
Creation Answers

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Who does this newsletter?

This newsletter is produced by Wayne Spencer of Creation Education Materials on a Quarterly basis. Its purpose is to bring creationary research within the reach of Christian families and provide up-to-date reliable information on the creation issue. Wayne Spencer is a creation researcher and former teacher who has presented papers at the International Conference on Creationism and contributed to radio programs for the Institute for Creation Research.

This newsletter is meant to help people plug into creation resources and get informed about creation and evolution. It is provided free of charge on request. It is provided as an Adobe Acrobat file, a Microsoft Word 97 document, or a plain text e-mail. The Adobe Acrobat Reader, available for download on the internet, is the best way to view the newsletter. There are no restrictions in copying this newsletter or passing it on to others. To request to be placed on the e-mail list, send a request to Wayne at w.spencer@attglobal.net.

More information on Wayne Spencer's education and publications can be found on the **DFW Creation Net** web site. You'll also find a variety of articles, teaching aids, and how to contact creation organizations. <http://pws.prserv.net/creation/creation.htm>

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A Personal Note from Wayne Spencer

I'd like to welcome new readers to Creation Answers. In this newsletter I try to glean information from the best research I know of on origins issues and make it understandable for Christians and their families.

Be sure to read the Creation 2001 conference report. The conference was a wonderful opportunity. There were many excellent messages. It was enjoyable meeting the attenders and talking to the speakers. Though I went only as an attender, I had an opportunity to be taped for a Christian television program while at the conference. A number of individuals attending this conference have significant creation ministries of their own all around the country.

On September 20, 2001 I will be speaking at a creation meeting in Oklahoma City. This will be for a new creation organization, The Creation Science Fellowship of Oklahoma. You can contact Scott Mahathey at (405) 946-7042 or csfok@prodigy.net.

For approximately three years, I have been working on a major project on the book of Genesis. I am writing a book on Genesis 1-11; I call it a study guide. It will have tools for doing in-depth study of Genesis and creation (Part 1 of the book) as well as teaching aids for teaching on creation (Part 2). I expect it to be at least a few more months before the book is ready to be made available. This will be a unique resource for Pastors, Sunday School teachers and others studying Genesis.

Wayne Spencer, M.S., Physics

Introduction to Flood Geology

Wayne Spencer

This article is meant to be a brief introduction to what has become a huge subject--Flood Geology. What is Flood geology? It is an approach to Geology that acknowledges the inerrancy of the Bible and seeks to understand Earth's features in the light of the framework given in the Bible. The book of Genesis in the Old Testament speaks of a global Flood in the time of Noah that was a judgement on the individuals in the pre-flood world. The Bible describes the event as being a little over a year in terms of the time Noah, his family, and the animals were in the Ark. I believe this Flood was a real event that had far-reaching effects on the entire planet. This global catastrophe would have taken place somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago. I also believe the Earth is less than 10,000 years in age, based on both Scripture and science.

Young age creationists have made great progress in recent years in geological and geophysical research into the details of how the Flood happened. There are many unanswered questions and there are now a variety of views on key questions about how the Flood relates to Earth's rocks and fossils. There is generally good agreement among young-age creationists that there is much evidence for the Flood from sedimentary rock and fossils. If the young age creationist view of Earth history is correct, and I think it is, then there is much about historical geology that needs to be reevaluated and re-written. It is not necessary to understand all the details of how the Flood took place in order to have reason to believe the Bible. But it is necessary to explain some of the details in

order to be credible witnesses to our generation of the certainty and authority of the word of God.

I hope that what follows will be an encouragement to you in your faith and will give some insight into how a creationist framework can help us understand the Earth without Biblical compromise. The Bible is historically accurate. And, though it is not written like a science textbook, the information it provides about nature agrees with what we know about the real world. God has told us there was a great judgement that we call Noah's Flood. It was really God's Flood. The evidence for Noah's Flood is literally right under our feet, from the ocean floor to the top of Mt. Everest. We have to learn how to recognize it, but when we do, it is a marvelous testimony to God's greatness and His holiness. God did not allow the evil in the world to just continue, he did something about it! He judged the world once and he says in the New Testament that He will judge the world again when Jesus Christ returns, though that judgement will be by fire rather than water. So, the story of the Noahic Flood is not something to be dismissed. It has tremendous consequences for geology.

Following is information explaining geological terminology for those without a lot of scientific background in geology. I would refer the reader to other sources to get a more complete explanation of the evidence for the Flood. The following assumes the Flood has occurred as outlined in Genesis. This gives a framework that can be built upon. The details must be filled in using careful science. An area in which there has been great strides in secular geological research in recent years is the subject of Earth impacts. I

wrote my ICC papers “Catastrophic Impact Bombardment Surrounding the Genesis Flood” and “Geophysical Effects of Impacts during the Genesis Flood” to suggest an approach that acknowledges the abundant evidence of impacts on Earth without making certain mistakes made by evolutionary science about impacts. The issue of Earth impacts has been studied a great deal by the scientific community. This effort has been motivated mainly by the desire to support the concept that one large impact from space about 65 million years ago caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. There is also significant research today to identify asteroids that come near Earth and assess the hazards of possible impacts on Earth. My goal is to explain the evidence for Earth impacts in a young-age Flood geology framework, not to explain extinctions. In a creationist view of Earth history, the aftermath of the world-wide Flood provides a very good explanation for what happened to the dinosaurs.

Important Concepts from Geology

It is important to understand certain terms from geology. **Sedimentary rock** is rock that has formed from some kind of sediment. In many cases it is mud or sand that has fallen out of water and then hardened to rock. Sedimentary rock can also form from chemical and biological processes. Calcium and Carbon Dioxide can combine in water to form solid Calcium Carbonate, so this can produce the rock known as limestone. Limestone forms under water but is not related to flowing water or water carrying sediment particles. **Igneous rock** is basically volcanic in origin. It does not involve particles falling or precipitating out of water but rather comes out of the Earth,

from the mantle of the Earth. **Metamorphic rock** refers to a variety of types of rock that has come from altering other rock or minerals in various ways. Usually great heat and pressure are involved in forming metamorphic rock and metamorphic rock can be very dense. Marble is a form of metamorphic rock. There are certain special and very unusual metamorphic minerals that are good indicators of impacts from space because they require extreme pressures in order to form. Sedimentary rocks provide many powerful evidences for the Flood.

Fossils are essentially only found in Sedimentary rock, but not all sedimentary rock. Sedimentary rock itself argues for the Flood because the large size of the sedimentary rock layers, the size of large boulders moved by water, and other facts point to a global Flood. There are a number of sedimentary rock layers that cover large areas of North America and are single contiguous layers covering vast areas. These suggest a very large scale catastrophe. Many rock formations, though usually explained by evolutionists in terms of processes seen in the present, can be explained very naturally and effectively in terms of the effects of a global Flood. The Noahic Flood would lead to the formation of many types of large scale geological phenomena unlike anything forming in the present. Creationist geologists have documented many formations that strongly suggest this. Fossils can be good indicators of Flooding as well since they may be sorted, they may be aligned in a consistent direction, and the way fossil bones are found often indicates rapid catastrophic burial. Most fossils are of marine creatures and fossils of

marine creatures are found all over the continents, including at the top of many mountains.

A real world-wide Flood would produce much volcanic and metamorphic rock as well. There are unresolved questions as yet about the how these rocks relate to the Flood for particular cases. However, it seems clear that much volcanism would take place during and after Noah's Flood. Many creationists also believe that the dust, ash, and gases input into the atmosphere following the Flood by large volcanic eruptions would affect climate for years and cause a post-flood ice age. A post-flood ice age appears to explain effectively the evidence for glaciers in North America, Antarctica, etc. within a young age time frame. Michael Oard, a meteorologist and ICR graduate, has done some excellent research on the idea of a post-flood ice age. The evolutionary approach to Earth history says that there have been many ice ages through history. There is now evidence that the facts used to argue for multiple ice ages can be explained by submarine landslides and debris flows. This means that underwater debris flows during a global Flood could form sedimentary layers that could be mistaken as glacier or ice age related.

Noah's Flood would have been a dramatic violent event accompanied and followed by many different types of catastrophic regional events. There would be tsunami waves that would devastate coastlines, these are formed from earthquakes and Earth movements on the sea floor for instance. Though it is not completely clear, there may be indications in Genesis that there was one continent and one contiguous ocean prior to the Flood. One approach to Flood geology, known as ***Catastrophic Plate Tectonics***,

proposes that the large supercontinent began breaking up at the beginning of the Flood and continued during the early stages of the Flood for some period of weeks to months. Another approach some creationists take is to say that the supercontinent broke up after the Flood. This approach could have advantages for explaining how living things could spread out across the Earth after the Flood. But, the Catastrophic Plate Tectonics model has some very solid research behind it from paleontology (study of fossils), geomagnetism (Earth's magnetic field and its history of changes), and geophysics (from computer models of the Earth's interior). I lean toward the Catastrophic Plate Tectonics model for the Flood. It is not certain but it is the best model available in my opinion. Today there are several competing models among creationist geologists for explaining how the Flood took place. This is an exciting area of ongoing research. I think the primary motivation of this research should be to correct modern science on issues of origins, not to "prove" the Bible. Still, there are many exciting confirmations of the Biblical view of history in today's Flood Geology.

An interesting question for creationist geology has always been where did the water come from for the 40 days and nights of rain mentioned in Genesis. Evolutionist Earth scientists will eagerly point out that there is not enough water in the entire atmosphere today to make rain able to continue for that long. The traditional answer to this has been the idea of a "***vapor canopy***" in the pre-flood Earth. This would be a layer of the atmosphere with a large amount of dissolved water vapor. This would not be clouds, so it would be

transparent, though some creationists have incorrectly described it as clouds. The Institute for Creation Research in California has been researching the atmospheric physics of vapor canopies. Thus far, the idea has not been ruled out but one conclusion seems clear, that any vapor canopy could not contain enough water to provide 40 days of rain. If that much water were present in the canopy it would produce a powerful greenhouse effect that would make Earth completely uninhabitable at the surface. But, a thinner canopy with less water could exist in a stable manner between Creation and the Flood and would aid in providing a healthy near-tropical climate all over the world before the Flood. A thin canopy then would not explain the rains but would shield from cosmic rays and would help explain why there is fossil evidence of tropical plants in areas now described as arctic, such as in Antarctica. In the Catastrophic Plate Tectonics model, vast amounts of molten magma on the ocean floor would vaporize large amounts of water, which would cause rains. Another possible source of rain water is impacts from space into the ocean. It seems clear that some type of geological process must have put large quantities of water into the atmosphere that led to the rains. These models of the Flood are meant mainly to help understand the natural effects of the Flood and its implications for geology. They are not intended to explain away or deny the supernatural. There must have been some supernatural intervention by God in Noah's Flood in some way in order for it to be a divine judgement.

Some creationists today believe there was no vapor canopy in the pre-flood Earth. Dr. Walter Brown, a retired Air Force Engineer and MIT graduate, is an example. He has an interesting model of

the Flood known as the ***Hydroplate Theory***. His model says there was a layer of liquid water under the crust of the Earth, that was essentially global in the pre-flood Earth. Stress and pressure caused it to break out during the Flood through huge linear fractures in the crust that now form the mid-ocean ridges. This water under the crust then ejected out in giant eruptions of superheated steam. He suggests this is what the Bible refers to as the "fountains of the great deep." In Brown's model, the separation of the continents began during the early part of the Flood, but most of the separation took place after the Flood.

I would be glad to recommend sources for additional reading or to be available to speak on the subject of the Flood. This article is available on my web site in a somewhat longer form.

Creation 2001 Conference Report

August 30 through September 3, 2001 was an extraordinary conference in the Cincinnati area sponsored by Answers in Genesis. A wonderful group of creation speakers were assembled to present the latest information on creationism. Some of the lectures were presenting information only very recently published at a technical level. There was much new and exciting information confirming Biblical creation. There were also enjoyable worship times and a preview of some new videos AIG will make available soon for kids.

I went to this conference only as an attendee. Two of the conference speakers, who were familiar with some published creationist papers of mine, mentioned me by name in their

messages. As a result I received a number of questions from people about my research on the solar system and impacts from space.

I was also asked to be interviewed for a television program called "The Revolution Against Evolution." This is a program produced in Lansing, Michigan and broadcasted over several Christian TV stations in Michigan. The taping was a 30 minute session addressing several topics related to the solar system, impacts from space on Earth, and planets orbiting other stars.

Answers in Genesis does have video and audio tapes available from this conference. The lectures covered a variety topics. In upcoming months, I hope to show some of these videos at the local C.O.S.M.O.S. meetings. This is a monthly meeting on the last Saturday of the month, from 1 to 5 pm at Bedford, Texas site of Laterno University. For information on the C.O.S.M.O.S. meetings see my web site or inquire of me by e-mail.

Review of children's book:

Dinosaurs of Eden

Creationist Ken Ham has recently written a new children's book called *Dinosaurs of Eden: A Biblical Journey through Time*. The book is very well illustrated, with color drawings of many many dinosaurs, some of which I had not even heard of before. The book starts with creation and discusses how sin affected the world. It also tells about Noah's Flood, life for animals after the Flood, dinosaurs and people living at the same time, the future judgement when Christ returns, and about how God will make a new Earth in the future. The gospel is presented throughout the book.

The book shows two young people who get into a time machine and go back in time to see Adam and Eve at creation. Many little known dinosaurs are depicted in this book and the book shows people riding dinosaurs.

The actual content of the book has much that I would agree with and so I would definitely recommend it to families. There are a few minor points I would disagree with. There is a good discussion of what the word "day" means in Genesis chapter 1. There are Bible memory verses throughout the book. All Scripture quotations use the King James Bible, which I think is inappropriate because it unnecessarily makes the book harder for young people to understand. Dinosaurs are shown eating only plants at creation, yet Ken Ham says animals starting killing to eat sometime before the Flood. I would agree with this.

This book seems to emphasize how mankind's Fall into sin as well as the Flood have changed the Earth as well as life on Earth. Ken Ham says that animals did not die before Adam and Eve sinned. I would say we don't know this for sure; this is something Scripture is not clear on. I would agree with Ham that the first sin caused Adam and Eve to lose their immortality. I like the way the book covers the time after Noah's Flood. It mentions the Tower of Babel, an ice age, and why some animals have gone extinct. There is also a nice explanation about dinosaurs being on Noah's Ark, showing both adult and young dinosaurs for size comparison.

There is much to recommend highly in this book for Christian families. It has a good combination of Biblical content and very up to date science information of interest to kids.