

WAS THERE REALLY A WORLDWIDE FLOOD?

The tendency of 21st century believers is to accept God's Word (especially if we were "brought up" in the faith) and, at the same time, filter God's Word through modern technology and science. In other words, we easily fall into the "everyone knows" syndrome.

"Everyone knows about Noah and the flood."

"Everyone knows about the Big Bang."

"Everyone knows ..."

Danger!!! If we accept what "everyone knows," we will find ourselves in a precarious position. In essence, we're accepting two opposing philosophies when we accept God's Word and also the wisdom of the age. The **problem** is that we can accept mutually opposite positions **only** if we don't dive deep and explore what God's Word really says and the consequences of its truth.

An example from last week: Many Christians accept that God created the universe AND that evolution is obviously evident in the origin of everything. BUT if we dive deeper, we find that both **cannot** be true. Either the Bible is false and we can trust none of it, or evolution is false and God created everything just as it is recorded in Scripture. (Or, neither is true and we just don't know our origins. – the position of some scientists)

SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE FLOOD!

The ark and the flood are a great story of *judgment, mercy* and *salvation!*

Judgment = all mankind (Gen. 6:5-7, 13)

Mercy = Noah and his family, keeping humanity in existence (6:8, 18)

Salvation = the ark, keeping Noah and family from drowning (7:7, 23)

However, this story – especially the ark – is a TYPE of Christ! (explain)

Q: In John 10:9, what metaphor does John use to describe Jesus? "I am the _____."

Gen 7:11-16 – Just as Noah, his family and the animals had to enter the ark to find salvation from the flood (judgment), we, too, must enter into the ark (Jesus), to find salvation from judgment.

Matt. 24:38-39 – Jesus, Himself, makes the connection between Himself and the ark / flood.

*There are numerous scriptures that make no sense unless the flood was a **worldwide, universal** flood!*

(1) John 14:7 – In keeping with the ark / flood as a type of Christ, then Christ's statement would make no sense unless the flood is worldwide.

-- If the flood were local, how might people have been saved from death?

1- the ark

2- fleeing to another part of the world

-- Jesus says, "I am the way ... no man comes to the Father but by me."

* He claims that there is **no other way!**

(2) Matt. 24: 39 – “ ... until the flood came and took them **all** away.” (*emphasis mine*)

(3) Gen. 9:11-17 – The Noahic covenant – “**never again**”

-- Q: Have there been floods since the time of Noah?

* If Noah’s flood was local, God would have **BROKEN HIS PROMISE** over and over again!

(4) Gen. 6:6-7 – “I will destroy man ... for I am sorry that I have made them.”

-- There is no question that God’s Word is referring to **all mankind** – not just one locale!

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE FLOOD!

How could all of the animals fit?

* Was the ark big enough for so many animals? Gen. 6:15 (*300 cub. long X 50 cub. wide X 30 cub. high*)

* Translates to at least 450 ft long X 75 ft wide X 45 ft high

* Proportional to a modern cargo ship; as large as a wooden ship can be built

* Max. # of animals on the ark: 2,000 to 35,000

> Noah took animals by **KIND**, not **SPECIES** (explain)

> Noah took juvenile animals (certainly not the largest) – why? Reproduction

> Noah didn’t take aquatic or amphibian animals – just land-dwelling, air-breathing animals.

* Conclusion: The animals would have fit into these dimensions with room to spare (food, water).

How did Noah get all the animals in one place?

* Gen. 6:20 – “... two of every kind will **COME TO YOU** ...”

* Though supernatural, we can compare it to migratory behavior we see in some animals.

* What about the oceans? Pre-flood, there was likely only one continent! (*plate tectonics, water runoff*)

What about animal behavior on the ark?

* Gen. 6:14 – “rooms” in the ark. Hebrew word, “*qen*” – lit. “NESTS”

* Does this language indicate a sort of divine hibernation?

Is there physical evidence of a universal flood?

* Gen. 7:19-20 – If waters covered the mountains, could the flood be local?

* 2 Peter 3: 5-6

* *“Evidence of Noah’s Flood can be seen all over the earth, from seabeds to mountaintops. Whether you travel by car, train or plane, the physical features of the earth’s terrain clearly indicate a catastrophic past, from canyons and craters to coal beds and caverns. Some layers of strata extend across continents, revealing the effects of a huge catastrophe.*

The earth’s crust has massive amounts of layered sedimentary rock, sometimes miles deep! These layers of sand, soil and material – mostly laid down by water – were once soft like mud, but they are now hard stone. Encased in these sedimentary layers are billions of dead things (fossils of plants and animals) buried very quickly. The evidence all over the earth is staring everyone in the face.”¹

¹ Ken Ham, Gen. Ed., The New Answers Book, Answers in Genesis, Green Forrest, AR, 2006, pp. 138-9.

How did the flood occur?

* Gen. 7: 11-12 – 2 Sources:

(1) Fountains of the Great Deep

> Great subterranean pools brought up by earthquakes and volcanic activity!

> Significance of such seismic activity: plate tectonics; ice age; rise of mountains, pooling of water runoff into today's oceans.

(2) Windows of Heaven

> Gen. 1: 6-8 – What are the 2 “waters?”

(1) waters above the atmosphere (???)

(2) waters below the atmosphere (seas)

> The waters above the atmosphere – a water vapor canopy surrounding the earth

* protects against radiation much greater than today: source of long life spans

-- Gen 6:3 – *Reduction of life spans happens at the time of the flood*

* promotes a “greenhouse” effect over all the earth – worldwide tropical paradise

-- *wooly mammoths found in Siberia with tropical plants in their stomachs*

* Where did the water go? (Gen. 8:3)

-- Simply, the waters from the flood are in the oceans. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the earth's surface – water.

A New Way of Thinking About the Ark

* An exciting truth from Scripture: There were DINOSAURS on the ark!

- How would this be possible?

* Young animals (reptiles grow as they age; for reproduction)

* Average size: the size of a SHEEP

* Co-existing with man?

- According to the Bible ... YES!

* Genesis 1:21

* Psalm 74:13

* Isaiah 30:6

* Job 41

* Job 40: 15-19

* So ... what happened?

-- Most destroyed in the flood

-- Extinction due to harsh, new climate and threat from mankind

-- Extinction likely took more than 1 millennium!