

## THE FLOOD

by Joe Spears

Evolutionists have made much of fossils. They supposedly illustrate the progression of evolution. Yet, there are serious problems with this fossil record.

Dr. Duane Gish has written a book about these problems. One big problem is the missing transitional forms—the “missing links”. Evolutionists have claimed that more primitive fossils are found in geologic layers lower than where more advanced life forms are found, and assuming the higher layers were laid down much later than the lower layers, the more primitive forms thus lived earlier, and the more advanced forms evolved from the more primitive.

However, let us not be hasty and jump to such conclusions. One possibility is that more intelligent, advanced life forms would be more likely to attempt to escape rising waters of a flood by moving to higher ground. Thus, they might become fossilized in higher layers than less intelligent, more primitive life forms. Also, concerning fossils and the layers in which they are found, the findings have not always been “in the proper order.”

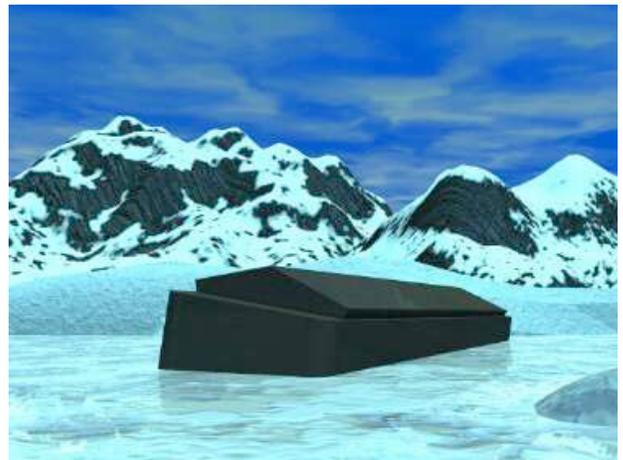
But, how were fossils created? One explanation is that they were created as the result of a flood. A flood would bury some material quickly, allowing it to be preserved long enough to become fossilized. This would protect it from scavengers. Fossils could have been formed in this manner, rather than as organic material that lay about in open air, undisturbed, long enough to fossilize. It is unlikely that dead organisms would lie undisturbed long enough for fossils to form. In forests, scavengers typically dispose of dead carcasses rather quickly.

### What evidence is there of a world-wide flood?

There are flood legends around the world. I have read that there are 180 flood legends on record, and also I have read there are as many as 500. Suffice it to say, there are quite a few. A co-worker from India told me that there was a Hindu flood story. There is the Babylonian epic of Gilgamesh. The ancient Incas have a story of

a time when the earth was flooded and all men were destroyed in the flood.

“They say that in it perished all races of men and created things inasmuch that the waters rose above the highest mountain peaks in the world. No living thing survived except a man and a woman who remained in a box, ...”<sup>1</sup>



The authors of *Cataclysm!* acknowledge other flood legends:

“Other flood traditions, examined more fully later, describe the Deluge as a veritable water mountain, as a stupendous wall of water, or as an irresistible foaming watery avalanche. Few, if any, liken it to an ordinary steadily rising, riverine flood.”<sup>2</sup>

The Samoan islanders tell us:

“The sea ...arose, and in a stupendous catastrophe of nature the land sank into the sea...”<sup>3</sup>

A Tahitian tradition states:

“In ancient times Taaroa, the principal god, according to their mythology, the creator of the world, being angry with men on account of their disobedience to his will, overturned the world into the sea, ...”<sup>3</sup>

And on and on we could go with flood legends.

From an unpublished manuscript:<sup>4</sup>

The tradition of a universal deluge is told by all ancient civilizations, and also by races that never reached the ability to express themselves in the written symbols of a language. It is found all over the world, on all continents, on the islands of the Pacific and Atlantic, everywhere. Usually it is explained as a local experience carried from race to race by word of mouth. The work of collating such material has repeatedly been done, and it would only fatigue the reader were I to repeat these stories as told in all parts of the world, even in places never visited by missionaries.<sup>5</sup>

The rest of the collected traditions are also not identical in detail, and are sometimes very different in their setting from the Noah story, but all agree that the earth was covered to the mountain tops by the water of the deluge coming from above, and that only a few human beings escaped death in the flood. The stories are often accompanied by details about a simultaneous cleavage of the earth.<sup>6</sup>

In pre-Columbian America the story of a universal flood was very persistent; the first world-age was called Atonatiuh, or the age that was brought to its end by a universal deluge. This is written and illustrated in the ancient codices of the Mexicans and was narrated to the Spaniards who came to the New Continent.<sup>7</sup> The natives of Australia, Polynesia, and Tasmania, discovered in the seventeenth century, related almost identical traditions.<sup>8</sup>

Clay tablets with inscriptions concerning the early ages and the deluge were found in Mesopotamia. Their similarity to the biblical account, and to the story of the Chaldean priest Berosus<sup>9</sup> who lived in the Hellenistic age, caused a great sensation at the end of the last century and the beginning of the current one.

Geologists see vestiges of diluvial rains all over the world; folklorists hear the story of a universal flood wherever folklore is collected; historians read of a universal flood in American manuscripts, in Babylonian clay tablets and in the annals of practically all cultured peoples.

What is the point of all this? What do these common legends of flood—world-wide flood—indicate? First of all, some might say they were copied from each other. This might be true in some cases, but these legends are from all over the planet and are ancient. Remember, in ancient times there were no telephones, TVs, e-mail nor internet.

Nor were there trans-continental jet flights. Also, I point you to the quote above concerning the unlikelihood of the “borrowing theory.”

But what if there *were* a flood and all alive today are descendants of the few who rode out the storm in the boat? It then seems reasonable that the descendants of those who survived might have knowledge, handed down from generation to generation, of things—awesome things—that happened to their ancestors.

### **Mysteries explained by Noah’s flood**

Of course, Noah’s flood explains all those flood legends mentioned above. I recall my father telling of finding marine fossils on a mountain where he lived as a boy. Those fossils indicate that the mountain was once under water, which is in agreement with the flood of Noah. And the flood may also explain more.

What does Egypt have in common with Central America? In ancient Egypt, it was believed that Pharaohs after death were reborn as stars. A similar belief was found in ancient America.

There are pyramids in the Americas, and we all know of the pyramids of Egypt. The tomb of a ruler of the Mayan city of Tikal contains a representation of a canoe upon which the ruler makes his final (after death) journey. The depiction includes animals or deities in the shape of animals—a bird, a dog, and an ape. Across the world, in Egypt, in the Valley of the Kings, the tomb of Thutmosis III, a similar depiction exists, where the king takes his journey in a barque containing the same three animals (or animal-shaped deities).

Why are all these similarities between ancient civilizations which are as far apart as Egypt is from Central America? How can the similarity of the civilizations of Egypt and Central America be explained by the Biblical flood? Obviously, if all these civilizations were originated by descendants of Noah, we might expect some similarity in their practices, beliefs, religion and culture. These descendants, coming from the same family, obviously could easily share the same values, culture, etc.

And how do we explain the existence of these civilizations at all? The oldest known civilization in Central America is that of the Olmecs. The mystery is that it appears full-blown—it did not develop over time. All of a sudden, it was just there. The same can be said of Egypt. From the beginning, both of these civilizations were amazingly advanced.

How can this be explained? If we take the hypothesis that the flood actually occurred as described in the Bible, then it all makes sense. Noah’s family would be starting

fresh, from scratch, and there would be no cities, because there were no people (other than a single family of eight). But these eight could easily have brought with them the knowledge and developments of a civilization over a thousand years old and the work of millions of individuals. The accumulated knowledge would be impressive and probably more than sufficient to account for the knowledge of the early civilizations of Central America and Egypt. Noah's descendants could have simply built the cities and used the knowledge brought with them through the flood.

Animals were brought on the ark, we know. Why not books and knowledge? There is a story that ancient Chinese herbal medicine derives from a book that Noah brought with him on the ark. Why not?

It certainly makes sense that something as useful as the accumulated knowledge of many years and the work of many people would be taken on the ark, in light of its usefulness in starting out afresh and beginning a new civilization. It is reasonable to assume that Noah's family or at least Noah had the understanding that he would be repopulating the world and rebuilding a civilization (or several).

Ignoring the story of the Biblical Noah and the flood leaves us with mysteries begging to be explained. We have to explain gaps in the fossil record, similarities between ancient civilizations, world-wide stories of a flood, and more that would not fit into this article.

The flood explains much that is difficult to explain otherwise. We have heard of amazing theories, ranging from ancient astronauts to time travelers, which attempt to make sense of our ancient history. The Bible stories make at least as much sense as some of these. ☞

<sup>1</sup> Father Molinam, *Relacion de las fabulas y ritos de los Yngas*, in *Fingerprints of the Gods*, Graham Hancock, Crown Publishers, New York, 1995, p. 55.

<sup>2</sup> Allan & Delair, *Cataclysm!*, Bear & Co., Santa Fe, 1997, p. 153.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 155-157.

<sup>4</sup> Velikovskiy I, Deluge, in Part II of *In the Beginning*, found at <http://www.varchive.org/itb/deluge.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Andree R., *Die Flutsagen* (1891); Sir J.G. Frazer, *Folklore in the Old Testament* (London, 1918); M. Winternitz, *Die Flutsagen des Alterthums und des Natuervolker*

<sup>6</sup> E.g., the Malaya story in Andree, *Die Flutsagen*, p. 29.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. the Vatican Codex, first published by Humboldt and the accounts of Ixtlilxochitl and Veytia among others.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Caillot, A. C., *Mythes, legendes, et traditions des Polynesiens* (Paris, 1914); H. H. Howorth, *The Mammoth and the Flood* (London, 1887), pp. 455ff.

<sup>9</sup> Berosus' story of the Deluge is quoted in Eusebius' *Praeparatio Evangelica* Bk. IX, ch. 12, and in Cyril's *Contra Julianum*, Bk. I.

## EVIDENCES FOR CREATION OVER EVOLUTION

*Editor's Note: The following is argument No. 13 of 21 arguments compiled by various persons who believe that true science and biblical Christianity go hand in hand. Earlier parts in this series covered arguments 1-12.*

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13. The idea of a conflict between religion and science is a product of the evolutionary mind. There is no conflict between the facts of nature and the revealed truth of the Bible. The conflict arises from the evolutionary interpretation of nature and its facts, an interpretation designed to eliminate the need for God and to relegate Him either to non-existence or to impotence after the first moment of creation. Contrary to this assertion of all being able to progress without a God, the design and complexity of everything we see in creation cries out, as Paul wrote to the Romans, about not only the reality of God, but about His eternal power and divine nature, which many choose to ignore, preferring a lie ("For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened"—see Romans 1:18ff.) Moreover, many of the founders of the scientific disciplines we are involved with today were Christian creationists not just by default, but as devoted believers. There are many scientists today who also are Christian creationists, contrary to what the evolutionists would have us believe.

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## COMING EVENTS

### Thursday, June 12, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh

Dan Reynolds, PhD will present "Information in Organisms: Evidence for Design." Can the information stored in DNA and proteins be used to determine if life was designed or the product of mere natural processes? We will explore this and related questions in our June discussion

### Thursday, July 10, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh

C. Gerald Van Dyke, PhD will present Lichens: a mutualistic relationship between algae and fungi. Dr. Van Dyke will discuss the implications of how such relationships could have formed by evolutionary means. Examples will be displayed.

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