

# THE GREAT GLOBAL FLOOD – PART 2

## INTRODUCTION

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- Again, the clear teaching of Scripture is that Noah was a historical person, who built an actual ark, which survived a real flood
- Peter affirmed the historicity of these events when he connected physical salvation from the flood with water baptism, which illustrates spiritual salvation

**1 Peter 3:18-22** ~ For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

- Peter draws a parallel...the ark provided physical salvation from judgment; in a similar way, water baptism “provides” spiritual baptism from judgment
- But Peter, adding the phrase “not the removal of dirt from the flesh” is quick to show that he was not teaching baptismal regeneration (the errant view that a person must be baptized to be saved)
- The basis of salvation is “the resurrection of Jesus Christ”
- The ark was the “type” and water baptism is the “antitype”
- Note that Peter’s entire argument rests on the reality of a historical Noah and flood

## THE FLOOD BEGINS

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### The Inhabitants Onboard

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**Genesis 7:13-16** ~ On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark, 14 they and every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, all sorts of birds. 15 So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life. 16 Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and the LORD closed it behind him.

- “on the very same day” = i.e. when they had finished boarding, the Flood began
- The mention of all the animals boarding the ark “after their kind” is yet another reminder that they were doing as God commanded them
- The fact that the Lord closed the door “behind him” constituted the absolute final act, the point of no return
- All humans and land animals outside the ark were doomed

### The Water Covers the Earth

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**Genesis 7:17-20** ~ Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. 18 The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. 19 The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. 20 The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.

- The language of these verses points to an ever-increasing level of water: “the water prevailed” (vv. 18, 19, 20, 24)
  - Initially enough to lift the ark off the ground (v. 17)
  - Then enough to cause the ark to float “on the surface of the water” (v. 18)
  - Then enough to cover all the mountains (v. 19)
  - Then enough to cause the water to be 15 cubits higher than the mountain tops (v. 20)
    - That is more than enough room for the ark to clear the mountains since it needed a draught of only 10 cubits to hold all the animals
  
- How could the highest mountains be covered with water?
- The highest mountains on the earth today, including Mt. Everest at 29,028 feet, were not at their present height prior to the flood; rather, they were uplifted rapidly after the flood
- So the flood only needed to cover the highest mountains in the pre-flood world, which were very likely much lower than the mountains we know today
- “[Mt. Everest] didn’t exist before the flood. And on its summit is *marine* limestone, with fossils of bottom-dwelling crinoids. Flat layers full of marine invertebrates that were then pushed up at an angle upon the formation of the modern mountains is just what we would expect from the biblical flood.”<sup>1</sup>
  
- Where did all the water come from?
- There is more than enough water in the oceans today to completely cover the whole surface of the earth, assuming the earth were totally smoothed
- “The earth’s surface today is about 70% covered by water. Also, the average ocean depth is about...2.4 miles, while the average continental height above sea level is only...52 miles. The deepest point in the ocean is the Challenger Deep – ...35,355-35,814 ft – at the southern end of the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean. This is over a mile deeper than Everest is high. So, not surprisingly, it is well known that ‘If all the land in the world was flattened out, the earth would be a smooth sphere completely covered by a continuous layer of seawater...1.669 miles deep.’”<sup>2</sup>

## The Total Destruction of Life

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**Genesis 7:21-24** ~ All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; 22 of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. 23 Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark. 24 The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

- These have to be some of the most sobering verses anywhere in the Bible...how God hates sin
- Moses makes the universal destruction of life plainly evident in his restatements of how all life perished:
  - “All flesh that moved on the earth perished” (v. 21)
  - “birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, all mankind” (v. 21)
  - “all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died” (v. 22)
  - “He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land” (v. 23)
  - “man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky” (v. 23)
  - “they were blotted out from the earth” (v. 23)
  - “only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark” (v. 23)
- The repeated statements should leave no doubt that the destruction of life outside the ark was total
- This shows that the gate is very narrow (cf. Matt 7:13-14)

<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 559.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 560.

- How could a flood destroy every living thing?
- “The flood of Noah’s day was much more destructive than any 40-day rainstorm ever could be. Scripture says that the ‘fountains of the great deep broke open ([Genesis 7:11](#)). In other words, earthquakes, volcanoes, and geysers of molten lava and scalding water were squeezed out of the earth’s crust in a violent, explosive upheaval. These fountains were not stopped until 150 days into the flood—so the earth’s surface was literally churning underneath the waters for about five months! The duration of the flood was extensive, and Noah and his family were aboard the Ark for over a year. Relatively recent local floods, volcanoes, and earthquakes—though clearly devastating to life and land—are tiny in comparison to the worldwide catastrophe that destroyed ‘the world that then existed.’”<sup>3</sup>

## EVIDENCE FOR A GLOBAL FLOOD

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- Under influences from secular uniformitarian geology, many believers have argued that Noah’s flood was local rather than global
- Belief in millions of years demands a local flood because long ages are supposedly required to explain the geological makeup of the earth and its fossil record
- However, the Scriptures could not be clearer that the flood was worldwide
- Numerous lines of evidence support the Bible’s teaching for a global flood and against a local one



### Logical Arguments Against a Local Flood<sup>4</sup>

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- There are many problems that logically arise if the flood were only a local one
  1. Why did God bother Noah with an ark? He could have walked to the other side of the mountain and avoided it.
  2. Why did God send every kind of animal to the ark so they could escape extinction? A local flood would have left animals from other areas to reproduce that kind if the local ones had died.
  3. Why was the ark big enough to hold all the kinds of land vertebrate animals that have ever existed? If only Mesopotamian animals were aboard, the ark could have been much smaller.
  4. Why would the birds have been sent on board? These could simply have flown away to a nearby mountain range.
  5. How could the waters rise to 15 cubits above the mountains? Water seeks its own level. It could not have risen to cover the local mountains while leaving the rest of the world untouched.
  6. The flood prevailed for 150 days. Local floods don’t last long. And it took 220 more days for the earth to dry; local floods don’t take many months to dry.

<sup>3</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/fossils/fossil-record/where-are-all-pre-flood-human-fossils/>

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 528-529.

7. People who did live in the vicinity would not have been affected by it. They would have escaped God's judgment on sin. If this happened, what did Christ mean when He compared the coming judgment of all men to the judgment of "all" men (Matt 24:37-39) in the days of Noah? A partial judgment in Noah's day would mean a partial judgment to come.
8. God would have repeatedly broken His promise (Gen 9:11-16) never to send such a flood again, because there have been many local floods since then.

## The Universal Language of Genesis 6-7

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**Genesis 6:12-13, 17** ~ God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. 13 Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth... 17 Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.

- The frequent use of the universal terms "all flesh" and "earth" argues for a global flood

**Genesis 7:11-12** ~ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. 12 The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

- Again, the words "all" and "the earth" are clearly intended to imply global extent

**Genesis 7:19-23** ~ The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the [whole] heavens were covered. 20 The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered. 21 All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; 22 of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. 23 Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.

- The frequent use of the Hebrew word "all, every" (*kol* – used 8 times in vv. 19-23) demonstrates that God is going out of His way to emphasize the universal nature of the flood...there are no exceptions (except Noah)
- The text could not be clearer...it is extremely difficult to imagine what more could have been written under the direction of the Holy Spirit to express the concept of a global Flood
- Added to this is the fact that Moses uses a special word for flood (*mabbul* – Gen 6:17) which is not the normal word used for floods
- It means "to rain heavily, deluge, heavenly ocean, celestial sea...i.e., water which covers and inundates in overwhelming proportions normally dry land"
- This LXX translates this word with the Greek word *kataklysmos*
- There are other Hebrew words used in the OT to refer to local floods:
  - Nahum 1:8 ~ But with an overflowing flood (*sheteph*) He will make a complete end of its site, And will pursue His enemies into darkness.
  - Psalm 90:5 ~ You have swept them away like a flood (*zaram*), they fall asleep; In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew.

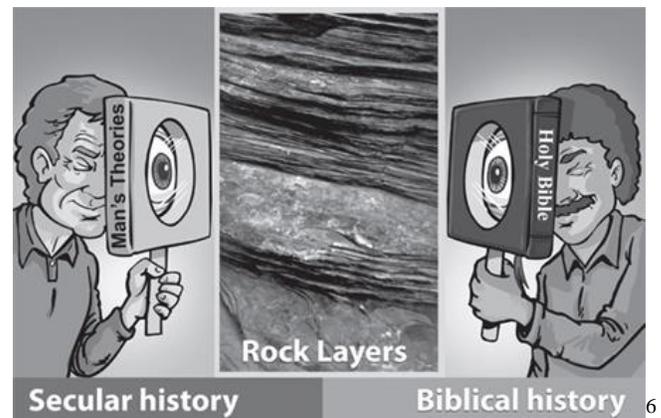
## The Existence of Sedimentary Layers

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- "Secular geologists have interpreted the fossil-bearing sedimentary layers, such as those exposed in the walls of the Grand Canyon, as having taken millions of years to form. Countless sea creatures lived on shallow seafloors, for example, and were slowly buried, to be replaced by new sea creatures growing on the

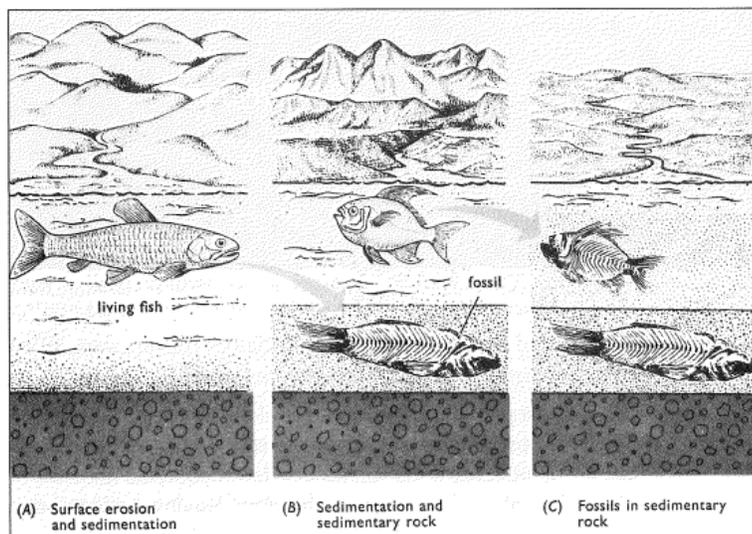
seafloors. The various sedimentary rock layers that we now see stacked up on top of one another thus supposedly slowly accumulated as sea creatures were progressively buried. The guiding principle used by secular geologists to interpret the rock record is ‘the present is the key to the past,’ which means that the geologic processes we see operating today, at the rates they operate today, are all that are necessary to explain the rock layers.’<sup>5</sup>

- However, we find rock layers that can be traced all the way across continents...and even between continents
  - The Tapeats Sandstone and Redwall Limestone of the Grand Canyon can be traced across the entire United States, up into Canada, and even across the Atlantic Ocean to England
  - The chalk beds of England (the white cliffs of Dover) can be traced across Europe into the Middle East and are also found in the Midwest of the United States and in Western Australia
- These sediment layers spread across vast areas argue for cubic miles of sand being deposited by huge water currents within days
- Thus, these rock layers point to the sobering testimony of Noah’s flood, rather than being the record of millions of years of history
- Although the world teaches that the vast majority of rock layers were laid down slowly over millions of years, the Biblical record of Noah’s flood provides a better understanding
- The two views of rock layers cannot both be true
- It makes more sense that the bulk of the rock layers were laid down during a worldwide watery catastrophe only a few thousand years ago



## The Presence of Millions of Fossils

- The prevailing attitude of the day is that fossils have gradually accumulated over millions of years as silt carried into the sea from eroding mountains covered animals



<sup>5</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/global/was-the-flood-of-noah-global-or-local-in-extent/>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 539.

- However, fossils are evidence not of a slow process over millions of year, but of rapid burial
- Animals and marine creatures that die do not end up being fossilized by slowly decomposing
- Farms are not filling with fossils of dead sheep and cattle
- Fish don't die and end up as fossils at the bottom of rivers and oceans
- Why not? → because most dead animals (either on the land or sea) are scavenged and disintegrate quickly, contrary to the above figure
- “Even if some parts reach the abyssal zone, bone-eating worms...and bacteria will consume the bones. Scuba divers don't find the sea floor covered with dead fish being slowly fossilized.”<sup>8</sup>
- The only way for fossils to form is for them to be rapidly buried in mud and sand
- The fossil of an ichthyosaur (reptile version of a dolphin) giving birth clearly proves it died in a rapid burial rather than lying on the ocean floor giving birth for millions of years will slowly being covered in sediment



- The “fighting dinosaurs” fossil of a Velociraptor and Protoceratops locked in mortal combat also suggests a rapid death and burial rather than a prolonged one of millions of years



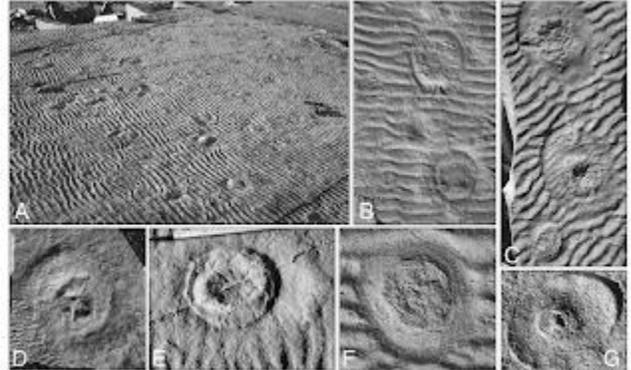
- To form a fossil, the animal must die and almost immediately be covered with mud in order to be held in place (rather than falling apart) and to be protected from scavengers and decay

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

- Encased in mud, the soft tissue decomposes and the minerals in the mud slowly replace the bone, atom by atom, leaving a mineral cast of the original bone

- There are even fossils of soft-bodied creatures which requires mineralization to occur before they decompose
- Such fossils could not have formed gradually
- They must have been buried by huge amounts of sediment quickly so they can fossilize
- Such “soft tissue” fossils are quite rare and their existence can only be explained by a global flood which was capable of covering them with thick layers of mud and sediment



- The existence of billions of dead animals and plants buried in rock layers made of water-deposited sand, lime, and mud all over the earth is exactly what we would expect to see as evidence of a world-wide flood
- So instead of taking millions of years to form, most of the fossil-bearing sedimentary rock layers could have formed rapidly during the flood
- Furthermore, the fossil record is not a record of long ages of time but rather a sequence of burial
- “At the beginning, when the ‘fountains of the great deep’ were bursting, this would have generated underwater mudslides, or turbidity currents. Huge amounts of bottom-dwelling marine life would have been buried and fossilized right away. It is thus not surprising that we see marine invertebrates at the bottom of the fossil record. Also, about 95% of all fossils are shellfish. It should also not be surprising that we also find many fish buried near the bottom of the fossil record. Also ‘low’ in the record are those creatures at the bound of water and land – the amphibians. After that, land creatures would be buried. So the fossil record reflects a successive burial of ecosystems as the Flood encroached upon the land from the sea.”<sup>9</sup>
- Since the flood was a marine catastrophe, we would expect marine fossils to be dominant in the fossil record, and at the lower levels of the fossil record
- That is exactly what is seen:
  - Approximately 95% of all fossils are shallow marine organisms, such as corals and shellfish
  - 95% of the remaining 5% are algae, plants, and invertebrates, including insects
  - The remaining 0.25% are vertebrates, mostly fish
  - 99% of that 0.25% vertebrate fossil specimens consist of only one bone
  - Most mammal fossils are likely from after the flood
- This is why there are so few mammal fossils (including human) in the fossil record
  - Much marine life died in the flood as it was primarily a marine catastrophe
  - Amphibians and reptiles typically live closer to water and were more likely to get buried by mudslides
  - Humans, mammals, and birds are much more likely to flee rising water and seek shelter on higher ground so they would not be caught up in landslides or mudslides as readily...their bodies would “bloat and float” and therefore have decomposed naturally or been scavenged before they could be buried
- This is why there is an order to the fossil record, reflecting the order in which organisms were buried during the flood

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 561.

- “In a creation/flood geology worldview, the geological record of the flood may represent in general terms the destruction and burial of different pre-flood ecological zones, the buried remains of plants, animals, and other organisms that once lived together in the same environments. A walk up through the walls of Grand Canyon and northward across the Colorado Plateau, for example, is not a walk through evolutionary time. Instead, it is like a walk from the bottom of the shallow sea-floor across the tidal zone, over the shore, across the lowlands, and into the upland regions, except the creatures are buried up on the continent. And all of the flood layers represent less than a single year of accumulation.”<sup>10</sup>

## FOSSIL PATTERNS SHOW THE ORDER OF FLOOD DEPOSITS

Because there is a clear order in the rock layers, we can look closely at the fossils contained in each of these layers to get clues about why the creatures were deposited in this particular sequence. We find a definite sequence of fossils (Figure 4) that show evidence of waters rising and progressively burying different ecological zones. We also see patterns of fossilized tracks in rock layers lower than we find the actual fossilized creature (Figures 5-6).

### VERTEBRATE TRACKWAYS BELOW VERTEBRATE FOSSILS (FIGURE 6)

Reptile footprints (right) are found much lower than the fossilized bodies of reptiles in the Grand Canyon. This strange pattern is easy to explain if the reptiles were scrambling to safety with each incoming deposit, until they died in exhaustion.



### TRILOBITE TRACKS BELOW TRILOBITE FOSSILS (FIGURE 5)

Trilobite footprints (bottom right) are consistently found lower than the fossilized bodies of trilobites (upper right). This pattern makes sense if these shallow marine invertebrates were scrambling to safety with each incoming deposit of mud, until they died in exhaustion.



### ORDER OF CREATURES BURIED IN THE GRAND STAIRCASE (FIGURE 4)

This table identifies the types of fossils found in each rock layer.

The fossils in bold text represent the **first appearance** of that type of fossil.

BRAIN HEAD FORMATION	terrestrial and freshwater vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants
WASATCH FORMATION	terrestrial and freshwater vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants
KAIPAROWITS FORMATION	terrestrial and freshwater vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants
STRAIGHT CLIFFS FORMATION	marine and freshwater invertebrates; freshwater, marine, and terrestrial vertebrates
TROPIC FORMATION	marine plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates
DAKOTA SANDSTONE	terrestrial plants, vertebrates and invertebrates; marine invertebrates
CARMEL FORMATION	marine invertebrates and vertebrates, and algae
NAVAJO SANDSTONE	terrestrial reptiles, plants, and invertebrate trace fossils; dinosaur tracks
KAYENTA FORMATION	terrestrial plants and vertebrates; dinosaur tracks
MOENAVE FORMATION	freshwater fish, <b>crocodiles, dinosaurs</b> , and reptile tracks
CHINLE FORMATION	terrestrial plants and freshwater invertebrates
MOENKOPI FORMATION	marine invertebrates; <b>terrestrial and freshwater vertebrates</b> , invertebrates and plants; trace fossils
KAIBAB LIMESTONE	brachiopods, bryozoans, <b>sharks</b> , nautiloids, fish, sponges, trilobites, crinoids, trace fossils, and microfossils
TOROWEAP FORMATION	bivalves, gastropods (molluscs), cephalopods, brachiopods, bryozoans, crinoids, corals
COCONINO SANDSTONE	vertebrate and invertebrate tracks, and trace fossils
HERMIT SHALE	trace fossils (trackways, burrows) and plants
SUPAI GROUP	trace fossils ( <b>vertebrate trackways</b> , burrows), brachiopods, foraminifera, and <b>plants</b>
REDWALL LIMESTONE	bivalves, <b>cephalopods</b> , brachiopods, corals, <b>bryozoans</b> , crinoids, trilobites, <b>fish teeth</b> , <b>foraminifera</b> , and algae
TEMPLE BUTTE LIMESTONE	<b>corals</b> , <b>fish scales</b> , <b>crinoids</b> , <b>stromatoporoids</b> , brachiopods, gastropods, microfossils, and trace fossils
MAUV LIMESTONE	trilobites, brachiopods, sponges, gastropods, algal structures
BRIGHT ANGEL SHALE	<b>brachiopods</b> , <b>molluscs</b> , <b>sponges</b> , <b>echinoderms</b> , <b>gastropods</b> , trilobites, trace fossils (tracks, burrows)
TAPEATS SANDSTONE	trace fossils (tracks, burrows) and <b>trilobites</b>
CHUAR GROUP	stromatolites, algae, microfossils, and trace fossils
UNKAR GROUP	none

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- The conclusion: Scripture does not support a local flood theory
- The Word of God plainly teaches that the Flood of Noah was global in extent
- Those who attempt to accommodate the supposed millions of years of earth history with a local flood view do harm to the text of Scripture by reinterpreting it in light of man’s ideas
- “We should never take ideas from outside the Bible and try and somehow fit them into the text. That’s a compromise on the truth and authority of God’s Word!”<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/fossils/fossil-record/where-are-all-pre-flood-human-fossils/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/fossils/fossil-record/order-in-the-fossil-record/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/local-flood-theory-why-it-doesnt-work/>