

Lesson 7: The Global Flood - Part I

Overview

The Flood is not merely a children's story about a big boat and animals, but is a lesson of God's judgment on a world filled with sin and corruption. It involved death, destruction, and the end of the world that had existed before.

It was an earth-changing event that left visible evidence all around the world. Today, we can readily see vast sedimentary layers, buried organisms and vegetation, broad erosional surfaces, and massively altered continents.

Key Scriptures

Genesis 6:5-13

Genesis 7:11-24

Genesis 8:1-5

2 Peter 3:3-7

Psalms 104:6-9

Matthew 24:37-39

Judgment, Mercy, and Destruction

- The earth was filled with violence and human wickedness.
- The fountains of the great deep broke open, and the windows of heaven were opened.
- The waters covered the high hills, and every land-dwelling creature outside the ark died; the waters prevailed for 150 days.
- The ark shows God's mercy in the middle of terrible judgment.

The Flood should sober us before it fascinates us. God judged sin, destroyed the violent world, and preserved a remnant by grace even in the midst of judgement.

Two Paradigms: Massive Change or Massive Time

- Hutton and Lyell emphasized slow processes operating over immense time: **small change, massive time.**
- The Flood provides another framework: **massive change, short time;** enormous erosion, transport, burial, and deposition during a global catastrophe.
- A rock layer is evidence; the history and age assigned to it are interpretations.
- Present processes help us understand erosion as it occurs **today**

A rock layer is evidence; its assigned history and age are interpretations.

Present-day erosion and deposition can help us understand the processes involved without requiring that they always operated at present-day rates.

What the Evidence Shows

- Thick sedimentary formations extend across enormous regions, and marine fossils are found far above present sea level.
- Coal seams preserve enormous quantities of vegetation that were gathered, buried, compressed, and altered.
- Rapid burial protects organisms from decay, weathering, and scavengers.
- Fossils are not randomly mixed because organisms not only lived in different habitats across a vast geography; but they were affected uniquely by water depth, currents, mobility, body density, and their buoyancy.
- A progressive catastrophe can therefore produce distinct fossil zones while still affecting the entire world.

A global catastrophe would not produce a randomly mixed pile of organisms. It would produce an ordered record shaped by geography, habitat, water, burial, and the progression of the catastrophe.