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## Lesson 17 — The FLOOD



*“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.”*

*[Genesis 7:11-12]*

The very moment that the LORD shut and sealed the door of the ark, the Creator unleashed the most devastating and comprehensive global catastrophe upon His creation. No flesh would survive — save Noah, his family, and the creatures on the ark. The face of the earth would be wiped clean and purged of all the ungodly. The evil seed of the Serpent was at least temporarily cut off, allowing the LORD to start over with eight souls.

The global flood of Noah’s day truly is one of the most significant moments in God’s story of redemption. God’s gracious provision combined with Noah’s faithful obedience saved the human race from ultimate destruction. God’s eternal plan of salvation would prevail and the promised hope of the Messiah would survive.

When we begin to investigate the overall impact of the global flood, however, there is much more than meets the eye. The secular scientific community scoffs at the notion of a world-wide flood, but the Bible leaves no room for debate. The evolutionists push their own version of natural history, using “geologic columns” of vast ages to explain the mass fossil deposits all over the world, but the flood of Noah’s day provides the true explanation.

As a matter of fact, every corner of this vast earth puts the evidence of the flood on display. From the breathtaking beauty of the Grand Canyon to the ancient underwater ruins all over the world, God has not left us without a witness. The rocks and fossils themselves cry out that there is a Creator God who judged the earth with a flood of unimaginable proportions. In the same way that we cannot explain the past without the global flood, neither can we understand the future without it. Judgment came. Judgment will come again.

*“For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.” [2 Peter 3:6-7]*

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## The Flood — Global or Local

There are a considerable number of respected Biblical teachers and scholars who suggest that the flood of Noah's day did occur in history past but that it was a localized flood, not global. The local flood view proposes that God only flooded the region of the ancient Middle East and that the Bible was using exaggerated language to describe this event. Does the local flood view stand up to scrutiny? Not even close.

- ❖ Read Genesis 6:13,17, 7:17-24. What language does the Bible use to describe Noah's flood? When reading the text at face value, how should the reader understand the extent of the flood? Why?
  
- ❖ Read Genesis 9:8-17. What was the covenant that the LORD made with mankind and all living creatures on the earth? If Noah's flood was just a local flood, how does that prevent God from keeping His promise?

A local flood interpretation of Genesis fundamentally undermines the Word of God and essentially calls God a liar. If that wasn't bad enough, the local flood scenario practically is implausible and frankly ridiculous. If Noah's flood was only a localized flood, then why go through all that trouble to build an ark? Why didn't God just warn Noah and tell him to move to safer ground? If the flood was only local, then why go through the trouble of gathering the animals? Surely plenty of animals would have survived and even avoided a local flood.

Beyond that, the earth itself bears witness to a global, catastrophic event in our past that has left behind evidence of massive water erosion and layers of sedimentary deposits all around the world. Marine fossils can be found on the highest mountain peaks on the planet. There can only be one explanation ... the entire earth was completely covered in water, fundamentally changing the face of the planet.

## Uniformitarianism vs Catastrophism

When a geologist or archaeologist studies a rock formation, he will essentially draw conclusions and make inferences about the past from two possible perspectives. The popular, evolutionary theory about the past is called uniformitarianism, which proposes that

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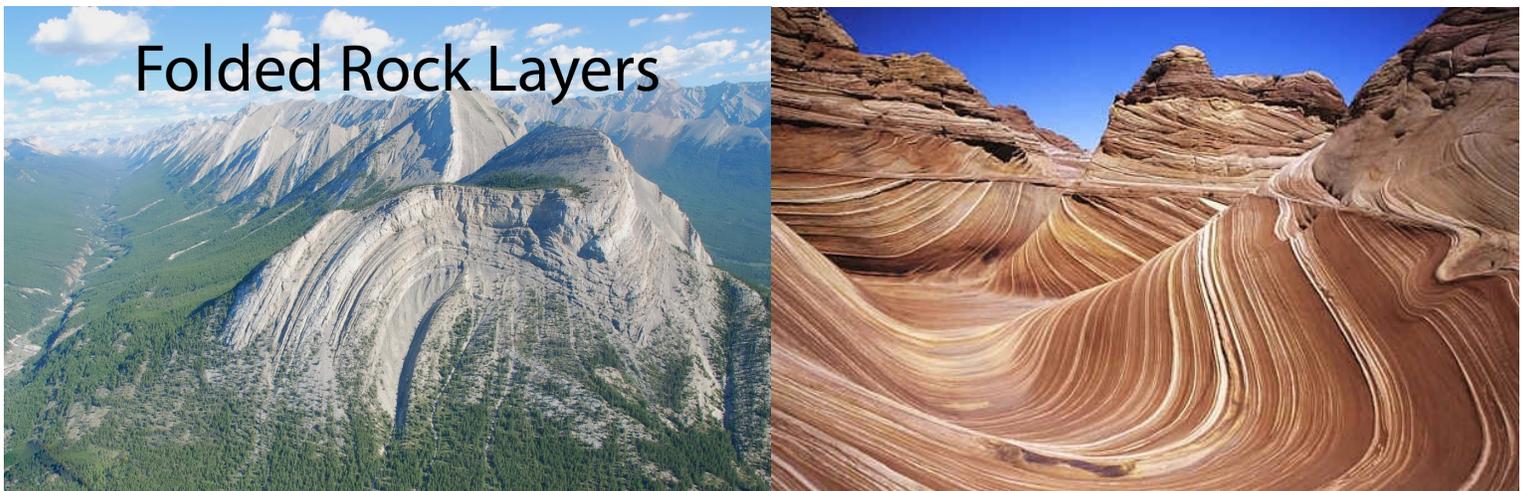
everything we observe in the natural world can be explained by constant, gradual, natural processes that have occurred over millions, if not billions, of years.

For example, from an evolutionary perspective, it is assumed that every rock layer in the Grand Canyon (Arizona) was laid down gradually and uniformly over millions of years so that each defined layer represents vast ages of time. It is also assumed that the Colorado River has been carving through the rock layers, creating the vast canyon we see today. The uniformitarian simply counts the layers and calculates the age of the rocks, as well as the age of the fossils in the rocks.

On the other hand, the catastrophic viewpoint provides an entirely different explanation for the geological formations all over the world. Instead of viewing the rock layers of the Grand Canyon through the lenses of natural, uniform processes, the creationist sees substantial evidence for a catastrophic event in the past that totally rearranged the topography of the earth in rapid fashion — laying down the sedimentary rock layers at one time.

Scientists were amazed to discover the power of natural catastrophe in 1980 when observing the aftermath of the volcanic eruption of Mt. Saint Helens in Washington. The massive mixture of hot ash, mud, and rock deposits completely changed the landscape around the volcano. In a matter of days, a massive canyon was carved and sedimentary rock layers were deposited that resemble that of the Grand Canyon. The canyon at the base of Mt. Saint Helens obviously is on a much smaller scale — about 1/40th the size of the Grand Canyon — but it proved that the right catastrophic conditions have the power to rapidly change the topography of the earth and create new geological formations in a short amount of time.

Now ask yourself, if one average-sized volcanic explosion can rearrange the face of the earth and create hundreds of “rock layers” in a matter of days, then what could a flood of global proportions do to the earth in one year?



*How do rocks bend and fold without breaking? They had to be laid down rapidly in a wet, pliable state before hardening.*

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The global flood of Noah's day was more than simply 40 days of rain. The Bible tells us that fault lines burst open, the foundations of the earth were shaken, tectonic plates were shifting rapidly, volcanos erupted, and immense subterranean water pressure exploded with atomic force. The ark was more than a boat. It was a bomb shelter!

- ❖ Read Genesis 7:11, 8:2 and Job 38:16-17. What can we learn in these passages about catastrophic activity that caused the global flood?
  
- ❖ Read Psalm 104:5-9. How do we know this passage is describing the flood? What interesting detail does God give in verse 8? Have you ever considered that the highest mountains on earth today could have been pushed up very rapidly? Why or why not?

## **The Fossil Record**

One of the most successful propaganda tools used in the evolutionary camp has been the popularized "geologic columns" of ancient history. These man-made, imaginary charts attempt in vain to tell the evolutionary story of the past by identifying certain historical "eras" by the various rock layers and the fossils therein. Secular scientists cleverly have inserted the geologic timetables into public school text books and dogmatically teach them as undisputed, scientific fact, but nothing could be further from the truth.

There is essentially one way a living organism or animal can be fossilized. Certain conditions and criteria must be met. If an animal dies and remains exposed to the natural elements and scavengers etc... it will only take a matter of days/weeks before that animal decomposes and eventually disintegrates back into dust. The primary way an organism can be fossilized is when it is rapidly buried in mud or sediment, leaving its body intact and allowing for the petrification process to take place, which hardens and preserves the remains. Fossilization does not take vast amounts of time. Under the right conditions, fossils actually form rapidly.

What would we expect to find as a result of a global flood? We could expect to find mass burial graveyards of millions of animals, plants and living organisms located all over the world. And what do we find? Precisely that. Only a global flood provides the legitimate explanation of how so many living organisms were rapidly buried in liquid sediment and mud, only to fossilize and be preserved in the various rock layers left behind after the flood. The evolutionary fairytale of vast geologic ages cannot explain the fossil record. Next time you see a rock layer or fossil, remember, you are seeing evidence of the global flood!