

NOAH'S FLOOD WAS UNIVERSAL!

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● Many professed Christians while they believe that a flood in the time of Noah did indeed occur, they do not believe that it was a universal, world-wide catastrophe. Rather, they believe that it was merely a local Mesopotamian flood that took place in the time of Noah. They try to interpret the plain statements in the book of Genesis to harmonize with their theory. They take this position to try and harmonize the statements of the Bible concerning this event, with their acceptance of the theories of atheistic, evolutionary geologists, concerning the age of the earth and their uniformitarian theories¹ about past events that have occurred in the natural world.

It may be helpful at this point to give a simple chronology of the events listed in the book of Genesis that took place during the flood.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE FLOOD: -

<u>TEXT: -</u>	<u>EVENT: -</u>	<u>DAY NUMBER FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FLOOD: -</u>
<u>Genesis 7:11</u> : - "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."	The flood commenced on the 17 th day of the 2 nd month in the 600 th year of Noah's life. (This gives us a concrete starting point to measure the duration of the flood, and the main events that took place during it.)	DAY 1.
<u>Genesis 7:12, 17-20</u> : - "And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ... And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that [were] under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered."	It rained continuously for 40 days and 40 nights upon the earth, with the floodwaters eventually covering all the highest mountains of the earth, by a height of 15 cubits. This is the maximum height that the floodwaters attained, and logically this height would have been reached on the 40 th day of continuous rain.	DAY 40.
<u>Genesis 7:24 & 8:3</u> : - "And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days. ... And the waters returned from off the earth continually; and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated."	The floodwaters prevailed at their maximum height upon the earth for a total of 150 days; and it was only after 150 days had elapsed, that the floodwaters started to abate or decrease.	DAY 150.
<u>Genesis 8:4</u> : - "And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat."	The ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat on the 17 th day of the 7 th month, exactly five months or 150 days from the	DAY 150.

¹ "Uniformitarianism is the belief that existing physical processes, acting essentially as at present, are sufficient to account for all past changes and for the present state of the astronomic, geologic and biologic universe." – THE GENESIS FLOOD – The Biblical Records And Its Scientific Implications – by J. C. Whitcomb & H. M. Morris; Introduction page XX, 41st printing.

	commencement of the flood. This would have been the first day that the waters started to abate from off the earth.	
<u>Genesis 8:5</u> : - "And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth [month], on the first [day] of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen."	The waters continued to abate until the 1 st day of the 10 th month, when Noah and his family could see the tops of the mountains. (This is 74 days after the floodwaters started to abate.)	DAY 224.
<u>Genesis 8:6 & 7</u> : - "And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth."	Forty days later Noah opened the window of the ark, and sent forth a raven, which was to go up and down upon the earth, until the floodwaters had dried up from the earth. (This would have taken place on the 10 th day of the 11 th month.)	DAY 264.
<u>Genesis 8:8 & 9</u> : - "Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters [were] on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark."	Noah sent forth a dove seven days later for the 1 st time, but the floodwaters were still upon the earth. (This time period is necessary for reaching the total number of days, and is given by implication from the use of the phrase "other seven days" in <u>Genesis 8:10</u> .)	DAY 271.
<u>Genesis 8:10 & 11</u> : - "And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth [was] an olive leaf plucked off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth."	Noah sends forth the dove seven days later for the 2 nd time, and it returns with an olive leaf in its mouth.	DAY 278.
<u>Genesis 8:12</u> : - "And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more."	Noah sent forth the dove seven days later for the 3 rd time, and this time it does not return to the ark.	DAY 285.
<u>Genesis 8:13</u> : - "And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first [month], the first [day] of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry."	On the 1 st day of the 1 st month of the 601 st year of Noah's life, he removed the covering from the ark, because the waters had dried up from the earth. (This would have been 29 days after Noah sent out the dove for the 3 rd time.)	DAY 314.
<u>Genesis 8:14-17</u> : - "And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried. And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that [is] with thee, of all flesh, [both] of fowl, and of cattle, and of	On the 27 th day of the 2 nd month, Noah, his family and the animals are told by the Lord to leave the ark. (This would have been 57 days after Noah removed the covering from the ark.)	DAY 371.

every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.”		
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THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS A UNIVERSAL FLOOD: -

- **THE DEPTH OF THE FLOODWATERS: -**

It rained for forty days and forty nights upon the earth. It would be at the end of the 40th day and night of rain, that the floodwaters would have reached their maximum height, which is recorded as being 15 cubits above **all** the high hills or mountains under the whole of heaven. This necessitates that the flood had to be universal in its scope to cover every high mountain upon the earth.

- **FOR ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DAYS THE FLOODWATERS PREVAILED AT THIS HEIGHT UPON THE EARTH: -**

It was only **after** the time period of 150 days or five complete months had elapsed, that the prevailing floodwaters upon the earth started to abate. For the height of the floodwaters to be prevailing 15 cubits above every high mountain upon all the earth for 150 days, shows us that the flood had to be a tremendous, universal catastrophe.

- **FOR TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY ONE DAYS THE FLOOD WATERS WERE ABATING FROM OFF THE EARTH: -**

From the time that the floodwaters started to abate from off the earth (that is on the 150th day) to the time when Noah was able to leave the ark, there was another 221 days of the floodwaters abating. This time period for the abating floodwaters to drain off from the earth could only apply to a universal catastrophe, and **NOT** to some localized flood.

- **THE NEED FOR AN ARK: -**

If the flood had been limited in geographical extent, there would have been no need for Noah to construct an ark at all, for there would have been ample time for Noah's family to escape the danger area, and also for the beasts and the birds to leave the proposed flood area as well.

- **GOD HIMSELF TESTIFIED THAT THE FLOOD WAS GOING TO BE UNIVERSAL IN ITS SCOPE OF DESTRUCTION: -**

God stated repeatedly that he was going to bring a flood upon the earth that would destroy every living thing, both mankind and all the animals that were upon the earth, because of the wickedness of all flesh.

Genesis 6:7: - “And the LORD said, **I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air;** for it repenteth me that I have made them.”

Genesis 6:12 & 13: - “And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; **for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.** And God said unto Noah, **The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.**”

Genesis 6:17: - “And, behold, I, **even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein [is] the breath of life, from under heaven; [and] every thing that [is] in the earth shall die.**”

Genesis 7:4: - “For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; **and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.**”

- **GOD FULFILLS HIS WORD: -**

A clear principle of God's character as recorded in the Scriptures is the fact, that when he has stated that he would do something, **he will do it.** He is faithful to fulfill his word.

Numbers 23:19: - “**God [is] not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do [it]? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**”

Isaiah 46:9-11: - “Remember the former things of old: **for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me**, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, **I have spoken [it], I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed [it], I will also do it.**”

Ezekiel 24:14: - “**I the LORD have spoken [it]: it shall come to pass, and I will do [it]; I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I repent;** according to thy ways, and according to thy doings, shall they judge thee, saith the Lord GOD.”

God is recorded in the book of Genesis as stating **THREE TIMES** after the flood, that he would never again destroy every living thing, or all flesh, or destroy the earth with a flood as he had just done.

Genesis 8:21: - “And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart [is] evil from his youth; **neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.**”

Genesis 9:11: - “And I will establish my covenant with you; **neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.**”

Genesis 9:15: - “And I will remember my covenant, which [is] between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; **and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.**”

God is recorded in the book of Isaiah as stating that the floodwaters did indeed envelope the earth in the time of Noah.

Isaiah 54:9: - “For this [is as] the waters of Noah unto me: **for [as] I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth;** so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.”

● God said that he would send a flood to destroy all forms of life upon the earth, and he did indeed fulfill his word by doing just that. His faithfulness to fulfill his word is part of his very character. As far as the testimony of God himself is concerned, the flood was indeed **UNIVERSAL** in its scope of destruction, in that it destroyed all flesh and every living thing upon the earth; and it also destroyed the earth itself.

- **GOD CANNOT TELL LIES:** -

We must remember that the Bible teaches us plainly, that **God cannot tell a lie.**

1 Samuel 15:29: - “And also **the Strength of Israel will not lie** nor repent: for he [is] not a man, that he should repent.”

Titus 1:2: - “In hope of eternal life, **which God, that cannot lie,** promised before the world began.”

Hebrews 6:18: - “That by two immutable things, **in which [it was] impossible for God to lie,** we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.”

To believe that the flood was only a localized geographic event makes God out to be a liar! Do those professed Christians who hold to a local Mesopotamian flood theory realize that this is the only conclusion that we can draw concerning God, if their theory is correct? The truth is that God told Noah the truth that he would never again destroy every living thing, and all flesh that is upon the earth, or the earth itself with a flood, as he had just done.

- **THE TESTIMONY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES:** -

Our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ has positively testified that the flood in the time of Noah destroyed all the wicked inhabitants of the earth.

Luke 17:26 & 27: - “And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, **and the flood came, and destroyed them all.**”

The apostle Peter has stated that only eight souls were saved from the destruction of the floodwaters.

1 Peter 3:20: - "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited **in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.**"

Peter testified that God saved Noah and his other seven family members but brought the flood upon the world of the ungodly.

2 Peter 2:5: - "And spared not the old world, **but saved Noah the eighth [person]**, a preacher of righteousness, **bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.**"

- **THE LAST DAY PROPHECY OF THE APOSTLE PETER: -**

The apostle Peter has made an astonishingly accurate prophecy concerning the rise of last day mockers and scoffers. It is as up to date as today's scientific textbooks. He predicted that these last day infidels would arise claiming that everything has continued in the same fashion in the natural world, as it has since the start of this world's history. This is clearly referring to the rise of the theory of UNIFORMITARIANISM that has arisen in the last 170 years or so. These skeptics are **willingly ignorant** of the truth of God's creating this world, and of the floodwaters destroying the world that then existed. Peter's use of the flood as a basis for refuting the uniformitarian skeptics of the last days would be absolutely pointless if the flood had been merely a local one, especially when we consider the cosmic context into which he has placed the watery catastrophe, in relation to the coming of the final Day of Judgment for the destruction of the ungodly.

2 Peter 3:3-7: - "Knowing this first, **that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of,** that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: **Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

- The testimony of God's word is clear and decided. The Bible plainly teaches that God did indeed send a worldwide flood at the time of Noah, to destroy all the wicked inhabitants of the world, and to save righteous Noah and his family, and the animals within the ark from destruction. To try to harmonize the Bible with the theories of godless evolutionary scientists is to fall under the condemnation of the above prophecy. It comes down to a simple choice of where we desire to place our faith. Either we can believe in the God who was there and who never tells a lie, or in the speculations of the evolutionary scientists who were not. The choice is that simple.