

THE GREAT GLOBAL FLOOD – PART 3

REMOVING THE FLOODWATERS

God Remembered Noah

Genesis 8:1 ~ But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark...

- Near the midpoint of the flood, God began to act deliberately on behalf of those on the ark
- The “but” indicates a strong contrast with the devastation caused by the flood in chapter 7
- The phrase “God remembered Noah” does not mean that God forgot him, but rather it functions as a Hebrew idiom that means God began to work on his behalf...and to show him mercy
- Numerous other examples in the OT demonstrate this:

Genesis 19:29 ~ Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that **God remembered Abraham**, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived.

Exodus 2:24 ~ So God heard their groaning; and **God remembered His covenant** with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Jeremiah 2:2 ~ Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, “**I remember concerning you** the devotion of your youth, The love of your betrothals, Your following after Me in the wilderness, Through a land not sown.

Jeremiah 31:20 ~ Is Ephraim My dear son? Is he a delightful child? Indeed, as often as I have spoken against him, **I certainly still remember him**; Therefore My heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him,” declares the LORD.

- Genesis 6-9 form a chiasmus which is a rhetorical or literary figure in which words, grammatical constructions, or concepts are repeated in reverse order in order to emphasize the central part of the structure
- The central focus of the chiasmus in Genesis 6-8 is 8:1

The Flood account in Genesis 6:1–9:19 is a gigantic chiasm,¹⁴ centring upon and thus emphasizing God’s providential care of Noah.

A	Noah and his sons (6:10)
B	All life on earth (6:13a)
C	Curse on earth (6:13b)
D	Ark (6:14–16)
E	All living creatures (6:17–20)
F	Food (6:21)
G	Animals in man’s hands (7:2–3)
H	Entry into Ark (7:13–16)
I	Waters increase (7:17–19)
J	Mountains covered (7:20)
X	God remembers Noah (8:1)
J'	Mountains visible (8:5)
I'	Waters decrease (8:13–14)
H'	Exit from Ark (8:15–19)
G'	Animals in man’s hands (9:2)
F'	Food (9:3–4)
E'	All living creatures (9:10a)
D'	Ark (9:10b)
C'	Blessing on earth (9:13–16)
B'	All life on earth (9:17)
A'	Noah and his sons (9:19) ¹⁵

Within this large-scale chiasmus there is a smaller one, focusing on important numbers, especially 7 and 40:

α	Seven days waiting to enter Ark (7:4)
β	Second mention of seven days waiting (7:10)
γ	40 days (7:12,17)
δ	150 days (7:24)
χ	God remembers Noah (8:1)
δ'	150 days (8:3)
γ'	40 days (8:6)
β'	Seven days waiting for dove (8:10)
α'	Second seven days waiting for dove (8:12) ¹⁶

¹ Jonathan Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 13-14.

- God remembered Noah in that He made it clear that He hadn't forgotten Noah, despite him possibly feeling that way after months on the ark
- Perhaps Noah felt as if God had abandoned him, seemingly wandering aimlessly on the surface of the global floodwaters
- But clearly God knew every detail of the situation Noah was in...and He was working His master plan according to His sovereign will
- God even "remembered" all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark
- There is also a sense in which God has never remembered anything...because He knows all things
- He is omniscient because He has sovereignly foreordained everything
- He has never learned anything about the future

The Waters Recede

Genesis 8:1-5 ~ ...and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided. 2 Also the fountains of the deep and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky was restrained; 3 and the water receded steadily from the earth, and at the end of one hundred and fifty days the water decreased. 4 In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat. 5 The water decreased steadily until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains became visible.

- “[As] God largely used natural means to bring about the Flood and preserve the animals, here He uses natural means to remove the Floodwaters. While God *could* have created water *ex nihilo* for the Flood, He *did* use water from the ‘fountains of the great deep’ and rainfall. Similarly, God *could* have miraculously preserved Noah and the animals, but He *did* use natural means: the Ark. Now, while God could have instantly removed the water, He uses natural means to do so, which means the Flood lasts several months.”²
- In this case, God used wind to help the waters recede by evaporation
- This shows that God is in total control of the weather
- But it wasn't likely wind alone that caused the waters to abate
- Just as waters could cover a smooth earth to a depth of over 1.5 miles, so too a less smooth earth would aid in ending the global flood
- Mountains likely were lifted up and ocean floors likely sank during this stage of the flood...both of which would produce the necessary unevenness for the waters to collect in the ocean basins
- At this time, both the “fountains of the deep” and the “floodgates of the sky” were closed, leading to the decrease of the waters
- This demonstrates the sovereign control of God over every aspect of the flood and His creation
- v. 4 indicates that the ark came to rest “in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month”
- This specific detail again proves the undeniable historicity of this event
- The ark came to rest “upon the mountains of Ararat”
- At this point, land was not yet visible...but the ark's bottom finally rested on something solid
- Assuming a draught of 1/3 of the ark's height (30 cubits), there was still 10 cubits of water (18-20 feet) covering the surface of the earth

² Ibid., 569 (italics original).

- God’s providential care of Noah is even evident here...the ark came to rest on an even keel in a location that was safe for disembarking later
- The location of this landing spot is said to be “the mountains of Ararat,” not specifically the actual Mt. Ararat which is a dormant volcano with two peaks, a greater one (16,854 feet) and a lesser one (12,782 feet)
- Biblically, “Ararat” is a country or region (2 Kings 19:37)
- Geologically, the “Ararat” massif (a compact group of mountains) is about 25 miles in diameter
- Thus, the ark may not have landed on the actual peak of Mt. Ararat but somewhere in that region
- 74 days later, the mountain tops became visible (v. 5)
- This does not mean that this is when they happened to be spotted, but rather when they became visible (i.e. when they began poking out of the water for the first time)
- Despite the rapidly decreasing water, it would still be many months before the passengers on the ark could disembark

SENDING THE BIRDS

Genesis 8:6-12 ~ Then it came about at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made; 7 and he sent out a raven, and it flew here and there until the water was dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent out a dove from him, to see if the water was abated from the face of the land; 9 but the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, so she returned to him into the ark, for the water was on the surface of all the earth. Then he put out his hand and took her, and brought her into the ark to himself. 10 So he waited yet another seven days; and again he sent out the dove from the ark. 11 The dove came to him toward evening, and behold, in her beak was a freshly picked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the water was abated from the earth. 12 Then he waited yet another seven days, and sent out the dove; but she did not return to him again.

- 40 days after the mountaintops were first visible, Noah sent out a raven (vv. 6-7), which flew back and forth repeatedly
- While it is possible that the bird returned to the ark, the text does not indicate that, leaving open the possibility that it did not return
- This would make good sense since ravens are scavengers and could find food from rotting creatures in the floodwaters
- There was no need to return to the ark since it could rest on the mountaintops
- Noah would have likely concluded that there was a substantial amount of land exposed
- But more information was needed...so Noah sent out a dove “to see if the water was abated from the face of the land” (v. 8)
- Doves are strong flyers with about 1/3 of their body weight made up of its flight muscles
- “Combined with their manoeuvrability, they can cover a long range in a day. But they don’t normally eat carrion, usually prefer valleys to mountains, and like dry and clean places for nesting.”³
- The ability of the dove to find food would indicate the presence of new life
- But the first time the dove was sent, it returned, finding neither food nor a suitable nesting place (v. 9)
- Noah waited 7 more days and then sent the dove a second time (v. 10)
- This time the dove returned “in the evening,” implying that it was out somewhat longer (v. 11)

³ Ibid., 574.

- It returned with an olive leaf in its mouth, indicating that olive trees were now starting to sprout
- However, the ground was still not dry enough to disembark the ark
- So, he waited 7 more days and then sent the dove a third time (v. 12) and this time it did not return
- This indicated that there was both food for the dove and dry land for it to nest in
- The time for departing the ark was close at hand

Chronology of the Flood			
	Event	Date	Reference
Waiting in the ark 7 days (7:7, 10)	1. Noah entered the ark	Month 2, day 10	7:7-9
	2. 7 days later: Rain began falling	Month 2, day 17*	7:10-11
Water continued for 150 days (7:24)	3. 40 days later: heavy rains stopped	Month 3, day 27	7:12
	4. 110 days later: Prevailing waters receded and the ark rested on an Ararat mountain	Month 7, day 17*	7:24, 8:4
Water receded in 150 days (8:3)	5. 74 days later: Tops of mountains visible	Month 10, day 1*	8:5
	6. 40 days later: Raven sent out, and a dove sent out and returned	Month 11, day 11*	8:6-9
	7. 7 days later: Dove sent out again and returned with a leaf	Month 11, day 18*	8:10
	8. 7 days later: Dove sent out a third time and did not return	Month 11, day 25	8:12
	9. 22 days later: Water receded	Month 12, day 17	8:3
Earth dried in 70 days	10. Noah saw dry land	Month 1, day 1*	8:13
	11. Land completely dry, and Noah exited the ark	Month 2, day 27*	8:14-19
377 days		1 year and 17 days in the ark	

* Dates specified in the Scriptures; other dates are implied.

POST-FLOOD GEOLOGY

- As the flood waters abated, they would have radically altered the shape and structure of the surface of the earth
- This “recessive stage” of the flood explains many of the geological features that uniformitarian models do not give adequate answers for

Massive Erosion

- There are places on earth that give evidence of massive erosion where huge amounts of material were removed

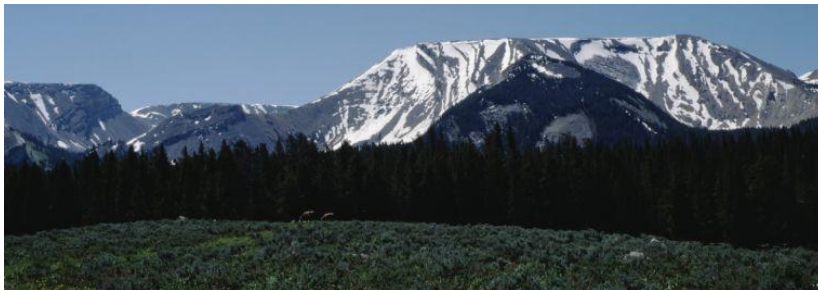
⁴ Ross, A. P. (1985). [Genesis](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 39). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- Perhaps Devil’s Tower is evidence of this...its hard igneous rock was probably a filled-in neck of a volcano but now the rest of the volcano has eroded away



Planation Surfaces

- Flat land surfaces, places that look as if they have been planed, were likely formed during the abative phase of the flood
- “In the case of mountaintop planation surfaces, they are best explained as a function of the Recessive Stage of the Flood. During Flood water runoff, the continents and mountains rose with much erosion. It is expected that during uplift rapid currents would plane the top of the rocks by erosion. Continued uplift and channel erosion would divide large planation surfaces into isolated remnants near the tops of the mountains. At lower elevations this erosion would divide the planation surfaces into large areas, such as plains or plateaus, depending upon the amount of uplift. The major planing episodes would have happened during the Abative or Sheet Flow Phase of the Flood.”⁵
- Gypsum Mountain in the Wind River Range of Wyoming is evidence of a mountaintop planation surface



Water Gaps

- “Instead of rivers following the path of least resistance around mountains, many go through gaps in them. This is consistent with violent channelized flow of huge volumes of water overtopping perpendicular barriers and carving channels straight through them. Since water gaps were formed after much erosion had occurred, they are consistent with having been formed in a later stage of the recessive stage.”⁶

Rapidly Formed Canyons

⁵ <https://creation.com/mountaintop-planation-surfaces-puzzle>

⁶ Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 548.

- Uniformitarian models suggest that valleys and canyons have been carved over millions of years by rivers eroding material (i.e. Grand Canyon)
- According to the popular mantra that “the present is the key to the past,” geologists have suggested that the Colorado River carved out the canyon slowly but surely
- The Grand Canyon National Park website says, “Grand Canyon is an erosional feature that owes its existence to the Colorado River. Of equal importance are the forces of erosion that have shaped and continue to shape the canyon today. These include running water from rain, snowmelt, and tributary streams which enter the canyon throughout its length.”
- However, the best evidence is that such canyons were formed quickly during the retreating flood waters
- There are numerous examples of this in recent times, albeit on a much smaller scale
- A huge mudflow from Mt. St. Helens carved Little Grand Canyon in one afternoon in 1982
- Before Mt. St. Helens erupted, Spirit Lake drained into the Toutle River
- However, after the eruption, the upper river was buried by up to 600 feet of debris such that, for two years, Spirit Lake was unable to drain into the Toutle River
- On March 19, 1982, a small eruption around the summit of Mt. St. Helens caused a 20-mile long mudflow
- The mudflow quickly cut a canyon that was 140 feet deep
- If the eruption of Mt. St. Helens could initiate a situation in which a canyon one-fortieth the size of the Grand Canyon was formed in one day, imagine what receding flood waters did



- Canyon Lake Gorge in Texas is about 1 mile long, hundreds of yards wide, and up to 75 feet deep
- It was carved in three days in 2002 when extensive flooding of the Guadalupe River led to a huge amount of water going over the spillway from Canyon Lake reservoir and removing the sediment from the gorge



- Burlingame Canyon near Walla Walla (WA), 1500 feet long and up to 120 feet deep, was observed to have been created over the course of 6 days
- In 1926, an irrigation ditch built to provide water to that arid region, became clogged with tumbleweeds
- In order to clear the weeds, engineers diverted the flow into a diversion ditch leading to nearby Pine Creek
- The abnormally high flow of water due to spring rains careened down the diversion ditch and cut a gorge



- These features demonstrate that substantial amounts of water can have the same geological effect in a short period of time (even laying down rock layers) that hypothesized millions of years of slow water flow would have
- “It’s abundantly clear, based on the work of geologists who accept Noah’s Flood and those who don’t, that flooding has the power to rework the earth’s surface. The effects of a worldwide, earth-covering flood that involved both rain from above and the fountains of the deep opening from below would, over the course of the year it lasted, have geological effects almost beyond our imagination and could have easily accounted for characteristics of the earth’s surface we see today: a world ravaged by catastrophic water flow. What, ultimately, does this mean? The Grand Canyon and its ilk are not testaments to millions of years of evolution, but rather signposts of the righteous judgment of God that came—and reminders of the one to come (II Peter 3:10).”⁷
- It is likely that this is what is referred to in Psalm 104:6-9 ~ You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters were standing above the mountains. 7 At Your rebuke they fled, At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away. 8 The mountains rose; the valleys sank down To the place which You established for them. 9 You set a boundary that they may not pass over, So that they will not return to cover the earth.
- v. 8 suggests that “God supernaturally depressed various parts of the earth’s crust, and into those places which God ‘founded for them’ the waters ‘fled’ and ‘hasted away,’ there to abide while the earth exists..., never again to cover the continents.”⁸
- This helps explain likely how Dry Falls was created
- Dry Falls is the remnant of the greatest known waterfall in history, with an estimated flow 10 times that of all of today’s rivers combined
- Likely, the scablands of Eastern Washington were formed by the Lake Missoula Flood in the Ice Age
- This was the second biggest flood in history (after Noah’s flood)

⁷ <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/death-valley-stream-shows-geologic-changes/>

⁸ John Whitcomb, *The World that Perished*, 38.

- This flood carved the Grand Coulee, a gorge about 50 miles long and nearly 1,000 feet deep
- This includes Dry Falls, a huge geological feature nearly 400 feet high and 3.5 miles wide
- It was clearly carved by a water flow many times that of Niagara Falls, but there is no water flowing now

