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Scripture & Science for Kids



THE MARKS OF THE FLOOD

Kyle Butt

Many geologists (scientists who study rocks) say that things happen now just like they happened in the past—an idea known as uniformitarianism [YOU-ni-FOR-muh-TARE-ee-uh-niz-um]. They say that “the present is the key to the past.” Here is how this idea works. Suppose that you turned on your water hose in the backyard. The water from the hose begins to erode a small channel through the mud. If you measured how much mud it eroded per minute, then you could calculate how long the water had been running. For instance, if the water eroded one inch of mud every minute, and the channel that was cut through the mud was 20 inches deep, then according to the idea of uniformitarianism, the hose would have been on for 20 minutes. This idea works well to measure some things, but it also has many problems when measuring other things.

For instance, suppose you walk into a yard that has a 30-inch channel running through it, with water from

a hose that is eroding the soil at an inch a minute. You would probably assume the water hose had been running for 30 minutes. You decide to ask the owner of the yard, so you knock on the door. The owner of the yard informs you that firemen had just come by and used their big hose in his yard. It took them two minutes to erode the channel with their great big hose. He also told you that he had only been running his hose for one minute. You see, the problem with the idea of uniformitarianism is that many things happened in the past that are not still happening. The Flood of Noah is a good example of an event that would have caused major miscalculations for those who try to use the idea of uniformitarianism.

Some evolutionists say the little river (called the Colorado River) at the bottom of the Grand Canyon slowly, over millions of years, cut and carved that huge canyon. They say that it took a massive amount of water to form the canyon, and they do not know where else the water could have come from, except that little river. But the Bible tells us that there once was an enormous amount of water that poured down and covered the entire Earth: the Flood of Noah. It not only filled the valleys and plains, but also covered every mountain—even the tallest ones of Noah’s day. When the Flood was over, God made the waters recede, and a lot of water was being moved around. This is the amount of water that the scientists say would have been able to carve such a huge hole. So, most likely, the Flood God sent upon the Earth “carved” much of what we know as the Grand Canyon.

Today, we have seen how a large flood can carve out a canyon like the Grand Canyon. On May 18, 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano erupted. The effects of Mount St. Helens’ eruption have cast serious doubt on the long-held theory that the Grand Canyon must have been slowly carved over millions of years. On March 19, 1982, a small eruption around the summit of Mount



St. Helens caused a mudflow that was 20 miles long. The flow quickly cut a canyon that was 140 feet deep. The canyon produced by the mudflow has been called “The Little Grand Canyon.” It got its name because it appears to be a one-fortieth scale model of the Grand Canyon.

Think about this: If the eruption of Mount St. Helens caused a canyon 1/40th the size of the Grand Canyon to form in **one day**, then what would a person expect to happen when the “fountains of the deep” were broken up and the entire world was covered by water (as in Noah’s Flood)? Surely, the evidence from Mount St. Helens shows that a huge flood could have caused the Grand Canyon.

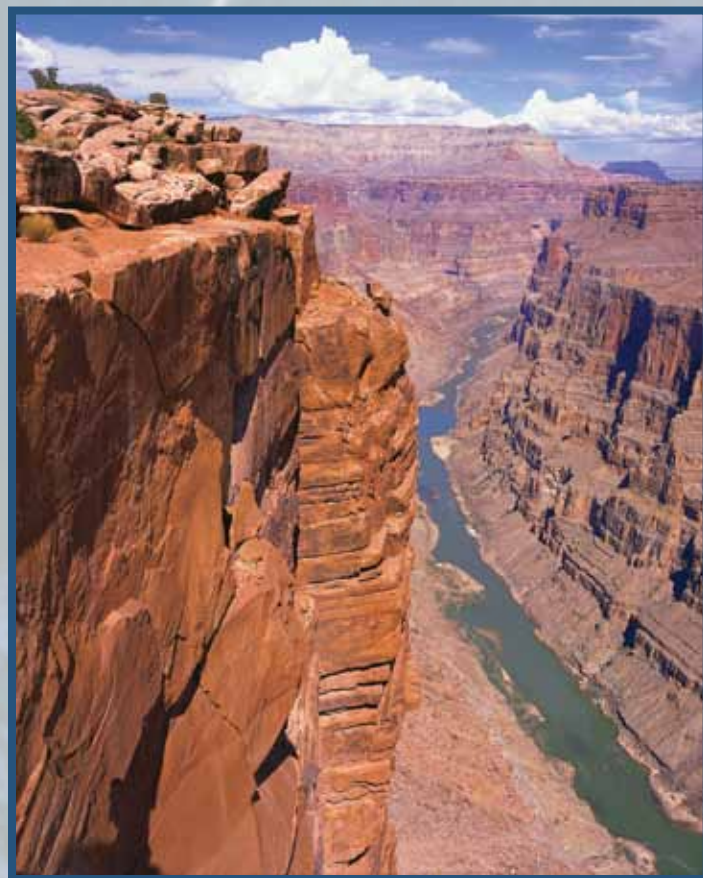
In addition, scientists recently discovered that the island of Britain was formed by a huge flood. In fact, these scientists tell us that it was the biggest flood that any scientist has ever

studied. They believe that the megaflood which caused Britain released 35 million cubic feet of water per second, which is 100 times greater than the water that the Mississippi River discharges. (A man named Thomas Wagner wrote about this flood in an article titled “Study: Flooding Left Britain an Island.”) The Flood of Noah’s day would have been a huge flood that could easily have caused the island of Britain.



After looking at all the evidence, we can see that the Flood recorded in Genesis happened. It is not a myth or an untrue legend. It was a worldwide catastrophe that caused many of the geologic formations we see today. It should also remind us that God is in control.

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Flood Legends

BY ERIC LYONS AND KYLE BUTT

After God saved Noah and his family from the Flood, God told them to have children and fill the Earth with people. They obeyed God, and had many children and grandchildren. In fact, every one of us today is a descendant of Noah and his family.

Can you imagine being one of the grandchildren or great-grandchildren of Noah? Think about being able to ask Grandpa Noah or Uncle Shem questions about the Flood and living on the ark for a year with many different types of animals. Of course, today we can go to the Bible to learn about the Flood, but the people born soon after the Flood did not have the book of Genesis to read. (It was not written for another thousand years or so.) The story of the global Flood was passed down from parents to children for many generations. Then, in about 1500 B.C., God inspired Moses to write the account of Noah and the Flood in the book of Genesis so the true facts would be recorded for all history.

But before Moses wrote about the Flood, many parents and grandparents were telling their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren all about the huge ark, the wonderful animals, and the devastating Flood. As the years went by, they probably mistakenly altered the story, and the details were changed.

When we look into the history of mankind, we find that there are over 250 stories (outside of the



Bible) about a great flood. Nations such as China, Greece, India, Africa, and Mexico all have legends about a huge flood. Some of their details are very different, but in most of the legends animals were saved, one family was chosen, the flood covered the entire Earth, and a boat of some kind was built. When you think about it, that is exactly what we would expect to find if all the nations around the world trace their roots back to Noah and his family. Over the many years, the details of the flood story were altered, but many facts stayed the same. Aren't we thankful God inspired Moses to write down the correct version of the story so that we can know exactly what happened?

Take a look at some of the legends from around the world and see how similar they are to the flood story as recorded in the Bible.

#1

BABYLON



One of the closest matches to the story of Noah comes from the land of Babylon. In a story known as the Gilgamesh Epic, a man named Gilgamesh met an old man named Utnapishtim. The old man, Utnapishtim, told Gilgamesh how one of the gods had warned the old man to build a boat because a terrible flood was coming. Utnapishtim built the boat and covered it with pitch. He put animals of all kinds in the boat and also took provisions. He and his family got in the boat, and the flood lasted for six days and nights. When the flood ended, the boat rested on Mount Nisier. After seven days, Utnapishtim sent a dove out to see if the waters had gone down. The dove came back, so he sent a swallow, which also returned. Finally, he sent out a raven that never returned. Utnapishtim and his family left the boat and sacrificed to their gods.

#2

TOLTEC INDIANS

In the ancient land now known as Mexico, one tribe of Indians known as the Toltecs told of a great flood. In their legend, a massive flood destroyed the "first world" 1,716 years after it was created. Only a few people escaped this worldwide flood in a "toptlipetlocali" (a word that refers to something like a closed chest). After these few people left the "closed chest," they wandered about the Earth and found a place where they built a "zacuali," something like a high tower, in case another flood came upon the Earth. During the time of the "zacuali," their languages were confused and they separated to different parts of the Earth (read Genesis 11:1-9).



#3

CHINA



In the land of China, there are many legends about a great flood. One of those comes from a group of people known as the Nosu. According to their legend, God sent a messenger to Earth to warn three sons that a flood was coming. Only the youngest son, Dum, listened to the messenger. He built a wooden boat to prepare for the flood. About 20 days later, a huge flood covered the whole Earth. Dum entered his boat, and was saved. The boat landed on the mountains of Tibet, where Dum had three sons who repopulated the Earth.

Why are there legends of a great flood in cultures all over the world? Because thousands of years ago, God destroyed the Earth with a global Flood—just as the Bible says.

ACTIVITY PAGES

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



ACROSS

- The river at the bottom of the Grand Canyon
- Volcano that erupted on May 18, 1980
- Wrote of the Flood by inspiration in the book of Genesis
- The flood legend from this land contains the names Gilgamesh and Utnapishtim
- Scientists recently discovered that this large island was formed by a huge flood long ago

DOWN

- A scientist who studies rocks
- The idea that "the present is the key to the past"
- Indians who told of a great flood that destroyed the "first world" 1,716 years after it was created
- What God used to destroy the Earth thousands of years ago

COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES

- "_____ made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided... And the waters _____ continually from the earth" (Genesis 8:1,3, NKJV).
- "You covered it [the Earth] with the deep as with a garment; the waters were standing above the mountains. At Your _____ they fled, at the sound of Your thunder they hurried away. The mountains _____; the valleys _____ down to the place which You established for them" (Psalm 104:6-8, NASB).
- The flood waters "prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and _____ the high hills under the _____ heaven were covered" (Genesis 7:19, NKJV).

TRUE OR FALSE

- We should always interpret the past by what is going on in the present.
- The Grand Canyon must have been slowly carved over millions of years.
- There are many legends around the world of a great flood.
- Scientists recently discovered that the island of Britain was formed by a huge flood.
- The Noahic Flood was only a local disaster.
- If the Flood ever happened, water would still be covering the entire Earth.
- It is very likely that the Noahic Flood "carved" much of what we know as the Grand Canyon.
- The problem with uniformitarianism is that many things happened in the past that are not still happening.
- The eruption of Mount St. Helens caused a canyon 1/40th the size of the Grand Canyon to form in one day.
- Many different kinds of animals were on the ark, even some that are now extinct.

ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

- Give reasons why you believe that there once was a worldwide Flood.
- Write down why someone might include Mount St. Helens and "The Little Grand Canyon" in a discussion about the Flood?



Dear Digger Doug,

Did Noah take flying reptiles on the ark?

—Ashley, Newport, Ohio

Dear Ashley,

I love it when *Discovery* readers ask great questions such as this! God commanded Noah to take seven of each kind of bird of the air (Genesis 7:3; cf. 6:20). God certainly included flying reptiles when he told Noah to take "every living thing of all flesh...of every sort" on the ark (Genesis 6:19). God brought the animals, including flying animals, to Noah (6:20).

Remember, the flood waters "prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered" (Genesis 7:19). In order to survive, even flying animals needed a place to rest (read Genesis 8:6-12). The ark provided the perfect, safe place. Flying reptiles became extinct, but not until long after the Flood. It always is very interesting to study about the great Flood of Noah's day.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

What Happened to All that Water?

ERIC LYONS

If water once covered all of the land on Earth, including the highest mountains, as the Bible says (read Genesis 7:19-20), where did it all go? Just what happened to all that water?

First, the Bible is more specific about **Who** caused the waters to subside, than where exactly all of the waters went. Genesis 8:1,3 says, “**God** made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.... And the waters receded continually from the earth.” Years later, Isaiah recorded how God compared a promise He made to Israel with His promise “that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth” (Isaiah 54:9). Although the Bible does not tell us exactly where the waters went, for the Christian who believes that the Bible is God’s inspired Word, such information should be adequate—**God** did something with the Flood waters.

Second, it may be that the mountains were not as high in Noah’s day as they are now. If so, the amount of water needed to cover the tallest mountains would be less than some might think. Psalm 104:6-8 indicates that, at some time in the past, God established new heights and depths for the Earth’s mountains and valleys. The psalmist praised God, saying,

“You covered it [the Earth] with the deep as with a garment; the waters were standing above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled, at the sound of Your thunder they hurried away. **The mountains rose; the valleys sank down** to the place which You established for them” (NASB).

Just as God miraculously altered the Earth and made land to appear out of the water during the creation week (Genesis 1:9-13), and just as He miraculously sent flood waters upon the Earth, it appears that God miraculously caused the waters to subside.

Where did all of the waters of the Flood go? The most logical answer in light of the Scriptures appears to be that God made room for the waters by adjusting the Earth’s landscape. Much of the water from the Flood probably has retreated into the deep ocean trenches—valleys that, in places, are over seven miles deep.



ANSWERS

3. T; 4. T; 5. F; 6. F; 7. T; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T.
 ansim; 3. Tolls; 4. flood, COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES; 1. God, receded; 2. rebuke, rose, sank; 3. all, whole, TRUE OR FALSE; 1. F; 2. F;
 CROSSWORD CHALLENGE: Across: 5. Colorado; 6. Mount Saint Helens; 7. Moses; 8. Babylon; 9. Britain; Down: 1. geologists; 2. uniformitari-
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