

CONCERNING THE WAY

March 6, 2008

LESSON 13: GENESIS 7-8



Introduction - The Flood

In Chapters 7 and 8 the Bible describes a great flood that destroys all living things upon the land except for eight people - Noah and his family. We'll discuss whether this was a local or global flood, and take a look at some powerful evidence in the world today of a flood that inundated the whole world. Despite what you may have learned in school, keep an open mind as you go through this study! The rule, as we have discussed before, is to start with the Bible and see how what we observe fits into what the Bible says. The key phrase is "what we observe", not what we speculate may have happened millions of years ago.

- Dusty Rhodes

The Flood

Outline

7:1-4 God's instructions to Noah & his family to enter the Ark

7:5-12 - Entrance into the Ark

7:13-16 - God seals the Ark

7:17-24 - Description of the Flood

8:1-5 - Receding of the waters

8:6-14 - Testing for dry land

8:15-19 - Exit from the Ark

Genesis 7:1-4 *The LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, for I consider you godly among this generation. (2) You must take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, the male and its mate, two of every kind of unclean animal, the male and its mate, (3) and also seven of every kind of bird in the sky, male and female, to preserve their offspring on the face of the earth. (4) For in seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the ground every living thing that I have made."*

- God called Noah and his wife and the animals from within the Ark, "Come into the ark..." is how Chapter 7 opens. [Some translations incorrectly read "Go into the ark..."] After all were in the Ark safely, God Himself shut the door. God was not far off in heaven during the ensuing Flood, He was an on-board traveling companion with the occupants.
- God considered Noah godly - why? (we discussed this last lesson) - not because he was sinless, but because he believed what God said.
- Remember Chap. 3 - God promised that someone would come from the seed of the woman that would crush Satan's head - Noah could have been the only one whose family this someone could have come through, the only one who was genetically pure.
- Because God spared Noah, the Messianic lineage will continue
- Noah waited another seven days before the rains began. Ray Stedman suggests this may have been a memorial period for Methuselah who had just died.

- Prior to the flood the earth apparently enjoyed a uniform sub-tropical climate everywhere. There were apparently no storms (hence no rainbows, Gen. 9:13), no wind (Gen. 8:1b), no snow, ice, floods. Water from springs prior to the flood was evidently abundant (Gen. 1:10) and a generous nightly mist, or very heavy dew watered the ground (Gen. 2:5).
- The pre-flood world is also referred to as the antediluvian world. **It was no doubt very different than what life is like today.**
- There were no deserts or icecaps.
- There was probably a more extensive land surface and less water.
- The ground terrain was probably gentle, without the rugged mountains and deep canyons, which affect our current weather so much.
- Lush green vegetation thrived worldwide.
- Some of the richest oil and coal deposits are found at the North and South Pole.
- Had it ever rained before the flood? The Bible doesn't come right out and say it, but the Flood is the first time rain is mentioned, and Gen. 2:6 says, "*But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.*"
- If there had never been rain before, that would lead us to believe that the weather was constant, no change (rain is caused by change in temperatures), must have been a greenhouse effect with no tilt on the earth's axis to cause change in seasons. After the flood you have seasons

Canopy Theory

- A theory of some creation scientists that before the flood there existed many times the amount of water vapor in the upper atmosphere than there is today.
- This theory is attributed in part because of the account in Genesis 1:7 *God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.*
- A "canopy" could have created a greenhouse effect in the pre-flood world.
- This could also help explain the longevity of man prior to the flood. Prior to the flood men would live up to 800, or 900 years old.
- The canopy could have provided a shielding action against radiation helping prolong life.
- **(Studies today show that radiation does in fact speed up the aging process. The sun affects the aging of the skin.)**

Genesis 7:5-12 *And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him. (6) Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters engulfed the earth. (7) Noah entered the ark along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives because of the floodwaters. (8) Pairs of clean animals, of unclean animals, of birds, and of everything that creeps along the ground, (9) male and female, came into the ark to Noah, just as God had commanded him. (10) And after seven days the floodwaters engulfed the earth. (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 open and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. (12) And the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.*

What caused the flood?

- The Bible tells us that water came from two sources: below the earth and above the earth. Evidently, the source for water below the ground was in great subterranean pools, or "fountains," of fresh water, which were broken open by volcanic and seismic (earthquake) activity. These fountains perhaps supplied water for the rivers in the Garden of Eden, as well as the rest of the earth before the Flood.

- Most of the water for the flood would have had to come from the fountains of the deep rather than from the collapse of any vapor canopy. Very heavy rainfall, even for 40 days and 40 nights, would not likely yield more than a few tens of feet of water.
- All the water from the flood is still present on the earth. If one bulldozed all the continents into the ocean depths, the earth would now be entirely covered by about a mile of water today. For example the Pacific Ocean is about two miles deep on the average, while the continental US averages less than one mile above sea level.
- Most of the great mountain ranges we see today were probably built up after the flood by isostatic rebound, and by collision of the continental plates after rapid breakup and accelerated "drift." Before the flood the earth seems to have had just one continent. Division of the continents *may* have occurred rapidly "in the days of Peleg" (Gen. 10:25)--- which was about 150 years after the flood. This can not be strongly supported from the Bible except for the fact that the root PLG (Peleg) is found in modern words such a "pelagic" and "archipelago." All that Genesis 10 actually says about Peleg is "in his days the earth was divided." This could mean a division and migration of peoples rather than referring to continental breakup. Rapid continental drift would have been so disastrous in terms of earthquakes, tidal waves, vulcanism and other upheavals that many scientifically-oriented Bible scholars believe the splitting of earth's original continent ("pangea") occurred *during* the year of the flood.
- A number of scientists believe there was much more water in the earth's upper atmosphere prior to the Flood, producing a uniform, sub-tropical climate everywhere with almost no seasonal changes, violent storms or even regular rain and snowfall. This may be true - there may have been some kind of vapor canopy, but thermodynamic models of the earth's atmosphere show clearly that the earth's atmosphere cannot hold huge quantities of water.
- The strong language of 2 Peter suggests that Flood affected more than just the earth. Some Bible scholars have suggested the Flood may have been triggered by the catastrophic breakup of a planet between Mars and Jupiter where the asteroid belt is now located. The earth does show evidence that it has been hit by large asteroids in the past.

Genesis 7:13-16 *On that very day Noah entered the ark, accompanied by his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with his wife and his sons' three wives. (14) They entered, along with every living creature after its kind, every animal after its kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, everything with wings. (15) Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life came into the ark to Noah. (16) Those that entered were male and female, just as God commanded him. Then the LORD shut him in.*

- God shuts the door - it's possible that after Noah and his family went in and God closed the door, when it started to rain and earthquakes occurred, that some of the people who probably ridiculed crazy old Noah and his ridiculous boat came to the ark and started pounding on the door to let them in. It was too late, God had given mankind many years to repent and turn to Him, but they refused. The door was shut.
- Is this a picture of what it will be like at the end of time, when God will shut the door on those who have not accepted His Ark of safety, His way of rescue in Jesus Christ? Now Jesus says, "*Listen! I am standing at the door and knocking! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into his home and share a meal with him, and he with me. Rev. 3:20* But it will not always be so. God is again showing His amazing patience and matchless grace, giving mankind 2000 years so far to turn back to Him. But someday it will be too late, just as it was for those who were left outside the ark. (2 Peter 3:3-13, Matt. 24:37-39)

Genesis 7:17-24 *The flood engulfed the earth for forty days. As the waters increased, they lifted the ark and raised it above the earth. (18) The waters completely overwhelmed the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the waters. (19) The waters completely inundated the earth so that even all the high mountains under the entire sky were covered. (20) The waters rose more than twenty feet above the mountains. (21) And all living things that moved on the earth died, including the birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all humankind. (22) Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. (23) So the LORD destroyed every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, including people, animals, creatures that creep along the ground, and birds of the sky. They were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark survived. (24) The waters prevailed over the earth for 150 days.*

The Flood was a historical event!

- There are about 270 flood stories all over the world
 - They tell a similar story, with some differences
 - For example, in the Babylonian flood account (the Gilgamesh epic):
 - A council of gods planned the flood (polytheistic)
 - One of the Gods warns a man
 - Reason for the flood - too much noise by the humans - annoyed the Gods
 - Reason for the punishment was ambiguous - they regretted it later
 - Salvation of a hero - was done secretly
 - Size of the boat - 120x120x120 cubits (a cube) with 7 levels
 - Length of the flood - 6 days and 6 nights
 - Landing of the ark was on Mt. Necir
 - Birds sent out - a dove, a swallow, and a raven
 - After the Flood - a sacrifice made to appease the council of Gods
 - Blessing following the Flood - divinity and immortality given to human beings
 - Why are there similarities? 3 options
 - Genesis account drawn from the Babylonian tradition
 - Babylonian drawn from the Genesis account
 - These two traditions developed simultaneously but separately
 - Both traditions drawing from a common source - best explanation
 - It seems that there were written records before the flood (note all the “this is the generations” in Genesis) that Noah preserved and were handed down that Moses used
 - The event really happened, but as pagan peoples developed they changed the stories to fit their worldview - theism changed to polytheism, sin changed to “humans making too much noise”, other details changed or forgotten. Paul says in Romans 1 that this is what Pagans do - they suppress the truth
 - Moses came along in about 1446 BC and explained what really happened, from the written records and true story that was handed down from Noah throughout the patriarchs
 - The other accounts of the flood and creation actually helps confirm that the stories in Genesis actually happened

The popular view today is that the flood was local only - not global

- Why are Christians buying into this?
 - They are buying into a particular interpretation of the fossil record - millions of years of death

- They learned this in school somewhere and did not question it
- In their minds those assumptions have become fact
- If you do that, when you read the Bible you have to make it fit your preconceived worldview
- This is the “Accommodation” approach to the Bible that we learned of in earlier lessons - you accommodate the Bible to the latest findings of the scientific community
- The fossil record can adequately be explained by a worldwide catastrophe like a Global flood
 - This theory was first explained in Henry Morris’s book “The Genesis Flood” - interpreted the fossil record in terms of catastrophe
 - He challenged the assumptions that the scientific community was making
- A plain reading of the biblical account does not lead you to a local flood, it is very clear that it is global - Gen. 7 -19-23 - what does that sound like?
- Verse 19 - No matter what version you use, it’s clear that the meaning is the whole earth was covered How could you say this any more clearly?
- Some say that from Noah’s perspective it just seemed that the whole world was flooded, because that’s all he could see - look at Genesis 8:2 - this is information outside of Noah’s vision

If the flood was local -

- Why would you need an ark? Just hike to the top of the highest nearby mountain
- Why would you need to save the animals?
- Why would you need birds on the ark?
- Why build a large boat? Maybe build a smaller boat to protect your family - large boat makes no sense
- What do you do with the symbolism of the 2nd coming of Christ? In the NT there are comparisons made between the flood (ex, Matt. 24:37-39, 2 Peter 3:5-7,10) and the 2nd coming - destruction of the flood equated to the coming destruction of the world - this only works if the flood was a global event
- No one in church history ever taught a local flood
- Conclusion: the local flood view has no merit whatsoever

People generally want a local flood because they have accepted the widely believed evolutionary history of the earth, which interprets the fossils under our feet as the history of the sequential appearance of life over millions of years.

- Scientists once understood the fossils (which are buried in water-carried sediments of mud and sand) to be mostly the result of the great Flood. Those who now accept the evolutionary millions of years of gradual accumulation of fossils have, in their way of thinking, explained away the evidence for the global Flood. Hence, many compromising Christians insist on a local flood. Secularists deny the possibility of worldwide Flood at all. If they would think from a biblical perspective, however, they would see the abundant evidence for the Flood.
- Those who accept the evolutionary time frame with its fossil accumulation also rob the Fall of Adam of its serious consequences. They put the fossils, which testify of disease, suffering and death, before Adam and Eve sinned and brought death and suffering into the world. In doing this, they also undermine the meaning of the death and resurrection of Christ. Such a scenario also robs God’s description of His finished creation as “very good” of all meaning.
- If the Flood were local, people who did not happen to be living in the vicinity would not have been affected by it. They would have escaped God’s judgment on sin.
- In addition, Jesus believed that the Flood killed every person not on the Ark (Matthew 24:37-39). And what did Christ mean when He likened the coming world judgment to the judgment

of “all” men in the days of Noah?

- In 2 Peter 3, the coming judgment by fire is likened to the former judgment by water in Noah’s Flood. A partial judgment in Noah’s day, therefore, would mean a partial judgment to come.
- There’s more. If the Flood were local, God would have repeatedly broken His promise never to send such a Flood again (God put a rainbow in the sky as a covenant between God and man and the animals that He would never repeat such an event). There have been huge “local” floods in recent times (in Bangladesh, for example)—but never another global Flood that killed all life on the land.

How could a flood destroy every living thing?

- Noah’s Flood was much more destructive than any 40-day rainstorm ever could be. Scripture says that the “fountains of the great deep” were broken open. In other words, earthquakes, volcanoes and geysers of molten lava and scalding water were squeezed out of the earth’s crust in a violent, explosive upheaval. These fountains were not stopped until 150 days into the Flood—so the earth was literally churning underneath the waters for about five months!
- Relatively recent local floods, volcanoes and earthquakes recorded by humans in more recent centuries—though clearly devastating to life and land—are tiny in comparison to the worldwide catastrophe that destroyed God’s original perfect earth. All land animals (and people) not on board the Ark were destroyed in the Flood waters—billions of which were preserved in the great fossil (Flood) record we see today.

Genesis 8:1-5 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and domestic animals that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to blow over the earth and the waters receded. (2) The fountains of the deep and the floodgates of heaven were closed, and the rain stopped falling from the sky. (3) The waters kept receding steadily from the earth, so that they had gone down by the end of the 150 days. (4) On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ark came to rest on one of the mountains of Ararat. (5) The waters kept on receding until the tenth month. On the first day of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains became visible.

- Numerous expeditions have visited Mt. Ararat (El. 17,400 feet) in Eastern Turkey in this century searching for the Ark of Noah. Russian aviators at the time of the Czar reported sighting a great wooden boat high on the mountain several warm summers during higher than usually summer snow melt. More recently many Christian climbing groups have attempted to find the remains of the Ark, all so far without positive results. One can not be sure the present day mountain (a dormant volcano) is the exact landing site. The many theories and many annual Ark expeditions are reported in creationist journals on a regular basis. What could be most exciting about finding the Ark would be the possibility it could contain a library or records of the Antediluvian civilization about which we know almost nothing beyond what is recorded in Genesis 4 and 5. A comprehensive web site by B.J. Corbin is accessible online, at www.noahsarksearch.com.
- The genealogical records in the Bible from the First Adam (Adam) to the Second Adam (Christ) are mostly complete. From these one can deduce that the Flood probably occurred about 2500-3500 BC. It is possible that the great discrepancy between this date and the apparent age of things deduced from atomic dating methods may be a result of the non-constant speed of light. The initial velocity of light at the time of creation could have been one to ten million times greater than the presently accepted value

(299,792.458 kilometers/sec). Since Satan, or Lucifer, the "lightbearer," evidently had a most important and central role in God's government of the universe, his fall could be related to the observed drop in light speed. The Second Law of Thermodynamics seems also to have come into play at the time of the fall of the angels (or the fall of man). Prior to the fall the universe was evidently self-renewing and not degenerative, as it will be once again in the new heavens and new earth.

Genesis 8:6-14 *At the end of forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the ark (7) and sent out a raven; it kept flying back and forth until the waters had dried up on the earth. (8) Then Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had receded from the surface of the ground. (9) The dove could not find a resting place for its feet because water still covered the surface of the entire earth, and so it returned to Noah in the ark. He stretched out his hand, took the dove, and brought it back into the ark. (10) He waited seven more days and then sent out the dove again from the ark. (11) When the dove returned to him in the evening, there was a freshly plucked olive leaf in its beak! Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. (12) He waited another seven days and sent the dove out again, but it did not return to him this time. (13) In Noah's six hundred and first year, in the first day of the first month, the waters had dried up from the earth, and Noah removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. (14) And by the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was dry.*

How Long did the Flood Last?

Rain fell for forty days (7:12)	40
For another 110 days the waters rose, "prevailing" for 150 days (7:24)	110
The waters took 74 days "kept on receding" from the 17th of the seventh month to the 1st day of the tenth month (8:4,5). With 30 days to a month, the number of days were 13 plus 30 plus 30 plus 1 = 74	74
Forty days elapsed before Noah sent out the raven (8:6,7)	40
Seven days elapsed before Noah sent out the dove for the first time (8:8). This is implied in the phrase "seven more days". (8:10)	7
Seven days passed before sending out the dove for the second time (8:10)	7
Seven days more passed before the third sending of the dove (8:12)	7
To this point 285 days are accounted for, but the next episode is dated the 1st of the first month in the 601st year. From the date in 7:11 to this point in 8:13 is a period of 314 days; therefore an interval of 29 days elapses	29
From the removal of the covering of the ark to the very end of the experience was a further 57 days (8:14)	57
Total	371

That must have been a lot of water! Genesis does not describe a flood that lasted for one day.

Genesis 8:15-19 *Then God spoke to Noah and said, (16) "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. (17) Bring out with you all the living creatures that are with you. Bring out every living thing, including the birds, animals, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. Let them increase and be fruitful and multiply on the earth!" (18) Noah went out along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives. (19) Every living creature, every creeping thing, every bird, and everything that moves on the earth went out of the ark in their groups.*

Where is the evidence in the earth for Noah's Flood?

For they deliberately suppress this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water. Through these things the world existing at that time was destroyed when it was deluged with water. (2 Peter 3:5) All over the earth, there is evidence of

Noah's Flood, from sea bed to mountain top. 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.

Approximately 75% of the earth's crust is sedimentary rock. These layers of sand, soil and material—mostly laid down by water—were once soft like mud, but now hardened like stone. Buried in these sedimentary layers are billions of dead things (fossils of plants and animals) buried very, very quickly. The evidence all over the earth is staring everyone in the face!

"The Flood of Noah's day was the greatest catastrophe in earth history, and it involved much more than rain. It reshaped the surface of the earth, spawning massive volcanoes and earthquakes that dwarf anything observed in modern times. Such a tremendous catastrophe would have radically altered the earth's climate, resulting in an ice age." Michael Oard

That's it for the main lesson this time, but if you're interested in more detail about how the fossil and geologic record of the earth can be explained by the Flood, read on. The following information is from the "Answers in Genesis" and "Truthnet" web sites. Answers in Genesis has a wealth of scientific information about the Biblical accounts of creation and the Flood. Also, two excellent resources are "*In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood*" by Dr. Walt Brown, and Henry Morris' classic book "The Genesis Flood".

Dusty Rhodes

The Surface of the Earth, Rocks and Fossils - What are they Evidence of?

1. Slow processes over millions of years. **(OR)**
2. Recent cataclysmic events over thousands of years.

Consider an individual who does not believe in Scripture.

- How would they explain how the earth's rock layers, fossils, mountains and valleys came to be?
- Answer: Through processes that take millions of years.
- The processes of erosion, sedimentation and plate tectonics that occurred in the past produced what we observe around us and those same processes are still working today.
- Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon? What are you told about how it formed?
- *The Colorado River through the slow process of erosion carved out the canyon over millions of years..*

(Even on a vacation you need to be ready to discern naturalistic presuppositions)

If these processes took millions of years, and recorded history only goes back thousands of years, how do they know how it happened? Many people are looking for ways to explain our world through natural processes eliminating the need for a Creator God. The Bible predicted this would happen.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing to be wise, they became fools,

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen Romans 1:20-22, 25 (NASB)

Many people are looking for evidence to prove the Bible. It doesn't work that way.

- As Christians we want to use the Bible to understand the evidence, to understand the world we live in, present, past and future.
- The evidence around us only makes sense in light of God's Word.

The current secular theory of geology is called uniformitarianism, or the steady state theory (**what's been has always been**). The idea is that geologic formations occur over long periods of time and in a uniform manner.

- The concept is that geological processes occur by the action of natural laws that are always the same, and by processes that can be observed today.
- The college textbook, *Earth Science*, states the following about uniformitarianism:
- *'Uniformitarianism is a fundamental concept in modern geology. It simply states that the physical, chemical, and biological laws that operate today have also operated in the geologic past. That is to say that the forces and processes that we observe presently shaping our planet have been at work for a very long time. Thus, to understand ancient rocks, we must first understand present-day processes and their results. This idea is commonly stated by saying the present is the key to the past'*

But there is another way of looking at it, a way that agrees with the Bible. The Biblical way of looking at the rocks and fossils is called catastrophism.

- Catastrophism is the theory that a significant portion of the geologic structure of the earth was formed in a global catastrophe of short duration, years rather than millions of years.
- This would include God's original creation action, the fall of man, and the biblical flood of Noah.
- **(Also, things had to be created with a level of maturity: Adam was an adult, trees with growth rings, animals told to multiply, fruit with seed in them)**
- The same college textbook quoted above to define uniformitarianism also defines catastrophism as such: *"Catastrophists believed that the earth's landscape had been developed primarily by great catastrophes. Features such as mountains and canyons, which today we know take great periods of time to form, were explained as having been produced by sudden and often worldwide disasters **produced by unknowable causes that no longer operate.**"* (6, pg. 242)
- Another way of saying this, and what they are referring to, is that God doesn't exist and that everything can be explained in terms of natural laws and processes.
- Of course the naturalistic worldview has to take this view. There can be no other alternative if the starting point for interpreting the evidence is that there is no God.
- Catastrophism is supported by actual, recorded history. Nearly 300 ancient flood legends have survived. Legends of a worldwide flood are found in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, North American and South America.

- As we will see catastrophism is also support by the physical evidence as well. The Bible interestingly enough points out this fact that people would one day reject the creative power of God and adopt just such a theory as uniformitarianism.

*Know this first of all, that **in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, . Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, **all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation..*****

For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 2 Peter 3:3-6 (NASB)

Where did all of the Earth's Water come From?

There are multiple theories:

- On NASA's website the question is asked, "Why is there so much water on the Earth?" The response is as follows: *"We don't really know. One possibility is that the orbit of the Earth is the closest to the sun that water/ice can exist so that if a planet forms here and farther out in the solar system, it can get quite a load of water. Mars lost most of its water because it just couldn't hold on to an atmosphere and the water was photo-disassociated by UV light from the sun."*
- There is a contradiction here because current evolutionary theory requires that the early life on earth actually formed the atmosphere. If that's true why didn't the water on earth photo-disassociate like it did on Mars before the atmosphere formed?
- A Science News article states the following: *"Earth has substantially more water than scientists would expect to find at a mere 93 million miles from the sun. How did Earth come to possess its seas?"*
- This article goes on to say that the water could have come from comets, hundreds of millions of them, or smaller wet planets that collided with the earth.

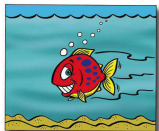
- The article also points out the difficulties with these theories: *“Water isn’t the only matter on our planet today that seems unlikely to have formed at Earth’s proximity to the sun. There are also compounds and elements that readily vaporize, including chemically inert noble gases such as argon, krypton, and xenon, and the elements nitrogen, oxygen, and hydrogen.”*
- A National Geographic article states the following, *“Scientists want to know if the Earth’s water was incorporated into the Earth as the planet formed or if the water arrived on Earth as a result of cometary [comets] impacts after the Earth was already formed.”*
- The following comes from Compton’s Encyclopedia: *“Most scientists believe that billions of years ago the Earth was a mass of hot, swirling gases and dust. Hydrogen and oxygen, the builders of water, were among the gases. When the Earth began to cool, atoms of hydrogen and oxygen joined to form water. Torrents of water flowed over the rocks of the Earth and began to shape the continents.”*
- There are problems with this theory: With no atmosphere the earth is too close to the sun to retain water. Any water would disassociate. The lighter elements did not collect in large quantities on the inner planets. Note the last sentence about how *“torrents of water”* shaped the continents. Sounds familiar. Of course as Christians we know where all of the water came from. God created it. The Bible says,
- *For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 2 Peter 3:5 (NASB)*

Is it possible that a worldwide flood once inundated the earth?

- What would be the effects on the earth’s surface of a worldwide flood?
- Could the water of a worldwide flood account for much of what we see today in the fossil record, canyons and mountains?
- People who believe in evolution relegate the Genesis Flood to be either a myth or a local area flood.
- People who believe in a Creator God, but accept long ages for the earth (**billions of years**), also accept that the Genesis Flood as either a myth or just a local area flood.
- You might ask, “Why can’t we believe in a worldwide flood and still believe in long ages?”
- The answer has to do with the fossil record and geologic column.

The Fossil Record is Key to Geologic Ages

How to Become a Fossil



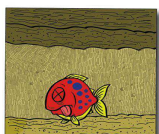
Step 1

Avoid the carnivores that would get you *before* you die.



Step 2

Avoid the scavengers *after* you die. (Difficult, because you are already dead.)



Step 3

You must be buried *very* deeply, as the aerobic decomposers (fungi and bacteria) will make fast work of you if you are only covered by a foot or two of mud.



Step 4

If you are buried *very* deeply, you still have a problem: anaerobic decomposers. These are slower but *very* efficient.

Step 5

You must be buried deeply and quickly, and the conditions must be right for lithification (the formation of rock through water, certain chemicals, pressure).

Step 6

You must be able to get up to the surface again in order to be discovered before you erode away.

You see, you can’t just die and fall down and become a fossil.
So there shouldn’t be very many fossils, right?

But ... fossils are abundant on the Earth.

Modern day geology acknowledges these requirements of fossil formation, *Rapid burial is an important condition favoring preservation.*

The National Science Teachers Association says the following about fossil formation: “*Darwin proposed the mechanism of “gradualism”, whereby a species accumulates small changes over many generations. Improved forms would be selected while less improved forms would become extinct. Darwin hypothesized that the fossil record in rock would eventually uncover these “gradual” changes of species, showing an accurate account of their evolutionary history. Recent evidence suggests, however, that gradualism is not totally supported by new fossil finds. **It seems that fossil gaps are actually not flaws in the fossil record but a true picture of how species have originated.** “Punctuated equilibrium” has been proposed as an explanation that supports the fossil rock record as an accurate account of evolutionary events. Fossil records indicate many species “maintain equilibrium” or remain unchanged and then “suddenly” new changes happen.*”

Of course the problem with this statement is two things:

- It's admitting that the fossil record does not support evolution because of the lack of transitional forms.
- It then goes on to say that the “real” way evolution happened is based on the fact that you don't see transitional forms in the fossil record.
- This argument is very convenient because the actual lack of proof that evolution is not true is now used to argue that evolution is true.

Here is how rare fossils actually are:

- Approximately 95% of all earth's fossils discovered are marine invertebrates (clams). Of the remainder, approximately 4.74% are plant fossils, 0.25% are land invertebrates (including insects), and 0.0125% are vertebrates (the majority of which are fish). Roughly 95% of all land vertebrates discovered and recorded to date consist of less than one bone.

The Geologic Column

Nineteenth century geologists assembled a geologic column, which is a composite columnar section containing in chronological order the theoretical succession of strata, fitted together on the basis of their fossils, or other evidence of relative age.

- Evolutionists use the fossil record as an index to determine the many long geologic ages.
- According to evolutionists, if we found a trilobite fossil, we could assume that the sediment we found it in is about 550 million years old because that is when evolutionists believe these creatures lived, died and were buried.
- If we found a Tyrannosaurs rex fossil, we could suppose that the sediment we found it in is about 80 million years old because that is when evolutionists believe these creatures lived, died and were buried.
- The concept is that the type of fossils found in the sediments determines the different geologic ages.

(Why do they think the fossils are that old? Radiometric dating.)

Right away of course there is an obvious difficulty. If the individual strata were laid down slowly over millions of years, but fossils require rapid burial, how can the two be tied together for dating purposes? However, if there was a worldwide flood, when would most all of these fossils have been buried?

- Answer: They would have been buried at the same time.
- Therefore, the fossils cannot be used as an index into the strata to determine different geologic ages because they would all point to one specific time.
- This means that if there was a worldwide flood, the earth is not millions or billions of years old.

Uniformitarianism, together with the Geologic Column, have been disproved by geologic features such as poly-strata fossils, misplaced fossils, missing layers and misplaced layers (including layers in reverse order or “ancient” layers found above “modern” layers).

Geologic Evidence for a Worldwide Flood

Evidence from Marine Fossils - Marine fossils are found on the mountaintops of every continent.

- Mount Everest has marine fossils near its peak.
- The Alps in Austria contain marine fossils.
- Whale fossils have been found over 400 feet above sea level north of lake Ontario, more than 500 feet above sea level in Vermont, and 600 feet above sea level in Montreal.
- Whale fossils are also found in the Andes Mountains of South America in mass whale graveyards indicating rapid burial. At different locations in Peru over 500 whale fossils have been found. In the photo below of the hill *Cerro Queso Grande* over 60 whale fossils were found. Of all of the fossils found there is no evidence of scavenging or predatory attacks.

How did all these marine fossils get up on the mountains? The only answer is that at one time in the history of the earth, all of these mountains had to be covered with water. There are two explanations for how the ocean waters covered the mountains.

1. Biblical explanation: The Genesis worldwide flood.
2. Evolution explanation: The continents sank underneath the oceans and came back up.

Evidence from Fossil Graveyards - Vast fossil graveyards are found all over the world. Sometimes there are thousands, or more, creatures buried and fossilized together.

- How does something get fossilized? Not by long, slow processes. An organism must be covered rapidly by the sediments to keep out scavengers and oxygen.
- It would take a catastrophic event to bury thousands of animals in these graveyards, which are located all over the world. Large fossil graveyards have been discovered in New Mexico, Canada, Wyoming, Tanzania, Belgium, Mongolia, the Gobi Desert of Central Asia, and many other places.
- The most common fossils are clams found in the closed position. Snail fossils are also found.
- How do so many creatures all get buried and fossilized in one location? It would take a large catastrophic event to bury so many animals quickly, and these fossil graveyards are found worldwide. This is consistent with the Biblical description of the Genesis Flood.

Geologic Processes

When we turn to our geology books, we are led to believe that large canyons take thousands or millions of years to form by rivers running through them. Is this true?

Pyroclastic Flows - Mount Saint Helens

On May 18, 1980 the volcano Mount Saint Helens erupted.

- At 8:32 am an earthquake of magnitude 5.1 struck Mount St. Helens. This resulted in the largest observed landslide in history.
- The entire side of the mountain slid down into Spirit Lake causing a wave over 800 feet high onto the north shore of the lake.
- Following the volcanic blast came tremendous pyroclastic flows (hot gas mixed with volcanic fragments) moving down the mountain at speeds of over 70 miles per hour with temperatures over 800 degrees.
- In addition to the pyroclastic flows, there were tremendous mudflows that occurred because of all the snow and ice on top of the mountain that suddenly melted.
- These mudflows flowed off the mountain at over 50 miles per hour with such force that some extended for over 20 miles past the mountain.



What was the effect of all this devastation?

- Many large canyons were created in a very short time.
- One of these canyons was nicknamed the “*Little Grand Canyon*” because its formations resemble that of the Grand Canyon.
- It is one-fortieth the size of the Grand Canyon. The canyon has plateaus that resemble the north and south rims of the Grand Canyon. It also has side canyons that resemble side canyons found in the Grand Canyon.
- The question is, “How long did it take to make this canyon?” One day. This fact should call into question the necessity for long ages to make large canyons.

The Scablands in Eastern Washington

In the eastern part of Washington state there is a large barren area of solid rock called the Scablands.

- Throughout the Scablands are many channels and canyons. Some of these canyons are hundreds of feet deep and extend for over 15 miles in length.
- The locals call these long, deep channels “coulees”.
- Grand Coulee is a well-known channel in the Scablands that contains the Grand Coulee Dam.

The naturalistic interpretation for how channels and canyons form is by long, slow processes.

- For the Scablands it would be rivers carving these formations over millions of years.
- In the early 1900's, geologist J. Harlan Bretz suggested a catastrophic flood as the cause of the channels and canyons of the Scablands.

Some scientists today fully accept the idea that canyons can be formed by catastrophic events in a short period and that long ages are not necessary.

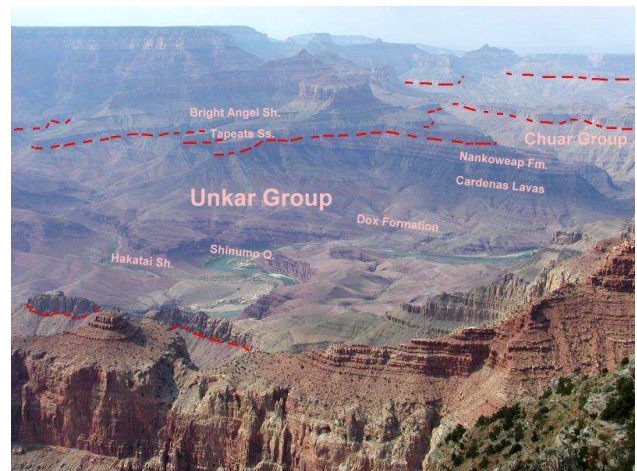
- The United States Geological Survey states the following on their website: “*Such catastrophic floods raced across the southward-dipping plateau a number of times, etching the coulees which characterize this region, now known as the channeled scablands*”.
- “*U.S. Geological Survey experts have estimated the flow near the dam breach at 10 times more than the combined flow of all the rivers in the world.*”
- Stephen Jay Gould makes the following statements: “*I have questioned the gradualist orthodoxy before, in biological terms. I have argued that gradualism is a culturally conditioned prejudice, not a fact of nature, and I have made a plea for pluralism in concepts of rate. Punctuational change is at least as important as imperceptible accumulation.*”
- “*Dogmas play their worst role when they lead scientists to reject beforehand a counterclaim that could be tested in nature*”.
- “*Charles Lyell, the godfather of geologic gradualism, had pulled a fast one in establishing the doctrine of imperceptible change. He had argued that geologists must invoke the invariance (uniformity) of natural law through time in order to study the past scientifically. He then applied the same term “uniformity” to an empirical claim about rates of processes, arguing that change must be slow, steady, and gradual, and that big results can only arise as the accumulation of small changes.*”

We agree with Gould. The evidence does not indicate slow processes, rather quick change.

Grand Canyon

The steady-state explanation is that the Colorado River took millions of years to form the Grand Canyon. However, there are some problems with this interpretation.

- In the picture on the right the red line shows a geologic unconformity.
- An unconformity represents a time in the geologic column where rock layers are missing.
- This unconformity in the Grand Canyon divides rock layers with fossils from those with no fossils.
- Unconformities are found everywhere across the world.
- According to the USGS this unconformity in the Grand Canyon is around a 1.2 billion year gap.
- There is no sign of erosion between the two layers, which means they were laid down rapidly one on top of the other.



- How could a river that is only several hundred feet wide have enough energy to carve out the Grand Canyon, which is over 15 miles wide at parts?
- Where are all the sediments that the Colorado River supposedly pushed out to make the canyon?
- The answer is that the sediments are more than 15 miles out into the gulf.
- It would take a catastrophic movement of water to push this much sediment that far out into the gulf.
- Why does the canyon contain hundreds of thousands of square miles of parallel strata? If the canyon took millions of years to form, then there should be signs of erosion between the strata, but they are not there.
- Parallel strata are formed by large amounts of rapidly running water and mud flows, as observed from Mount St Helens, and underwater landslides
- The top, surface layer is the Kaibab Limestone and is dated to 250 million years ago.
- How can the top surface layer of the Grand Canyon be dated to 250 million years ago? What's been happening for the past 250 million years?

Finally, the Native Indian population (Havasupai Tribe) has a local flood legend to describe the formation of the Grand Canyon.

"Before there were any people on earth there were two gods. Tochapa of goodness and Hokomata of evil. Tochapa had a daughter named Pu-keh-eh, whom he hoped would become the mother of all living. Hokomata the evil was determined that no such thing should take place, and he covered the world with a great flood. Tochapa the good felled a great tree and hollowed out the trunk. He placed Pu-keh-eh in the hollowed trunk and when the water rose and flooded the earth she was secure in her improvised boat. Finally the flood waters fell and mountain peaks emerged. Rivers were created; and one of them cut the great gushing fissure, which became the Grand Canyon. Pu-keh-eh in her log came to rest on the new earth. She stepped forth and beheld an empty world. When the land became dry, a great golden sun rose in the east and warmed the earth and caused her to conceive. In time, she gave birth to a male child. Later a waterfall caused her to conceive and she gave birth to a girl. From the union of these two mortal children came all the people on the earth. The first were the Havasupai, and the voice of Tochapa spoke to them and told them to live forever in peace in their canyon of good earth and pure water where there would always be plenty for all!"

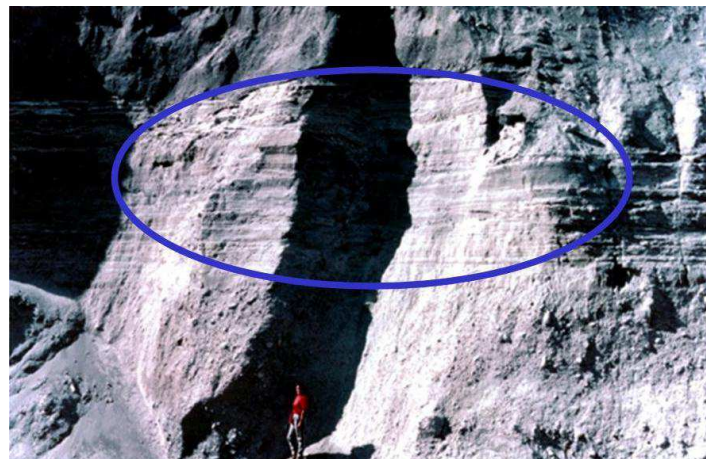
This of course is a recognizable version of the worldwide flood of Noah's day.

The conclusion about the Grand Canyon is that the geological evidence supports a rapid formation and not millions of years.

Rapid Sedimentation

Most textbooks claim that when we observe many thin layers of sediment (called lamina), sometimes only millimeters thick, that it took a season, a year, or years to lay each of the layers down.

- The picture on the right shows a canyon containing thousands of thin layers. If someone did not know when it was formed, the naturalistic interpretation might be that the canyon is thousands of years old.
- However, this canyon was formed in one day by a mudflow from Mount St. Helens in 1982. Note the thin layers of sedimentation in the Mt. Saint Helens' canyon, which were formed rapidly.



(Liquefaction and turbidites are two more observable evidences for rapid sedimentation.)

Liquefaction

Liquefaction is the process of making or becoming liquid. During earthquakes water saturated sediments can break apart and form into a thick mud.

- The liquefied sediment not only moves about beneath the surface but may also rise through fissures and erupt as mud boils and mud volcanoes.

- Slight differences in density, size, or shape of particles will cause them to fall at slightly different speeds. Their relative positions will change until the water's velocity drops below a certain speed or until nearly identical sized particles are adjacent to each other, so they will fall at the same speed.
- This sorting produces the layering typical in sedimentary rocks. A worldwide flood would have caused massive liquefaction to occur and leave thinly layered sediments rapidly.

Liquefaction has been observed in many recent earthquakes. Some of these earthquakes include: Alaska-1964, Niigata, Japan -1964, Loma Prieta, CA -1989, Kobe, Japan -1995

Turbidites

Turbidites are the result of catastrophic water currents resulting in underwater landslides.

- In 1927, an earthquake triggered an underwater landslide off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada. The underwater avalanche covered an area of 40,000 square miles leaving a three-foot deposit of sediment in just hours.
- The result was a layer of sediment laid down rapidly.
- Turbidites are similar in character to many solidified rocks that have been studied in the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, which geologists thought had been deposited by calm waters.
- They now recognize that many, if not most of the rocks on land, are actually the result of turbidites.
- A layer, called the Tapeats Sandstone, covers most of North America.
- It would have taken a great underwater event to create such a formation.

Summary of Geologic Processes

We have just covered four observable actions that create rapid sedimentation over large areas, 1) Rapid erosion, 2) Pyroclastic flows, 3) Liquefaction, and 4) Turbidites.

- None of these geologic actions require long periods of time and all four are known to have caused most of the sedimentation on the earth.
- Now we need to ask the question: Are long periods of time necessary for what we observe geologically?
- The answer is no.
- It has been observed that large canyons can form rapidly. It is also known that many thin layers (lamina) can form rapidly.

Similar to Stephen Jay Gould's comments above, Warren D. Allmon (Cornell University) in Science magazine writes the following about uniformitarianism, *"As is now increasingly acknowledged, however, Lyell also sold geology some snake oil. He convinced geologists that because physical laws are constant in time and space and current processes should be consulted before resorting to unseen processes, it necessarily follows that all past processes acted at essentially their current rates (that is, those observed in historical time). This extreme gradualism has led to numerous unfortunate consequences, including the rejection of sudden or catastrophic events in the face of positive evidence for them, for no reason other than that they were not gradual"*.

But what about other geological events such as coal and oil formation?

Coal Formation

Coal formation from an evolutionary perspective:

- Coal was formed from plant life buried in the Earth millions of years ago. "The Coal Age," which ended about 280 million years ago, was when the great coal beds of the world formed. After the plant life died, it fell into swamp water where it partially decomposed into a slimy, colloidal mass and formed peat. As the seas advanced and receded in cycles over the earth, they deposited heavy layers of sandstone, shale, and other rocks on top of the peat. The increased pressure caused the buried peat to dry and harden into coal.
- Most coal deposits occur in the same geologic strata known as the Carboniferous period.
- A coal seam is a flat layer having the same surface area as the swamp in which it originally accumulated.
- The Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia and North Carolina is one of the largest modern peat swamps. It contains an average thickness of 6-feet of peat.
- However, unless this swamp lasts for millions of years, even it's dense growth is insufficient to produce a coal seam as thick as some of the seams in Pennsylvania.
- Individual coal beds range in thickness from a few inches to 800 feet. There is strong evidence against long ages for coal formation.
- Polystrate fossils, tree fossils that sometimes span many coal seams (over 30 feet tall), are found all over the world.
- If coal took millions of years to form, then none of these polystrate fossils should be there. They would have rotted in

just years. This is observable evidence that coal can form rapidly. Other scientists have noted that the trees found in coal beds did not grow there, they were most likely washed there by some catastrophic event, such as a flood.

- If coal is formed by slow natural processes why aren't there deposits at all levels, instead of primarily at the "Carboniferous Level?"
- The devastation at Mount St. Helens (**the blast, landslide, giant water wave, mud flows, etc.**) caused many trees from the dense forest around the mountain to be washed into Spirit Lake, estimates up to one million logs.
- Over the past 20 years, many of these logs have turned upright and sunk to the bottom of the lake. Scuba divers have been to the bottom of the lake and noted that the trees have their roots cut just like the polystrate fossils found in coal beds.
- None of those trees grew at the bottom of Spirit Lake; they were all washed there by the catastrophic event.
- It has also been observed that a three-foot-thick layer of peat has formed at the bottom of the lake from a mixture of bark and other elements. The naturalistic explanation is that it takes thousands of years for swamp vegetation to decay and slowly turn to peat and then millions of years for the peat to slowly turn to coal. **We now know this is not true, it can happen in a very short time as evidenced at Mount Saint Helens.**
- Experiments by Dr. George R. Hill and Dr. Don C. Adams at the University of Utah have shown that plant matter can be turned into coal in a matter of hours.

Do we need long ages for what we observe geologically? No.

Oil Formation

Oil formation from an evolutionary perspective:

- *"Complete agreement has not yet been reached as to how liquid petroleum is produced in nature. It is generally believed that the remains of the plants and animals, when buried in mud, develop a reducing environment which protects them from destruction by oxidation".*
- *"Geologists generally agree that crude oil was formed over millions of years from the remains of tiny aquatic plants and animals that lived in ancient seas. There may be bits of brontosaurus thrown in for good measure, but petroleum owes its existence largely to one-celled marine organisms. As these organisms died, they sank to the seabed. Usually buried with sand and mud, they formed an organic-rich layer that eventually turned to sedimentary rock."*

In 1971, in an article titled "Converting Organic Wastes to Oil," published by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, Hayden R Appell, Y. C. Fu and Sam Friedman reported that petroleum can be produced from organic matter in only 20 minutes.

A \$22.4 million proposal was approved in Western Australia for the world's first plant to make oil from sewage sludge. The sludge is heated without oxygen to 4500 C in one reactor, and then in a second reactor, the resultant vapors are allowed to contact the residue from the first. This speeds up their breakdown into a diesel grade fuel oil. The process, which requires no outside substances, essentially involves heating without oxygen. The technology, described as one that "mimics nature," produces oil in much the same way that nature produces oil, but is completed in around 30 minutes.

Again, do we need long ages for what we observe geologically? No.

CONCLUSION

Long Geological Ages?

The idea that long ages are necessary to describe the earth's history is unfounded. It is not Biblical nor is it based on observable science. The necessity for long ages only comes from the idea of evolution. Each of the following geologic features has been observed or can be explained in short time periods.

- Coal and Oil
- The formation of large canyons in days vs. millions of years
- Sedimentation being laid down in days vs. millions of years
- Nearly all of the great mountain areas of the world have been found to have marine fossils near their summits. A conclusion drawn from this observation is that the mountains have all been uplifted essentially simultaneously and quite recently.
- Even secular scientists are beginning to question the theories of uniformitarianism (Gould and Allman).

The Bible warns that in the last days scoffers will come who willfully forget the doctrine of judgment and ignore the Biblical account of a worldwide flood.

Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, . Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation. For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 2 Peter 3:3-6 (NASB)

Do we need long ages to support what we observe geologically?

- The answer is NO!
- The creation of geologic structures and formations can be explained as the result of catastrophic events in a short time period.

Is it possible to combine the Bible and evolution?

Did God use evolution as part of His creative process?

- Not according to the Bible and the description of the Genesis Flood.
- The Bible clearly supports a worldwide flood, which eliminates the possibility of long ages.