



God is all-wise and all-knowing (omniscient) (see Romans 16:27; Hebrews 4:13)

One of this planet's most significant events, rivaled only by the eventual end of the world itself, was the great Flood that is recorded in **Genesis 6-8**. **"Did the Flood cover the entire earth?"** The view that the Flood was a mere local event was conceived about 300 years ago, and those who believe the notion do so because they have been influenced by evolutionary ideology. And so, in deference to "science" [really, evolution theory] biblical data are either dismissed or manipulated so as to produce the desired result. But the evidence for a global Flood is overwhelming. Consider these: Plain biblical language. The Mosaic language could not be plainer relative to the extent of the Deluge. "All the high mountains, that were under the whole heaven were covered...And all flesh died that moved upon the earth" (Genesis 7:19,21). Waters of the deep. A portion of the Flood waters came as fountains of "the great deep" were broken up (Genesis 7:11). The waters of "the deep" refer to the ocean depths (Psalm 104:6). This suggests more than a "Mesopotamian mud puddle." Size of the ark. If the Flood was localized, why did God have Noah work for more than a century constructing an Ark (of enormous capacity), when the family (not to mention the animals) could migrate to safety? Length of time in the ark. There have been devastating floods which may impact different locales for weeks on end. But Noah, his family, and the creatures within the Ark were inside for more than a year! This was no local flood! Ancient traditions. There are numerous ancient traditions, from all around the globe, of a Flood that consumed the earth, and from which one family was spared. Noted archaeologist Howard Vos contends that "on all continents and among almost all peoples of the earth flood accounts have been found." The evidence hardly suggests a local flood. Purpose of the flood. The Flood was designed as a punishment against the worldwide corruption of humanity (righteous Noah excepted) (Genesis 6:5, 7, 13; cf. Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; 1 Peter 3:20). This important information can be reconciled only with a global disaster.

**"Never again!"** God made a covenant with Noah that no flood, of this scope, would occur ever again (Genesis 9:11). If that Flood was simply regional, Jehovah's pledge has been violated many times across the centuries. The preview of future destruction is described...

Peter prophesied the future return of Christ to render judgment upon the entire earth (2 Peter 3). The apostle then anticipates a responsive quibble. Mockers would say: "Where is the promise of his coming?" Peter charges that these scoffers "willfully forget" that the "world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" (3:6). He affirmed that the earth would be destroyed at the time of the Lord's return. If language means anything at all, the implication is that the entire globe of Noah's day was covered by waters of the Flood.

Christians must cease yielding to the criticisms of unbelievers relative to the integrity of the Bible. "How could thousands of animals have been housed in Noah's Ark? This seems literally impossible." A critic once made the same objection. Yet when asked how many animals there were, he shrugged. When pressed as to the size of the Ark, he confessed he didn't know. All he knew was this: That an unknown quantity of animals could not have been crammed into a barge of undetermined size! In their book, *The Genesis Flood* (1961), Whitcomb and Morris put the matter in focus (and their work has not been refuted by the critics to this day). The dimensions of the Ark are given in Genesis 6, roughly 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. With its three decks, it had a storage space of 100,000 square feet, or the capacity equivalent of 8 freight trains consisting of 65 cars each—a total of 520 cars. *Do you "see" the size in your mind?*

It is estimated (by evolutionary authorities) that there are approximately 1 million animal species (Dobzhansky, p. 166)—including everything from mammals to protozoans. Many, of course, would not need to be inside the Ark; others are exceedingly small. There are about 17,600 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians altogether. This means there were, at most, about 35,000 vertebrate animals within Noah's ship. And note this: Noah brought into the Ark "kinds" of animals. A "kind" is a broader category than a "species." Moses spoke of "the owl...after his kind" (Leviticus 11:16), and yet there are more than 500 different sorts of owls. So the number of Ark-dwelling creatures can be reduced even further. The average animal-size within the Ark is estimated to have been about that of a sheep. A railroad freight car can hold approximately 240 sheep. Thus, about 146 cars would be needed—considerably *less* than the 520 cited above.

A consideration of the evidence, therefore, demonstrates that the arguments against the Bible declaration of a global Flood are invalid. Efforts to limit Noah's Flood to a local region are compromises designed to placate unbelieving people.

Let Christians never resort to such an unreasonable compromise of Bible facts.

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