the sea. *The Hebrew word used to mean the Planet Earth is 'tevel' which is found 37 times in the OT. It is never used to describe the flood.*

1). The Hebrew word *eretz* means '**land, ground** or more rarely as earth (**people**).'

6:11: “Now the earth [*(eretz) meaning people*] was corrupt in the sight of God.”

7:4: “I will wipe out from the surface of the earth” (NAB, NJB). *Yet this is shown to refer only to the 'land' in other translations: “I will blot out from the face of the ground” (ESV) and “I will blot out from the face of the land [eretz] every living thing that I have made” (NASU, NKJ, ROTH, Young's, NRSV).*

7:21, 22: “All flesh that moved on the earth [*land*] perished, birds and cattle and beasts...of all that was on dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died”

8:8: “the water abated from the **face of the ground** [*eretz*]”

8:13, 14: “the water was dried up from the earth [*land*]...the earth was dry.”

*So Noah would only need to know that the land in his immediate vicinity was dry. Clearly it was not the whole earth that was dry and devoid of water.*

#### EXAMPLES OF ‘EARTH’ USED FOR ‘PEOPLE’

- ❖ “the whole earth [*people*] used the same language” (*Gen. 11:1*).
- ❖ “Shall not the judge of all [*kol*] the earth [*people*] deal justly” (*Gen. 18:25*).
- ❖ “And all the land [*eretz* = *people*] entered the forest” (*1 Sam. 14:25 Lit*).

**2).** Literary exaggeration (hyperbole) was used **to describe the flood**. It is universalist/absolutist language:

6:13: *God says He is going “to destroy them with the earth [land (eretz).]” However, He did not destroy planet Earth but only the land and the people.*

#### EXAMPLES SHOWING THAT ONLY A REGION IS MEANT BY “WHOLE EARTH/WHOLE WORLD”

- ❖ “...the whole [*kol*] land [*eretz*] of Havilah” (*Gen. 2:11*).
- ❖ “...the locusts...covered the face of the **whole earth**” (*Ex. 10:14, 15*). *KJ and NKJ*.
- ❖ “...is not the whole land [*eretz*] before you” (*Gen. 13:9*). *Clearly the whole eretz just means Canaan.*
- ❖ “...the famine was spread over **all the face of the earth**...the people of **all the earth** came to Egypt to buy grain” (*Gen. 41:56, 57*). *This involved only the nearby nations.*

*However, all other translations give “land” because clearly the locusts only affected Egypt as stated earlier in verse 14. Also the Amalakites: “were spread abroad upon all the surface of **the earth**” (*1 Sam. 30:16 KJV*) when clearly it was only upon “the land” as in all other translations. So God’s statement in Genesis 6:17 of: “I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth [*eretz*]” means: “upon the land” i.e. the land occupied by wicked mankind.*

- ❖ “...there would be a great famine **all over the world**” (*Acts 11:28*). *Yet this famine affected only the Mediterranean world in AD 46.*
- ❖ “The Queen of Sheba came from **the ends of the earth** to hear the wisdom of Solomon” (*Matt. 12:42*). *But she came up only from Arabia.*
- ❖ “**All the kings of the earth** were seeking the presence of Solomon” (*2 Chron. 9:23*)  
*It is unlikely that any came from the Americas, China, Japan or the Polynesian Islands etc.*
- ❖ “...a census to be taken of **all the inhabited earth**” (*Luke 2:1*) i.e. *within the Roman Empire.*

#### THE PHRASE “ALL FLESH” HAS BEEN USED HYPERBOLICALLY

- ❖ “...for **all flesh** had corrupted their way”  
*Clearly this statement refers only to humans because the animals had not “corrupted their way.”*

- ❖ “... to destroy **all flesh** in which is the breath of life,” (*Gen. 6:12, 17*).  
*Clearly this statement did not include the 8 humans who were marked out for survival but only wicked humanity.*

3) The limited population dispersion because of failure to comply with God’s command to spread out. Perhaps the difficult mountains to the north and inhospitable deserts to the south and west made the well-watered regions attractive to stay in. The same disobedient attitude was evident after the Flood with regard to the tower of Babel situation.

4) How could Noah have reached a population that was spread around the whole earth to warn them of approaching disaster.

5) No place names are mentioned beyond the area of the greater Mesopotamian region until after the flood i.e. it is all regional geography indicating a regional flood. All the people mentioned in Genesis 1-9 lived in the greater Mesopotamian area.

6) **The perspective is regional.** The account never describes conditions anywhere else on earth but only from Noah’s perspective. See Genesis 8:5-9 where *rivers* mentioned before the flood remain unchanged. They would completely disappear if all the geological sediments from a global flood were laid down.

7) In “the mountains [*hills*] of Ararat” (Gen. 8:4). This was where the ark landed not on 17,000 ft Mount Ararat. The Ararat area where the ark landed covers 100,000 square miles. In Genesis the Hebrew word *har* is translated “hill” 10 out of 19 occurrences. For 4 out of the remaining 9 times *har* is translated as “mountain” in the Flood passage. This seems to display a bias on the part of some translators.

8) *The context of the phrase “under heaven” limits the flood waters.*

❖ “...to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, **from under heaven; everything** that is on the earth [*land*] shall perish” (Gen. 6:17).

*This refers to “all flesh” in the land areas occupied by early humanity in the time of Noah and does not refer to every square centimetre of the planet.*

❖ “...all the high mountains [*“hills”* NKJ] **everywhere under the heavens** were covered” (Gen. 7:19).

*This refers to the high hills in the Ararat range as far as Noah could see and as far as the raven and the dove could fly, and does not need to refer to all mountains on the entire planet.*

#### EXAMPLES OF “UNDER HEAVEN” IN OTHER CONTEXTS

❖ “I will put a fear of you on the people **under the entire heavens**” (Deut. 2:25).

*Yet the context shows that this referred to only the Canaanites and Amorites etc.*

❖ “When you look to the heavens and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the array of heaven—do not be led astray to bow down and worship them. The LORD your God has provided them for all people **everywhere under heaven**” (Deut. 4:19 HCSB).

*This does not refer to every square centimetre of the planet but only those areas occupied by humanity in the time of Moses.*

❖ “...there were Jews living in Jerusalem, from **every nation under heaven**” (Acts 2:5).

*Yet at the time there were the Jewish Diaspora did not include many nations on planet earth.*

9) “And the water **receded** steadily from the earth [*land*]” (Gen. 8:3).

*If the flood were global there would be no place for the waters to recede to.*

10) Noah and his family immediately began farming and vine growing (Gen. 9:21) after they came out of the ark. This would have been impossible after the turbulent conditions of massive plate tectonics e.g. a worldwide cloud of volcanic ash.

## 11) The depth of the water was not stated as enough to cover Everest.

Genesis 6:15 with reference to the ark notes: "...its height 30 cubits (45 feet)." Therefore, its draught (from keel to water-line) would have been about 22 feet:

- ❖ "...so that all the high hills... were covered. The waters prevailed 15 cubits (22 feet) **higher**, and the mountains [hills] were covered" (*Gen. 7:19, 20*).
- KJ and NKJ give "15 cubits upward." The NLT gives: "more than 22 feet above."*

So more than 22 feet above would seem just enough for the draught of the ark to clear the tops of the hills, provided that the water was not violently turbulent as would be the case with the global flood model, which envisions the reshaping of the entire planet within 11 months:

- ❖ "The water prevailed on the earth **150 days**" (*Gen. 7:24*).
- ❖ "In the **7<sup>th</sup> month, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day** of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat" (*Gen. 8:4*).
- ❖ "The water decreased steadily until the 10<sup>th</sup> month; on the **10<sup>th</sup> month, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day** of the month, the tops of the mountains [hills] became visible" (*Gen. 8:5*).

Verses 7 and 9 tell us that "*the raven flew here and there until the water was dried up*" and *the dove found no resting place. So she returned.*" The interval between these dates is 73 days in which time the water level fell from the water-line to just below the keel, a measurement of perhaps 25 to 30 feet. This is a 4" to 4.5" fall in level per day. From the cessation of the rain on the **28<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month** (*Gen. 7:11*) to the **27<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the following year** (*Gen. 8:11*) = **324 days**, according to William Lowe's calendar. Therefore, at a run off rate of 4.5" per day we have 324 days x 4.5" = 1296/12" = **121 feet**. However, the run off rate at the beginning may have been much faster, especially as "**God caused a wind to pass over the land, and the water subsided.**" So, if we envisage an average run off rate of 11" per day for the first 251 days x 11" = 2761/12" = 230 feet + 25feet (for the 73 Days) gives a **peak level of water as 255 feet**. This certainly seems to indicate a flood that was of massive magnitude, but certainly not capable of restructuring the entire planet as a supposed global flood would do.

## 12) Psalm 104:9: "**never again will they [the waters] cover the earth.**"

The entire context of Ps 104 is the Genesis Creation. Yet this phrase is often taken out of context and misapplied to the flood. The context of **Psalm 104** is that of creation and not of Noah's flood and is shown by verses 2-9:

- ❖ "...stretching out the heaven...*establishing the earth*...covered it with the deep...the waters were standing above the mountains. **The mountains rose; the valleys sank...**You **set a boundary**, so that they (the waters) will **not return to cover the earth.**"

This is evidently when God was *establishing the earth* and so concerning the formation of earth and its systems and seems to be speaking of the action of the tectonic plates in their mountain-building processes. By such processes parts of the land rise and other parts sink. This means that the sea is hemmed in by the risen land masses; yet there are no such references to boundaries of the sea in any of the flood references. Also Psalm 104 gives no reference to judgement as does the flood account. See NIV study notes and most commentaries, and Bible cross-references

**13)** Centuries or more after the Flood the psalmist could still say: "*Praise Him...the waters above the heavens*" (Psalm 148:4) showing that normal cloud cover was probably meant when Genesis 7:12 said that: "the windows of the heavens were opened."

## WHAT ABOUT THE PROMISE TO NEVER FLOOD THE EARTH AGAIN?

- ❖ “Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and **your offspring** after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the **birds**, the **livestock**, and every **beast** of the earth [*land*] with you, **as many as came out of the ark**; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and **never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.**" And God said, "This is **the sign** of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set **my bow** in the cloud, and it shall be **a sign of the covenant** between me **and the earth**. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And **the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.** (*Gen. 9:8-15*).

### IS IT A COVENANT WITH THE GLOBAL EARTH?

Verse 13 speaks of this covenant as being between God “**and the earth.**” If this refers to the planet Earth it might indicate that the Flood was global. However, the covenant was with Noah, his future offspring, and all the animals that came out of the Ark which as we will see soon must have been relatively few compared with all of Earth’s species. So verses 9-10 define what “**the earth**” is in this instance, namely, people and animals. As shown earlier “earth” is often used for people e.g. “*the whole earth [people] used the same language*” (*Gen. 11:1*). So **God’s covenant in Genesis 9:13 is not with the impersonal planet.** In fact, the Planet Earth was clearly not destroyed in Noah’s time, but only the wicked people which is why Jesus, Peter, and the writer to the Hebrews could use it in an illustrative way. Furthermore, the rainbow was likely in evidence before the Flood because, from the evidence of Genesis Two it had clearly rained in previous times. *The New Application Commentary on Genesis* comments:

The designation of a rainbow as a sign of the covenant does not suggest that this was the first rainbow ever seen. The function of a sign is connected to the significance attached to it. In like manner, circumcision is designated as a sign of the covenant, yet that was an ancient practice, not new with Abraham and his family. p.345.

So the already existing rainbow was simply now being used as a sign of God’s covenant with mankind so that He would never use a flood to destroy the wicked in the future.

## WHAT IS SAID ABOUT THE FLOOD IN THE REST OF THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

- ❖ “Yahweh was enthroned for the flood” (**Ps.29:10**).
- ❖ “For this is like the days of Noah to me, when I swore that I would **not flood the earth (eretz - land)** again” (*Isa.54:9*).

## WHAT JESUS AND THE APOSTLES SAID ABOUT THE FLOOD

- ❖ “For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, and marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away (*'destroyed them all' in Luke 17:27*); so will the coming of the Son of Man be” (*Matt. 24:38, 39*).
- ❖ “By faith Noah, being warned about things not yet seen prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world” (*Heb.11:7*).
- ❖ “...when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is 8 persons, were brought safely through the water” (*1 Peter 3:20*).

- ❖ "...and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with 7 others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly" (2 Peter 2:5).
- ❖ "...the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which **the world** (Gk. *kosmos* = humanity) **at that time** was destroyed, being flooded with water" (2 Peter 3:5, 6).  
*So it was not the earth but disobedient mankind of that time that were destroyed.*

#### SCRIPTURES WRONGLY ASSUMED TO REFER TO THE FLOOD

- ❖ "It is God who removes the mountains ... when He overturns them in His anger; who shakes the earth out of place, and its pillars tremble; Who commands the sun not to shine, and sets a seal upon the stars; who alone **stretches out the heavens** and **tramples down the waves of the sea?**"  
*(Job 9:5-8).*

*This is in the context of creation and the creative processes.*

- ❖ "Behold he **restrains the waters** and they dry up; and He sends them out, and they inundate the earth" (Job 12:15).

*This shows God's control over the hydrologic action of the water cycle. The same applies to Job 14:18, 19; 22:15-17; 26:10-12; 28:9-11*

- ❖ "...though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam...He raised His voice and the earth melted" (Ps.46:2, 3, 6)

*This mainly has reference to the future.*

#### WHY DID NOAH NOT SIMPLY MOVE OUT OF THE FLOOD AREA?

- God may not have informed Noah of the extent of the coming flood (Noah may not have known how far mankind had migrated).
- The construction of the ark was a continuing forceful testimony against wicked mankind: "By faith Noah, being warned about things not yet seen **prepared an ark** for the salvation of his household, **by which he condemned the world.**" (Heb. 11:7).
- The world would have paid less attention to a single family moving out of the area.
- God required His people of the past to be obedient concerning some very strange actions - e.g. the march around Jericho 7 times; their having to look upon the bronze serpent to get healed. Such obedience would demonstrate their commitment and perseverance. The same would be true of the ark-building project.

#### SCIENTIFIC AND LOGICAL REASONS WHY THE FLOOD WAS NOT GLOBAL

##### GEOPHYSICAL REASONS

##### ***The impossibility of the existence of a vapour canopy heavy enough to flood the globe:***

- There is no mechanism for supporting a quantity of water such that would flood the entire earth. If the canopy was equal to more than the equivalent of 40 feet of water it would raise the atmospheric pressure, thereby raising oxygen and nitrogen levels to become toxic. If significantly thick it would have blocked a great deal of light, lowering Earth's temperature before any global flood. Such a canopy could not be situated above the ozone layer because it would not be shielded from ultraviolet light, such light breaking apart the water molecules. When vapour condenses it releases 539 calories of heat per gram. Such condensing would have caused such massive temperature shifts that Noah and family would not have survived.

- The water content on Earth today is only about 22% of the amount needed for a global flood.
- Mountain ranges cannot build up in 11 months. The Genesis account already gives us all that God did miraculously as noted above. Reshaping the earth is not included. The difference between the deepest ocean chasm and the tallest mountain is **11 miles**. To suggest such monumental rates of plate tectonics defies all geologic evidence. To claim that **this amount of uplift - more than 200 feet per day** - could have taken place within one year poses insurmountable problems. A magnitude 6 earthquake only creates **2 inches** of uplift.
- When “*the waters receded from the earth [land]*” this could not mean that they only evaporated back up to the sky, but must mean that **they flowed off the land and into the existing seas** including “the fountains of the deep” and were assisted when “*God made a wind blow over the earth [land].*” The idea that “*the waters*” filled the supposedly new basins made by it is not possible for the reasons given above.
- Global flood waters could not recede within the time scale given in Genesis. The strong wind would be of significant help for causing a regional flood to recede but not for a global one.
- There had to be processes over thousands/millions of years to account for the enormous deposits of Kerogen, coal, oil, gas, limestone, chalk, marble and salt deposits. These could not have built up within 11 months. Even topsoil takes 1,000 years.
- Limestone, sometimes thousands of meters thick, is formed from the skeletons of billions of microscopic sea animals. Were all those animals alive when the flood started? If not, how does one explain the well ordered sequence of fossils in the deposits.
- Oil products were already available before the flood e.g. Noah used bitumen to seal the ark.
- Hematite layers can only form in an environment depleted of oxygen. This was not an environment suitable for the existence of the humans in the ark.
- *No evidence for a flood in ice core series:* A worldwide flood would leave a layer of sediments, significant changes in salinity and oxygen isotope ratios, fractures from thermal stresses and other evidence. No such evidence is seen in the ice cores from Greenland. These are more than 40,000 years old.
- *No evidence from deep core samples* taken over the entire globe.
- *No evidence on the sea floors:* There isn't the expected uncharacteristic amount of terrestrial detritus, nor different grain size distributions in the sediment, nor a shift in oxygen isotope ratios (rain has a different isotopic composition from seawater). Also there is no evidence of a massive extinction in the seas.
- *No evidence in tree ring dating.* Such dating goes back 10,000 years.
- All the fossil bearing strata indicate, in general, a uniform laying down of sediments world wide. How does a raging global flood produce such fairly neat layers?
- There is no fossil record outside of Australia of its endemic families of animals. This indicates that they were likely originally created in that location. This is true also for many other species native to particular countries.
- How could a flood carve out a meandering canyon? e. g. Grand Canyon. How does one explain its distinct rock layers?

## REASONS CONCERNING THE ARK

1. The ark could not withstand the destructive effect of a global flood which supposedly caused hyperactive tectonic under-water land movements that would be required for mountain building within 11 months. The account does not describe any mountain building or sea basin creative activity that would have produced such global oceanic super-turbulence requiring miraculous protection. Such a situation is therefore highly speculative.

2. *Difficulties with gathering the animals* if they existed in most parts of the earth (Including Australia): Many Island-dwelling animals could not cross the seas. Sloths and penguins cannot travel overland. Koalas and many insects require special diet. Many species become extinct if they are removed from their own suitable environment. Some cave-dwelling arthropods can not survive in less than 100% relative humidity. Gila monsters, yaks and quetzals can not survive in a temperate climate.

3. *Difficulties with loading representatives of all or most of the kinds of animals in the Ark:* If *kind* = species, then there were 15,764 animals on board. One can not restrict this number to just mammals, birds and reptiles because in a global flood everything outside the ark would not survive including insects, snails, slugs, earthworms and arthropods. If one states that *kind* = 'genus,' then one has the problem of explaining how each *kind* could have adapted (evolved) so quickly after the flood. There is no evidence for such adaptation. To load 15,764 creatures in 7 days would mean having only 38 seconds to load each one. All the animals were sexually mature according to Genesis 7:2 "the male and his mate" and therefore not infants or embryos.

4. *Difficulties with caring for representatives of all or most of the 'kinds' of animals.*

- Fresh food, food preservation, pest control, special diets (Koala's eucalyptus leaves, silkworm's mulberry leaves, etc).
- If carnivorous animals were on board then tons of meat to feed them would also have to be stored for a year. The drinking water supply would also need to be dramatically increased.
- Eight people could not feed and water some 15,764 animals.
- Insufficient ventilation and sanitation, and space to exercise the animals.

5. The indigenous birds of the region were brought onto the ark because birds cannot fly in strong rain. Otherwise they would all have drowned. Such birds would not easily have been replaced by the migration of birds from other regions.

## BIOLOGICAL REASONS

- Olive trees do not grow beyond about 500 meters above sea level. Therefore the flood waters could not have risen dramatically higher than this.
- Although very tough and capable of surviving long periods under water, olive leaves could not survive a global flood because of the thousands of feet of erosion and destructive turbulent activity of such a flood.
- The 2 million+ species that existed immediately after the flood could not have adapted from the 30,000 species carried in the ark in such a short time. Neither could the one million plus land animals today have made such adaptation in only 4,600 years — the supposed time since the flood. From the time of creation until the Flood most of the '**kinds**' had probably come to the end of their genetic lines. So after the flood there would have been few species left that could have created the variety that we have today. It is unlikely that a common *cat kind* after the flood could have produced the great variety of cats that exist today. Such interbreeding rarely occurs in the wild. Yet

every *kind* would have to hybridize naturally for the global flood scenario to be true. For instance, Polar bears have partly webbed feet; but this is not part of some minor adaptation. So in reality global flood proponents would be advocating **macro-evolution at an alarmingly fast rate** such that would not be granted even by the most ardent evolutionist. In fact, most species show little change over millions of years, demonstrating that these creatures experienced fairly uniform conditions before and after the Flood. Additionally, the global flood proponent cannot appeal to intervention from God because *He is in His rest day* having ceased from works of creation.

- Most vegetation and its seed would be permanently destroyed by being under water or hundreds of feet of sediment for a year.
- Most insects depend on plants, some on particular species of plants. This dependency would be broken worldwide and most insects would have become extinct if there had been a global flood.
- Salt-water fish would die when mixed with large volumes of fresh water.
- Fresh-water fish would die when swept into the salty oceans.
- Most, if not all, of the organisms on the ocean floor would not have been able to survive the tremendous increase in water pressure caused by a global flood; whereas they would have been relatively unaffected by a regional flood.
- There would presently be no short-lived species existing. They would have become extinct on the ark.
- The global model does not honestly answer why so many marsupials are in Australia.
- How would marsupials, lemurs, polar bears etc get back to their native habitats after a global flood when the environments of their journey would be impossible for them?
- Could symbiotic relationships be maintained throughout the migration to and from the Ark.

## FOSSILIZATION

It is asserted that fossils are **not forming today** by uniformitarian principles. This is demonstrably false. Carbonates and siliciclastics are being deposited today. No catastrophe is needed. It is also asserted that the **rapid burial** of organisms to prevent their decay and disintegration for fossilization to occur implies a global flood. However, fossils with preserved soft tissue are exceedingly rare. Most vertebrate fossils are fragmentary implying they were *not buried rapidly*. Some fossilization occurs by burial in organic-rich anaerobic sediment deposited under *stagnant* water, therefore, not requiring a global flood. Normal river action can rapidly bury recently dead creatures.

## THE FOSSIL RECORD

The water-laid formations of marine fossils are **interspersed** with numerous **sedimentary layers**. This would not be the case if all the fossils were laid down at one time within 11 months of global flood waters. In between these layers lies sandstone (originally desert), which contains the tracks of reptiles. It is impossible to create a desert environment during the year of a global flood. Although many marine fossils are found on the land masses and mountains, they generally do not include whales, seals, walruses, all kinds of fish and sea snakes. In a global flood such would be swept over land and then left stranded as the waters subsided. If these animals were buried rapidly in a global flood, we should expect to find whole skeletons but we don't.

### *ARE LARGE FOSSIL GRAVEYARDS EVIDENCE FOR A GLOBAL FLOOD?*

The woolly mammoth and woolly rhinoceros needed their coats, indicating that they lived in a cold climate. The Jarkov mammoth in Siberia is dated as being 20,300 years old and therefore, probably

before the flood. Its sudden freezing to death must have been because of some prior local/regional catastrophe. Possibly this is true for all the frozen mammoths and rhinos. Caves which contain a mix of herbivore and carnivore (including sabre-toothed tigers) fossils together with no sign of the herbivore bones having been gnawed are proof only of local floods causing the animals to flee in panic before being trapped in the caves and drowned. Dinosaur fossils are dated to between 250 million and 65 million years ago and generally have no connection with the Noachic flood. The claim that human and dinosaur footprints have been found together has been proved to be misinterpretation of the evidence.

### EVIDENCE OF A REGIONAL FLOOD

Of the comparable lakes in the general region that have no outlet, the Black and Caspian Seas contain fresh water, whereas the Dead Sea is salty. This indicates that the Black and Caspian Seas have been filled in recent geologic time, possibly as the result of a regional flood that did not fill the Dead Sea. The kind of evidence one would discover from a regional flood would be quite different from that of a global flood. There would be little, if any, geological plate movements at a giant regional flood. For a global flood the evidence would remain indefinitely; but for a regional flood the evidence would eventually fade away. The geography and topography of the Mesopotamian region could support the containment of the floodwaters for several months and deep enough to destroy all humanity and associated animals.

### VIEWPOINTS

Leonardo Da Vinci rejected a global flood on the following point:

And if the shells had been carried by the muddy deluge they would have been mixed up, and not in regular steps and layers, as we see them now.

Over the centuries Jewish Rabbis have debated whether or not the Flood reached as far as the land of Israel. This shows that they did not view it as having been a global flood.

What would be the point of God's bringing a global flood and destroying all the completely innocent animals around the world in their unique habitats when wicked mankind of the time occupied only a fairly limited portion of the planet? And why at that time, would there be any reason for Him to destroy all the foliage and the topsoil of the entire planet and so disrupting all the bio-systems for many generations?

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NOTE: Because Jehovah's Witness consider the flood to have been global some may wish to examine this subject in the website 'Research on the Watchtower' <http://Corior.blogspot.com>

