

God's Grand Design

Class #9

Was there a global flood?

Genesis 5:28 – 9:19

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The Rock Church

INTRODUCTION

Good evening everyone. Welcome to our next **God's Grand Design**. My name is Josh Whitney. I am one of the pastors at the Rock.

This is part 9. We will be addressing this question, **Was there a global flood?**

This talk is more history and Bible. We will start digging into the science next time. I want to lay a foundation tonight. More high level, what does modern geology teach? What does the Bible teach? That is where we are going tonight. Then the next 4 classes, we will really unpack the evidence.

So this marks the beginning of season 2, the flood. Season 1 was all about creation. Go back and listen to the previous 8 lectures if you missed any of those.

If you are new and not on my email list, **send me an email** and I will add you to the class list.

One more housekeeping item, in 3 weeks, there is a movie about the flood coming to the theaters. Here is the trailer. I want to invite you to join my family and I. Maybe 20 or so tickets have sold. The ticket link is on the google sheet that I email out.

Play trailer.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_ar0CZQSec&ab_channel=GenesisApologetics

0:00 – 2:28

Looks good, think about getting a ticket. If you can't make it to that time and date I listed, there are other theaters and one other date.

The Ark and the Darkness

Megaplex Theatres - The District

11400 South Bangerter Highway, South Jordan, UT

Wed. Mar 20 at 7:00 PM

So let's start with prayer.

OVERVIEW

Let's look at our key overview slide. In this class, we are comparing two different views of origins. When I say origins I mean where did everything come from.

View #1 – God created the heavens and the earth. (in six days, thousands of years ago)

I believe View #1 makes the most sense, biblically and scientifically. And that is what this class is all about.

And **View #2. The heavens and earth evolved without God. (millions and billions of years ago)**

View #2 is the dominant view in our world.

WAS THERE A GLOBAL FLOOD?

Since we are starting a new season, the flood, let's go back to our foundational paragraphs.

Essentially this class is a deep dive into these three paragraphs. What the Bible teaches. Why we believe them. Why the science backs it up.

The Rock Church believes the Bible (the inspired Word of God) is completely true. This means we believe it's accurate as related to earthly events – both in the past and in the future. We believe events described in the Bible happened just as they were written. The miracles described in the Bible are true, historical events that took place as the Scriptures depicted them.

This was season 1.

Creation

The Creation of the universe came about just as the Word of God described; it was a six-day Creation event. The true age of the earth (and all of the physical universe) is measured in thousands (not billions) of years (Genesis 1-11). Mankind began with two individuals who came into being through a special, personal, creative act of God (Genesis 2).

And now we are starting season 2.

Flood

There was a time when the entire world was covered with water as the result of a year-long Flood. This was a judgment from God on all human and land dwelling life. It resulted in the death of all humans (and animals) who were not in the Ark during the Flood (Genesis 6-9).

GEOLOGY

This season 2 is all about the flood and therefore geology and rocks. What is geology?

Here is a simple definition. **Geology the study of the earth's physical structures, it's history and the processes that form them.** Or more simply. **The composition and history of the earth.** Geo means earth. And logy means the study of.

So we are studying the history of the earth as recorded in the rocks.

Why does that matter? Why does geology matter? You need to be able to explain the rocks? We are so blessed to live in the western united states, Utah specially. We get to see what is happening all over the place. When I visit family back in the Midwest, you can't see what happened underground like we can here.

So we need to explain what caused these things for example.

For example, **Lake Blanche** up Big Cottonwood Canyon. My family and I hiked by these rocks that were scraped smooth by glaciers long time ago. The photo on the right is simply a glacier. There was a glacier in the mountains above SLC? How do we explain that?

Or this rock? My boys and I went looking for **marine fossils** in the foothills outside of Tooele. And we found them. Last time I checked there are no oceans near Tooele. And yet, there were marine fossils in the limestone everywhere. And what is more remarkable, I have observed these marine fossils in rock layers 8000 feet above sea level in the Uintah's. How do we explain that?

Or this rock formation. This is **volcanic lava** my wife and I hiked by outside of St. George. It is basalt. Wait, volcanos in Utah. Yes, a lot of them. As you drive south in Utah and into Arizona, you see volcanos and cinder cones everywhere. How did that happen?

Or this rock. Volcanic ash. When I was a full time geotechnical engineer, they were building a large hospital outside of Park City. And at footing depth, we found feet of **volcanic ash** that I was told was thrown here from Yellowstone. When did that happen?

Or this picture. Obviously **the Grand Canyon**. Last year, I had the opportunity to hike across the Grand Canyon from the north rim to the south rim. How did these thousands of feet of rock layers get deposited? How were they eroded? Did that river do that? How long did that take, deposition and erosion? What did that happen?

A couple more. This is a diagram of different **Lake Bonneville shorelines**. SLC was under a thousand feet of water. A giant lake that went from Utah into Nevada and Idaho. You can see the shoreline everywhere. It rings our entire city. What caused that, when did that happen?

And finally the Dinosaur national monument in Vernal. A mass graveyard of dinosaurs. How were all of these bones collected and buried? How did that happen?

So as we look at the world, even our state and city, we see all of these evidences of very fascinating history of the earth. What caused these things? When did they happen? Why aren't they happening now? Could they happen again?

That's geology and it links directly to our understanding of the biblical flood as presented in Genesis 6 through 9.

THE CONVENTIONAL MODEL

Let's talk about the conventional theory. Or the old earth, evolutionary theory to explain all of these things.

First important big idea since the time of Christ until the 1750s. Most people believed the earth was created by God about 6,000 years ago, like we discussed in season 1.

And that the global flood of Noah could explain surface of the planet the best. All of the layers and all of the fossils could best be explained by Noah's flood. Or it's this idea of **Catastrophism the earth is shaped by catastrophic events in the past. These events are sudden, violent and short lived.**

But this idea was challenged.

James Hutton (he was a Scottish naturalist). He came along and he wrote a book called A new Theory of the Earth published in 1795.

This photo on the right is a famous geological point called Siccar Point. Hutton and his friends saw these vertical layers that were originally deposited horizontal. We will get into the geological rules in the next class. First deposited horizontally, then rotated 90 degrees and more rock layers were deposited on top of those. Hutton and his friends said their mind grew giddy looking into the deep time these rocks represented.

Hutton said this. **The result of our present inquiry is that we find no vestige of a beginning and no prospect of an end. James Hutton**

His book made people doubt the earth was 6,000 years old. Hutton was laying the foundation for a new way of looking at the earth.

Uniformitarianism the processes that shaped the world now also shaped it in the past. Observe natural world now and project backwards.

So slow gradual processes deposit the layers and then erode the layers.

Compare the **two theories**. The surface of the earth is explained best by catastrophe or uniformitarian thought.

Then James Hutton's book influenced this guy, who we have discussed before. **Charles Lyell**. He was a Scottish geologist. He wrote the principles of geology, 3 volumes. Published in 1830. Lyell made people doubt the flood. **The present is the key to the past.**

He said famously, we have discussed this quote before. **Free the field of geology from Moses** (or the Bible.) He had a real agenda to get the idea of a flood out of geology.

Then like we discussed in other classes as well, Lyell's book was very significant in **Charles Darwin's** life. He was the English naturalist, who wrote the origin of species. He took the geology book with him on the Beagle. Deep time shaped Darwin. Biological evolution was birthed out of geological evolution. Darwin made people doubt the creator.

Look at Darwin's quote about Lyell's book. **I had brought with me the first volume of Lyell's Principles of Geology, which I studied attentively; and this book was of the highest service to me in many ways.** -Charles Darwin

The earth isn't young. There was no flood. And there was no creator. Three of the founding fathers of evolutionary, old earth theory. We have discussed this before, I would point you back to classes 6 and 8.

We might be tempted to think; these are some old dead guys.

Their ideas have changed the world.

So these men's ideas have been utilized for the last 200+ years and it offers an explanation of the earth and life that does not need God.

So the field of geology has gone from these three men's theories to form a **timeline** like this. Billions and millions of years of earth history. This history would include explain the formations of the continents and the oceans. Ice ages, fossils, layers and erosion, all of it.

As we compare and contrast these two views, we will come back to this.

THE BIBLICAL MODEL

But now I want to pivot to the biblical story. I want to play a few minutes of this video by Del Tackett, former president of Focus on the family and the truth project. It is a good setup as we start to look at the flood story.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM82qxxskZE&ab_channel=IsGenesisHistory%3F

0:18 – 3:24

So let's pivot to the Bible, specifically the book of Genesis.

We talked about creation and the age of the earth in classes 2 and 5. So I will not review. Other than to say, we believe Genesis plainly teaches that God created the world in six days about 6000 years ago. Class 5.

So when was the flood? If you add up the genealogies from **Adam to Abraham, you get about 2,000 years**. And then 4,000 years from Abraham to us. So a total of about 6,000 years of earth history.

When was the flood in this sequence? You see the black line. About 4,500 years ago.

Creation 6,000 years ago.

Flood 4,500 years ago.

So let's look at the text in Genesis. So we are not going to unpack the flood from a theological perspective. But there is a lot there. I am going to unpack it from a science or observational perspective.

If you have never read Genesis 6 through 9, you should. That would be a good homework assignment.

I want to look at the flood account from more of an observational perspective. The who, what, where, when perspective.

And as we read this, I want you to note what it actually says. Because some say this is simply describing a local flood, not a global flood.

Genesis 6: 13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. 15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark [450 feet], its breadth [75 feet], and its height [45 feet].

So the earth has been around about 1,500 years. And God has decided to destroy it and rebuild it. Both the people and the earth, people had grown wicked. And God tells Noah to build a boat that is about 450 feet by 75 feet by 45 feet. I am converting cubits to feet to get those units. A cubic was the distance from the tip of your middle finger to elbow.

A **couple visual aids** to help you understand the size of the boat. Here it is compared to a 747, the titanic, or a semitruck, and here it is overlain on our property. It runs from our building to the office building north of us.

Let's keep reading.

Genesis 6: 17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.

So God is going to preserve Noah and his family and the animals that enter the ark. So only the people and animals on the boat will live.

Jump to chapter 7. God said...

Genesis 7: 4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” 5 And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

So 40 days and nights of rain. And every living will die, except those on the ark.

Keep reading.

Genesis 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

First the dating. This 600 year links us to the genealogies from Genesis. We know the day, month and year, this event started. A global catastrophe.

And then we see the mechanisms, the fountains of the deep burst forth. And the 40 days of rain.

Continue reading.

Genesis 7: 17 The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them [22 feet] deep.

All of the high mountains were covered to a depth of 22 feet. This not Mount Everest. It didn't exist at the time. We will come back to this in later lectures. But the highest mountains on the earth at this time had 22 feet of water over them.

Continue...

Genesis 7:21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 23 He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

A few of observations here. Because all of the mountains were covered. And the land animal and people died except for those on the boat. Which dismisses any sort of local flood idea.

The water was on the earth prevailed on the earth for 150 days!

Skip to chapter 8.

Genesis 8:1 But God remembered Noah and **all** the beasts and **all** the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, 3 and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, 4 and in the **seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month**, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

We see the mechanisms of the flood stopped. The fountains of the deep and the 40 days of rain. Notice again, day and month, this is time stamped, like a journal entry or something.

Continue.

Genesis 8:13 In the **six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month**, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. 14 **In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month**, the earth had dried out. 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of **all** flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”

And we have the exact dates the earth was drying out. These different markers.

And then finally Genesis 9: 8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ... 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

I have read this account many times. And two things stand out to me. It was global in nature, and comprehensive in its destruction of the earth.

And then the flood is talked of like it actually happened in history. It's not once upon a time, there was a guy with a boat.

No, it's on this year, month and date, these events happened and here are the measurements.

Here is a timeline of some of these dates and times from **Jonathan Sarfati book (The Genesis Account)**. I will include this in my notes so you can review it later. You have the year, month and day. And then the event recorded. And so he calculates 370 days for the flood from start to finish. You can check his references here.

The Genesis flood account gives the strong impression of seriousness and credibility. It also reads like it is a journal written by Noah himself.

So that is why we hold to this **paragraph**.

NO FLOOD QUOTES

What does modern geology teach regarding the biblical flood of Noah?

Here are a few quotes from some of geology books I have read. These books are written from the uniformitarian old earth perspective.

Derek Ager was English geologist. He said this in his book. He is talking about something else but this quote shows his attitude toward the biblical flood. **“On that side were the obviously untenable views of bible-oriented fanatics, obsessed with myths such as Noah’s flood...”**

So this geologist considers the flood a myth.

Or Kenneth Hamblin was an American geology professor. In his book, he said this, **“It was conventional wisdom ... that sedimentary [water deposited] rocks had been laid down in Noah’s flood...To be sure, not everyone believed this.”**

Conventional wisdom, that is what people use to believe.

And finally, David Montgomery an earth science professor said this, in his book, **“As I read many original sources on geology the 17th and 18th centuries, I was surprised to find that they were all oriented around the theory of Noah’s flood. And I was always perplexed about the ideas of “young earth” creationism. Those ideas were refuted by geology a long time ago.”**

Referring to Hutton, Lyell and Darwin.

So to summarize so far, Genesis chapters 6 through 9 clearly teaches God flooded the world with water.

But the current geological theory teaches this is an outdated myth.

This is where we are going the next four classes. We are looking at evidence for and against the global flood. Because if the world was flooded, that changes everything.

But the **rule of modern geology: there was no global flood ever**.

I have experienced this personally. I tried to bring up the evidence of a global flood with a coworker once. He mocked me. He wouldn’t even let me start talking. “No that is stupid, I can’t believe you would think that.”

So I dropped it. But I couldn't even ask him my questions or bring up some evidence. He refused to discuss it.

LOCAL VERSUS GLOBAL FLOOD

Now in an attempt to rectify Genesis account with modern geological theory, some Christians have said Noah's flood wasn't global. It was local. But briefly here are a few problems with that. This is from a creation.com.

Evidence for a global flood.

The depth of the water.

Why make a big deal of the water covering the highest mountains?

The duration of the flood.

Why would it last a year, if it was local?

The rainbow covenant.

Why would God promise to never flood the earth again? And he has locally flooded the earth many times.

The need for the ark. The need for animals to be on the ark. The need for birds to be on the ark.

They could just flee from a local flood.

Hundreds of flood legends.

And we will come back this in a minute.

If you would like to learn more about the local versus global flood arguments, I can point you to some resources. But the text of Genesis 6 through 9 clearly teaches God flooded the entire earth.

VIDEO CLIPS

So in all of our discussion of the geology and the Genesis verses, we can miss the absolute terror of this event. Both for the people killed and the survivors. I want to show 3 video clips. Because they capture the reality of what happened.

First clip. **Noah's flood animation.** If we are to believe the genesis account, every single person on the planet died except for 8.

I apologize for the terrible graphic quality of this video. It is probably a copy of a VHS tape someone posted online. But you will get the idea.

We will come back to these ideas next week.

But again, it's more for the emotional impact of this clip.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNHo-xkah14&ab_channel=GodExists

0:00 – 1:45

And now two more clips from the **March 2011 Japanese tsunami**. There was a magnitude 9 earthquake of the coast of Japan. It created a massive tsunami that killed about 20,000 people. These two clips are taken by people who are safely above the waves, but you can hear the emotion in their voice.

As you watch these two clips, imagine if this water didn't stop coming and it just got higher and higher.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3618dZoiPE&ab_channel=EarthquakeEngineeringResearchInstitute%28EERI%29

1:00 – 2:00

One more Japanese video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPjliKVtmUA&ab_channel=UltimateWeather

6:27 – 7:27

FLOOD MYTHS

Very sobering and scary to watch. Imagine if your parents or grandparents lived **through this event**. In the same way, previous generations talked about World War 2, or 9/11 or someday Covid. People talk about things that were marking for the whole world.

Imagine if you were one of Noah's grandsons or great grandsons. No doubt they would have heard this story. To live through an extinction level event would be a story that would be passed down from generation to generation.

As people spread out around the world, this is a story that would spread with them. Details would change, but echoes of the Genesis story should be found in cultures all over the planet.

And guess what, we do. There are around 300 to 500 legends of a worldwide flood. Many of these show remarkable similarities, with many aspects similar to Noah's Flood in the Bible. Here are a few. This is from answersingenesis.com

Hawaii (Pacific Islanders) Nu-u built a large boat to save his family from a flood. When the boat landed safely on Mauna Kea, Nu-u offered pig and coconuts to thank the moon. So the creator descended on a rainbow to reveal that he was the one who saved mankind.

American Plains (North America) Giants on the earth offended their creator, Ti-ra-wa, so he drowned them in a flood. Then he made the first man and woman, who became the ancestors of the Pawnee people.

Peru (South America) The creator, Viracocha, sent a flood to destroy the unruly giants he had made. Only two giants survived in a boat, which landed at Tiahuanaco. The creator then made animals to fill the earth, and he made people from clay.

Hudson Bay (North America) One of the gods became angry at the giants and decided to drown them in a flood. But he warned a man to build a large canoe. The man sent out an otter, who retrieved dirt from which the man remade the earth.

Scandinavia (Europe) When Odin killed the first frost giant, Ymir, his blood deluged the earth. The frost giant Bergelmir and his wife survived in a hollowed out tree.

Tanzania (Africa) God told two men to take seeds and animals onto a boat so they could survive a mountain-covering flood. These men sent out a dove and then a hawk to see if the earth had dried up.

Akkadia (Middle East) Angry over human noise, the gods decided to flood the earth. But the kind goddess Ea warned Utnapishtim to build a cube-shaped ark to save his family and animals from the worldwide flood.

Western Australia (Australia) Gajara and his family survived a worldwide flood on a raft. He then sent birds to see if the waters had receded. Pleased by the smell of cooking kangaroo, the god Ngadja placed a rainbow in the sky to stop the rain clouds.

China (Asia) When a sky god flooded the earth, a brother and sister survived on a boat. They had a deformed child, which the brother cut into pieces. The earth was repopulated from the pieces.

There are some remarkable echoes of the Genesis account in these stories. And again, note the worldwide spread of these stories.

A couple more items. Here is a chart [comparing 20 of the different stories](#). Plus a book, I have not read, Flood Legends by Charles Martin. But I have seen it around.

Bottom line, this event blasted a crater in humanity memory so deep, that 300-500 cultures all have a mythology about this event. This is remarkable.

CONCLUSION

I want to end with this famous passage from 2 Peter. Peter the new testament apostle talking about the flood. I want to reference various new testament passages over the next few class periods so you can see how Jesus and the early church leaders spoke of the flood.

Spoiler alert, they talked about the flood like it actually happened and there were important lessons we could learn from this.

2 Peter 3:2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come

in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

That is another way to say gradualism or uniformitarianism. That is significant.

Verse 5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Isn't that striking? They ignore evidence of the flood. Which we will cover the next few classes.

They ignore God's judgment. They aren't worried about future judgments because they deliberately overlook past judgments. I want this image in your mind for the next few weeks. When we study geology, we are studying a record of God's judgment on the earth, and there is only one response, repent.

Men and women, this is our yesterday. There was an extinction level event, but God allowed 8 people and a few thousands animals to survive on a boat. The next four classes, Lord willing, we are going to look at evidence for a global flood as recorded in Genesis.

Let's get in our groups and discuss till 800. Thank you!

Discussion Questions:

Tell a story of something you have seen that is geologically interesting to you.

What did you learn from tonight's lecture and videos?

Was there anything in the Genesis account that stood out to you?

If you were Noah and his family, how would the flood would have impacted you?

In what ways, do you see the impact of “Fathers of Modern Geology” in the world today?

Have a few people pray.

PRAY

See you in 2 weeks.