

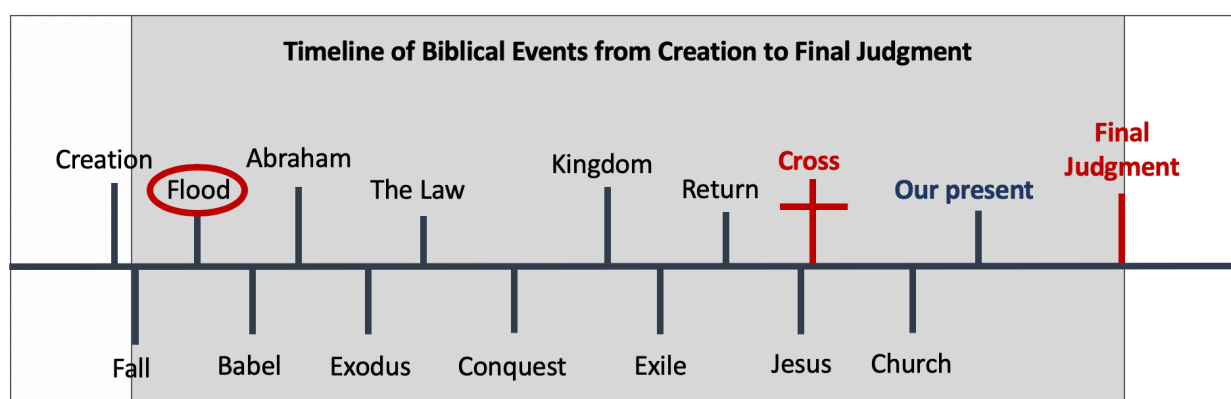
Lesson 5: The Global Flood

Previously...

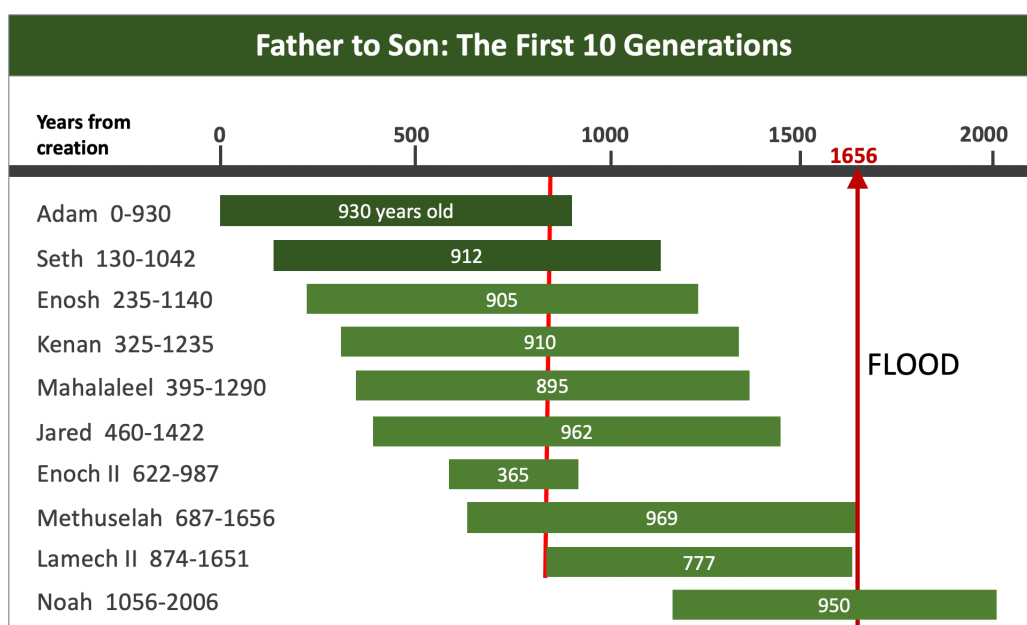
God created a perfect world but at the Fall, man's rebellion introduced sin into the world. In His great love, God told man that He would send a Saviour who would destroy sin and evil and rescue man from the second death. All man had to do was to trust Him.

History Marches On

As time progressed, only a few people trusted in Yahweh. Most of mankind, however, turned their backs on their Creator-God. They decided they knew better than God how to live. That brings us to the next big event in our study: the global Flood.



The period before the Flood was a very fascinating time in history. People in those days lived very long lives. In fact, Adam was still alive when Lamech (Noah's father) was born. Lamech is Adam's great great great great great grandson, that's eight generations down from him! There were nine generations alive at the same time!



Adam lived to be 930 years old. So for almost 1,000 years, Adam's descendants would have been able to find out true history directly from Adam himself. They would have been able to learn about Yahweh and what happened to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden.

We often think that by default, people had no access to God's truth. In reality, the opposite was true. Because Adam and Eve lived a really long time, they were able to easily pass on what they knew directly to their children and their children's children. In other words, there was common worldwide knowledge about Yahweh because the first man and woman were there to relate their account of history. Everyone in the whole world then had access to God's history and truth.



But what did the people do with this knowledge? Instead of learning from Adam and Eve's past mistake, we see that most of Adam's descendants chose to ignore Yahweh and live wicked lives. Though they had access to the truth, most rejected it. The Bible says:

Genesis 6:5

The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.

And so God decided it was time to judge the world and get rid of the evil and corruption. He would renew the whole earth. To do this, God destroyed the world with a global flood and everyone and everything on earth died. (Note: sea creatures were not included in this judgment.)

Genesis 7:21–22

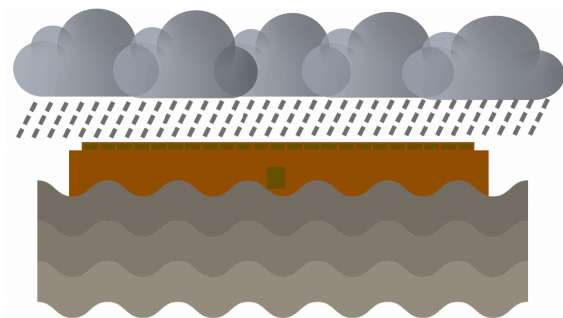
²¹ All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. ²² Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died.

However, God found that there was one man who was different from all the evil people.

Genesis 6:8–9

⁸ But Noah found favor with the LORD. ⁹ This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

After the Fall, God told man that He would send a Saviour to rescue them from the mess they had created. Man simply had to trust God for the solution. Now with the coming judgment of a global flood, God was again offering people a means of escape. He was asking people to trust Him for a rescue plan. His plan would be in the form of a big boat, an ark.



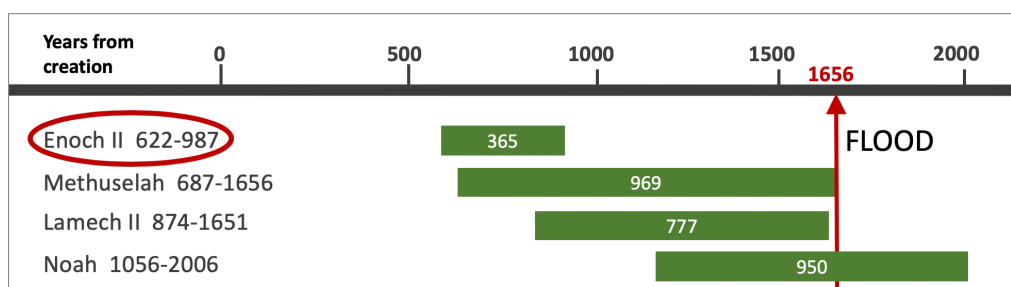
Through the account of the Flood, we learn five very important things about God, His relationship with man and how God will eventually save people from the sin problem.

Five lessons we can learn from the global Flood

Five Lessons	The Global Flood
1. Grace before judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120-year grace period • Enoch warned • Noah warned
2. Whom to save, whom to judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saved: Those in the ark • Judged: Those outside the ark
3. Only one way of salvation	Only one ark designed by God and it had only one door.
4. Man and nature impacted	The global flood changed the whole world.
5. How to be saved: by faith	Noah was saved because he trusted God.

1. Grace before judgment

Before God sent the global flood, Enoch, who was Noah's great-grandfather, was already giving clear warnings that God was not going to put up with mankind's evil and corruption forever.



This is what the Bible says:

Jude 14–15

¹⁴ Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, “Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

But Enoch was not the only one who warned that Yahweh would come to judge all evil people. For more than a hundred years, the people saw Noah building the ark and heard his warnings.

2 Peter 2:5

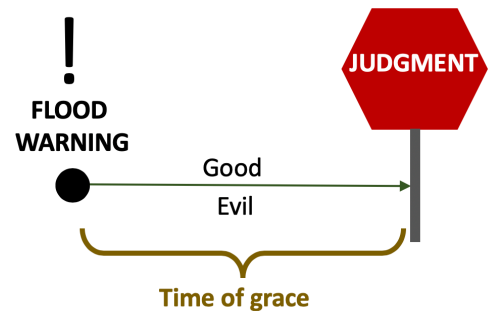
And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood.

God gave Noah instructions on how to construct an ark large enough and strong enough to survive the global flood. During the years that he was building the boat, Noah explained to others what God was going to do.

God never judges without first providing a warning.
How long did God wait before He sent the flood?

Genesis 6:3 (NET)

So the LORD said, "My spirit will not remain in humankind indefinitely, since they are mortal. They will remain for 120 more years."



God waited 120 years after the warning before He sent the flood. People had ample time to respond to God's grace. **Grace is God's temporary way of showing love to evil people who do not deserve it.**

God showed grace to Noah. Other English Bible translations use the word "favour".

Genesis 6:8 (KJV)

Noah found grace
in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 6:8 (NLT)

But Noah found favor
With the LORD.

It's important to note that grace is temporary. There is a time limit. In other words, after a time of grace, or a grace period, judgment will definitely come. There is no escape. But the grace period is when God is showing His patience and allowing people to change their minds.

2 Peter 3:9

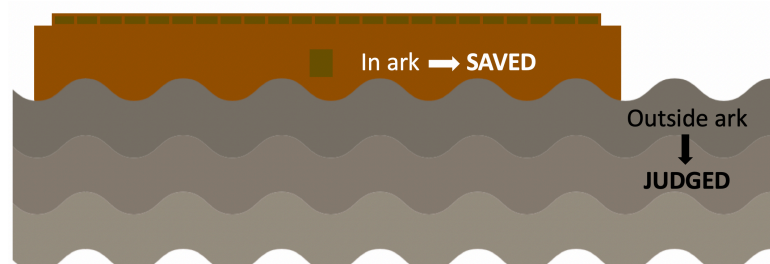
The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

People often complain and ask, "Why is there so much evil in the world? Why can't God do anything about it? Is He powerless?" No. The story of Noah shows us that God is not powerless. He is simply showing grace, patiently allowing people to accept His plan of salvation before He brings judgment. Ending evil now would mean ending all grace and all hope for the unsaved now.

2. Whom to save, whom to judge

When God sent the flood, how did He decide whom to save and whom to judge? Simple. Those in the ark would be saved and those outside the ark would be judged.

If anyone believed God's warnings that He delivered through Noah



and Enoch, and entered the ark with Noah and his family, they would be saved. Everyone else would not. In other words:

- those who **reject** God's plan of escape, in this case the ark, would **die**.
- those who **trust** in God's plan of escape would enter the ark and be **saved**.

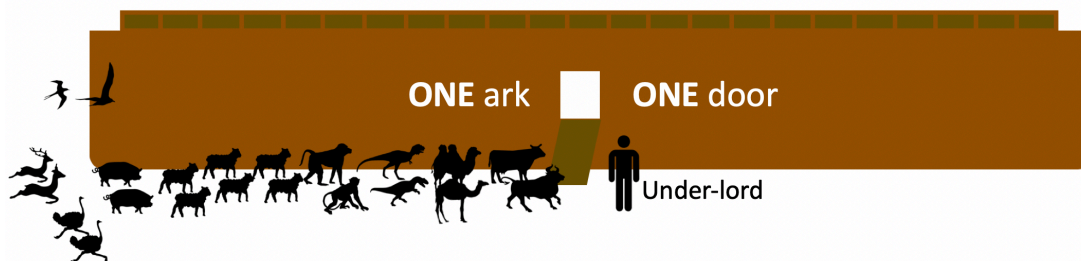
God's salvation was not random or secret. He did not pick and choose whom He wanted to save. God clearly told them what He would be doing: He would be judging the world. He told them how to be saved from the judgment. This means people were not left guessing if they would be saved or not. There was no confusion at all. Those in the ark would be saved. Those outside would be judged.

3. Only one way of salvation

No one in the world at that time had ever seen a global flood. It had never happened before. Even Noah had no idea what to expect. If we don't know what's coming, how can we even prepare for it?

Only Yahweh knew how man could be saved from this worldwide disaster. Only God knew how to build a boat big enough and strong enough to survive. No one on earth could have figured it out. God would have to give Noah the plans.

And the plan was to have one ark with one door. It was through this one door that all who entered would be saved. It was through this one door that God told Noah, as the under-lord of creation, to load and save the gene pool of all the animals that God brought to him.



But when the ark was ready and all the people and animals were onboard, it was not Noah who shut the door.

Genesis 7:16

A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.







It was God Himself who shut and sealed the door. There was no chance that the door would leak or spring open in the flood.

It also meant that no one else could get in and none of those in the ark could get out. Even if Noah wanted to open the door to let others in, he could not. It was God who shut the door. If his family got scared of being in the ark and wanted to get out, they could not. It was God who shut the door.

Are there many ways to be saved?

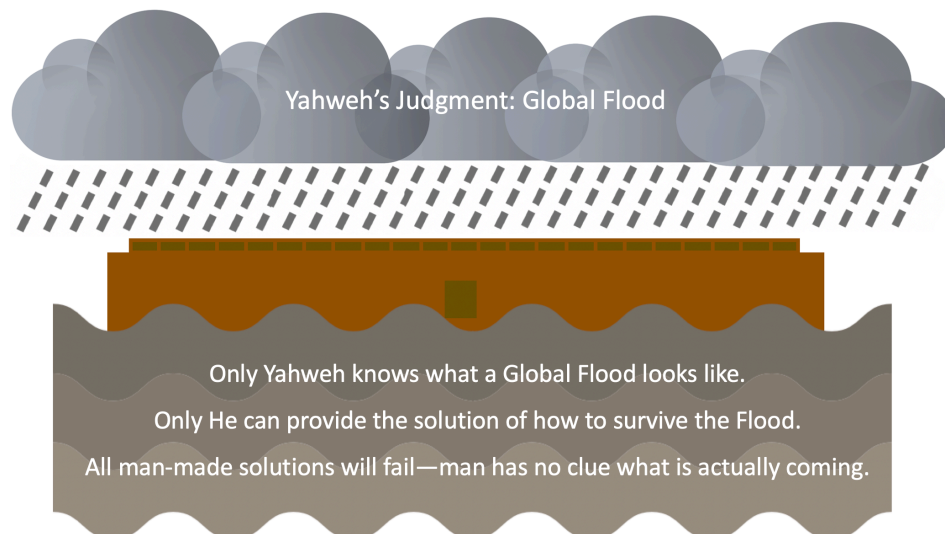
People do not like hearing that there is only one way to be saved. The pagan mind thinks this is very selfish and exclusive. They rebel against this idea of God providing only one way.

Ways To Be Saved

Bible Says	Pagan Worldview Says		
 God's solution: ark	 do good	 any religion	 God is love: everyone goes to heaven in the end
	 karma	 donations	

For example, in today's world, people believe there are many ways to "get right with God". Do more good, avoid doing bad. Meditation. Karma. The list goes on. People like a do-it-yourself plan where they can invent their own ideas of salvation.

But the account of Noah teaches us that any salvation plan must come from God, the One who created the universe. We cannot make things up ourselves. We have to come to God in the way that God provides. Nothing else will work because nothing else can save us from God's global judgment.



4. Man and nature impacted

When God sent the global flood, He totally destroyed the world that Noah knew. As children, we may have read picture books about the flood that showed a boat with a giraffe sticking its head out in the rain or a monkey swinging from the mast. That was not what happened. From the Bible's description, it was literally an earth-shattering catastrophe.

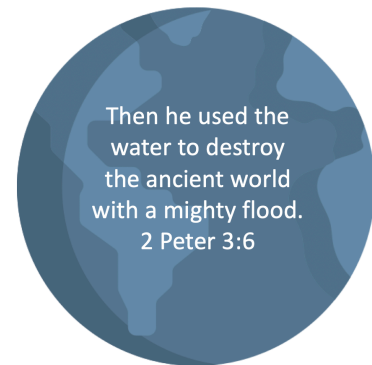
Genesis 7:11–12, 17–20, 24

¹¹ When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹² The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights. ¹⁷ For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. ¹⁸ As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. ¹⁹ Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, ²⁰ rising more than twenty-two feet above the highest peaks. ²⁴ And the floodwaters covered the earth for 150 days.

It poured for 40 days. And the crust of the earth broke and waters from the deep were unleashed for 150 days. All land was covered and every man, woman and animal who was not in the ark died.

At the Flood, the whole world changed as well. God radically transformed the earth and it was completely different after the flood.

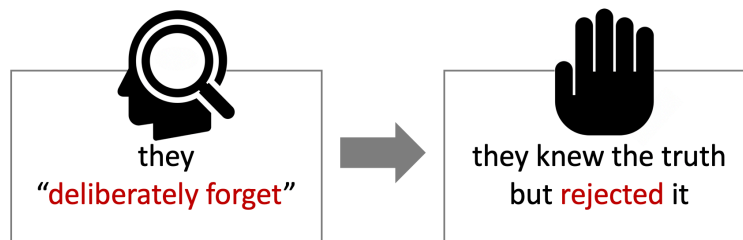
When Noah and his family were finally released from the ark, they stepped out into a completely different world. The change was so fantastical and radical that the Bible talks about future people rejecting what had actually happened at that time.



2 Peter 3:5–6

⁵ They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water.

⁶ Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood.



Is it true that whatever happens in the physical world has nothing to do with “spiritual things”?

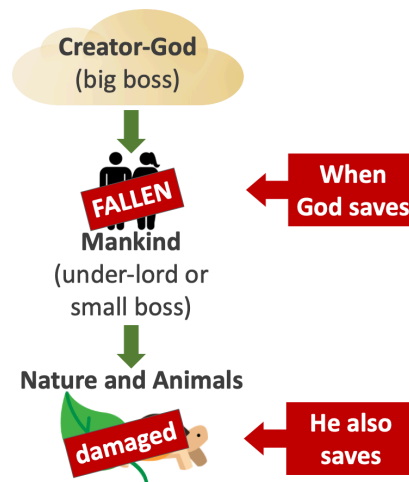
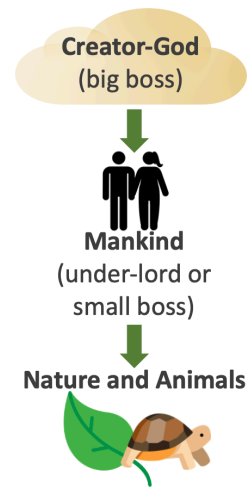
Mankind was supposed to responsibly care for nature and the animal kingdom in their God-given role as under-lord.

When mankind as the under-lord sinned, the consequences of their sin also fell upon all the areas they were responsible for. Both nature and animals were affected. It is entirely man's fault that nature and the environment got corrupted.

What happens in the physical world of nature is directly related to the “spiritual” matter of man's relationship with God.

So similarly, when God saves man from sin, the salvation He provides will also affect both man and nature. Real salvation must fix both.

The account of Noah shows us that when God brings judgment and salvation, both man and nature will be affected.



5. How to be saved: by faith

The plan of salvation could only be done by God alone. There was nothing that Noah could add to God's plan for the ark. Noah simply had to believe that what God said was true. All he had to have was faith in Yahweh.

Hebrews 11:7

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.



Noah did not try to add to God's plan or change it. He simply trusted God. He did exactly as God told him.

Imagine as the rain poured down, the ark began to move in the rising waters. But there was more happening. The land began to crack and jets of water blew into the sky, followed by volcanic eruptions. Noah and his family were clinging to each other inside the vessel. They might have thought, "Is the ark going to be okay? Is this boat going to break apart and then we'd all drown? Are we really saved?"

Their feelings might have failed them. Their inner faith might have disappeared for a while but would that have changed anything?

No. The ark was strong enough to hold them. Why? Because it was designed by God. And God had sealed the door. It was going to be God who kept the ark secure. Once inside the ark, Noah and his family's faith might have been shaky but the ark wasn't.

Their faith would make their ride comfortable or it would make them miserable with worry. But how they felt did not change the reality that they were safe in the ark.



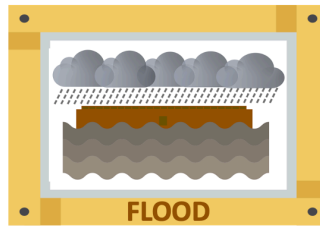
And this is a picture of what it means to have faith in God and His salvation. Feelings would not change the reality of salvation.

Five lessons we can learn from the global Flood

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A Picture of Salvation

The global Flood is not only a historical event in mankind's history but it is also a picture of how God judges evil and how He saves. It is a foreshadow, a picture of the future, of how Jesus will save people and nature from the consequences of sin and how God will transform our current sin-filled world into a perfect one.



**How God
Judges and Saves...**

...is a picture of...



**...How Jesus
Judges and Saves.**

These same five lessons from the Flood will apply to when Jesus judges and saves. As we go along in this study, we will see more of these biblical pictures or foreshadows.

We can see that the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator-God knows how to get rid of a sin-filled earth and provide a way of escape for people who trust Him. People with a pagan worldview who reject God will keep trying to come up with ways to save themselves from the effects of a sin-filled, evil world. They insist that their ways will work. They believe they can save themselves. They ignore and refuse to believe the way that God provides.

How about us? Will we trust in what He says or trust our own thinking or the thinking of the pagan mind?

Was there such a thing as a worldwide flood that destroyed the earth?

Some churchgoers are convinced that the Bible's account of the global Flood is just a fable or myth. For them, no such event ever occurred in the earth's history. They have chosen to "surrender or give up the truth". Then there are those who "accommodate and reinterpret the truth". These believers say the Bible's account is about a localised flood. Still others say that the flood has spiritual implications but was not based on a physical or historical event.

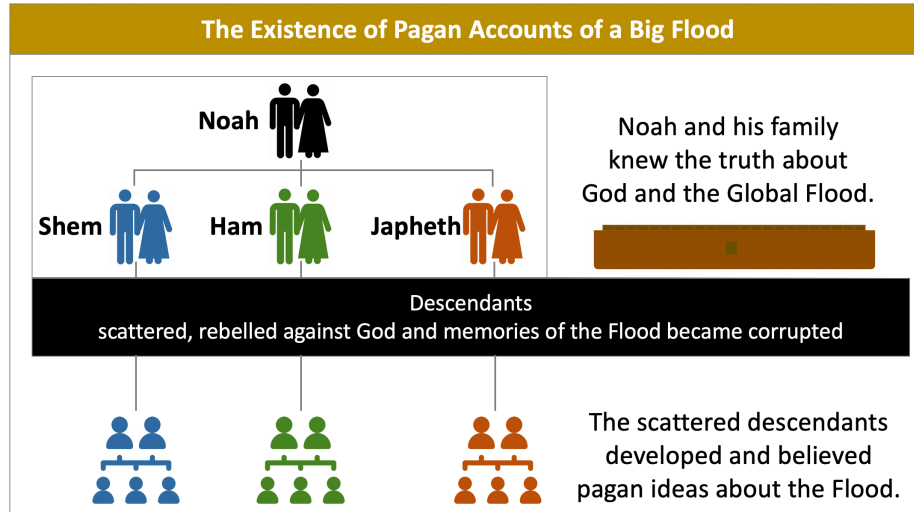
Here are four points to consider about the accuracy and truthfulness of the Bible's account of the global Flood.

1. The existence of pagan accounts of a big flood

Some have suggested that the writer of Genesis (Moses) took pagan stories of a big flood and put them into the Bible.

But consider this: All people after the Flood descended from Noah and his family. Their common family history would include the account of the Flood. However, as the population grew and people moved farther away, they rebelled against God. Their memories of the Flood became corrupted and pagan versions started to appear (like a game of Telephone or Chinese Whispers).

In other words, pagan versions of the Flood account do not actually invalidate what the Bible recorded. Rather, these pagan accounts show that fragments of truth and corrupted versions of world history have remained embedded in pagan cultures around the world.



Because of this, God decided to set the record straight and so He provided us with an accurate account of what happened. The Bible is God's authoritative eyewitness testimony. As believers who subscribe to the "counterattack" model, we rest on Scripture as our final authority rather than rely on corrupted pagan information.



2. The depth of the flood water and the duration of the flood

Some believers think that the flood was not global but only a local one in the Middle East area. These believers suggest that it was only "global" in the sense that the flood reached as far as Noah could see, implying that beyond his horizon there was no flooding.

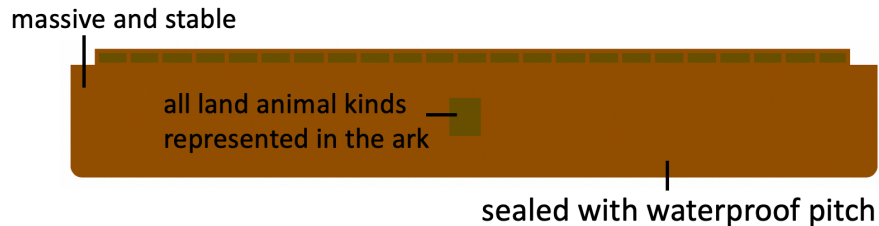
But the Bible's description makes it clear the flood was global. Consider these points:

- i. There was so much water that there were 15 cubits (about 22 feet or 6.7 metres) of water over the highest mountains at the time. The place where Noah finally landed was a mountainous area. Water flows down to the lowest depths first before filling up. So if Noah floated near a mountainous region and there was not a peak in sight, imagine how much water globally would be needed to cover those mountain peaks.
- ii. In Genesis 7:19, the Bible uses the phrase "under the whole heaven". That phrase represents a huge area rather than a small place. So every area under the heaven was covered in water. It was a global flood.



- iii. The flood lasted one year. Compare Genesis 7:11 where Noah was 600 years old and Genesis 8:13 where after more than ten months, he was now 601 years old. The flood lasted a really long time!

3. The ark's distinctive size, design and purpose



Size

Studying the dimensions of the ark as recorded in Genesis 6:14–15, we can see that it was enormous, similar in size to modern, ocean-going freighters. Its volume was so great that it equalled the volume of 522 railroad stock cars. If the flood were just a local one, why the need for such a big, stable boat? Compare the Bible's ark to the description of pagan "arks". Pagan stories tell of boats of all shapes and sizes, from rafts to perfect cubes. With current knowledge of physics, we know that such vessels would never survive a flood as they would not be stable in rough water. In contrast, the shape and size of the ark is evidence of a stable vessel that would not capsize in massive worldwide flooding. This was necessary because the ark was supposed to preserve the life of man and animals from a catastrophic global flood for a year. That would be the length of time all of them would have to spend in the ark.

Design

Another important detail of the ark was how it was sealed. The Bible says a type of pitch (Genesis 6:14), probably a clear pitch made from tree sap, was used to waterproof it. This was critical to keep the vessel watertight.

Purpose

Some people argue that the whole animal kingdom could not have been squashed into an ark. However, Bible scholars calculate that all the animals that were brought into the ark would fit into far less than 100 railroad stock cars. This idea that all the animals could fit in is more readily appreciated today because of our knowledge of genetic science. God had directed man, the under-lord in charge of taking care of the earth, to take on board two of every kind of animal. We can see through adaptive diversification how the original pairs of animals of every kind developed into all the varieties we now see on earth today. We can marvel at God's ingenious design of using a relatively small gene pool after the flood to produce all the animal life we now have.

We can also be amazed at how much space there was in the ark. Though the Bible doesn't state this, it would appear that God made the ark much larger than needed for Noah, his family and all the animals. As a loving, gracious God, perhaps He was providing space so that more people could trust Him and be rescued from the global judgment. But no one else believed Yahweh.

4. The commentary provided by the apostle Peter

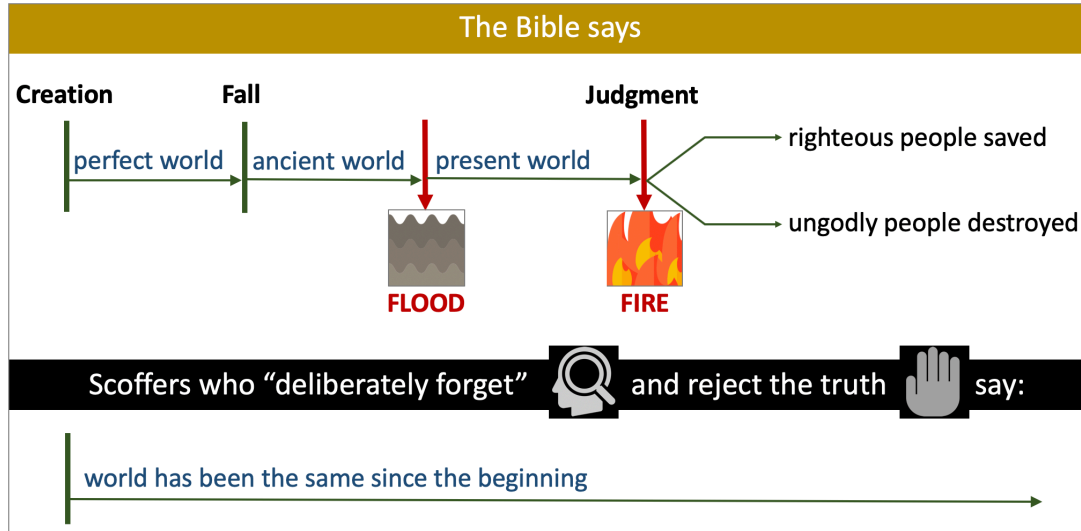
Guided by the Holy Spirit, the apostle Peter made clear in his writing that the flood was a worldwide event. He also said that people would reject this truth.

2 Peter 3:3–7

³ Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. ⁴ They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.” ⁵ They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. ⁶ Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. ⁷ And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

Peter talked of three earths:

- i. the **ancient** pre-flood world that was completely destroyed by the Flood.
- ii. our **present** post-flood world which will one day be completely destroyed by fire and
- iii. a new final world.



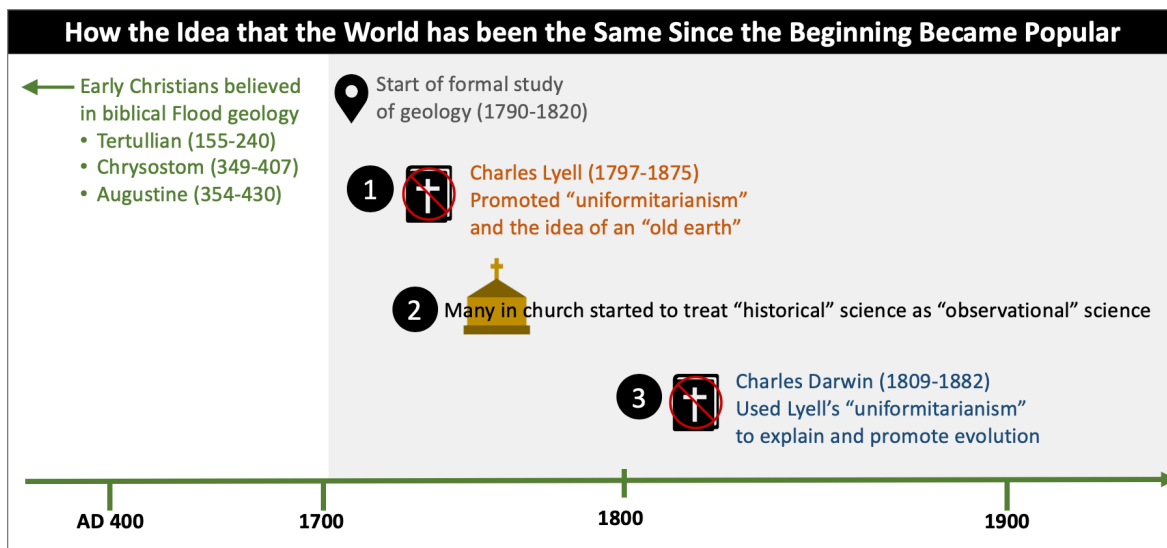
All three worlds are very different. Peter is not talking about the flood as a small, local event. It was worldwide.

How did the teachings of the scoffers become so popular that some churchgoers today believe that the world has been the same since the beginning?

It started with a rich lawyer turned geologist named Charles Lyell (1797–1875). He stated clearly that his approach to geology was based on ignoring God and the Bible. It was from this chosen position that he started aggressively promoting his man-made theory of “uniformitarianism”. This is the idea that the world has worked in the same way from the start, that the processes we see today have always been this way. Under this view, the slow processes we see today had to work an infinitely long time to shape the earth to its current state. In other words, the earth is very, very old.





However, this theory did not come from “observational science”. Rather, it is “historical science”. (Recall the candle experiment from lesson 4. When you entered the room, you did not have the right data to calculate when the candle was lit.) Presenting this theory as “science” led many churchgoers into believing this idea rather than the teachings of the Bible.

Many years later, Charles Lyell’s idea of a very, very old earth gave Charles Darwin (1809–1882) the “millions of years” he needed to make his theory of evolution sound possible. Eventually, this theory of evolution started to be taught as if it were fact, and as real as “observational science”.



What is important for us to realise is that when Charles Lyell studied geology, he said that it had to be studied with the assumption that the Bible does not exist. He didn’t start at an “objective” or “neutral” position! His starting point was already influenced by his worldview: that God and the Bible should be ignored. Because he was wealthy and very experienced in persuasion and argument, his published writings had a huge impact on the development of geology. His work influenced many geologists and scientists to separate the Bible from science and therefore, disregard Genesis. His influence also caused Bible-believing geologists to be increasingly ignored and ridiculed.

“Historical” Science is NOT NEUTRAL!

	 Pagan Worldview	 Biblical Worldview
Starting Position	Ignore God. Ignore the Bible. Everything is “natural”. Nature sustains itself. <div> <div>Pagan Worldview</div> <div>1st level CREATOR <i>No such thing</i></div> <div>2nd level creature: nature man <i>sustains itself naturally</i></div> </div>	God is the ultimate authority. The Bible is God’s revelation to man. The Bible is true. <div> <div>Creator-Creature Distinction</div> <div>1st level CREATOR: Sustains Everything</div> <div>2nd level creature: nature, man</div> </div>
Approach to geology	Uniformitarianism. Everything is working in the same way it was from the past till now. 	The Bible’s account of Creation, Fall and Flood is true. The physical evidence in the world can be explained by the accounts in the Bible. We need to study it well. 

What impact did Charles Lyell have on the church? His thinking, which is based on unbelief and the rejection of God’s Word, started to be widely accepted as if it were fact. Till this day, his theory has been treated like observational science.

But does physical evidence and modern-day geology confirm uniformitarianism?

There is a lot of research in this area that can be accessed via the websites shared in Lesson 4. For our discussion, let’s consider two recent events that caused huge geological changes in a very short span of time. They didn’t need millions of years.

Example 1: The eruption of Mount St. Helens (in Washington, USA) in 1980 was recorded on video cameras. The chaotic mix of sand, rock and water that crashed through the landscape at 145 km/h (90 miles per hour) deposited 183 metres (600 feet) of sediment in a very short time. A deep canyon, nicknamed “Little Grand Canyon” was carved out in one afternoon. Layers of this sediment hardened into solid rock within just a few years. (When scientists used radiometric dating, they claimed this rock was over a million years old!) Wood that had been buried at the eruption site started petrifying and is converting into coal. All this happened in just decades from the eruption of a single volcano.



Example 2: The Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami of Japan in 2011. This six-minute catastrophe actually moved the main island of Honshu and its surrounding islands 2.4 metres (or 8 feet)! It also shifted the earth on its axis by about 10–25 cm (4–10 inches) and increased the earth’s rotational speed by 1.8 microseconds. Again, it was one sudden, violent event. These changes to the earth didn’t happen over millions of years but in just six minutes.



If Charles Lyell were alive today to witness these two geological events, perhaps he would not be so quick to claim that the earth's processes have always been uniform.

In the New Testament, Jesus showed He could create something that appeared old in an instant. At a wedding party that He attended, the hosts ran out of wine. His mother Mary asked Him to help.

John 2:6–10

⁶ Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus told the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” When the jars had been filled, ⁸ he said, “Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies.” So the servants followed his instructions.



⁹ When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. ¹⁰ “A host always serves the best wine first,” he said. “Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!”

If we were to ask the master of ceremonies how old the wine was, he would likely have said it was very aged, very good, vintage wine. Yet Jesus had just made it a few minutes earlier.

God has given us His record of history and truth in His Word. When we read Genesis 4–9 carefully, we can see that the world, particularly in its physical and geographical features, has changed significantly after the Flood. Will we believe Him and believe in an actual global Flood or will we scoff along with the scoffers, mocking the truth and following our own thinking?

A Biblical Perspective of the Global Flood

Popular media and academics have different versions of how the world came about and why nature and the world are the way they are today. They take the available physical evidence and assemble their theories. However, all theories come from presuppositions. Theories are never “neutral” because they capture the fundamental assumptions of the proposer.

A scientist who is not a believer in the Creator-God will have theories that exclude an intelligent designer. Knowing that Satan invents his own truth to lure people away from a proper understanding of God, how much can we trust the information that we learn about so-called “natural history”? Is it really the truth? Or do they contain deceptions?

Although the Bible is not written as a science book, God does mention the natural world in relating the earth's history. What would happen if we looked first at what the Bible teaches about the global Flood and then match that to the physical evidence?

This is what Christian creation scientists have done. These scientists believe the Bible is the Word of God and the authoritative eyewitness account of the history of the world. They believe the Bible is never wrong, even when it describes the physical world. So they use the biblical worldview to interpret physical evidence and come up with alternate narratives of the physical history of the world.

Here is an example of what some scientists have done concerning the Flood.

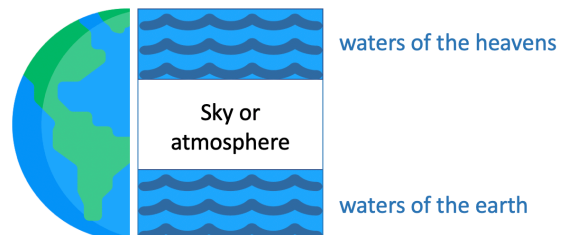


A “Counterattack” Approach to the Flood Account

The Bible says that the earth before the Flood was very different from the earth we now live in. Even the rain that fell was different. When God created the earth, he had made “waters of the heavens” and “waters of the earth”.

Genesis 1:6–8

⁶ Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” ⁷ And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. ⁸ God called the space “sky.”



Today, we don't have a canopy of water above the atmosphere as far as we know, so some creation scientists have suggested it would have been this “waters of the heavens” that came crashing down at the time of the Flood. However, the Flood was not just rain falling from the sky.

Genesis 7:11–12

¹¹ When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹² The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

This eruption of underground waters would have come with great volcanic activity and explosions with rock and ground thrown up everywhere. Together with volcanic activity and water exploding out from within the earth, the Flood was a great environmental disaster!



Currently, when we have just one massive earthquake, the earth goes through many aftershocks and takes quite a long while to settle down. Imagine how long it would have taken the earth to settle down after simultaneous worldwide earthquakes? This long settling-down period had a massive impact on man. While we don't have information on everything that happened, we have some details to broadly understand the major changes that occurred to the earth after the Flood.

A. Mountains Higher, Valleys Lower

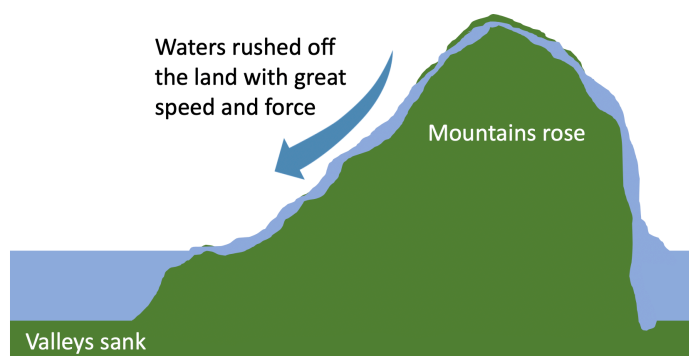
First, God tells us that mountains became very much higher and valleys very much deeper.

Psalm 104:6–9

- ⁶ You clothed the earth with floods of water,
water that covered even the mountains.
⁷ At your command, the water fled;
at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.
⁸ Mountains rose and valleys sank
to the levels you decreed.
⁹ Then you set a firm boundary for the seas,
so they would never again cover the earth.

We have evidence today of marine fossils high up in the mountains. This tells us that these mountains were once under water. And after the Flood, the mountains rose even higher than they were before the Flood.

As the mountains rose and the valleys sank, the waters would have rushed off the continents (the land masses) with great speed and force. We see rivers that have cut deep into the land, creating a lot of sediment. We also see river basins with a lot of sediment and sand, much more than what we would expect to be deposited by the current flow of the rivers today. All this hints to us at how rapidly the mountains were pushed up and the valleys forced down in a relatively short span of time.

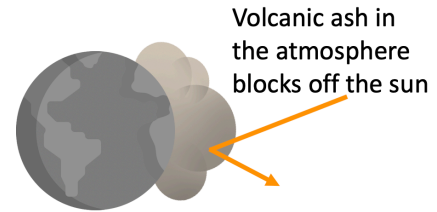


Continued “after-shocks” during the post-Flood time would have been accompanied by great volcanic activity. For example, lava fields in the Pacific Northwest of the USA and Canada cover areas that are many times larger than the worst volcanic eruptions today. We also have evidence of large inland lakes or “puddles” left behind by the Flood. For example, we see evidence that Utah and the Sahara desert once had large inland lakes.

B. Cooler Atmospheric Temperature

Second, when the earth's crust cracked and jets of underground water shot into the sky (the “fountains of the deep”), this would have created earthquakes and volcanic eruptions all over the world. These eruptions must have continued for months after the Flood. During this time,

there would have been massive amounts of volcanic ash thrown into the atmosphere. In the years to follow, the sky would not have been sunny and clear all the time. Instead, there would have been long periods where volcanic ash darkened the sky. With sunlight blocked off by the ash canopy, the atmosphere would have cooled down.



The Mount St. Helens eruption shows how fast ash can spread. Within days, volcanic ash spread across the United States and was found around the world within two weeks. Flights in Washington were disrupted during that time. And that's just the ash from one volcano. Imagine during the Flood, there were hundreds of eruptions all around the world as the earth's crust cracked.

Temperature would also have been affected by the collapse of a worldwide water canopy. Before the Flood, the "waters of the heavens" would have kept the temperature of the earth quite uniform and pleasant; it would be never too cold nor too warm. However, without the protective canopy, the north and south pole areas would become far colder.

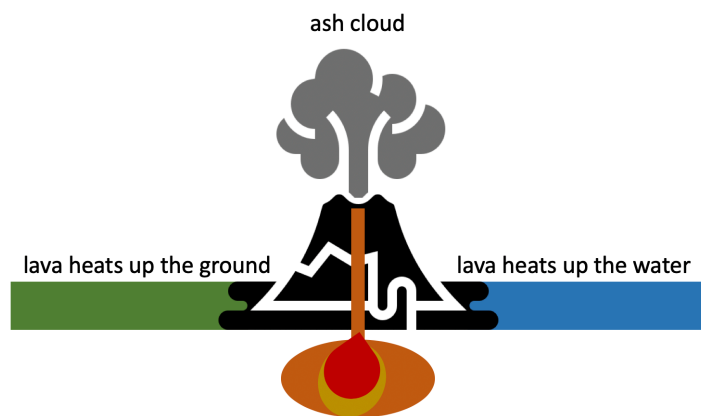
C. Warmer Oceans

Third, it is probable that after the Flood, the oceans would have been much warmer than they are now. Why? There are two reasons for this.

- As we go deeper into the earth's mantle, the temperature gets higher. Any underground water this deep would be heated up. The Bible tells us that this underground water, the "fountains of the deep", was what burst forth to flood the earth.
- Erupting volcanoes throw up very hot lava which heats up the ground and waters around it to extremely high temperatures.

Combining underground water with hot volcanic lava, it is highly probable that the water during the Flood would have been warm.

In fact, scientists estimate that the average temperature of the oceans after the Flood would have been warmer too. This is because there have been warm-water fossils found near both the north and south poles of the earth. One scientist estimates that the ocean water temperature after the Flood would have been about 30°C (86°F). Today, it is on average just 4°C (39°F).



Also, carbon dioxide levels in the water would have been high due to the warm water as well as the large amount of decaying matter from the Flood. The violent mixing of the water during the Flood would have meant that this high carbon dioxide level and higher average temperature of seawater would have been spread relatively uniformly throughout the oceans.

An Ice Age

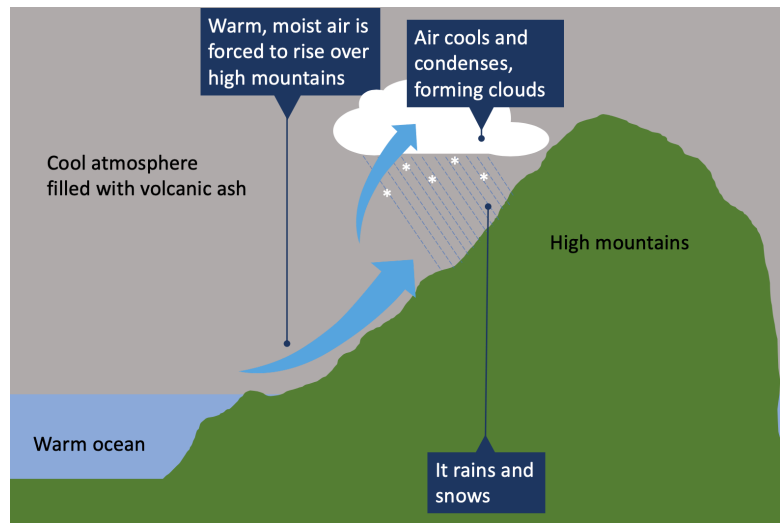
Importantly, this combination of

- i. continental uplift,
- ii. cooler atmosphere and
- iii. uniformly warm oceans

are ideal conditions for an “ice age”.

The warm ocean water combined with the cooler land mass was ideal for creating rain and snow.

When we think of an ice age, some of us have images in our minds of the earth being one large ice ball where temperatures are significantly below freezing year round. However, such conditions would not generate rain or snow. Warm evaporating waters are necessary to create precipitation.



During this period:

- There would have been large and frequent snowfalls in many areas.
- There would have been longer and colder winter periods and shorter and milder warm seasons.
- Many parts of the north and south would have experienced much larger polar ice caps and glaciers. In fact, the earth today shows evidence of glaciation over many areas.

One creation scientist estimates that this ice age would have lasted about 700 years. These 700 years would be the same time period covered in Genesis 10–11, between the generations of Noah to Abraham.

Is there any biblical record from this time period? Yes. The book of Job was written during this period. Job lived in what is now the Arabian desert. However, look at what God said to Job about the ice there:

Job 38:29–30

²⁹ Who is the mother of the ice?

Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens?

³⁰ For the water turns to ice as hard as rock,
and the surface of the water freezes.

When would there have been frozen waters in the desert of Arabia? During this post-Flood period. God was probably using what Job could see to question him.

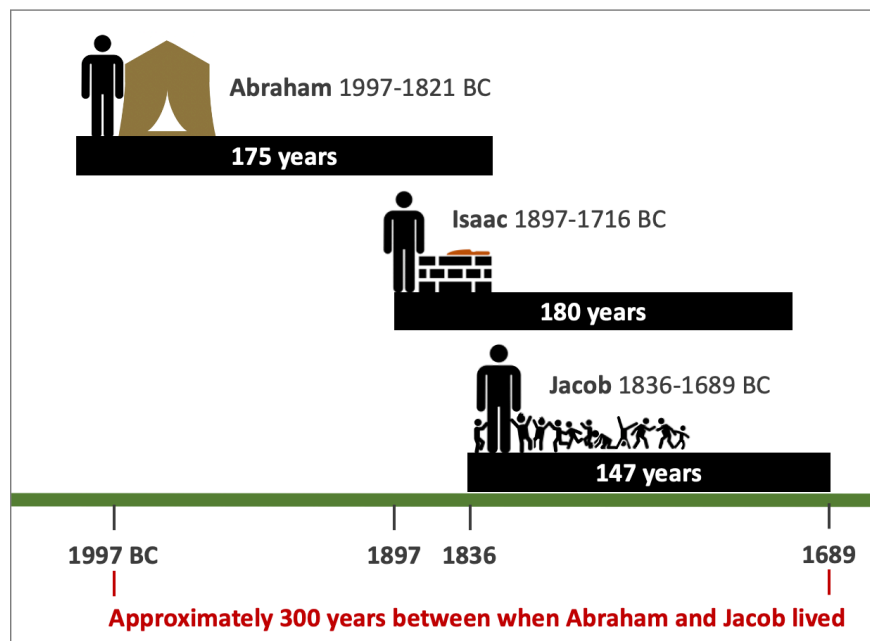
Today, Egypt and the area around the Dead Sea are dry desert lands. But the Bible tells us that there was a lot of rain and even snow at the low altitudes of the Middle East after the Flood. This is the Bible's description of the Dead Sea and Egypt in Abraham's time. The Bible describes it as "well watered", meaning it had a lot of rain and was fertile, which made it perfect for farming.

Genesis 13:10

Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

Unstable and Changing Climate

But the climate was not stable then. It was still transitioning to our present-day climate. Again, we know this because by the time it came to the period of Abraham's grandson, Jacob, these same areas including Egypt, were no longer well-watered. This was just two generations later, but the area had experienced great drought that had lasted many years.



Genesis 41:54–55

⁵⁴ Then the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had predicted. The famine also struck all the surrounding countries, but throughout Egypt there was plenty of food.

⁵⁵ Eventually, however, the famine spread throughout the land of Egypt as well. And when the people cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told them, "Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you."

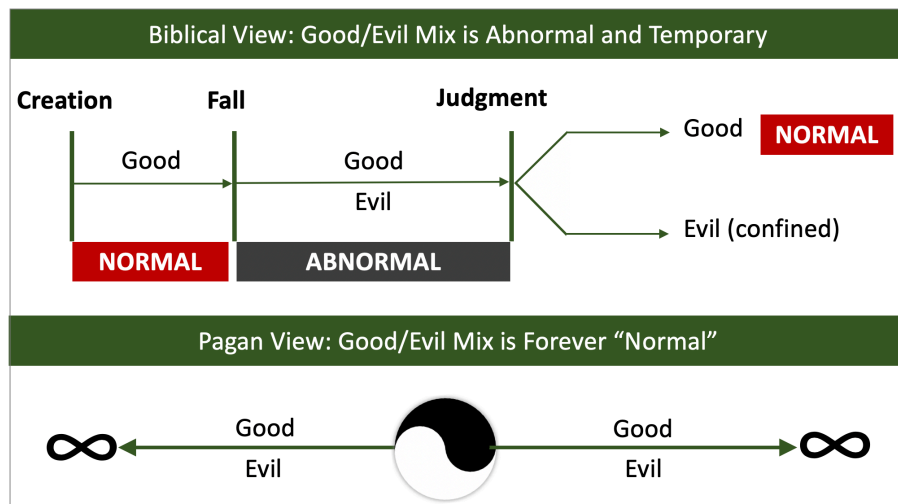
As Noah stepped off the ark, he would have been greeted by a barren world with few trees and plants and no animals or birds. All the land animals had died and were fossilised or were in the process of being fossilised in the sediments of the Flood.

Though he saw the rainbow, the sky was probably also gloomy with volcanic ash. This was not the world he was familiar with at all. He would have experienced numerous earthquakes as the ground continued to settle down. The temperature and weather in the years that followed would have been erratic. As more years passed, there was more severe rain, snowfall and ice as the ice age set in. Importantly, this had a big impact on man and animals. This was a very unique time in history, never to be repeated again.

This is one example of how sincere, believing scientists have taken the Word of God and using records from the Bible, proposed a narrative of the history of the world that honours the biblical account and the physical evidence in nature without either “surrendering” to the world’s views or “accommodating and reinterpreting” the Bible.

Is there really a coming global or final judgment?

There are many people today, just as in Noah’s day, who believe there is no such thing as a coming global or final judgment. They believe that good and evil will both go on side by side forever. However, the Bible teaches clearly that there will definitely come a time of judgment.



On the final judgment day, unbelievers will be judged at the “The Great White Throne”:

Revelation 20:11–15

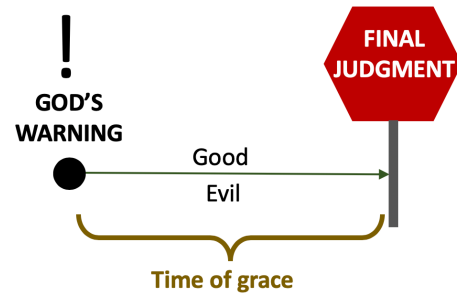
¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

(Note that the people under judgment here are not believers [that is, those who trust Jesus]. Their names are recorded in the Book of Life and they are therefore safe.)

Before the global Flood, God gave mankind 120 years to turn away from their own man-made thinking and turn to Him for salvation.

Now we live in a similar “grace period” where God is giving our generation time to repent. The final global judgment is coming.

- Are we heeding God’s warning? Will we be found ready like Noah and his family?
- Will our family, friends and loved ones be found “in the ark” or “outside the ark”? Who will warn them?



Discussion Questions

Discuss the following questions as a group or use them for personal reflection.

1. Think about the five lessons that we can learn from the global Flood: grace before judgment; whom to save, whom to judge; only one way of salvation; man and nature impacted; how to be saved: by faith. Were any of these points new to you? How do these lessons make you think about the salvation that God provides through Jesus Christ?
2. A popular question is why does God permit evil to go on and on, seemingly without end. Reflecting on the event of the global Flood, what can we say is God’s reason for allowing evil to continue?
3. Consider the number of people saved in the ark: just eight. Why do you think no one else believed that God was coming in judgment? How do you think this reflects on our world today? How are people today responding to God’s offer of salvation?



Pre-reading for next lesson: Genesis 8:20–9:28; Numbers 35:9–34