

VABC Bible Study 3-31

The Flood

Session 3 The Flood

Now we enter a time of greater evil perpetuated by the fallen angeles (watchers) intimately knowing the human women. From this type of union came the Nephilim (Gigantes). This displeased God. God declares the days of man will be restricted to 120 yrs. This is not a statement about age, but a prophecy of the time of the flood ... at which Methuselah dies ... at 969 yr. He then "regrets" having made mankind.

Genesis 6

5Y el SEÑOR vio que era mucha la maldad de los hombres en la tierra, y que toda intención de los pensamientos de su corazón era solo hacer siempre el mal. 6Y le pesó al SEÑOR haber hecho al hombre en la tierra, y sintió tristeza en su corazón. 7Y el SEÑOR dijo: Borrare de la faz de la tierra al hombre que he creado, desde el hombre hasta el ganado, los reptiles y las aves del cielo, porque me pesa haberlos hecho. 8Mas Noé halló gracia ante los ojos del SEÑOR.

Genesis 6

5The 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. 6And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7So 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." 8But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

We must look at three issues here.

1. Is this a contradiction of the following scripture?

Numeros 23

19Dios no es hombre, para que mienta, ni hijo de hombre, para que se arrepienta. ¿Lo ha dicho Él, y no lo hará?, ¿ha hablado, y no lo cumplirá?

Numbers 23

19God is not a man who lies, or a son of man who changes His mind. Does He speak and not act, or promise and not fulfill?

1. (cont) What about this one?

1 Samuel

15También la Gloria de Israel no mentirá ni cambiará su propósito, porque Él no es hombre para que cambie de propósito.

1 Samuel

15And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.

The best way to describe this is that both scriptures are true. God is indescribable and His actions are beyond understanding. We can only use words of human invention through anthropathism to attempt to describe the indescribable.

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We also know that this is not a complete 180° reversal since God did not destroy all animals and humans, but left a remnant with which to begin again.

2. Did the Nephilim survive the flood?

No and Yes. No, in that they were wiped out by the flood. Yes, in that they did return after the flood. The fallen angeles were not yet wiped out, and came again to cause the same sort of havoc during the time of David as seen in the gigantes of the Philistines and the Lion-men of Moab.

3. Were the fallen angeles fallen at this point in time?

Yes. Just as satan got away unscathed from the Garden situation, he is active today ... along with his fallen angeles. We are in the same epoch in which this war is in continuation. The forces of evil are still trying to disrupt the work of God and His kingdom on earth, and they are no longer in heaven. And at this point in history, satan was thinking that this Nephilim idea just might work in ending the possibility for God to bring a Redeemer through the seed of woman.

It is important to note, however, as Derek Kidner says, that God doesn't clean things up halfway. He offers judgment and a way of escape simultaneously.

Genesis 6

9Estas son las generaciones de Noé. Noé era un hombre justo, perfecto entre sus contemporáneos[j]; Noé andaba con Dios. 10Y Noé engendró tres hijos: Sem, Cam y Jafet. 11Y la tierra se había corrompido delante de Dios, y estaba la tierra llena de violencia. 12Y miró Dios a la tierra, y he aquí que estaba corrompida, porque toda carne había corrompido su camino sobre la tierra.

Genesis6

These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. 10And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. 12God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth.

Noah was a righteous man, but not perfect. He was blameless in the sense that his genealogy had not been corrupted by the fallen angeles. And the corruption on the earth was linked with violence. We can see this through the vile statement of Lamech in Genesis 4.

Genesis 4

23Y Lamec dijo a sus mujeres: Ada y Zila, oíd mi voz; mujeres de Lamec, prestad oído a mis palabras, pues he dado muerte a un hombre por haberme herido, y a un muchacho por haberme pegado. 24Si siete veces es vengado Caín, entonces Lamec lo será setenta veces siete.

Genesis 4

23Lamech said to his wives: Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, pay attention to my words. For I killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. 24If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!

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Lamech characterized his generation ... violence! But Noe “found favor” in God’s eyes. How did Noah find grace? Through good works and community service? By reading the Bible daily? By being a role model?

No, but by faith in God ... AND, because of God’s grace! In Hebrews 11:7 we see that his faith was lived out by building an ark that would preserve mankind and land animals. In Ephesians 2:8 we see that this faith is actually, in itself, a gift from God.



Genesis 6

13Entonces Dios dijo a Noé: He decidido poner fin a toda carne, porque la tierra está llena de violencia por causa de ellos; y he aquí, voy a destruirlos juntamente con la tierra. 14Hazte un arca de madera de ciprés; harás el arca con compartimientos, y la calafatearás por dentro y por fuera con brea. 15Y de esta manera la harás: de trescientos codos la longitud del arca, de cincuenta codos su anchura y de treinta codos su altura.

16Harás una ventana en el arca y la terminarás a un codo del techo, y pondrás la puerta del arca en su costado; la harás con piso bajo, segundo y tercero. 17Y he aquí, yo traeré un diluvio sobre la tierra, para destruir toda carne en que hay aliento de vida debajo del cielo; todo lo que hay en la tierra perecerá. 18Pero estableceré mi pacto contigo; y entrarás en el arca tú, y contigo tus hijos, tu mujer y las mujeres de tus hijos. 19Y de todo ser viviente, de toda carne, meterás dos de cada especie en el arca, para preservarles la vida contigo; macho y hembra serán. 20De las aves según su especie, de los animales según su especie y de todo reptil de la tierra según su especie, dos de cada especie vendrán a ti para que les preserves la vida. 21Y tú, toma para ti de todo alimento que se come, y guárdate lo, y será alimento para ti y para ellos. 22Y así lo hizo Noé; conforme a todo lo que Dios le había mandado, así hizo.

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Genesis 6

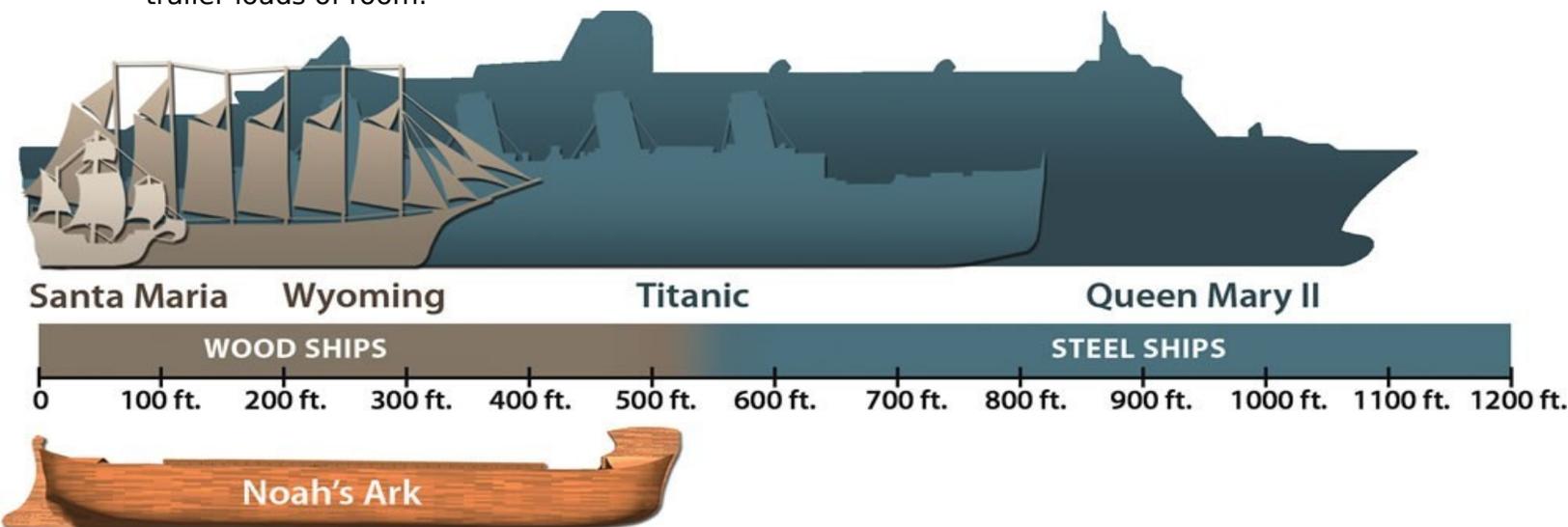
13Then God said to Noah, “I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth. 14“Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. 15This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

16You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within 18 inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.

17“Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will die. 18But I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives. 19You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20Two of everything—from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds—will come to you so that you can keep them alive. 21Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them.” 22And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Interestingly, the only other time the term for “ark” is used in the Bible is in the instance of Miriam saving Moses by placing him in an ark in the Nile.

Now the ark was not simply a boat thrown together over a couple of weeks in the backyard. It was massive! Answers in Genesis (AIG) estimates have the volume of the ark at 483 tractor trailer loads of room.



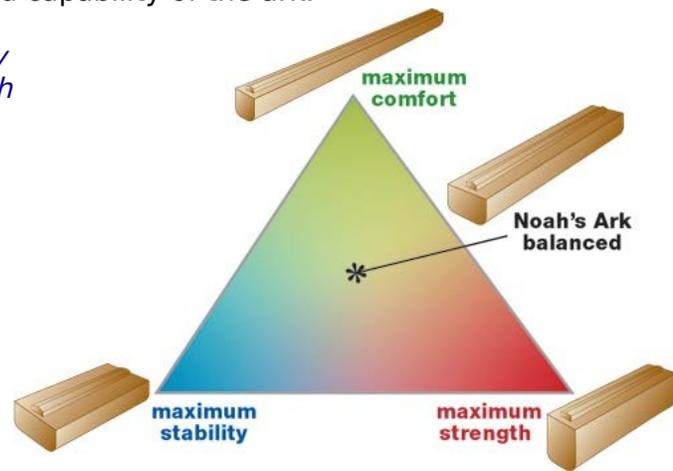
This is easily enough to contain the 16000 “kinds” or min (Hebrew), of wildlife with much room remaining for Noah’s family. Although it may seem that 8 people put the ark together over years, it is more likely that some people were hired to help out. Simply being hired, doesn’t mean you’re “buying into” the job you’re doing! Obviously, these people turned down the opportunity to board the ark at the time. It contained 3 floors, so it is reasonable to infer that each son might have overseen the construction of each floor. Conservative pre-flood estimates put the population of the earth at around 750 million inhabitants.

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AIG has an article by Tim Lovett dealing with the size and capability of the ark.

Noah's Ark was the focus of a major 1993 scientific study headed by Dr. Seon Hong at the world-class ship research center KRISO, based in Daejeon, South Korea. Dr. Hong's team

compared twelve hulls of different proportions to discover which design was most practical. No hull shape was found to significantly outperform the 4,300-year-old biblical design. In fact, the Ark's careful balance is easily lost if the proportions are modified, rendering the vessel either unstable, prone to fracture, or dangerously uncomfortable.



Wow! God's plan represented the optimal ark design.

Another reason evolutionists have trouble with Biblical truth is that the design, construction and capability of such an ark represent a good deal of intelligence. Consider the support structure needed to build such a vessel. The planning had to be remarkable. This raises many questions involving time, resources, manpower, capability of 8 people to care for the animals, etc.

Genesis 7

Entonces el SEÑOR dijo a Noé: Entra en el arca tú y todos los de tu casa; porque he visto que solo tú eres justo delante de mí en esta generación. 2De todo animal limpio tomarás contigo siete parejas, el macho y su hembra; y de todo animal que no es limpio, dos, el macho y su hembra; 3también de las aves del cielo, siete parejas, macho y hembra, para conservar viva la especie sobre la faz de toda la tierra. 4Porque dentro de siete días haré llover sobre la tierra cuarenta días y cuarenta noches, y borraré de la faz de la tierra a todo ser viviente que he creado. 5Y Noé hizo conforme a todo lo que el SEÑOR le había mandado. 6Noé tenía seiscientos años cuando el diluvio de las aguas vino sobre la tierra. 7Entonces entró Noé en el arca, y con él sus hijos, su mujer y las mujeres de sus hijos, a causa de las aguas del diluvio. 8De los animales limpios y de los animales que no son limpios, de las aves y de todo lo que se arrastra sobre la tierra, 9de dos en dos entraron con Noé en el arca, macho y hembra, como Dios había ordenado a Noé. 10Y aconteció que a los siete días las aguas del diluvio vinieron sobre la tierra.

Genesis 7

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. 2Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. 3Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. 4For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. 5And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. 6And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. 7And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. 8Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, 9There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. 10And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

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Here we have the classic mirror of the “end” time ... with flood replaced with fire. Those who are faithless, will now pay for their faithlessness ... with their lives. In fact, they will welcome death.

Apocalipsis 6

Y los reyes de la tierra, y los grandes, los comandantes, los ricos, los poderosos, y todo siervo y todo libre, se escondieron en las cuevas y entre las peñas de los montes; 16y decían* a los montes y a las peñas: Caed sobre nosotros y escondednos de la presencia del que está sentado en el trono y de la ira del Cordero, 17porque ha llegado el gran día de la ira de ellos, ¿y quién podrá sostenerse?

Revelation 6

Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the military commanders, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17because the great day of Their wrath has come! And who is able to stand?”

4. There also may be a question as to why God said He would destroy “every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will die”, and “destroy them along with the earth” when we would suspect that marine life would be impervious to a flood.

In fact, no marine life is listed as coming aboard the ark; nor were accommodations made for these. God did not destroy all life on earth. HE always provides a simultaneous way of escape ... and judgment! Moreover, the answer lies in understanding the verbiage used by Moses, the Jewish writer. On earth, “face of the earth” and under heaven can be taken to mean on land ... on Pangea (more specifically) (more on this shortly). In other places in the Bible, under the earth, and/or in the sea mean a largely different location. Additionally, God did not destroy the earth (as we know it) completely ... nor will He. The earth was flooded and greatly transformed into a “new” earth (with multiple islands and oceans), and the same sort of thing will happen by fire during the end time. Consider the following scripture.

Psalmos 104

5Él estableció la tierra sobre sus cimientos, para que jamás sea sacudida.

Psalm 104

5He established the earth on its foundations; it will never be shaken.

4. (cont) BUT doesn't Peter say:

1 Pedro 3

en el cual los cielos serán destruidos por fuego y los elementos se fundirán con intenso calor! 13Pero, según su promesa, nosotros esperamos nuevos cielos y nueva tierra, en los cuales mora la justicia.

1 Peter 3

The heavens will be on fire and be dissolved because of it, and the elements will melt with the heat. 13But based on His promise, we wait for the new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell.

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Yes, but the Greek for “new” is the same word used in ...

2 Corintios 5

17De modo que si alguno está en Cristo, nueva criatura es; las cosas viejas pasaron; he aquí, son hechas nuevas.

2 Corinthians 5

17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.

In other words, “new” means “renovado, renovada”, “renovated” in the image of God.

Now, we come to the period of the flood.

Genesis 7

Entonces el SEÑOR dijo a Noé: Entra en el arca tú y todos los de tu casa; porque he visto que solo tú eres justo delante de mí en esta generación.

Genesis 7

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

It's good to revisit verse 1 in this case. Spurgeon notes that God says “come” into the ark as an invitation to salvation similar to Revelation 3:20. Salvation is in the ark ... as in Jesus.

Genesis 7

17Entonces vino el diluvio sobre la tierra por cuarenta días, y las aguas crecieron y alzaron el arca, y esta se elevó sobre la tierra. 18Y las aguas aumentaron y crecieron mucho sobre la tierra; y el arca flotaba sobre la superficie de las aguas. 19Y las aguas aumentaron más y más sobre la tierra, y fueron cubiertos todos los altos montes que hay debajo de todos los cielos. 20Quince codos por encima subieron las aguas después que los montes habían sido cubiertos.

21Y pereció toda carne que se mueve sobre la tierra: aves, ganados, bestias, y todo lo que pulula sobre la tierra, y todo ser humano; 22todo aquello en cuya nariz había aliento de espíritu de vida, todo lo que había sobre la tierra firme, murió. 23Exterminó, pues, el SEÑOR todo ser viviente que había sobre la faz de la tierra; desde el hombre hasta los ganados, los reptiles y las aves del cielo, fueron exterminados de la tierra; solo quedó Noé y los que estaban con él en el arca. 24Y prevalecieron las aguas sobre la tierra ciento cincuenta días.

Genesis 7

17And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. 18And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. 19And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. 20Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

21And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

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22All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. 23And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. 24And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

The length of the voyage is about 13 months. According to Genesis, the rain began about the first week of May, lasted to about mid June, and the “new” earth dried up about the first week of June the following year.

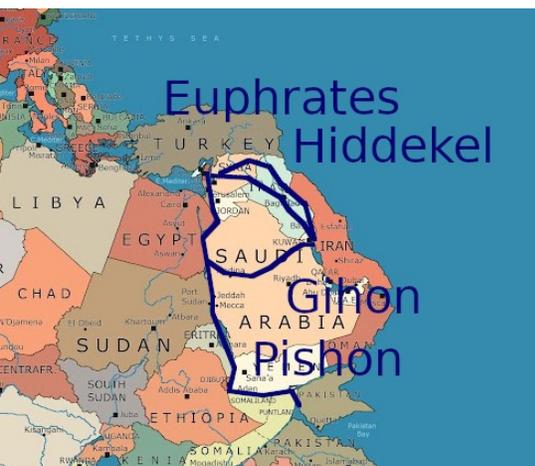
5. So what exactly happened to the earth?

If all water were removed from the earth, the average elevation would be about - 2400 m (≈ 8000 ft) below what the sea level was. So it's easy to see how the earth could be flooded physically. I, personally, believe that the drastic movement of the continents happened at the same time ... so that the waters were not calm, and any smaller craft attempts to survive were futile. Since the water covered the highest mountains of the day, it is reasonable to expect that all fowl were destroyed as well as the land animals and humans (why?). If Noah's ark were close to the original Euphrates river, the turbulence would not have been nearly as great. The geologic record bears out the historicity of the flood as seen on the third AIG video featuring Terry Mortenson.

Destruction of this magnitude is a world changing event, and the geologic record makes it clear that this took place. Let's observe the effect on the earth from the Pangean maps. If we look at splits along the Gihon, Tigris and Pishon rivers in which water gushes forth from the ground and spreads the plates, we would have a pretty good idea of the earth today. Let's look back to Genesis 2.

Genesis 2

10Y del Edén salía un río para regar el huerto, y de allí se dividía y se convertía en otros cuatro ríos. 11El nombre del primero es Pisón; este es el que rodea toda la tierra de Havila, donde hay oro. 12El oro de aquella tierra es bueno; allí hay bedelio y ónice. 13Y el nombre del segundo río es Gihón; este es el que rodea la tierra de Cus. 14Y el nombre del tercer río es Tigris; este es el que corre al oriente de Asiria. Y el cuarto río es el Eufrates.



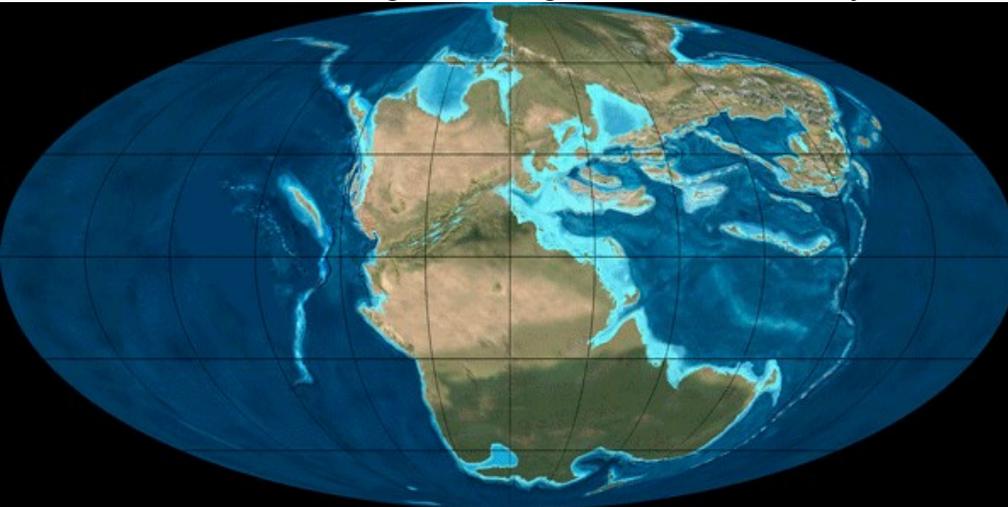
Genesis 2

10A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. 11The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. 14And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The movement of the plates into their current places (today) would result in massive flooding and deep fissures in what we now know as the ocean base. Based on a study of the movement of the tectonic plates (following page), one might “reverse engineer” in order to “locate” the Garden of Eden. One interpretation, based on the opposite direction of flow, would be in the northern bottom of the Persian Gulf (left).

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On the other hand, with the usual flow of these rivers, Ron Thompson (et al) have speculated the following map of the ancient rivers in Antediluvian time. The resulting analysis leads to northern Israel along the fault line as a possible location (right). I believe this is more consistent with the scripture and fits the scientific movement of the plates. Remember, though, to disregard the “millions” of years.



We know that God saved a few people along with much animal life during this hegira. HE also fundamentally changed the nature of the earth through the movement of tectonic plates (animation left). Remember that

accelerating natural processes is a common miraculous practice with God (John 2, Luke 8, Matthew 14, etc). When Noah and his family and the animals disembarked from the ark, the world was very much like it is today.

Genesis 8

14Y en el mes segundo, el día veintisiete del mes, estaba seca la tierra ... 20Y edificó Noé un altar al SEÑOR, y tomó de todo animal limpio y de toda ave limpia, y ofreció holocaustos en el altar. 21Y el SEÑOR percibió el aroma agradable, y dijo el SEÑOR para sí: Nunca más volveré a maldecir la tierra por causa del hombre, porque la intención del corazón del hombre es mala desde su juventud; nunca más volveré a destruir todo ser viviente como lo he hecho. 22Mientras la tierra permanezca, la siembra y la siega, el frío y el calor, el verano y el invierno, el día y la noche, nunca cesarán.

Genesis 8

14In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out ... 20Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. 22While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

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So in June the following year, Noah and his family came out of the ark along with the animals and offered a sweet smelling sacrifice of clean animals to the Lord. And the Lord was pleased and made a covenant with Noah ... which is still in effect. Again, note that only birds and earth creatures are included. Also note that this gives reason for the inclusion of 7 pairs of clean animals ... for the purpose of sacrifice after the flood.

Interestingly, many secular references to the flood use the term “worldwide flood myth”. This ancient story is found in virtually every inhabited part of the planet. The term, alone, is a contradiction. If separate civilizations, all over the world, independently have the same story ... is it really a myth? In 1 Peter 3:20 we see that If this were a fable, would Peter not have told us, having been with God Incarnate for at least 3 years?!? This story is bona fide!

Consider the epic story of Gilgamesh (right) of Babylonian origin. Gilgamesh was a giant (possibly the Biblical Nimrod) hunter/leader who sought eternal life. In tablet XI, Gilgamesh searches out Utnapishtim, a survivor of a worldwide flood. How did he survive? He was instructed by “the gods” to build an ark of specific dimensions, take his family aboard as well as representatives of every animal on the earth. At the end of the flood, Utnapishtim sends out various birds to see if he can open up. When he finally does, the ark is lodged on a high mountain in northern Iraq. He then offers a sacrifice in thanksgiving.



David Guzik makes a good point on the authenticity of the flood. Boice specifically cites the legends of the Samo-Kubo tribe of New Guinea, the Athapascan Indians of America, the Papago Indians of Arizona, Brazilian tribes, Peruvian Indians, African Hottentots, natives of Greenland, native Hawaiian islanders, Hindus, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Australian natives, the Welsh, Celts, Druids, Siberians, and Lithuanians. Of the more than 200 cultures that have their own account of the flood the following aspects of the story are common:

88% describe a favored family.

70% attribute survival to a boat.

95% say the sole cause of the catastrophe is a flood.

66% say that the disaster is due to man's wickedness.

67% record that animals are also saved.

57% describe that the survivors end up on a mountain.

Many of the accounts also specifically mention birds being sent out, a rainbow, and eight persons being saved. Funny how so many today call this a “global myth”. Maybe it's not so mythical if the story of a universal flood ... is found universally.

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Session 3 Quiz

1. ____ and his family were saved from the worldwide flood.
2. A few, pocos, or _____ people were saved in the ark.
3. The sons of Noah were _____, _____, and _____.
4. The ark represents _____ in 1 Peter.
5. The ark's complete voyage lasted for about _____ months.
6. The flood began in the month of _____.
7. The ark was about _____ feet long.
8. There is a striking parallel flood story in the epic of _____.
9. The four rivers coming out of Eden were the Hiddekel, the Euphrates, the _____ and the _____.
10. _____ were dramatically shifted during the worldwide flood.
11. _____ pairs of clean animals, and _____ pair of unclean animals were taken on the ark.
12. The reason more clean pairs of animals were taken may have been for _____ during the flood and _____ after the flood.
13. It's amazing that modern scholars can consider the flood to be a myth when the story appears in practically every major world _____.