April 20, 2014 a.m.

**I BELIEVE THE STORY OF NOAH AND THE FLOOD**

Reading: **2 Peter 3:1-7**

* I believe that about 4,500 years ago, the entire earth was covered by water, an act of God to punish the ungodly and to save the just. I believe a man named Noah, with his wife, and three sons and their wives were saved by building a boat as described in the book of Genesis

**It was not just a local flood.**

* *…and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed 15 cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.* **(Gen. 7:19b-20)**
* “…there would have been no need for an Ark at all if the flood was local in extent. The whole procedure of constructing such a vessel, involving over 100 years of planning and toiling, simply to escape a local flood can hardly be described as anything but utterly foolish and unnecessary! How much more sensible it would have been for God simply to have warned Noah of the coming destruction in plenty of time for him to move to an area that would not have been affected by the flood, even as Lot was taken out of Sodom before fire fell from heaven. Not only so, but also the great numbers of animals of all kinds, and certainly the birds, could easily have moved out of the danger zone also, without having to be stored in a barge for an entire year! The Biblical record simply cannot be harmonized with the concept of a flood that was confined to the Near East.”

(Whitcomb, 1973, quoted in *R&R*, Sept. 1998)

* The rainbow covenant
* Since the Lord promised to never again destroy the world with a flood, has He broke that covenant several times since if the flood was only a local one in the first place?
* And is there really a need for us in Nashville to see a rainbow if the flood only occurred somewhere in the Middle East?

Is there any evidence in the natural world that points to the fact that a worldwide flood actually happened?

“Henry Morris, in The Remarkable Birth of Planet Earth, has suggested 96 arguments (64 biblical, 32 non-biblical) that support the idea of a worldwide Flood (1972, pp. 96-100)”

(*In Defense of…The Genesis Flood* [Part II], *R&R,* Sept. 1998)

Non-biblical evidences: (*In Defense of…The Genesis Flood* )

* The vast animal graveyards that are found worldwide that give “evidence of a great, sudden, and recent watery cataclysm – followed by a deep freeze across the entire great north, accompanied by titanic hydraulic forces and crustal upheavals burying a host of elephants and other great beasts in a region that now is almost totally devoid of vegetation….”
* "... there were 30 million fossil fragments in that area. At a conservative estimate, we had discovered the tomb of 10,000 dinosaurs...there was a flood. This was no ordinary spring flood from one of the streams in the area but a catastrophic inundation.... That's our best explanation. It seems to make the most sense, and on the basis of it we believe that this was a living, breathing group of dinosaurs destroyed in one catastrophic moment."(in Utah) (*Digging Dinosaurs*, 1988 by John Horner)
* Experiments have demonstrated that many layers of rock strata can be laid down during one catastrophic moment. (size and weight separated by the water)
* The eruption of Mt. St. Helens on May 18, 1980 (Gary Fiscus sermon)
* 600 feet of strata laid down at one time in some places.
* Polystrate (means “many layers”)fossils(From R&R, Dec., 2000)
* “Polystratic trees are fossil trees that extend through several layers of strata, often twenty-feet or more in length. There is no doubt that this type of fossil was formed relatively quickly; otherwise it would have decomposed while waiting for strata to slowly accumulate around it.”

(*The Collapse of Evolution* by Scott Huse, 1997, p. 96, quoted in R&R, Dec. 2000)

* Baleen whale 80 feet long found in a quarry in California, standing on its tail. Evolutionists would have us to think that the whale stood there decomposing as millions of diatom skeletons (algae in water that leaves behind such after dying) enshrouded it over a period of 100,000 years.
* “Geologic evidence suggests that most, if not all, of the world’s mountains have been under water at some time in the past – a conclusion demanded by the existence of sedimentary deposits and marine fossils at or near their summits.”
* “Much of the Earth’s crust is composed of sedimentary rocks (shales, limestones, sandstones, etc.) that generally are known to form under water.”
* Mt. St. Helens on May 18, 1980
* Peat layer several inches thick formed in Spirit Lake.
* Resembled the coal beds of eastern U.S.
* Coal is supposed to form at about 1” per 1000 years.
* First stage of coal formation in a very short time.
* “Worldwide fossilization has occurred in vast quantities, including fossils of even many modern forms of life. These fossils are found in sedimentary strata, often at great depths and under great pressure. Yet as Morris has observed: ‘Fossils, however, normally require very rapid burial and compaction to be preserved at all.’”
* “To become fossilized a plant or animal must usually have hard parts, such as bone, shell, or wood. It must be buried quickly to prevent decay and must be undisturbed throughout the long process. “

[F.H.T. Rhodes, H.S. Zim, and P. R. Shaffer, Fossils (New York, NY: Golden Press, 1962), p. 10, quote found in *Many Infallible Proofs*, Henry M. Morris with Henry M. Morris III, p. 294-5]

* “Once an organism dies, …there is usually intense competition among other organisms for the nutrients stored in its body. This combined with physical weathering and the dissolution of body parts soon leads to destruction unless the remains are quickly buried.” (Anna K. Behrensmeyer, Taphonomy and the Fossil Record, American Scientist, Nov/Dec 1984)
* “Furthermore, the fossils are found in sedimentary rocks, which are formed primarily by transportation and deposition of sediments of water.”

(*Many Infallible Proofs*, Henry M. Morris with Henry M. Morris III, p. 286)

* Fossils appear healthy rather than in a state of decay. This suggests that they were covered rapidly rather than slowly over a period of thousands of years.
* A fish with another fish half way into its mouth! (D. Patton)
* Me with a rib in my mouth being buried in concrete at Jim N’ Nicks.
* A fish giving birth. (Video tape: Fossil evidence for creation)
* Natural formations - Grand Canyon, Flaming Gorge, some mountains, Arches National Monument, Zion National Park, Badlands of South Dakota.
* The Havasupai Indians living in the Grand Canyon believe it was formed as a result of a flood.
* . . . ."Before there were many people on earth there were two gods: Tochapa of goodness, and Hokomata of evil. Tochapa had a daughter named Pu-keh-eh, whom he hoped would become the mother of all living. Hokomata, the evil, was determined that no such thing should take place, and he covered the world with a great flood. Tochopa, the good, felled a great tree and hollowed out the trunk. He placed Pu-keh-eh in the hollowed trunk, and when the water rose and flooded the earth, she was secure in her improvised boat.”
* "Finally the flood waters receded and mountain peaks emerged. Rivers were created; and one of them cut the great gushing fissure, which became the Grand Canyon.”
* "Pu-keh-eh, in her log, came to rest on the new earth. She stepped forth and beheld an empty world.”
* "When the land became dry, a great golden sun rose in the east and warmed the earth, and caused her to conceive. In time, she gave birth to a male child. Later, a waterfall caused her to conceive, and she gave birth to a girl. From the union of these two mortal children came all the people on the earth. The first were the Havasupai, and the voice of Tochopa spoke to them and told them to live forever in peace in their canyon of good earth and pure water where there would always be plenty for all . . .”

(We've Forgotten by Kenneth Ham, Sept. 1, 1989 Back to Genesis, Institute of Creation Research website)

* Effects of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens on May 18, 1980
* Erosion in short period caused by mud, ash, trees, debris, and water:
* Badlands of South Dakota – 1000’s of years? Similar formations in 5 days of erosion at the base of Mt. St. Helens.
* A gorge cut 150 feet deep and 600 feet wide in a matter of hours by a mud slide cause by subsequent volcanic activity.
* As reported by the July 17, 2010, issue of *Science News*, “An unexpectedly large canyon carved in just three days by a Texas deluge may help scientists estimate the size of ancient megafloods believed to have sculpted terrain on both Earth and Mars.”

(Perkins, S. 2010. “Texas flood carves canyon in days.” *Science News* 178, no. 2)

* In July 2002, “record flooding” in central Texas caused Canyon Lake, a dammed reservoir northeast of San Antonio, to overflow its banks. According to Caltech geologist Michael P. Lamb and his colleague Mark Fonstad, a hydrologist at Texas State University, the ensuing rush of water carved a 2.2-kilometer-long canyon downstream of the dam. Over the course of three days, the deluge carved out a canyon from 40 to 60 meters wide, with an average depth of 7 meters. In total, the sudden flood scooped out roughly 460,000 cubic meters of earth material, nearly half of which was solid rock.
* The journal further reported: “The torrent was so intense that it plucked large, flat-sided blocks of limestone up to a meter across from the bedrock. During the flood’s peak, water flowed through the canyon at a rate that would have filled 20 Olympic-sized pools each minute….In the lower half of the canyon, the deluge sculpted streamlined islands of material resembling those found in areas stricken by much larger floods on Earth….”
* This is a perfect example of catastrophism, not only because it created a major geological formation in such a short time, but also because it happened before our very eyes, with no concern over speculation, doubt, or controversy. In the words of Alan D. Howard, a geomorphologist at the University of Virginia, “It doesn’t take millions of years to create an impressive channel. Flowing liquid can do a lot of work in a short period of time” (Ibid.)

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2011/04/07/Texas-Flood-Rapidly-Creates-Canyon.aspx#Article>

* “The canyon formed in just 3 days.”

<http://www.caltech.edu/content/caltech-geologist-investigates-canyon-carved-just-three-days-texas-flood>

* “In early July of 2002, 35 inches of rain fell in eight days and Canyon Lake overcame its spillway.  Seven feet of water flowed over the 1,247 foot wide spillway -- 70,000 cubic feet/second.  The rush scrubbed the narrow valley clean of vegetation and carved a 70-foot-deep gorge in a matter of days.”

(<http://www.virtualfieldwork.org/Canyon_Lake_Gorge.html>)

* “Typically a steep-walled, narrow gorge is inferred to represent slow persistent erosion.But because many of the geological formations of Canyon Lake Gorge are virtually indistinguishable from other formations which have been attributed to long term (slower) processes, the data collected from Canyon Lake Gorge lends further credence to the hypothesis that some of the most spectacular canyons on Earth may have been carved rapidly during ancient megaflood events.”

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canyon_Lake_Gorge>)

* It began to rain in Noah’s 600th year, on the 17th day of the 2nd month.
* It rained for 40 days and nights. (until the 27th day of the 3rd month)
* Then the *waters receded continually*, *the waters decreased continually.*
* This went on for 150 days – 17th day of 7th month.
* The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.
* On the 1st day of the 10th month, the tops of the mountains could be seen.
* The water still must have been receding from higher ground.
* In Noah’s 601st year, on the 1st day of the 1st month, the waters were dried up.
* So the water receded for about 9 months or 270 days. (4th – 12th months)
* Using the Canyon Lake Gorge and flood as a model:
* Depth -
* 23 feet in 3 days (in the bedrock) – 2070 feet in 270 days.
* 50 feet in 3 days (the overall landscape) – 4500 feet in 270 days.
* 70 foot deep in some places – 6,300 feet in 270 days.
* Width -
* 180 feet (average) in the bedrock in 3 days.
* 16,200 feet in 270 days. (3 miles)
* Grand Canyon – 18 miles wide and 1 mile deep.
* In the interest of fairness, I read one objection to this kind of thinking. The author saw correlation between such events because the amount of water that cut such canyons would still have taken millions of years to cut the Grand Canyon.
* There was much more water with more debris (rocks, soil, trees) in the water.
* Force of the running water must have been much greater.
* Some of the ground was softer (strata that had just been laid down).

**I BELIEVE…**

* *“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen….”* (**Heb. 11:7**)
* …that Ezekiel, some 2,000 years after the flood, spoke to his people about some faithful men of old, men like Daniel, Job and Noah. (**Eze. 14:14, 20**)
* ….because Peter believed the story of Noah and the flood.
* *“…the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah….”* (**1 Peter 3:20**)
* *“And did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah….”* (**2 Pet. 2:8**)
* Noah preached to that generation – trying to save them too.
* *“By which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.”*

(**2 Pet. 3:6**)

* …that Jesus spoke of the fact of the story of Noah when warning about his coming and comparing the unpreparedness of the people of Noah’s day to that of those who would also be unprepared when he was to come in judgment.
* *“For as in the days before the flood, they there eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark.”* (**Mt. 24:38**)

**AS IN THE DAYS OF THE FLOOD, SO IT WILL BE IN THE JUDGMENT TO COME.**

* The sons of God married the daughters of men because they were attractive.
* Their children became mighty men of renown.
* Wickedness increased to the point that men thought only of evil things.
* The earth was *corrupt* and *filled with violence*.
* When Jesus comes, folks will be sitting down to eat without thanking Him who gave us all things. Others will be at weddings where perhaps His ways are not even mentioned, where the best some will be able to do is talk about how pretty the bride is. Nothing wrong with saying this but is this all she is bringing to the marriage?! Others will be attending graduations and honor ceremonies, honoring their worldly children. Others will be caught in the acts of violence against their fellow human beings. Many will have been warned by a friend but will have paid no attention until it’s too late.

***“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”* (6:8)**

* He was a *just man*, *blameless* and *walked with God*. (**6:9**)
* *“And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him.”* (**7:5**)
* God has extended to us His greatest act of grace to save us from something far worse than a flood.
* Because of His grace, *we should live soberly, righteously and godly* *in this present age.* (**Titus 2:12**)
* We should walk with God (and He will be the one doing the leading) and do all that He has commanded us.
* I believe we are saved through water – allegory based on myth or fact?
* Baptism does save us.
* Proceeded by faith and repentance.

Revised outlines from June 2, 2002 and Feb. 10, 2008