



A WORLDWIDE FLOOD

A Brief Review of the Evidence and Support for
a Global Deluge in the Days of Noah

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by Darren Andrews

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INTRODUCTION

“Because modernists now declare the story of the flood is unreasonable and impossible, should we disbelieve the account of Noah and the flood as related in the Old Testament?”¹

This intentionally concise and plainly written booklet seeks to address the above question from President Howard W. Hunter by presenting the case for a Universal Flood. The *End Notes & Further Reading* provide additional information and sources for those who wish to study the topic in greater depth.

Although the author has sought to be faithful to the scriptures and teachings of the prophets, and to the evidence cited throughout, the views and opinions expressed herein are solely his own and do not necessarily reflect those of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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The Scriptural Evidence

The Account

The Flood is referenced in all the standard works of scripture, with the full account in Genesis, chapters 6–8. The timeline is as follows:

1. Rain begins to fall and the fountains of the deep break open on the 17th day of the 2nd month of the 600th year of the life of Noah, 7 days after they load the ark (Gen. 7:10-11).
2. Rain continues for 40 days and nights (Gen. 7:12)
3. The ark is borne up by the waters (Gen. 7:17)
4. The waters prevail and increase greatly, and the ark goes upon the face of the waters (Gen. 7:18)
5. All the high hills (mountains) under the whole heaven are covered, 15 cubits upward (Gen. 7:19-20)
6. All flesh in whose nostrils was the breath of life dies, save those on the ark (Gen. 7:21-23)
7. The waters prevail for 150 days (Gen. 7:24)
8. The waters subside (Gen. 8:1-3).
9. The ark rests on the mountain of Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month (Gen. 8:4; see also Joseph Smith, *Inspired Version of the Bible*, Gen. 8:49)
10. The waters decrease until the 10th month (Gen. 8:5)
11. On the 1st day of the 10th month the tops of the mountains are seen (Gen. 8:5).
12. After 40 days Noah opens the window of the ark and sends out a raven, which does not return (Gen. 8:6-7), and a dove, which does return (Gen. 8:8-9)
13. 7 days later he Noah sends out a dove and it returns in the evening with an olive leaf (Gen. 8:10-11)
14. Noah waits another week and sends out another dove, which does not return (Gen. 8:12)
15. On the 1st day of the 1st month of the 601st year the waters are dried up (Joseph Smith, *Inspired Version of the Bible*, Gen. 8:55).
16. On the 27th day of the 2nd month, the earth is dry, and Noah and the animals leave the ark (Gen. 8:14-19)

So, in summary:

1. After the fountains of the deep breaking open, and 40 days and nights of rain, the ark is borne up.
2. The waters increase greatly and the ark goes forth upon the waters
3. The mountains are covered
4. All flesh (in whose nostrils is the breath of life) dies
5. The waters prevail for 150 days before they subside
6. The ark rests on the mountain of Ararat
7. The waters decrease until the 10th month
8. On the 1st day of the 10th month the tops of the mountains are seen
9. 40 days later Noah opens the window of the ark
10. A week after that a dove is sent out and returns with an olive leaf
11. Noah and the animals leave the ark on the 27th day of the 2nd month

Analysis: the Floodwaters prevail for 5 months (this includes the first 40 days it takes for the ark to be lifted up) before they begin to subside. Two-and-a-half months later the ark comes to rest on Mount Ararat (current height 16,854 feet). It takes another two-and-a-half months for other nearby mountain tops to become visible (these range today from around 12-13,000 feet in height). Thus we can see not only the great height of the floodwaters from this account, but also their significant duration.

Language

The language in the Genesis account (and also in the *Inspired Version*) confirms the magnitude of the Flood (emphasis in bold added):

*“I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy **all flesh**, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and **every thing** that is in the earth shall die” (6:17)*

*“**All** the high hills, that were **under the whole heaven**, were covered ... ; and the mountains were covered.” (7:19–20)*

*“**All flesh** died that moved upon the earth, ... every creeping thing ... every man.” (7:21).*

*“**All** in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of **all** that was in the dry land, died.”(7:22)*

“Every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl...” (7:23)

*“...and Noah **only** remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.” (7:23)*

*“In the tenth month ... were the **tops** of the mountains seen.” (8:5)*

*“The waters were on the face of the **whole earth**.” (8:9)*

The Book of Moses confirms the Genesis account, using the same universal language:

*“The **earth** was corrupt before God, and it was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt, for **all flesh** had corrupted its way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah: The end of all flesh is come before me, for the earth is filled with violence, and behold I will destroy **all flesh from off the earth**. (Moses 8:28-30)*

The account is replete with words such as “all”, “every”, and “whole earth”. Although the Bible does use these terms elsewhere as a local reference, that does not mean they are used this way here. The fact that they are repeated over thirty times in the space of just two chapters, and in some cases used as intensifiers, make it probable they were being employed to make it clear that this was a global flood.

Furthermore, the phrase “under the whole heaven” is used in the Old Testament only in a universal sense (see Deut. 2:25; Deut. 4:19; Job 28:24; Job 37:3; Dan. 9:12), never referencing a geographically restricted region.

One should also note that the word “hills” in the account is from the Hebrew *harim*, meaning “mountains”.

The Geography

If the Flood was local, why did the Lord instruct Noah to build an ark? Why not simply lead him out of the region? And if, as scripture and tradition suggest, the animals were divinely led to the ark, why did the Lord not simply lead them to a safe place outside of the flood zone?

We learn from scripture that the land of Egypt had been under the floodwaters before being settled by Ham’s daughter and her sons (see

Abraham 1:24). Yet we also discover from the Book of Mormon that the New World had been inundated with floodwaters:

“...after the waters had receded from off the face of this land it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord; wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him who dwell upon the face thereof.” (Ether 13:2)

Although Pangaea would not break apart until a century after the Flood, Egypt and North America would still have been separated by thousands of miles—and perhaps by great waters too if the “Sea East” divided Pangaea and joined the Arctic and Antarctic oceans.¹

How could this be if the Flood was regional? How could a regional Flood cover mountains and yet remain regional, especially on a single continental landmass?

The Animals

Why save all the animals with such attention to detail, two of every kind, and seven of others, when those animals would surely have existed outside of the affected area? Why would the animals in the affected region have not fled to safe ground when the Deluge got underway?

Noah also took the fowl of the air onto the ark. Why? They could have just flown from the flood area. After all, birds can migrate thousands of miles. Why are we then told that all the fowl outside of the ark died?

Why later release birds to see if there was any dry ground when there would have been dry ground from the start if it was a regional flood? What was the point of releasing the doves and ravens?

The Repopulating of the Earth

In chapter 9 of Genesis we read:

*“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish the earth**...These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the **whole earth overspread**.” (vss 1, 19)*

Note the word “replenish” here is the same word used when Adam and Eve were commanded to populate an empty earth. The Hebrew word from

which it comes means “to fill”. Also note that the scripture quoted above tells us that through Noah’s sons the whole earth was inhabited. How could the whole earth have been repopulated by the sons of Noah if others had survived a regional Flood? The idea that the population may have only existed in a small portion of the total landmass is highly unlikely, and less so for animals (see *Population* in the section *The Scientific Evidence*).

After the Flood, at some point just before the Tower of Babel, the Jaredites left on barges for the Americas. Consider the almost ark-like preparations they made:

“And it came to pass that Jared and his brother, and their families, and also the friends of Jared and his brother and their families, went down into the valley which was northward, (and the name of the valley was Nimrod, being called after the mighty hunter) with their flocks which they had gathered together, male and female, of every kind.

“And they did also lay snares and catch fowls of the air; and they did also prepare a vessel, in which they did carry with them the fish of the waters.

“And they did also carry with them deseret, which, by interpretation, is a honey bee; and thus they did carry with them swarms of bees, and all manner of that which was upon the face of the land, seeds of every kind.” (Ether 2:1-3)

And also:

“And it came to pass that when they had prepared all manner of food, that thereby they might subsist upon the water, and also food for their flocks and herds, and whatsoever beast or animal or fowl that they should carry with them—and it came to pass that when they had done all these things they got aboard of their vessels or barges, and set forth into the sea, commending themselves unto the Lord their God.” (Ether 6:4)

Being such a short time after the Flood, were the Jaredites aware that any destination of any distance would likely be sparse in useful crops and animal life? Did they take all these various seeds and animals not only to survive the journey but to repopulate a new world?

The Promise

In Moses 7:48-51 (see also Genesis 9:11, 15) we read that the Lord promised Enoch there would be no second Flood. If this was a regional flood, how does one explain the other regional floods throughout human history? Some of these floods have killed millions of people and covered hundreds of thousands of square miles even in recent history.

The Teachings of the Brethren

Church leaders have consistently taught that Noah's Flood was both real and universal—a literal baptism of the earth.

Joseph Smith

“In the days of Noah, God destroyed the world by a flood, and He has promised to destroy it by fire in the last days...”¹

“Noah was born to save seed of everything, when the earth was washed of its wickedness by the flood.”²

The Prophet Joseph states that the Flood destroyed the world. In other words, all people were destroyed by a flood. Note also the interesting teaching here that Noah had a foreordained role to save the seed of everything from the other side of the Flood.

Brigham Young

“All the rest [save eight souls] were swept from the face of the earth. This is according to the account given to us in the Old Testament which we believe. I know that there are a great many in the world who are so wise in their own eyes that they are not disposed to believe the account contained in the Bible of the Creation, of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the antediluvian world and other things, but we profess to believe, and we do or should believe these things.”³

“The earth, the Lord says, abides its creation; it has been baptized with water, and will, in the future, be baptized with fire and the Holy Ghost, to be prepared to go back into the celestial presence of God.”⁴

Brigham here reminds us that we “should believe these things” (the literal nature of the Creation, Adam and Eve in the Garden, the pre-Flood world).

Note here the mention of a recurring teaching by the Brethren that the Deluge was the earth's baptism. Baptism, of course, is by total immersion.

John Taylor

“Then a flood came and the inhabitants of the world, with the exception of a very few, were swept from it, after the Gospel had been preached to all who then lived and all had had an opportunity to believe in and obey it...”⁵

“Look again at the time that Noah came from the ark, after he and his household were saved from the flood that drowned the world; they were the only ones that were righteous. When Noah and his family had seen the dreadful wreck, the awful calamity, the heart-rending scenes of distress and anguish, trouble and death, that overwhelmed the world...”⁶

“the world was to be destroyed by a flood; and there were provisions made for the continuance of the human family, and it was made known to Methuselah that his seed should be the medium through which should be perpetuated the human family upon the earth.”⁷

Provision was made for the human family to survive the Flood through Methuselah’s seed (Noah was his grandson).

Wilford Woodruff

“The flood came, and all the inhabitants of the earth, save those who had entered the ark, were drowned.”⁸

Joseph F. Smith

“FLOOD WAS BAPTISM OF EARTH. Now a word as to the reason for the flood. It was the baptism of the earth, and that had to be by immersion. If the water did not cover the entire earth, then it was not baptized, for the baptism of the Lord is not pouring or sprinkling.”⁹

George Albert Smith

“He [Noah] was vindicated, and the earth received its baptism of water. Only the little handful that believed in the prophet of God and listened to his wise counsels, were saved.”¹⁰

“Then a great deluge swept the earth, and those who had been created in the image of God, who had been alien to the blessings that he offered them so generously, were drowned in order that a new race might come upon the earth.”¹¹

“out of the seeming multitudes that dwelt upon the earth, only eight souls were saved from destruction.”¹²

Note here the antediluvian “multitudes”, and the promise that a new “race” would come upon the earth.

David O. McKay

“On one occasion the whole population of the world was wiped out with the exception of a few who listened to Noah, a servant of God, who for more than a hundred years had called the people to repentance. Only those who were in the ark were preserved.”¹³

It could not be more clear than this. The “whole population” of the world was wiped out.

Joseph Fielding Smith

“Evolutionary writers invariably attack the story of the flood as they do the account of the divine purpose of the creation. It interferes with their theories and therefore it must not stand!”¹⁴

A regional Flood would not interfere with those theories, so Joseph Fielding Smith is clearly referencing an attack on the idea of a global Flood.

Harold B. Lee

“...we are given to understand that all who live in mortality, if they would perfect their genealogical research, could trace their ancestry back to Adam and Eve, our first earthly parents in the Garden of Eden, through Noah and his family, who were the only living persons on the earth after the flood. Very few researchers in the genealogical field go far in their work until they find widely separated persons of varying nationalities with the same ancestors on the genealogical chart. All of this points unmistakably to the correctness of the scriptural teachings.”¹⁵

All people go back to Adam through Noah. This could only be the case if Noah’s line alone survived the Flood.

Howard W. Hunter

“Were it not for continuous revelation, Noah would not have been prepared for the deluge that encompassed the earth.”¹⁶

John A. Widtsoe

“This [baptism of the earth] has been repeatedly taught by the leaders of the Church. The deluge was an immersion of the earth in water.”¹⁷

George Q. Cannon

“Those eight, including Noah, were the sole surviving remnant of the entire family of man..”¹⁸

Bruce R. McConkie

*“In the days of Noah the Lord sent a **universal flood** which completely immersed the whole earth and destroyed all flesh except that preserved on the ark.”¹⁹*

The Cultural Evidence

Nearly all cultures have flood myths that match, to varying degrees, the details of the Genesis account of the Flood. The general story goes something along the lines of a god (or gods) being angry with the people, a righteous person or family being singled out to build a boat, and a catastrophic flood in which everyone dies except for those on the boat. Some of the names are suspiciously close to Noah's name, some mention animals being taken aboard, others speak of eight souls, and so forth.

Over 270 of these myths have been identified¹ across the world, from the Americas, to Europe, to the Middle East, to the Far East. The most likely reason for the existence of these myths is that those who left the ark passed down this story to their children. Such a catastrophic event would not soon have been forgotten. It would have been talked about as a historic event for many years before passing into the realm of myth and legend.

William T. Pelletier, Ph. D, reinforcing this passing down of Flood memories, writes on his website:

"And this is exactly what we do find all over the world — flood stories from at least 265 different people groups, many including a version of Noah's name.

- 95% of them say the flood was worldwide, killing almost everyone*
- 70% say the flood was sent by "god"*
- 60% say the flood was because of man's wickedness*
- 66% say a god forewarned the family of the flood*
- 70% say one family was saved on a boat*
- 25% say animals were also saved on the boat*
- 57% say survivors landed on a mountain*
- 7% mention a rainbow*
- 9% say exactly eight people were saved."*²

The Historical Evidence

*“And it came to pass that Methuselah prophesied that from his loins should spring **all** the kingdoms of the earth (through Noah), and he took glory unto himself.” (Moses 8:3, emphasis added)*

How could Noah (the grandson of Methuselah) be the progenitor of all the kingdoms of the earth if other kingdoms and peoples had survived in a regional Flood?

In his book *After the Flood*, Bill Cooper explores the ancient chronologies and genealogies of various cultures and peoples and shows how they match up with biblical events and genealogies, all originating in one of the three sons of Noah. He also exposes the weakness of the argument of “pious fraud” (the idea that such histories and genealogies were superimposed on ancient pedigrees and records by later Christian monks and scribes).

Below, the author explains his experience in conducting this research:

“Over the years, little by little, pieces of corroborative evidence came together and a picture began to build up that revealed the tenth and eleventh chapters of Genesis to be an astonishingly accurate record of events. The Table of Nations had listed all the families and tribes of mankind in their correct groupings, whether those groupings were ethnological, linguistic or geographical. All the names, without exception, were accurate, and in more that twenty-five years of searching and analysing, I uncovered not one mistake or false statement of fact in the Table of Nations.”¹

He concludes:

“...we may by all the evidence noted above that not only did our ancient forebears look back, in pre-Christian times, to their descent from patriarchs that are named in the Table of Nations, but they also held that the earth was of recent creation and that it had once suffered a Flood. And they knew all this without any recourse to the book of Genesis, of which they were entirely unaware. In all, their records constitute a rather formidable body of evidence.”²

The Scientific Evidence

“Natural geological, chemical, and biological evidences confirm that this event [a Universal Flood] took place.”¹

1. Population

The earth’s current population is consistent² with a starting population of four men and four women (or even three, if Noah and his wife had no more children) around 4200 years ago (see *Appendix I*). If the earth had not suffered a catastrophic worldwide population loss during the Flood, we would have far more people on the earth than the current population, even allowing for deadly plagues, famine, and war.³

But it is not just the earth’s current population that supports the biblical global Flood—it is also the size of the antediluvian population. Although some have estimated the population at the Flood to have been comparable to today’s population, these calculations do not factor in the vast difference in fertility and longevity that existed prior to the Flood. Taking these into account, a much more reasonable number for the antediluvian population is several trillion, perhaps even 10 trillion.⁴

This number is not as crazy as it might first seem. Some scientists have estimated our current planet could support a trillion people.⁵ Before the Flood, the earth would have been larger, more flat, highly fertile, and largely absent the inhospitable regions we have today. Given such conditions, 10 trillion is not unreasonable at all.⁶ Even if millions were taken up into Zion, and millions died by the great war and famine of Enoch’s day (see Moses 7-8), it is very likely that the immediate pre-Flood population was still vast and likely in the trillions.

Such a population would, even at a conservative 2-4 trillion, certainly occupy a great part of the Pangaea that then existed. That means that only a flood that covered, for all intents and purposes, the entire landmass could destroy all flesh.⁷

2. Animals & the Ark

How did Noah fit every animal pair on the ark? Many scoff at this idea today, but it’s not as problematic as one might first think.

First we need to understand the word “kinds”. In Abraham 4:11-12 we read:

*“And the Gods said: Let us prepare the earth to bring forth grass; the herb yielding seed; the fruit tree yielding fruit, after his **kind**, whose seed in itself yieldeth its own **likeness** upon the earth; and it was so, even as they ordered.*

*And the Gods organized the earth to bring forth grass from its own seed, and the herb to bring forth herb from its own seed, yielding seed after his kind; and the earth to bring forth the tree from its own seed, yielding fruit, **whose seed could only bring forth the same in itself, after his kind**; and the Gods saw that they were obeyed.” (emphasis added)*

Joseph Smith stated this law like this:

“God has made certain decrees which are fixed and immovable... for instance, the oak of the forest, the fruit of the tree, the herb of the field—all bear a sign that seed hath been planted there; for it is a decree of the Lord that every tree, plant, and herb bearing seed should bring forth of its kind, and cannot come forth after any other law or principle.”⁸

In an attempt to better understand life forms, the 18th-century scientist Carl Linnaeus (a creationist) classified animals and plants into various groups and subgroups. He initially believed these animals were all originally created by God, but later formed the view that they had diversified from primary “parental pairs” that had been created by God⁹ and in which the potential for limited change existed.

Drawing on Linnaeus’s classification system, Joseph Fielding Smith wrote: “there is an eternal decree that animals of different families, or species, shall remain separate from other species, and there are bounds they cannot pass.”¹⁰

So a “kind” is a group that has the same likeness, cannot bring forth another kind, and would have originally (before the genetic corruption after thousands of years) been able to breed within their own kind. In the modern taxonomy system this group would likely be comparable to the family, subfamily, or genus.

For example, Adam “gave names to all cattle” (Abraham 5:21). So there is clearly more than one cattle kind. The context in which the Hebrew term for cattle (“behemah”) is used in the creation account likely means it is referring not only to large domesticated quadrupeds (its technical meaning) but also smaller ones. So the kinds of cattle Adam named could have included what we normally think of as: cattle (a genus), goats (a subfamily), sheep (a subfamily), and even horses (a family).

More often than not, “kinds” appear to correspond to the family, moderately with subfamily, and occasionally with genus.

This reinforces Russell M. Nelson's view when he said:

*"... Dogs have always been dogs. Monkeys have always been monkeys. It's just the way genetics works."*¹¹

Today around 150 land-based mammal families have been identified, around 85 reptile families, around 250 bird families (though this number may be inflated due to evolutionary assumptions—it used to be nearer to 150), and likely around 50 dinosaur families (including pterosaurs).

That's 535 families in total (435 if the bird family inflation is factored in). Of course, this is just to give a sense of the relatively small number of animals that would need to be on the ark in order to seed the animal diversity we see in the world today. If we factor in genera, subfamilies, extinct animals (though note that, according to Hebrew tradition, not all animals were allowed on the ark), and evolutionary assumptions in taxonomy, Noah may well have had less than 1000 differing "kinds" aboard the ark¹² up to a maximum of around 1400-1700.¹³

Of course, these would be in pairs where they were not sevens (or pairs of sevens, as some translations have it), and there may have been more kinds than we assume. Taking all this into account the total number of animals on the ark would have ranged somewhere between a few thousand up to perhaps 16,000.

So what about the room and the weight?

The reality is that it is quite plausible that Noah brought aboard all mammal, reptile, dinosaur, and bird kinds (insects, fish, marine animals, and probably many amphibians, would have survived outside the ark) and comfortably had the space to do it. According to some estimates, only around 15% of the ark's animals would have achieved an average adult male mass of over 22 pounds; meaning the vast majority of ark animals were smaller than a little dog.¹⁴ Even the average size of an adult dinosaur would have been that of a large cow.

And, if, as the fossil record of the Flood seems to show, the Deluge occurred in the spring (or where a great part of the proximate landmass was then in the spring season), then it's plausible that some of these creatures (where practical) were juvenile rather than mature—thus not only keeping down the size and weight (and food consumption) of very large animals such as elephants and some dinosaurs, but also providing virile young specimens for mating once off the ark.¹⁵

3. Is There Enough Water to Cover the Earth?

Recent research increasingly supports the existence of vast volumes of water deep within the earth. One striking example is the so-called Beijing Anomaly¹⁶—a massive reservoir beneath the Asian continent—estimated to contain at least as much water as the Arctic Ocean. On a global scale, scientists estimate that such subterranean water may amount to between three and ten times¹⁷ the volume of all surface water combined. Even at the conservative end of that range, such quantities would be more than sufficient to submerge the entire surface of the earth, including its highest mountains.¹⁸

4. What Caused the Flood?¹⁹

The Universal Model (see *Further Reading*) puts forward the theory that some body, such as a comet, moved close to the earth and slowed its spin. This reduced the centrifugal forces and thus caused the crust to collapse and the floating supercontinent to submerge. The earth then recovered, its spin restoring, the crust rising to its original position, and the waters receding. Keep in mind that the crust is just 1/1000th of the diameter of the earth in depth—comparable to a sheet of paper wrapped around a basketball.

A number of flood myths tell of celestial events immediately preceding the floodwaters, including fiery serpents (usually a description of comets with tails), stars falling (meteor shows), and even comet impacts.²⁰ It's interesting that the comet idea parallels the events of the last days (where a comet also features) when the continents will unite again.

Also of interest is that the symbolism of the earth's baptism is furthered by a submersion of the landmass. Baptism, after all, is an act of going down into the water, not of simply being covered.

5. Landforms²¹

Plateaus — Around 70-75% of land consists of plateaus, some of which can be 10 miles deep. The sedimentary beds (layers) of which they are made show no evidence of previous landscapes. They are perfectly aligned, flat, continuous (sometimes for thousands of miles) layers of rock. They could only have been created in a single event. The idea that these differing layers are separated by millions or even tens of millions of years makes no sense. Why no erosion of the old layer? Why no landscapes?

Bioturbation — This is the process whereby plants typically take root and organisms burrow, where life disturbs soil and sediment. Yet across the landform layers we see around the world, we find no trace of it. None. Despite the fact that bioturbation will alter the surface of the land in just one week, these layers remain untouched after supposedly millions if not tens of millions of years—undisturbed by rain, wind, floods, plants, or animals. How can that be? It can't. The only reasonable conclusion is that these layers were not laid down slowly over vast periods of time, but rapidly before life had a chance to leave its mark.

Boulder Fields — Billions of boulders and cobblestones can litter the surface of single plateaus. Stones that are not part of the geology of that area. They were brought there by floodwaters. They were rounded by floodwaters.

Polystrate Fossils — Tree trunk fossils, for example, are found in their millions cutting across many geological layers around the world. How could the tree have stood for hundreds of thousands of years or longer while the sediment slowly built up? It could not. It would have decayed and rotted. These trunks were clearly moved, and stripped of their branches and roots, by floodwaters.

Megasequences — In these extremely large-scale packages of sedimentary rock layers that cover vast continental areas we find the same deposition patterns from the same time and in the same order across the six continents in which these studies have been conducted. What can explain this other than a global Flood?

6. Fossils

Fossils only form under the right conditions, usually a catastrophe. Normally, when a creature dies it simply is eaten and/or decays. No fossil is formed. We find many fossils today that show evidences of a sudden calamity. Fossils of animals giving birth or eating are not uncommon. Death poses with the neck arched back are typical for dinosaurs, reptiles, and birds. This is the position these creatures take when they drown. And for that to be captured in the fossil record it must have happened suddenly. Fossils are also often found in flood sediments.

There is no evidence of gradual uplift in mountains. That we find marine fossils in the tops of mountains is another indication that they were once

submerged. Everest has a layer of limestone at its peak filled with marine organisms. This is by no means unique. Such layers were clearly laid down over the mountain during a huge flood.

Vast oil (from marine plankton) and gas reserves are found in the oldest (Precambrian) sedimentary rocks across the world. The tremendous volumes of organic material that produced these fossil-fuel resources must have been quickly buried in a vast catastrophic event.²²

7. Rock Formation²³

All rocks have water in them. Why? Because they were created in a water environment, one that would have existed in the conditions (such as pressure) of a global Flood under 5-6 miles of water. The very granite of the earth is crystallised in its natural state and was therefore created in a water environment.

8. DNA²⁴

Female mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) mutates at a rate of roughly one mutation every three generations, meaning that over the ten generations from Eve to the wives of Noah's sons we'd expect about three mutations, and between the Flood and today anywhere between around 35-65 mutations (assuming mutation rates have been consistent since the Fall). As the post-Flood population separated at Babel into 47-76 distinct groups, with Japheth's descendants largely migrating into Europe, Ham's into Africa, and Shem's into Asia, we would also expect to see the number of branches in the genetic tree reflecting these numbers and corresponding significantly to those regions of the world.

And we find exactly that. Genetic evidence today shows that all human mtDNA traces back to three maternal nodes, separated by approximately 3.3 mutations, with a total mutation number of 39-55. We also observe 84 distinct mtDNA branches, which cluster into three major groups that correspond strikingly with the geographic regions traditionally associated with the migrations of the descendants of Noah's sons.

Similar patterns and evidence have been found for the male Y-DNA, connecting men of today back to three male ancestral nodes at around the time of the Flood.

Conclusion & End Notes

CONCLUSION

The reality, as the quotation at the top of the previous section says, is that there is an increasing volume of compelling evidence for a worldwide Flood from the various fields of science. So much in fact, that we cannot cover even the headlines in this little publication. I would therefore direct readers to the *Universal Model, The Earth System, Volume I*, by Dean Sessions wherein the evidence is laid out at considerable length (see *Further Reading* below).

Some promoters of the regional Flood theory, realising a localised Flood does not make sense,¹ have attempted to explain away the scriptures by making the local flood so vast that one wonders why they won't accept a global Flood in the first place. Others, relegating Noah's Flood to myth, nevertheless support the existence of megafloods of the past in just about every part of the globe yet refuse to accept such floodwaters as evidence of a global Flood despite being of such a colossal size and effect that such megafloods must have covered the earth.

But it's not just science that supports a universal Deluge. It is the scriptures. It is the teachings of the Brethren. It is the memory of the Flood in the myths of cultures worldwide. It is the genealogies and history of the peoples of the world, their migrations, and our very DNA.

Should we therefore, as President Hunter put it, "discount the story of the flood" as "unreasonable and impossible"? No, I don't believe we should.

END NOTES

Title & Introduction

1. Howard W. Hunter, *That We Might Have Joy* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1994], p. 22

The Scriptural Evidence

1. W. Cleon Skousen, *The First 2,000 Years*, p. 145; see also Moses 6:42. The more conventional vertical (as opposed to Skousen's band) configuration of Pangaea by Alfred Wegener has what is to become North America and Egypt relatively close together, but still thousands of miles apart.

Teachings of the Brethren

1. *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, selected and arranged by Joseph Fielding Smith [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1976], 337
2. Ibid. 12
3. *Journal of Discourses*, 13: 314
4. *Discourses of Brigham Young*, selected and arranged by John A. Widtsoe [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1954], 393.
5. *Journal of Discourses*, 26 vols. [London: Latter-day Saints' Book Depot, 1854-1886], 17: 206.
6. Ibid. 1: 371.
7. Ibid. 21: 243.
8. Ibid. 24: 238.
9. *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. 2, pp.320
10. Conference Report, April 1922, Second Day—Morning Session, 50.
11. Conference Report, October 1928, Afternoon Meeting, 91
12. Conference Report, October 1943, Second Day—Morning Meeting, 42 - 43.
13. Conference Report, April 1949, Afternoon Meeting, 166
14. *Man: His Origin and Destiny*, p. 416
15. *Decisions for Successful Living* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1973], 161 - 162.
16. *No Man Shall Add to or Take Away*, Ensign, May 1981
17. *Evidences and Reconciliations*, Vol. I, p. 111
18. *Journal of Discourses*, 26:81
19. *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 289 (emphasis in original)

Cultural Evidence

1. A list of collected flood myths can be found at <https://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/flood-myths.html> and a sampler of some of these myths can be reviewed in this video https://youtu.be/hxEg9P29SHs?si=lJ9zOco2_zkLyIUc and this one <https://youtu.be/Pce--fdyCs0?si=Hw2eRpTqU4JfwmCL>
2. William T. Pelletier, Ph. D, *Evidence of Noah's Flood: Worldwide Memories* <https://bibliscienceguy.wordpress.com/2022/06/08/evidence-of-noahs-flood-worldwide-memories/>

Historical Evidence

1. *After the Flood*, Bill Cooper B.A. (Hons), New Wine Press, 1995. pp. 38-39
2. Ibid. pp. 128-129

Scientific Evidence

1. Dean Sessions, *Universal Model*, Vol 1, Chpt 8, p. 476
2. See formula and working out at *Population Growth - Could Noah Fill the Earth?* William T. Pelletier, PhD
<https://biblenceguy.wordpress.com/2014/05/28/1-population-growth-could-noah-fill-the-earth/>
3. Ibid.
4. See formula and working out at *Population Growth - How Many Died in Noah's Flood?* William T. Pelletier, PhD
<https://biblenceguy.wordpress.com/2014/06/18/4-population-growth-how-many-died-in-noahs-flood/> See also W. Cleon Skousen's suggested pre-Flood model of population growth in his book, *The First 2000 Years*, where he estimates a population of at least 6 billion within the first 650 years of human history.
5. See James E. Faust, *Trying to Serve the Lord Without Offending the Devil*, November 15, 1994. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/james-e-faust/trying-serve-lord-without-offending-devil/>
6. See formula and working out at *Population Growth - Is 10 Trillion Flood Deaths Reasonable?* William T. Pelletier, PhD
<https://biblenceguy.wordpress.com/2014/06/25/5-population-growth-is-10-trillion-flood-deaths-reasonable/>
7. See *Appendix* for an interesting doctrinal corollary or implication to this topic.
8. *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, selected and arranged by Joseph Fielding Smith [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1976], 197
9. Carolus Linnaeus, Biography, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Britannica.com
10. Joseph Fielding Smith, *Man, His Origin and Destiny* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1954], p. 167.
11. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, Report, May 16, 2007
12. The area of study that tries to identify "kinds" is called baraminology. See *Counting Kinds* at *Answers in Genesis* <https://answersingenesis.org/creation-science/baraminology/counting-kinds/>
13. Nathaniel T. Jeanson, PhD, *Replacing Darwin Made Simple*, pp. 17
14. For more detailed information on the ark size and the viability of carrying animals and dinosaurs, see *How Could All the Animals Fit on the Ark?* At *Answers in Genesis* <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-could-all-animals-fit-ark/>; also Dr Jennifer Hall Rivera's presentation here that suggests the animals, food, and water would have occupied about 75% of the ark, leaving 25% as living quarters: *Mind-Blowing Forensic Evidence of the Biblical Flood* <https://youtu.be/g6nvT2756P0?si=1wLzWAZlfod1IcIQ>
15. For more information on the likely post-Flood animal speciation, see *Replacing Darwin Made Simple* by Nathaniel Jeanson PhD, pp. 21-52. For other considerations regarding such matters as what the animals ate and how they could disperse across the world after leaving the ark, please see the articles and videos at *Answers in Genesis* by Calvin Smith, such as this one explaining dispersal of animals. <https://youtu.be/pAozDAOOP4E?si=qG-TViozufjXeTo>
16. See <https://creation.com/water-inside-fire>

17. Bergeron, L., Deep Waters, *New Scientist* 155(2097):22–26, August 30, 1997. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg15520974-900-deep-waters/> Do note that the “Universal Model” (see Further Reading below) puts forward the case that magma is a pseudoscientific theory and that what is actually being detected is water, loose rocks, and ice
18. Some LDS writers and scholars hold to the view that before the Flood (and/or before the separation of the continents about a century later) the landscape was less given to extremes of height and depth, and that it shall return to that way during the Millennium. Mount Everest’s peak, for example, has Flood fossils within it, suggesting it was created during the Flood, maybe being pushed up thereafter and/or during the separation of the continents in the days of Peleg.
19. For more details, see Dean Sessions, *Universal Model*, Vol 1, Chpt 8, p. 495-500
20. “Almost every culture has a legend about a great flood, and—with a little reading between the lines—many of them mention something like a comet on a collision course with Earth just before the disaster” *Did a Comet Cause the Great Flood?* *Discover Magazine*, Nov. 15 2007, 11 Jul 2023. <https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/did-a-comet-cause-the-great-flood>
21. The information on landforms is taken from the presentations of Dr Ron Neller, BA, PhD, a highly experienced fluvial geomorphologist (flood expert). Biography at <https://creation.com/en/people/dr-ron-neller> and example presentation at <https://youtu.be/783IthnO7RA?si=QU2RQkcwMSESTtAz> ; see also *Megasequences Down Under Support Progressive Global Flood* by Tim Clarney, Institute Creation Research <https://www.icr.org/article/megasequences-down-under-support-progressive>
22. Ibid. final link of end note above.
23. See *Universal Model*, The Earth System, Volume I, by Dean Sessions, pages 265-279
24. See Nathaniel T. Jeanson’s book *Traced* for details. Watch this video for an overview <https://youtu.be/sTenmwfzW7k?si=ETKRf1A-IQPE1vf6> ; see also *Four Women, a Boat, and Lots of Kids: A Reevaluation of Mitochondrial Eve* by Todd Charles Wood <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/four-women-a-boat-and-lots-of-kids/> and *How Does DNA Uncover a Biblical History of Humankind?* by Dr. Kurt Wise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sdrxhs8TmtA>

Conclusion

1. For example, see Dr. Danny Faulkner, *Physical Difficulties with Hugh Ross’ Local Flood Model*, *Answers Research Journal* vol. 8 (2015): 195–198. <https://answersresearchjournal.org/difficulties-ross-local-flood-model/>

Appendices

1. Kent P. Jackson and Charles Swift *The Ages of the Patriarchs in the Joseph Smith Translation* (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2007), 1–11. <https://rsc.byu.edu/witness-restoration/ages-patriarchs-joseph-smith-translation> ; see also, John Pratt's *Venus and the Beginning of Mortality* <https://johnpratt.com/items/docs/lds/meridian/2003/mortal.html>
2. *Journal of Discourses*, 26 vols. [London: Latter-day Saints' Book Depot, 1854-1886], 26: 90
3. *Journal of Discourses*, 26 vols. [London: Latter-day Saints' Book Depot, 1854-1886], 24: 237

Further Reading

- i. *The Flood and the Tower of Babel*, Ensign Magazine, Donald W. Parry, January 1998 <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1998/01/the-flood-and-the-tower-of-babel?lang=eng>
- ii. #29 LITERAL FLOOD: Does LDS Doctrine Support a Literal Universal Flood? And other resources at www.JosephSmithFoundation.Org
- iii. *After the Flood*, Bill Cooper B.A. (Hons), New Wine Press, 1995.
- iv. *The Gospel and the Scientific View: How Earth Came to Be*, Ensign, Sept. 1980, F. Kent Nielsen
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1980/09/the-gospel-and-the-scientific-view-how-earth-came-to-be?lang=eng>
- v. *Universal Model*, The Earth System, Volume I, by Dean Sessions, pages 478-698; <https://universalmodel.com/>
- vi. W. Cleon Skousen, *The First 2,000 Years*
- vii. *Replacing Darwin Made Simple*, Nathaniel Jeanson PhD, 2019.

APPENDIX I

On Dating the Flood¹

The traditional date for the Flood is 2344 BC, but Christian scholars—drawing on different manuscripts, chronologies, and interpretive methods—have put forward dates ranging from about 2300 to as early as 3200 BC.

The Joseph Smith Translation (JST) of the Bible includes corrections to the ages and birth years of several of the antediluvian Patriarchs; although not all of the JST's changes are in the standard works, they are still considered authentic. If we take these corrections as accurate, and assume Adam's years are counted from a Fall date of 4000 BC, we get a Flood date of 2216 BC, producing a total of 1784 pre-Flood years.

APPENDIX II

The Spirit Prison

“But behold, these which thine eyes are upon shall perish in the floods; and behold, I will shut them up; a prison have I prepared for them.” (Moses 7:38)

The antediluvian population likely spiked relatively late, based on how populations tend to grow. For example, it took until around AD 1800 for earth’s post-Flood population to reach one billion. Just a little over 200 years later, we have surpassed 8 billion.

It’s possible that much of that pre-Flood spike occurred in Noah’s own lifetime—maybe exponentially so within the 120 years he was preaching prior to the Deluge. During the lifetime of Enos, who died a few hundred years before the Flood, we read that “the children of men were numerous upon all the face of the land” (Moses 6:15).

Though great wickedness existed as early as the days of Cain, and Enoch made mention of many wicked people in his own day, by Noah’s day the whole earth, with a far greater population, had become entirely corrupt, save Noah, three of his sons and their wives.

The number of souls brought into the next life by the Deluge must have been staggering. Some scholars estimate the world’s population around the time of Christ was between 150 and 300 million—a range that supports the plausibility of repopulating the earth from a seed population of 3 couples. This means roughly the same number of people may have died *after* the Flood as were alive *at* the time of Christ. A mere fraction compared to those who likely perished *during* the Flood.

Is this why the spirit prison is so closely associated with the wicked of Noah’s day—perhaps even dominated by them? Every member of the Church knows the scripture: “By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” (1 Peter 3:18–20; see also Doctrine and Covenants 138:8-9).

Is that why it was a place “prepared” for them—because of their overwhelming numbers?

John Taylor said: “By and by the flood came, and the things spoken of by the men who had preached among them, were fulfilled, and the people swept from the face of the earth. They were shut up in prison, in the prison house which had been prepared for them.”²

Wilford Woodruff similarly stated: “The flood came, and all the inhabitants of the earth, save those who had entered the ark, were drowned. Their spirits were shut up in prison in the spirit world, and they remained there until after the death of Jesus Christ;”³

The tragedy is that they all drowned in the baptism of the earth, yet, with no surviving records, they must await proxy baptisms that won't come until the Millennium.