

The Book of Genesis

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The Flood: Causes and Effects

- I. The Duration and Depth of the Flood
 - A. The entire flood event lasted for 371 days!
 1. The powerful rains lasted for 40 days and nights (7:12).
 2. For 110 more days, the fountains of the great deep remained open releasing vast amounts of water that caused the Flood to rise over the earth (8:3).
 3. From the 17th day of the seventh month to the 1st day of the tenth month (74 days), the waters remained upon the earth – though they had begun to assuage when the fountains of the great deep were closed (8:5; 7:24 – 8:2).
 4. Forty days later, Noah sent out a raven (8:6-7).
 5. Seven days after that, Noah sent out a dove (8:8, 10).
 6. Seven days later, he sent out the dove again (8:10).
 7. Seven days after that, he sent out the dove the final time (8:12).
 8. The next date given indicates a 29-day interval (8:13).
 9. Finally, there were 57 days after the covering of the ark was removed (8:14).
 10. $40 + 110 + 74 + 40 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 29 + 57 = 371$
 - B. The waters of the flood covered the entire earth.
 1. The language of Scripture makes it clear that this was a worldwide flood.
 2. The waters “prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered” (7:19).
 3. In fact, “Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered” (7:20).
 - a. This means that the waters of the Flood were 15 cubits (22½ feet) above the highest mountain.
 - b. Remember that the ark was 30 cubits in height.
 - c. Fully loaded; it would sink nearly half its height – about 15 cubits.
 - d. Thus, the ark could float safely over the highest mountain without striking it!
 - C. Was the Flood worldwide or was it a local flood?
 1. The purpose was to punish all humanity and purge the entire earth of sin.
 2. The depth does not match a localized flood.
 3. The duration does not fit a localized flood.
 4. The building of the ark was unnecessary for a localized flood.
 5. The rainbow covenant demands a worldwide flood (Gen. 9:8-17).
 6. The Hebrew and Greek words used describe a worldwide flood (2 Pet. 2:5).
 7. Jesus proclaimed a worldwide flood (Matt. 24:38-39).
 8. Peter preached a worldwide flood (2 Peter 3:6, 20).
 - D. Clearly, the Bible teaches that the Flood covered and destroyed the entire world.
 - E. However, no flood of that magnitude could take place today.
 1. If all the water now present in the atmosphere were to fall in a global rainstorm today, it would last for only 1½ days.
 2. It would amount to about two inches of water (spread around the world).
 - F. So, what caused the great, worldwide flood in the days of Noah – and what were its effects upon the earth?

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- II. The Fountains of the Great Deep (Genesis 7:11)
- A. Note that it was the cleaving open of these fountains that initiated the Flood.
 - 1. The word ‘fountains’ indicates springs or wells.
 - 2. The idea of the ‘great deep’ includes both the seas and the vast subterranean water across the globe (Gen. 1:9; 2:10-14; Deut. 8:7; Job 38:16; Prov. 8:24).
 - 3. These underground waters could have been present under land and sea.
 - B. These fountains were “broken up” – literally, “Split or cleft open, broken into, rent open, torn open, or cleft asunder” (cf. Zechariah 14:4).
 - 1. This indicates the pressurized underground waters bursting forth into the atmosphere.
 - 2. It probably also refers to volcanic eruptions.
 - 3. This would have thrust great amounts of dust and other particles high into the atmosphere.
 - C. Imagine the effects of such volcanic activity taking place across the face of the entire planet at once!
 - 1. Tremendous amounts of “juvenile water” would have been produced.
 - 2. Great earthquakes (and tsunamis) would have been created.
 - 3. Extensive erosion would have occurred.
 - D. Truly, this was a catastrophic event that added to the devastation of the Flood.
- III. The Windows of Heaven (Genesis 7:11)
- A. The word ‘windows’ indicates a lattice work.
 - B. The verb ‘were opened’ means, “To be freed, thrown open, or let loose.”
 - C. When the fountains of the great deep erupted – spewing water, ash, salt, dust, and other particles into the atmosphere – the water vapor in the air (possible as a vapor canopy) began to condense and fall as rain.
 - 1. The vapor canopy theory would explain a global rainstorm.
 - 2. Consider that it took 40 days and nights for all this condensation to occur.
 - D. What would have been the effects of such torrential downpours?
 - 1. Tremendous erosion would have taken place.
 - 2. Unprecedented sedimentary activity would have resulted in the formation of numerous fossils.
 - a. This explains why all the strata of the earth are sedimentary.
 - b. This explains the great number of fossils found throughout the world.
 - c. It also explains the so-called “progression” of fossils up the “evolutionary scale.”
 - d. And it accounts for fossil graveyards, polystrate fossils, living fossils, fossilized footprints and raindrops, and “out of order” strata.
 - E. The result is the destruction of the world that then was.
- IV. The Mountains Rose, the Valleys Sank Down (Psalm 104:5-8)
- A. If the Flood really happened, where did all the water go?
 - B. The valleys sank – meaning that the oceans are deeper today than before the Flood.
 - C. The mountains rose – meaning that the mountains are higher today than before the Flood.