

Lesson 8: The Global Flood - Part II

Overview

In this lesson, we show how God first created complete, functioning animal kinds and declared His creation very good. Their genetic makeup contained purposefully designed potential needed for variation, adaptation, and rapid diversification within each kind.

While the ark preserved the kinds, it did not preserve every pre-Flood variety. The animals that left the ark carried only a portion of the biological richness that had existed before judgment. Living things we see today are a reduced remnant of a richer world that passed through judgment, the ark, diversification, and extinction.

Key Scriptures

Genesis 1:20-25

Genesis 6:19-20

Genesis 8:15-19

Genesis 9:1-2

Created Kinds and Designed Variation

- The original animals were not primitive prototypes waiting to improve.
- God created stable kinds with complete body plans and coordinated biological systems.
- Their original gene pools contained more variation than any one modern species displays.
- Populations could express different sizes, colors, shapes, behaviors, and environmental tolerances.
- Variation within a kind does not require one kind to become another.

God created the best of the best: creatures fully fitted for His world and equipped with the biological potential needed for the history He knew would follow.

The Ark Preserved Kinds, Not Every Variety

- Noah did not need every modern species, breed, or regional population on the ark.
- A small surviving population carried only part of the variation once spread across the pre-Flood world.
- Many combinations of traits disappeared.
- Elephant-like animals included modern elephants and many extinct forms such as the Gomphothere and Stegotetrabelodon.
- These varieties lived at the same time in different regions.
- The same pattern helps explain giraffes and okapis, cattle and bison, wolves and dogs, living and extinct cats, horses, rhinos, hippos, and **yes**, even **dinosaurs**!
- Dinosaurs were land animals created on Day 6; many were buried during the Flood, while ark survivors entered a radically changed world.

The ark animals were only a shadow of the biological richness that had existed before the Flood. The kinds survived, but many pre-Flood expressions of those kinds were never seen again.

Rapid Diversification Is Not Evolution

- Isolation and natural selection allow different traits to become common in different populations.
- Genetic drift and small populations can remove variation quickly.
- Variation can happen rapidly while creatures remain within the same created kind.
- Specialization simply narrows genetic possibilities rather than inventing a new body plan.

Post-Flood diversification is primarily a pattern of branching, sorting, and loss from a rich created inheritance - not an unguided process building animals from simpler ancestors.