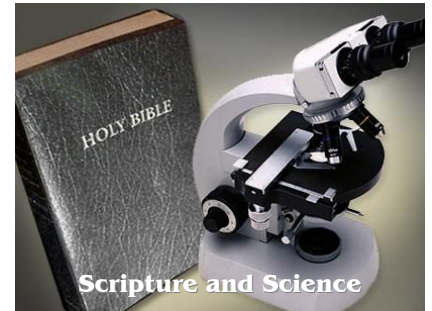


4 - What is the nature of the Genesis Flood?

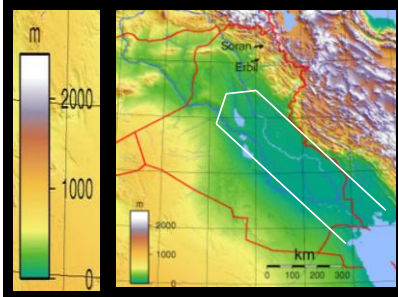
5/2/2010 – Jim Johnson

Some theologians and scientists disagree over the flood of Genesis 6-9,

Science and the Genesis Flood.



A. Some scientists prefer to treat the flood as a _____ event



Some argue that the earth, as known to ancient people such as Noah, was limited to the Mesopotamian Valley. (found in modern day Iraq) It is U-shaped and is roughly 1,200 miles long and about 300 miles wide at its widest point. The open part of the U is also about 300 miles wide and it rolls out into the Persian Gulf. They would contend that early civilization was limited to the valley. Therefore, when the Bible says that a flood destroyed the whole earth, it really only wiped out the population in that valley, thus making the flood a local event.

B. The _____ of Nature calls for a local flood

There are only 2 probable ways to explain the distress of the earth. Either the earth is billions of years old and is worse for the wear or the earth is not so old, but has been ravaged by catastrophe. Science, however, is built upon the principle of uniformitarianism – sometimes called the constancy of nature. This principle assumes that the natural processes at work today have been constant - always taking place at the same rate. Science says, “Things happen today as they have always happened.” But Scripture speaks of a flood that interrupted it all. If the flood was limited to the only the Valley – then the evidence for an old earth in the rest of the world would be untouched. This is partly why most every thinker that holds to an old earth also holds to a local flood and visa versa.

C. What proof do scientists offer for a _____ flood?

They contend that there would insufficient water, the lack of flood deposits, the impossibility of the current distribution of life forms and so on. There is also plenty of science that supports a global flood. Sedimentary layers and marine fossils on the tops of every mountain in the world, worldwide fossil and animal graveyards buried in sediment, instant canyons such as with the Toutle River Canyon in OR, and traditions from over 300 distinct cultures that have a world wide flood as part of their ancient oral tradition.

III. Scripture and the Genesis Flood: Scripture seems to present the flood as a global event.

A. The text is most _____ and easily understood to teach a global flood

When an every day person reads the Genesis account – they naturally understand it to teach a global flood.

B. The _____ of Gen. 6:13 is the same as in Gen. 1:1

The local flood folks tell us that the word “earth” was used in a limited sense and yet it is the same Hebrew word used in Gen. 1:1. Moses wrote them both?

C. Moses’ world was _____ than the Mesopotamian Valley

Conservative scholars agree that Moses wrote the book of Genesis. Moses lived his entire life outside of that valley. Why would Moses use the word “earth” differently than he understood it without at least qualifying it?

D. Noah was told to build an ark rather than to _____ the valley.

Noah had 120 years between the time judgment was decreed and the flood waters came. During that time he built the ark. (Gen 6:3) He could have walked a very long way over 120 years. (around the circumference of the earth over 5 times) Even if he had left after the rain began to fall, it would have taken him 25 hours to get out. But if the whole earth was to be flooded, then there was no place of refuge except for the ark.

E. The animals were _____ instead of dispersed. (Gen. 6:19)

During those 120 years God gathered the animals. If preservation was important, why would God gather them to the center of the calamity instead of dispersing them to the higher elevation? The mountains were only a short walk away in either direction. Why would you gather birds into the ark? They could easily fly, even at the last minute, if there was a dry place 150 miles away.

F. The animals would not need to be _____ if only the valley flooded

Why should God bother to preserve the few creatures of the valley if the vast majority of the animal Kingdom elsewhere were not threatened by the flood?

G. The ark was far too _____ for the limited number of animals in the valley.

It is calculated, by the dimensions of the ark, that it would have held the equivalent of 522 standard railroad stock cars. If the flood was local, the size of the ark would have been a tremendous case of overkill.

H. All the high _____ were covered with water. (Gen 7:19)

Moses emphasized that the high mountains were covered. Scripture says in Gen. 8:4 that final resting place of the Ark was in a seriously high mountain. Nearby Ararat is 17,000 feet high. The southern border of the valley doesn't rise any higher than 1,000 feet; even the northern portions are all lower than 1,700 feet until you get in the far north. Mt. Ararat is way up there northwest of the valley. It does not seem likely that a flood in that valley could cover up a 17,000 foot mountain.

I. The _____ was complete (not limited to the valley).

The language is clear and comprehensive. Every living thing upon the face of the land was blotted out not - just that of the Valley. Is it not conceivable that there were those who lived outside of that valley? Is it not likely that those who lived on the outskirts of the valley would have run for the hills when the waters began to build? And yet the Scripture tells us that *He blotted out every living thing* except that which was on the ark.

J. The _____ also testifies that all humanity perished except that on the ark.

Jesus spoke of a global catastrophe (Luke 17:26-27) and Peter believed it as well (2 Peter 2:5)

K. It took 377 days for the flood to _____

Noah and his family were in the ark 377 days - from entry to exit. Of those 377 days, water was released from God for only 40. The Valley is U shaped and that the end of the U is very flat and rolls right out into the Persian Gulf. The mouth is about 300 miles wide. As to elevation. It is the same or less at the drain to the valley as the valley itself. There is no dam at the end to block the water. Is it, therefore, likely that water would be retained for over 12 months in a basin that has a drain 300 miles wide?

L. The _____ returned to the Ark without finding evidence of dry land. (Gen. 8:9)

Ornithologists tell us that a dove is able to fly up 1,500 miles in one flight. If the ground beyond the Valley was dry and unaffected (no more than 150 miles from the middle of the valley) then why didn't the dove return with an olive leaf during his very first flight?

M. The Scripture is emphatic with _____ language.

The author Moses was almost ridiculous in his effort to communicate that the flood was a complete catastrophe. (Gen 7:21-23) It was as if God knew that the truthfulness of this account would one day be questioned –so He went overboard to make it clear.

N. God took an _____ part in the story -Gen. 7:16

Gen 7:16 tells us that God intervened and sealed the door of the Ark. This was one of many instances of his direct involvement in this saga. Gen. 6-9 is not just a tale of weather gone haywire. It is the story of God's divinely appointed judgment on some, and his miraculous preservation of others. The scientist needs to include God in his study if he is to truly understand what happened.

O. If the flood was local then it would seem that God has _____ to us.

God promised to never again destroy every living creature by a flood. (Gen 9:15-17) He gave the rainbow as a reminder of his promise. If the flood were a global event, then God has indeed kept His promise. He has never again completely wiped out all life with a flood BUT if the flood were a local event - then God has broken that promise hundreds of thousands of times - for in the days since Noah there have been many devastating and destructive local floods.

CONCLUSION

When it comes to the nature of the flood the Scripture sure seems to strongly teach a global scenario. Since the flood issue and age of the earth issue are so interrelated, it gives us an even greater confidence in a young earth.

Check out these web sites: Young Earth/global flood: www.icr.org; www.answersingenesis.org; www.worldwideflood.com. Old earth/ local flood: www.reasons.org; www.origins.org