

Noah's Flood - A Global Event

THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE BY WILLIAM T. PELLETIER, PH.D [WOODSIDE NEWS COLUMNIST]

Did Noah's Flood actually envelop the globe? Was it perhaps merely a regional event? Your answer profoundly affects your perspective on Creation/Evolution and seriously impacts your worldview. Only one answer fits the geological condition of the earth (see last month's column). More importantly, the Biblical case for a global flood is utterly convincing. Here are ten Biblical reasons to believe in a **worldwide** flood.



WILLIAM T. PELLETIER PH.D.

(Genesis 7:19,20). A flood could not rise to cover mountains without covering the world. For example, a local flood covering 17,000-foot Mt. Ararat on which the Ark eventually landed would have been a three mile high pile of water lasting for nine months (Genesis 8:5). Obviously the "local flood" hypothesis does not fit the Genesis record. Noah's Flood must have been worldwide.

PHOTO BY JO PELLETIER



Yellowstone's Grand Canyon

REASON #1

The Bible uses **universal language** to describe Noah's Flood. Note these all-inclusive phrases from Genesis 7:17-24:

all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered.
all flesh...perished
all mankind (perished)
all that was on the dry land (died)
all in whose nostrils was the breath...of life died
every living thing was blotted out only Noah was left, together with those...in the ark

The phrase "all the high mountains"

REASON #3

If the Flood was only local, **why build an ark?** Constructing a ship 75 feet wide, 45 feet high, and 450 feet long was a gigantic task, undoubtedly taking decades. Its capacity was equivalent to 522 railroad boxcars. All the animals, including dinosaurs, could be housed in only 1/3 of the space.

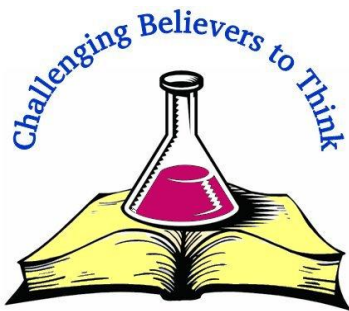
Why would God commission such an enormous project if it were completely unnecessary? Noah could easily have walked around the whole earth in 10 years. If the Flood was only local, why not simply migrate to a safe area? Why bring animals to the ark instead of leading them to safety elsewhere? Why not

flood: "All flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth. This (rainbow) is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature...for all successive generations. Never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh." (Genesis 9:9-17)

Therefore Noah's Flood, the flood that God promised not to repeat, could not have been a local flood; it must have been worldwide.

REASON #7

After the Flood, **all people were descended from Noah** according to Genesis 10. If no one else was left to



Preparing Thinkers to Believe

If the Flood was only local, why build an ark? Why not simply migrate to a safe area?

could be understood to refer to all mountains known to the author. However, the qualification "everywhere under the heavens" removes the potential ambiguity and clarifies that the author means the Flood covered the entire globe. Numerous other universal phrases strengthen this conclusion. For example, the flood waters covered "the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 8:9). Over 30 times such universal phrases occur in the Bible's four-chapter account of the Flood.

Forcing the universal terms of Genesis into "local" interpretations makes the text meaningless. How would you describe a flood if you wanted to report that it enveloped the earth? What more could you say?

The clear meaning of the text has priority unless there is evidence to the contrary within the text itself. The obvious intent of the author is to report a worldwide catastrophic flood which destroyed all land life except for that in Noah's ark. The Genesis record is not about a local flood. Noah's Flood was worldwide.

REASON #2

No local flood can cover even one mountain since **water seeks its own level**. Genesis reports *all high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered* by more than 20 feet of water

have birds fly to safety? Noah's Flood must have been worldwide.

REASON #4

The **duration** of the Flood means it must have been global. The Indian Ocean tsunami of December, 2004 took several hundred thousand lives in southeast Asia, India, and eastern Africa. Yet in each location where the tsunami hit, the flood was over in under an hour, and all tsunami waves were gone within 24 hours. But Noah's Flood lasted five months, and it took seven more months for the flood waters to recede and earth to dry. This far exceeds times for local floods which are over in a few days at most. Noah's Flood must have been worldwide.

REASON #5

God's flood **judgment for sin was universal**. God's clear intent was total annihilation—"to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish." This required a worldwide flood since "earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:7,13,17; 7:4).

Reason #6

God promised never again to destroy the earth with a

In His promise God could not have meant a local flood because many destructive local floods have come since then; these would have broken His promise many times. In fact, in the days of Isaiah 1,800 years after Noah's Flood, God used the inviolate nature of this promise to assure people that similarly His loving kindness would never depart from them (Isaiah 54:8-10). Myriad local floods occurred during this 1,800 years, but God recognized no violation of His promise.

populate the earth after the Flood, it must have been worldwide.

REASON #8

Other Old Testament books besides Genesis confirm the historical reality of a worldwide flood. See Job 12:15; Psalm 29:10; 104:5-9; Isaiah 54:9.

REASON #9

The Apostle Peter learned his doctrine from Jesus, who authorized Peter to teach in His name with His authority (John 20:21). **Peter** repeatedly speaks of the Flood as **global in its destruction:** "The patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water." (1 Peter 3:20) "God did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly." (2 Peter 2:5) "The world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water." (2 Peter 3:6)

REASON #10

Jesus believed in a worldwide Flood. He used it to illustrate His return. "And just as it happened in the days



Thus He (God) blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals ... and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the Ark. Genesis 7:23

SCIENCE *continued from page 22*

of Noah, so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating...drinking...marrying...until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. " (Luke 17:26-30; Matthew 24:37-39)
A flood which *destroyed them all* must have been a worldwide flood.

THEREFORE...

Why do some argue for a regional flood? The primary reason is to "rescue" the Bible from disagreement with what they suppose evolutionists have "proved." According to the Genesis record, the Flood covered all the high mountains on the entire earth; it destroyed every person in the world except for the eight on the ark; and it destroyed all birds and animals on the surface of the whole earth outside the ark. The Bible unmistakably teaches that Noah's Flood was worldwide.

Believing the Bible rules out thinking Noah's Flood was only local. Moreover, the fossil-laden sedimentary strata all over the world are remnants of the Flood still visible today. The Biblical worldview rightly identifies these effects with Noah's Flood and understands the Flood as God's global judgment on a sin-soaked world.

POSTSCRIPT

I'm writing this column on the road during a 24-day rolling camping trip through Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas. While marveling at scenery, I've imagined the titanic forces required to carve out Yellowstone's immense canyons and to raise the rugged Rockies. *The mountains rose; the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst establish for them.* (Psalm 104:8)

It's fascinating that official Yellowstone literature and tour guides now say Yellowstone's Grand Canyon was cut rapidly in weeks or months—probably by glacial floods and not by the Yellowstone River in the canyon. That's a huge departure from their previous "millions of years of river erosion" theory that had been so confidently mongered. I think runoff from Noah's Flood formed the canyon, or possibly post-Flood glacial action formed it as the earth gradually stabilized in the immediately ensuing centuries.

Some of earth's most stunning scenery and most striking geographic features resulted from Noah's Flood—canyons and badlands of highly intricate formations displaying hundreds of layers of sedimentary rock of varied hues. The evidence truly **floods** the world. What a terrible trauma Noah's Flood inflicted! What unimaginable upheaval in geology, geography, and weather systems—evident in so many awesome remnants from the Flood we've seen at Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Glacier, Badlands, Bighorn Canyon, and Roosevelt National Parks.