Noah’s Flood: Creation Undone

Dr. Marcus Ross
I would like to personally thank you for watching the Origins television program. This show was special, near to the heart of my parents, Russell and Norma Bixler.

I trust that the information in this presentation will be helpful in your study of creation science. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Origins... you’re making the television production of this program possible!

Paul R. Bixler
Producer/Editor
Noah and the Flood

- Our views of Noah’s ark and the Flood are influenced by our experiences with images and ideas
  - What did the ark look like?
  - How long was the flood?

Sunday School has not helped here...
The Flood was an event whose purpose was to reduce the created world to ruin.

Parallels between Genesis 1-3 and 6-9 are many and significant.

Pitfalls of a local Flood interpretation
Noah’s Flood: Creation Undone

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Flood Facts

- Hebrew word is “mabbul”
- Greek word (used in NT and LXX) is “kataklysmos”
- Both indicate far more than just “flood”
40 days of rain (Hebrew: “geshem”) is only phase 1 of the Flood.

Waters rise for 150 days before ark sets upon mountains of Ararat

224 days before tops of mountains seen

371 days until Noah leaves the ark
“I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.” -Genesis 6:17

“The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet.” -Genesis 7:18-20
The Flood’s Totality: OT

• 30 occurrences of “all” in Genesis 6-9
• 32 occurrences of “every” and “everything” in Genesis 6-9

Not hyperbole.
This is emphasis.
“Only Noah was left, and those who were with him on the ark.”

-Genesis 7:23
“God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water;” - I Pet. 3:20

“...long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment of ungodly men.” - II Pet. 3:5-7
The use of Noah’s Flood is part of a 3-fold parallel in 2 Peter 2:5 and 2 Peter 3:1-7.

- Creation
- Flood
- Second Coming

Note: each of these three events is universal.
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Pitfalls of a local Flood interpretation
Earth is returned to a state of watery “unformed-ness”:

“The earth was without form and void, and the darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

Genesis 1:

“And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.”

Genesis 7:24
Key Parallels

• The language throughout the Flood narrative uses the same terms and motifs as the Creation account.
  – “Beasts of the field”, “creeping things”, etc.
  – Birds
  – The “great deep”
  – Order of creation/abatement of the Flood
  – Covenant and promise after creation/Flood
Key Parallels

• Noah as a “type” of Adam, with both similar and opposite traits.
  – Noah is a new representative of the human race.
  – He is obedient to God while Adam sinned.
  – He is the first to have a covenant with God.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Adam</strong></th>
<th><strong>Noah</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground is cursed because of man’s sin (3:17–18)</td>
<td>Ground will never again be cursed because of man (8:21)</td>
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<td>“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (1:28)</td>
<td>“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (9:1,7)</td>
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<td>Dominion and rule of man over animals (1:28)</td>
<td>Fear and dread of man over animals (9:2)</td>
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<td>Command to eat plants only (1:29)</td>
<td>Permission to eat animals along with plants (9:2–4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poetic interlude includes “God created man in his own image” (1:27)</td>
<td>Poetic interlude includes “God made man in his own image” (9:6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three named sons (5:32, 9:18)</td>
<td>Three named sons (4:1–2;25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One son (Cain) perpetrates grievous sin and is cursed (4:8;11–16)</td>
<td>One son (Ham) perpetrates grievous sin and his son Canaan is cursed (9:22–27)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Noah is a type of Adam because humanity has to start all over again.
The promises made to Noah parallel those made to Adam in the Garden.
Noah has the first stated covenant made between God and man.
Noah’s Flood: Creation Undone

• The Flood was an event whose purpose was to reduce the created world to ruin.
• Parallels between Genesis 1-3 and 6-9 are many and significant.
• Pitfalls of a local Flood interpretation
• The geologic record (including fossils) is a record of either:
  
  — Recent creation and the Flood
  
  or
  
  — Billions of years of life on Earth
Present
Post-Flood
world
(?)

Flood Rocks

Cenozoic

Mesozoic

Paleozoic

Proterozoic

Deep Geologic
History

Creation Week

Present

4.5 Billion Years

4.5 Billion Years
Noah's Flood

Cenozoic

Mesozoic

Paleozoic

Proterozoic

Deep Geologic History

Present

4.5 Billion Years
Pitfalls

• Old-Earth Christian viewpoints on the Flood posit either a local event or a non-historical myth.

• A key problem if the world is ancient:
  – Human biogeography (where we live)
  – At no point in an old-Earth view can Noah’s Flood wipe out all humanity.
The Biblical text argues more strongly for a global Flood than we often recognize.

The Biblical text draws heavily on Creation motifs to describe the Flood.

Parallels between Noah and Adam reinforce a new start for all humanity.

An old-Earth view requires a local flood, which cannot accomplish God’s task of judgment.
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