

Noah's Flood: Fact or Fiction?

For many the story of Noah and the ark is just that—a story. Many feel that it is something which has grown up as a rather exaggerated tale. It may have a little resemblance to something that happened long ago, but surely it could never be literally true—the idea that the whole world was completely covered in water and that only 8 people escaped in a large boat.

For many the 'fairy tale' nature of the ark and the flood is illustrated by the rather strange pictures we have. The ark is portrayed as a little vessel, with a small pleasure boat like cabin and the animals all struggling to get in. The giraffe's head is sticking out, into the air, the lion is standing shoulder to shoulder with the zebra and the hippo is about to capsize the lot.

Well is it all just a story? Isn't it all just a bit of an exaggerated myth? The Lord Jesus Christ didn't think so! He was convinced that this great world wide flood actually occurred and that it was a warning of things to come.

The Reality of The Flood

In that Matthew 24 Jesus is speaking about the end of the world, He says this: "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (verses 37-39).

He has made it clear (v31) that the last day of this world will be a time when everyone who is living (and in fact all who are dead) will be brought to stand before Him. That day will involve the whole world and so - just as that last day involves the whole world, so too did Noah's flood.

It wasn't some localised small inundation that affected only a small part of the earth, but a deluge that covered the whole earth.

This is why He says: "the flood came and took them all away." Apart from those in the ark, no one survived because as Genesis says, "And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered."

Even the highest mountains were covered for over 40 days. All land based animals died.

Now is Christ really greatly mistaken here? Is he someone who was a “man of His day” and so was unenlightened and rather foolish to take the book of Genesis so literally? With the declarations of various scientists, wouldn't he, if he were living in our day, now have changed his mind about the reality of such a global flood? Doesn't the evidence all disprove that there could ever have been a sudden world wide flood?

No—in fact the vast majority of the evidence confirms exactly what Jesus states here. If this worldwide catastrophe had occurred—surely we'd expect to see evidence of it in the world around us. Do we see that evidence—yes we do!

If we look in the rocks we find millions—an abundance—of fossils. Fossil are the preserved remains or traces of an animal or plant. Now what is the most important thing that produces a fossil? All are agreed that the most important thing is a rapid burial. If they are not buried rapidly—in a matter of hours, they nearly always decay or are eaten by scavengers.

Now in our day the sediments—the particles of rock and clay and soil which are carried in water are laid down far too slowly to make or preserve fossils.

Yet the sedimentary rocks which are found all over the earth are full of millions of these things. The abundance of these fossils and the complete way that they have been preserved shows there was a rapid burial, which took place all over the earth. This means that virtually all of the vast and great sedimentary rock on our earth was produced by the flood.

Many fossils clearly show that they were buried alive or soon after death. In Mongolia there was an extraordinary find of two fossilized dinosaurs, a Velociraptor and a Protoceratops, who apparently died whilst in the middle of a fight. In Brazil there are rocks which contain fish whose gills and muscles are so perfectly preserved that geologists believe they were fossilised very rapidly.

Many fossil trilobites are found rolled tightly into a ball, indicating that they were buried alive while trying to protect themselves. There are even female ichthyosaurs fossilised while giving birth to young and perch fossilized in the process of eating another fish.

Now evolutionary scientists will try to claim that these rock layers with the fossils in must have taken hundreds of thousands of years to slowly build up. But the fossils deny this. There would be no fossils, if it had taken so long for the rocks to be laid down. All the creatures would have decayed to dust or been eaten in that time.

And what is preserved is often so fine or delicate. Soft shells, delicate scales are a further evidence that the sediments in which they are buried were laid down rapidly, preventing decay. Dinosaurs and other creatures are often found in a peculiar pose, with mouth gaping, head thrown back and tail arched which scientists have said is all a sign of asphyxiation and drowning.

In 2010 a road was being laid in a desert in Chile. As it was being laid the fossils of 80 large baleen whales, swimming together in a school, was discovered. Apparently the researchers are stunned and asking, "Why is it that so many died altogether and at once and why so far inland?" The answer to that question is not difficult for those who know their Bibles.

All of this points to a sudden mass covering, where masses of soil and sediment have been carried by water across land and into seas. As a result of this great deluge, great tsunamis of water and sediment would have suddenly captured and buried creatures, entombing them rapidly and on a vast scale.

Some evolutionists say: "Yes we agree that the fossils must have been buried rapidly in water, but it was only due to occasional localised floods." But when you point out that the whole continent of America is covered in continuous sedimentary rocks which are full of fossils and ask if that was all due to a localized and not global flood, again the evolutionists will claim this is the case.

But also the whole continent of Europe and Asia are covered in continuous sedimentary rocks which are full of fossils. Was that all due to a localized and not a global flood? Again the evolutionists will say that this is due to localised floods across both Europe and Asia; and they will say that the same is true in Australia and Africa and South America.

So according to evolutionists there were these localised floods the size of continents: they say there are localised floods on a global scale. They never like to admit it, but doesn't that really just sound like a global flood on a worldwide scale?

Near Dover is Crab bay which has cliffs of white chalk over 300 feet high. Chalk is made up of dead microscopic sea creatures. Many scientists will say that these cliffs were built up over many thousands of years. But there is a massive problem with this idea, because the chalk is found to be very pure and white with no contamination or debris in it. You find similar examples all over the world.

Are we expected to accept that the chalk took hundreds of thousands of years to slowly deposit itself without any mud or debris being able to contaminate it? This would never happen. It is quite clear that when you look at the white cliffs of Dover seeing something laid down in a matter of days—not thousands of years.

And so we could go on, and on with many other evidences that the sedimentary rocks all over the world were laid down rapidly and not over millions of years. Many sedimentary layers are folded without any evidence of cracking in the layers. This can only happen if the rocks are laid down and folded rapidly whilst still in a semi-plastic state.

Polystrate trees are fossilized trees often over 80 feet high and which pass vertically through many layers of sedimentary rock. We are told that the rock surrounding these trees was laid over thousands of years. Yet the tree would not remain standing for all that time without rotting to dust. The tree must have been entombed rapidly and in a matter of days, not years.

The geological column is meant to show the order of evolution. But no-where in the world do we find such a clear order as is “ideally” presented to us in biology textbooks. Really the column is a figment of the evolutionist’s imagination. In many places the order is reversed or large numbers of species are missing.

Many are convinced that the geological column is really a record of the order in which the living creatures drowned during the flood. Bottom dwelling and the less mobile were drowned and entombed first. Only later did those who were more mobile and had the ability to find a way of temporary escape succumb and become entombed later.

Why are there land locked salt water lakes high up in the Andes Mountains? Why are there shoals of swimming fossilized fish also found high up in

mountain ranges?

If there was such an event as Noah's flood—wouldn't we see the evidence of it in the world around us? Well, the evidence is all there for those who will see.

Why is it that missionaries who went to the furthest corners of the world and found remote tribes who had long been cut off from all other human contact and had never heard the message of the Bible, why is it they already knew of a flood which had covered the whole world and how only eight people escaped it? Why was this reported by scores off different isolated tribes and cultures?

Why is it that the world's population figure (even after wars and plagues) agrees with a population which would have come from but a few people (who as the Bible would claim, survived the flood) and who lived a few thousand years ago and not from a group of "humanoids" that lived hundreds of thousands of years ago, as evolution would claim?

It is interesting that many dinosaur fossils (which evolutionists would date as being 65 million years old) have had confirmed in them, the presence of still in tact soft tissues, including proteins, blood cells and ligaments. These un-decayed soft tissues would only be there if the fossils are only thousands of years old and not millions. The dating of fossils is more of a guess than a measurement.

Why is it that the Chinese symbol for a boat is a vessel with eight mouths—eight people in it? It is clear that ancient Chinese society, though not having the Bible, knew of the flood because it was passed down in the memories of their ancestors.

These things can only be because what Christ said occurred. There was once a worldwide flood.

But why did it occur?

The Reason for the Flood

In His teaching Christ is making it clear that this world will not go on forever. He goes on to explain that just as the world was judged in Noah's day, so too it will be judged once and for all on that last day—the day of His second coming.

But why was it judged in Noah's day? What was going on? Well the everyday things were going on, yes, Christ tells us: "they were eating and drinking,

marrying and giving in marriage” (Matthew 24:38). But there was also much more going on as well.

“Genesis. 6:5 says that in Noah’s day: “...the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

The true God is not some distant deity. He is not way off, distant, aloof and oblivious of his creation. His eyes are running throughout the whole earth even now. It’s amazing but when we look at our bank statements—we see every transaction has been logged with date and time. Well so with God—every thing we do, every transaction, every thought, every word is seen and known by God. Nothing escapes him in your life or mine.

Well what did God see in the world at that time of Noah? God looked and saw that which he had created, which had left his hand, been created in a perfect condition—man who is the crown of his creation, and who bore his image...he now sees something terrible.

He saw men and women—that their wickedness had become great in the earth. They were now accustomed to and used to living in rebellion to God and in ways which gave no thought to God or his laws or commandments. Rather than obey God, everyone was going their own way and doing as they wanted.

Men and women got up in the morning and rather than looking to God , thanking God, rejoicing in the God who provided for him and gave him so many good things, they gave Him no thought, but only thought of themselves and doing what they pleased, whether God was happy or not.

They were quite happy to do all sorts of things which to them they felt were fine and well - that was the way that everyone else was behaving. Yet they had lost sight of just how evil these things were in the sight of God. We know they looked upon violence and murder as acceptable. They were quite happy to blaspheme God and mock him and those who served God, like Noah.

They refused to see their need of God and even acknowledge him as their Creator. They would call evil good and follow whatever desire they wanted.

This is why the judgement of the flood came—because men and women had rejected God and were living as they pleased and according to what they felt

was right and according to what suited them!

Well if God were to examine and look at men and women's hearts today—their thoughts, their deeds, would he see much different to Noah's day? I don't think he would.

We look in the world and see violence and war and bombings. We see men who are meant to be civilized murdering millions of unborn children in the womb, 99% of the time just for social convenience. The grossest forms of pornography are no longer prosecuted, but allowed.

We see that the vast majority have no thought or care for God. They want everything God can give them and that's all. The great god of materialism—just gaining wealth and possessions—is the only god they feel is worthy of worship.

We see a world which increasingly believes that all the restraints and guidelines which God has given us to help us have good and happy lives and honour Him, things concerning marriage, sex, and relationships - all these things must now be thrown out.

We see those in authority with no desire or concern what so ever to obey God and his law. They are quite happy to bring in laws which promote that which is perverse and grievous in the sight of God.

The majority are happy to accept what is more philosophy than true science and believe that we are nothing more than a higher ape and that all we are—our incredible minds and bodies, are nothing more than the result of space dust and gas.

The name and person of God and of His Son Jesus Christ are ridiculed and openly used in the media as swear words.

We see that, to such a world - to those which is living in such rebellion to God, Christ makes it clear that there is:

The Reminder of the Flood

Christ says: "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Christ warns us here to remember the flood! The same God who dealt with the

world then is going to deal with this world by sending His Son Jesus Christ.

When you are next at a beach and you find a fossil - perhaps a trilobite or a belemnite or a fossilized shark's tooth. Remember—what you are holding in your hand—that fossil is really a witness and a testimony to God's determination to deal with sin!

That fossil was produced because God showed his anger and justice towards those who lived in rebellion to him and were determined to go their own way. That fossil was produced as the result of a terrible deluge which came because men and women had rejected God. They were living as they pleased and according to what they felt was right and according to what suited them!

Christ warns us that a further similar and terrible catastrophe is coming on all who reject God and refuse to humble themselves and obey Him.

God is opposed to sin, not because He is some nasty, malicious party pooper, who likes upsetting people and making them miserable.

We are generally very pleased if we have a policeman who goes around sorting out wrong-doing. He is determined that nothing—shop lifting; anti-social behaviour; drunkenness; vandalism—all the offenders are caught and stopped. We applaud him. We thank him that we live in such a safe and law abiding society.

But when people hear that God is determined to deal with all wrongdoing and wickedness and give it what it deserves, we feel He's a bit suspect and rather hard! The reason the Bible says that God is going to one day deal with all sin and all sinners, is not because He is some cruel sadist, who delights in pain—it is all because He is a God who is excellent in His goodness. All sin is contrary to His good and holy nature. Therefore he is determined to put an end to all wickedness and evil.

And so Christ warns us: "as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." God is going to again once and for all deal with all sin and evil.

In his second letter Peter tells us: "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" ("Peter 3:13).

Now in Noah's day there was only one way to be spared from that great judgement of the flood! God provided the only way of escape!

The Rescue from the Flood

God provided this refuge from his judgement in the ark. Whose idea was the ark? God's alone. And if we work out its size it is truly staggering. The Bible gives us the measurements. We realise it was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. It was massive! It was the size of a modern day container ship. It was more than adequate to hold at least two of each the thousands of species of creatures as well as the eight people and their food for a whole year.

It would have been no problem for Noah to build such a vessel in the 120 years that he had. Replicas of the ark have been built and undergone sea trials. They have concluded that it is highly stable and very hard to capsize. It's the ideal vessel to survive a catastrophe like this.

Wonderfully, God has provided another ark today! He knows the exact day when he will finally bring all things to an end and rid the world of its sin and wickedness once and for all!

Yet because of His goodness and mercy he has provided another ark—to which all may come and find safety and refuge for that great day! What is the ark? The questions should really be who is the ark?

The Bible tells us the true ark is now the Lord Jesus Christ. It is through and by Him that our sins can be forgiven, and we can be out right and made acceptable to God.

Imagine what it was like when that flood fell. Many would have sought to climb to higher and higher ground as the waters rose, and then to higher and higher. Yet it was all in vain. There was no escape that way.

That way of trying to escape is like much religion today. Says—"You may know you do wrong, but the way to be safe and somehow escape God's justice is to keep on striving; keep on trying to do your best and be religious; keep on trying to climb higher and higher up the hill to God. You never know—one day you may get to a level where you'll be good enough to be safe and God will accept you."

Such an idea is like those people climbing higher and higher to escape the flood! It will not save us!

There is only one person who can truly save us. Jesus Christ. He alone is the one who has come and stood in the place of sinners at Calvary's cross. Though taken there by wicked men—it was all God's plan to make a way for sinners to be saved from what they deserve.

Though he never sinned or did any wrong, all the waves and storm of God's rightful anger and justice towards the sins of all who will believe upon Him, fell on Him. It all landed on Him, went over his head—crashed on him, drowned him and crushed him, so that all who turn from their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ can be safe from that great storm which is to come.

Go and look at the rocks and see the fossils. They clearly tell of a world which was judged for its sin. Christ tells us that a greater judgement is coming. Oh, that we might all be those who are safe in the true ark, the Lord Jesus and are ready and prepared for that which will and must come!