

Science and the Bible

A Search for Meaning & Significance

The Genesis Flood: Global or Worldwide

Welcome/Opening Notes/Prayer/Video

Foundational Principle for the Entire Study: **Test everything. Hold on to the good.**

The Premise of this Study: **The Facts of Nature and the Bible are the same.**

“Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark – professionals built the Titanic.”

Was the Flood a real event in human history? Apparently it was, because in addition to the Biblical account in Genesis, over 150 cultural groups and ethnic societies believe in an ancient flood story.

How long has the Flood story been a controversy in the church?

The flood story only began to be debated in the church at the time of Charles Darwin, in the mid-1800's.

A Seventh-day Adventist named George McCready Price (1870-1963) was a Canadian young-earth-creationist and amateur geologist. He was a prolific writer and gifted speaker who originated the subject called “flood geology” (more detailed description later) that proposed the global flood.

However, Price's views were not widely accepted until just after his death and the inception of the young-earth-creation movement in the 1960's.

How can this church controversy be solved? As with all church controversies, the solution for this issue can come from careful examination of all factual information from both the Special & General Revelations.

Study Outline

- The Three Major Flood Models
- Biblical Flood Account
- Context for Interpreting the Biblical Flood Account
- Scientific Evidence for the Flood Models
- Examining the Major Flood Models
- Where is the Ark Located Today?

Bill Cosby: “[God:] ‘I’m gonna make it rain for a thousand days and drown ‘em right out.’ [Noah:] Right! Listen to this and you’ll save water: Let it rain for 40 days & 40 nights, and wait for the sewers to back up. [God:] Right!”

The Three Major Flood Models

1. **Global Flood Model** This Young-Earth-Creation Model proposes the Flood was:

- A catastrophic event between 2500-2000 BC (4500-4000 years ago);
- 13 months in duration;
- Global in extent (in other words, the flood-water covered the entire planet);
- Responsible for killing all life on the Earth, except for Noah, his family and the animals on the Ark;
- Responsible for all the geological features on earth (mountains, valleys, canyons, rivers, etc); and
- Responsible for all the animal, plant and human fossils (and therefore all of the sedimentary rocks).

Please direct questions/concerns about these notes to ron price, ron@hopeinchristnm.com, 505-369-1284.

2. **Black Sea Model** This Secular Model proposes the Flood was:

- A local event involving the Black Sea and surrounding areas 7400 years ago;
- About one million square miles in extent; and
- Caused by an overflow of the Black Sea, because of a blockage in the Dardanelles (the SW corner of the Black Sea flows through the Bosphorus strait into the Sea of Marmara, which flows through the Dardanelles into the Aegean Sea).

3. **Local (Worldwide) Flood Model** This Old-Earth-Creation Model proposes the Flood was:

- A local event covering much of Mesopotamia, Arabia and Persian Gulf about 40K years ago;
- About 13 months in duration; and
- Responsible for killing all human life on Earth and all animal life in the flood area, with the exception of Noah, his family and the animals on the Ark.

Biblical Flood Account

Genesis 6: *Genesis 6:5-8* The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground and birds of the air – for I am grieved I have made them." Noah found favor in the LORD's eyes.

Genesis 6:13-16 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress [lit: gopher] wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks."

Genesis 6:17 "I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life. Everything on earth will perish."

Genesis 6:18-21 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark – you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

Genesis 6:22: Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Genesis 7: *Genesis 7:1-4* The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you 7 of every kind of clean animal, a male & its mate, and 2 of every kind of unclean animal, a male & its mate, and also 7 of every kind of bird, male & female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days & forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

Genesis 7:11-12 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month – on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

Biblical passages are taken from the NIV1984.

Genesis 7:18-20 The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet.

Genesis 7:24 The waters flooded the earth for a hundred & fifty days.

Genesis 8: *Genesis 8:1-4* But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Now the springs of the deep & the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

Genesis 8:5 The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

Genesis 8:6-14 After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

Genesis 8:15-17 Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you – the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground – so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number."

Genesis 8:20-21a Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma...

Genesis 9: *Genesis 9:8-13* Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you – the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you – every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Context for Interpreting the Biblical Flood Account

Mountains: The Hebrew word that is translated "mountains" ^{Genesis 7:19,20, 8:4,5} is *har* which can mean from low hills ^{Genesis 10:30} up to high mountains.

Earth: One Hebrew word translated Earth ^{Genesis 6:5,6,13,17, 7:3,12,18,19,24, 8:1,3,7,9,11,13,14,17, 9:10,11,13} is *'erets* which can mean all or part ^{Genesis 10:10} of the Earth, or the land where the people are ^{Leviticus 19:29}.

Biblical passages are taken from the NIV1984.

Earth: A second Hebrew word translated Earth ^{Genesis 6:7, 7:4} is 'ădāmâh which can mean Earth, but the word has a special emphasis on the land where man lives ^{Deuteronomy 29:28}.

Meaning of 'worldwide' or 'entire earth'

Joseph in Egypt Genesis 41:56-57 "When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world."

Genesis 42:3-5 "Ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for the famine was in the land of Canaan also."

Acts 7:11 "Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our fathers could not find food."

Solomon's wisdom 1 Kings 4:34 "Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom."

1 Kings 10:24 "The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God put in his heart."

2 Chronicles 9:23 "All the kings of the earth sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart."

God-fearing Jews Acts 2:5 "Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven."

Gospel Spread Romans 1:8 "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world."

Colossians 1:6 "All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth."

Peter's specific reference to the Genesis Flood 2 Peter 3:6 "By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed."

Scientific Evidence for the Flood Models

Global Flood: Similar to the response of the academic community to the Young Earth theory, there are no scientists who conclude, outside of a particular Biblical interpretation, that the Flood was global in extent.

Ice Cores from central Antarctica and Sediment Cores from off the coast of southern New Zealand

If the Flood was global and deposited as much material as the model supporters claim, then the annual layers in the ice and sediment cores would each have a very distinct layer marking the event. None exist.

There's a question of Water: The Young-Earth-Creationists have not proposed a plausible explanation of where the water came from to cover the entire Earth to a "depth of more than twenty feet" ^{Genesis 7:20}.

Neither have the model proponents determined where the water went following the flood.

Black Sea Flood: No solid scientific support. It has been suggested that there was a blockage in the Dardanelles (the SW corner of the Black Sea flows SW through the Bosphorus strait, through the Sea of Marmara, through the Dardanelles and into the Aegean Sea) that created an overflow of the Black Sea.

Local Flood: Dr. Ward Sanford (1961, USGS Hydrologist) has studied the area and concluded that at times in the past there have been temporary wind-blown sand dams in the Strait of Hormuz (between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman), which could have backed up water into Arabia and Mesopotamia.

Biblical passages are taken from the NIV1984.

On the question of Water: The Old-Earth-Creationists do not need to try to speculate on where the water came from for the Local (Mesopotamian) Flood, because there would have been plenty of snow and ice in the surrounding mountains left from the retreating Ice Age (~90-15K ya) to produce such a flood.

Examining the Major Flood Models

1. **Global Flood** There is little evidence to support the Young-Earth-Creation Model.

- A quick reading of the Biblical flood account in Genesis 6-9 tends to support the conclusion that the flood covered the entire Earth. However, if these Scriptures are read and examined carefully for context, the case for a global flood is greatly weakened.
- Job 38:8-11 [And God said:] “Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?’”
- The approximate date for the global flood (4500-4000 ya) is based solely on the use of Biblical genealogies, with the false assumption that they represent every generation that has ever lived.
- If the flood was global and if the flood did as much damage/construction as the Y-E-C claim, then there would be such a vast amount of evidence from that event that at least some members of the naturalistic scientific community would be reporting it in technical papers somewhere.
- Question: Does the following example of a flood process that the Y-E-C use to illustrate the flood make sense to you? The flood water deposited at least 4000 feet of sedimentary rock in Northern Arizona and then the flood water run-off eroded the Grand Canyon to produce its features today.
- How was the flood able to deposit so many different types of sedimentary rock (e.g., limestones, shales, sandstones) in such a short period of time (just over a year)?
- The lack of support for this model in the annual layers from the ice and sediment core data is enough to disprove this theory.
- If the flood was global and responsible for killing all life on the Earth, except for Noah, his family and the animals on the Ark, then where did the 3+ million species present today come from? (evolution)

2. **Black Sea Flood** There is no evidence to support the secular Black Sea Model.

- There is no rendering of the Biblical flood account that would support the Black Sea location.
- The age for this model (7400 years ago) is too late to take advantage of the extra Ice Age water.
- There is no scientific evidence to help the case of the Black Sea Flood.
- This flood was too far to the northwest to kill all of the humans living in the Mesopotamian area.

3. **Local (Worldwide) Flood** There is considerable evidence to support the Old-Earth-Creation Model.

- When read in context, an analysis of the Biblical flood account in Genesis 6-9 actually gives more credibility to the interpretation of a local flood, than it does to a global flood.
- The approximate date for the local flood (40,000 ± 10,000 years ago) is based on information and interpretation from the Bible ^{Genesis 10:25, 11:10-26}, Biblical and extra-Biblical texts (Abraham lived about 4,000 years ago and the general life-spans of people of the time) and scientific data (the land bridge between Siberia and Alaska became broken and impassable about 11,000 years ago).

Biblical passages are taken from the NIV1984.

- The technical research by Dr. Ward Sanford creates scientific credibility for this model. In addition, there is no scientific data that provides evidence against the Local Flood model.
- All of the humans at the time of the flood were still located in the plains of Mesopotamia. Therefore, a local flood in that area would kill all human life on Earth (hence worldwide) (with the exception of Noah and his family), and the flood was a judgement of death against mankind ^{Genesis 6:13, 2 Peter 2:5}.

Where is the Ark Located Today?

Before examining where the Ark may be, here are a couple of sets of facts about Noah's Ark:

1. The Bible says the Ark was made of gopher wood ^{Genesis 6:14}. No one knows what gopher wood is, but many scholars have assumed probably oak or cypress (because they were good available woods). Whatever the type of wood it was, it had to be a very high quality wood to have a high enough strength (to stay together under all of the weight) and yet a low enough density (to float).
2. The Bible also states the Ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high ^{Genesis 6:15}, which made it about the same size as a small aircraft carrier and almost half the size of the largest carriers.

This information will help in the following discussion...

This analysis is based on the conclusion that the Local (Mesopotamian) Flood Model is correct.

Simply stated: Where is it? Most people assume the Ark landed on Mt. Ararat. However, the Bible says:

“the ark came to rest on the *mountains of Ararat*.” ^{Genesis 8:4b}. The mountains of Ararat are an elevated region of hills and mountains, located mainly in eastern Turkey, some in northwestern Iran and a small area in northern Iraq. Mt. Ararat is the highest peak in the range, with an elevation of 16,854 feet.

Is there any way to know more specifically? Not really, but the Biblical descriptions stating it rested in the mountains of Ararat ^{Genesis 8:4b}, combined with other Scripture passages ^{Genesis 8:3-5}, suggest that the Ark must have come to rest on a foothill in the southern edge of the mountains of Ararat. This would have placed the ark somewhere near the ancient city of Nineveh, that was built soon after the Flood.

SO...Where is the Ark? No one knows for sure, but it seems likely a huge structure like the Ark, made out of very valuable high-quality wood, would have been taken apart soon after the flood and used to build Nineveh and the other new cities in the valley of the Tigris River, in northern Iraq. So, there is a high probability the Ark will never be found, because its wood is in the burned remains of cities like Nineveh.

“There is but one Church in which men find salvation, just as outside the ark of Noah it was not possible for anyone to be saved.” Thomas Aquinas

Conclusion

After a careful study of the facts in the Bible and Nature, it seems the only plausible conclusion is the Genesis Flood probably occurred 40,000 ± 15,000 years ago in a local area of the Middle East.

Questions?

Glimpse Ahead and Conclusion