

NOAH'S ARK AND THE GENESIS FLOOD : PART 1

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God Chooses To Destroy Humankind By A Global Flood, Noah And His Sons Are Spared, It Was Genesis Flood Not Noah's Flood, Mount Everest And Noah's Ark Error, Forty Days And Nights Of Rain, Bowels Of The Earth Ripped Open, Earth Is Divided Into Continents, Pangaea Laurasia And Gondwanaland, Watery Earth In The Beginning, Dry Land Appears, Rain Stops And The Flood Waters Are Calmed, Mountain Chains Are Formed, Highest Hills And Mountains And Submerged By The Flood, Earth Is Divided During The Days Of Peleg, The Birth Of Nations And Languages, Covered In Water For One Hundred And Fifty Days, The Earth Is Dried Up, Formation Of Valleys Mesas And Canyons, The Fossil Layers Are Formed, Desolate Earth And Humanity's Second Chance, Ark Rests On Mountains Of Ararat, Noah Sends Raven And Dove

The following is an updated version of an article which I originally wrote back in April of 1997. At that time, I was moderating my own FidoNet newsgroup, as well as running a BBS -- or Bulletin Board Service -- called "The Treasure Trove BBS", or "TTT BBS" for short. It later became known as the "Armageddon BBS", before I shut it down a few years ago. The "Bill's Bible Basics" website first went online about a month after writing the original version of this article; although at that time, it was known as "E.D.G.E. Online" for about three years, and then as "Endtime Prophecy Net" for another sixteen years.

At any rate, this article takes a closer look at what really happened during the cataclysmic event which we today refer to as "Noah's Flood". In actuality, it was really God's flood; and its purpose was to remove man's wickedness from the face of the Earth. Noah, his sons, and their wives, were simply the individuals whom God had chosen to spare in order to keep humanity from total annihilation, as we see by the following verses, taken from the Authorized King James Bible:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his 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 through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Genesis 6:5-13, KJV

"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 3:20, KJV

At any rate, perhaps it would be more appropriate to refer to this event as the Genesis Flood, because Noah certainly didn't cause the Flood; he and his family just experienced it.

This article came about as a result of an exchange between two individuals who visited my BBS, who were attempting to refute the Biblical account of the Flood which occurred in the days of the Patriarch Noah. Part of their conversation was the following:

User 1 : "And in order for the Ark to have been the ONLY thing showing above the waters, it would have had to have been on Mount Everest."

User 2 : "And the tallest peak in the Ararat Mountains is a volcano that didn't exist at the projected time of the Ark."

It seems to me that in their attempt to try to discredit the Bible, these two fellows were overlooking a few important details. For example, if one carefully reads the account that is found in Genesis 7:10-8:14, he will discover that nowhere does it specifically say that the mountains of Ararat were the only points of land showing above the receding waters at that time. What we are told, is that the mountains of Ararat were simply the resting place which God apparently chose for the Ark, and nothing more. I can only conclude then, that this idea of the Ark being the only thing showing above the water, is something which this individual was purposely interjecting into the equation, in order to try to validate his argument.

The above quotes paint a rather distorted view of what really happened so long ago. They give the impression that there must have been just one lonely mountain peak -- that is to say, Mount Everest -- poking out of the water. Since this individual is assuming that Mount Everest was the highest peak at that time, he then erroneously deduces that Noah's Ark should have been drawn to it like a magnet, and settled upon it. However, his reasoning is seriously flawed, as you will come to understand in a moment.

It is my view that Genesis 8:4-5 is merely focusing on the area of the world where the Bible tells us that the Ark came to rest, and not necessarily stating that the mountains of Ararat were the only visible mountain peaks. Genesis 8:4-5 states as follows:

"And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen."

Genesis 8:4-5, KJV

In case you missed it, please notice that in those verses, the words "mountains" and "tops" are plural. Nowhere does it specifically say that only the top of one mountain, or that only the mountains of Ararat were exposed at this time. It simply says "the tops of the mountains". Obviously, if the Lord used the natural force of gravity to lower the water level evenly all around the world, then depending on the elevation of the mountains which existed at that time, some

peaks would appear first, some would appear simultaneously, and some would appear last of all. But the fact remains that the Lord chose the mountains of Ararat as the resting place for the Ark, and not Mount Everest.

Furthermore, to even suggest that God would choose Mount Everest as the resting place for the Ark, seems ludicrous to me. If God was concerned with preserving mankind, as we know He most certainly was, He was not going to have the Ark rest on a treacherous frozen peak which has been measured at over 29,000 feet in height. Not only that, but how in the world would Noah and his family, not to mention all of the animals, survive up there, much less come down from that dangerous precipice? In contrast, Mount Ararat is not quite 17,000 feet in height; and the surrounding mountainous area of Turkey is at an even lower elevation. While that elevation is still quite high, this topography was obviously much more conducive to the survival of mankind than Everest could ever be.

As an interesting side note, in the Hebrew language, the name "Ararat" actually means "the curse reversed", or "the precipitation of curse". It was used to denote the ancient country of Armenia. Today, Armenia is a small nation of a few million people, located at what is now the junction of four countries: Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Iran. Mount Ararat is located in extreme eastern Turkey, although there is a town in Armenia by the name of Ararat as well.

At any rate, this silly argument that these Bible debunkers are attempting to use in order to try to add some legitimacy to their argument is totally false and unfounded. The imaginary scene they have created of a worldwide ocean from which one mountain peak is sticking out, is a distortion of the truth, and is not based upon facts.

Now, if one slows down a bit and takes the time to look even closer at the events which are described in the pages of the Book of Genesis, they will discover a few interesting things. For example, in Genesis chapter seven, verses six and eleven, we are told that the rains began to fall on the seventeenth day of the second month of Noah's six hundredth year of life, as we see here:

"And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth . . . In the six hundredth year of Noah's

life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."

Genesis 7:6, 11, KJV

Verses four, twelve and seventeen of the same chapter also tell us that it rained for a period of forty days and nights. In other words, for well over a month straight, as we see here:

"For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth . . . And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights . . . And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth."

Genesis 7:4, 12, 17, KJV

Furthermore, the Flood was not just a result of torrential rains. We are told in the eleventh verse that the fountains of the deep were broken open. The actual Hebrew word that's used in the verse is "baqa". Pronounced baw-kah', the Hebrew lexicon defines it as meaning to split, cleave, break open, divide, break through, rip up, break up, or tear. Based upon that definition, it can be understood in several ways. It could mean that God ripped open the Earth in order to release the vast amounts of water which were stored in subterranean caverns. Another possibility is that the phrase "fountains of the great deep broken up" may be referring to the worldwide ocean being divided into separate bodies of water. However, the first possibility makes a lot more sense, because as you will see in a moment, we are told in the very first chapter of the Book of Genesis, that God created the various seas and oceans in the very beginning, when the dry land first appeared. Genesis chapter one thus represents the first reshaping of the Earth's surface, as far as we know.

Another theory I heard recently, is that the "fountains of the deep" being broken up may be referring to submarine volcanic activity. Of course, I would think that the action of the ocean floors being broken open would in itself result in widespread volcanic activity. If this is indeed the case, and it does seem likely that it was, not only would it cause the oceans to heat up, but it would obviously result in a

lot of steam being pumped into the atmosphere, which would further fuel the torrential rains which fell upon the Earth during those forty days and forty nights. So, this theory has a lot of merit, and it would certainly help to answer the question of Bible critics who skeptically ask "Where did all of the rain come from?". Anyone who lives in the tropics and who has experienced the awesome fury of tropical storms, hurricanes or typhoons, is more than familiar with how much rain can be dumped upon the Earth in the matter of a few hours. Multiply this by forty days and forty nights, and one begins to understand how the Flood was in fact possible.

Following the generally-accepted assumption that the Earth was once one undivided land mass, as tectonic evidence seems to indicate, and as many Bible scholars and scientists tend to believe, verse eleven could mean that it was at the time of the Genesis Flood that God broke up or physically divided the Earth into its current seven continents. This would have undoubtedly resulted in great earthquakes, tidal waves, the shifting of some mountain ranges, and the creation of new ones. Within scientific circles, this huge ancient land mass or "supercontinent" is referred to as "Pangaea". Some people believe that at some point in time, Pangaea eventually broke up into a northern supercontinent, referred to as "Laurasia", and a southern supercontinent, referred to as "Gondwanaland", or simply "Gondwana". As continental drift continued, these two great land masses eventually resulted in the formation of our seven distinct continents, according to scientific views.

Regardless of exactly what occurred at that time, the Bible informs us that between these two events -- that is, torrential rain and the reshaping of the Earth's oceans and land masses -- the entire Earth was once again engulfed by water. The planet was totally inundated, just as occurred when the Lord first created it, resulting in the annihilation of humanity, except for those eight individuals in Noah's Ark. It is my personal understanding that the Earth possessed no dry land in the very beginning when God first created it. There was just one vast dark ocean, as seems to be indicated by the following verses. It was some time after that that God made the dry land to appear:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the

face of the waters . . . And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good."

Genesis 1:1-2, 9-10, KJV

In Genesis 7:24 through 8:2, we are told that God caused the rain clouds, or "windows of heaven", and the fountains of the deep to stop following the first forty-day period. We're also told that He then calmed the waters, as we see here:

"And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days. And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged; The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;"

Genesis 7:24-8:2, KJV

As you can see, the word used in the previous set of verses is "asswaged", which in modern English is also written as "assuage". The translators of the Bible were very careful regarding their choice of words. "Assuage" is derived from the Hebrew word "shakak". Pronounced shaw-kak', it means to pacify, calm, abate or subside. So it seems then that this may be referring to the fact that God calmed the might waves, the tsunamis. He did two things in these verses: He stopped the rain and other sources of water, and He also calmed the waves. I would think that the continents must have already been divided or broken up by this time, in order for the calming effect to have occurred. It is also possible that some of the world's current mountain chains were formed at that time, or at least were destined to form, as a result of the slow continental drift effect which may have begun at that time, and which would eventually result in tectonic plates crashing into each other.

As a Bible-believing Christian, you may have assumed that the mountains that we see today are the very same ones that were created in the first chapter of Genesis. However, to be honest, we really don't know that for certain. All we really know is that Genesis 7:19-20 appears to indicate that the highest hills and mountains of that time were covered over by approximately twenty to thirty feet of water, or fifteen

cubits, as we see here:

"And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered."

Genesis 7:19-20, KJV

Please note that the length of a cubit was not exactly the same in each of the ancient cultures. It varied in length from about seventeen inches to twenty-one inches, and was determined by the measurement from a man's elbow to the tip of his middle finger.

So again, exactly how high those mountains actually were, we really don't know for sure. All we can assume is that when God broke up the fountains of the deep, whether that means the division of the Earth's continents and oceans, or simply the breaking open of many subterranean lakes and rivers, in either event, it must have resulted in the creation of some new land formations. In short, the Flood would have resulted in a second reshaping of the Earth's surface, the very first event having occurred when God first made the dry land to appear in Genesis chapter one.

Even today, thousands of years later, we are still able to find very clear signs of these ancient cataclysmic events. Consider, for example, the beauty, magnificence and power that is revealed in Yosemite Park by the huge, mysterious granite monoliths. What ancient upheaval created these massive structures, if not the Flood which occurred in Noah's day? In my mind, they stand as silent witnesses to the truth of God's Word.

Another interpretation of events which has been suggested is that the Earth began to slowly divide into its current land masses beginning in the days of Peleg, about one hundred to one hundred and ten years after the Genesis Flood. In the tenth chapter of Genesis we find the following verses:

"And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan . . . These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood."

Genesis 10:25, 32KJV

It is interesting to note that the word "divided" is derived from the Hebrew word "palag", and the name "Peleg" likewise means "division". Taking the previous two verses together, I am of the opinion that they are not referring to the actual physical division of the Earth into continents, but rather to the division of the inhabitants of the Earth into different language groups. This appears to be verified by the fact that the very next verses in the chapter begin to describe how God chose to confound the followers of Nimrod at the Tower of Babel, by giving them different languages. In chapter eleven we also find the following account:

"And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

Genesis 11:6-9, KJV

If this division of people into different nations occurred before the supercontinent began to be divided by rift valleys -- a process which eventually resulted in Pangaea breaking up into our present-day continents -- it would certainly help to explain why there's such a diversity of people throughout the planet. In other words, if, following Babel, they had already migrated to the different parts of the supercontinent before it began to break up and slowly drift into other parts of the world, they would have gone right along with those various segments. As we have already discussed, just examining a map or globe quickly reveals how nicely the world's land masses could have fit together at one time, just like a giant jigsaw puzzle. It may very well be that when God broke up the deep in order to cause the Flood, it seriously weakened the supercontinent, but it took some time, hundreds of years or more perhaps, before rift valleys began to appear, which in the long run physically divided that huge continent. So God may have chosen to confuse and divide the people by language

first, and then He divided them geographically as well when Pangaea eventually broke apart, and each section was slowly separated from the rest by ever-widening oceans, and the force of continental drift.

But let us return now to the topic of the Genesis Flood and Noah's Ark. As we saw earlier, after forty days and nights, the Lord caused the rains to stop, and He calmed the waters as well. However, it doesn't mean that the flood waters just suddenly disappeared. The previous Scriptures tell us plainly that the flood waters prevailed upon the Earth for a period of one hundred and fifty days. In other words, it took that long for them to gradually return to their natural borders, whatever they may have been at that time. Furthermore, we're informed that it wasn't until the second month of the next year -- or Noah's six hundred and first year of life -- that the Earth was completely dried up. Consider these verses:

"And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried."

Genesis 8:13-14, KJV

Can you fathom what a monumental event is being described for us here? Some Bible critics like to claim that the Flood was just a "localized event". They totally reject the idea of a Global Flood. Yet, in my view, the sheer magnitude of what is being described in the pages of Genesis disputes their claim. It rained for forty days and forty nights; but then look how long it actually took for the waters to dry up and to recede from the Earth.

Those verses may be referring to the fact that after having so much water on the Earth for a period of one hundred and fifty days, or five months, following the actual forty days of rain, there must have been a lot of thick layers of mud and silt which had to be dried up before it would really be safe to leave the Ark. In other words, when Noah removed the covering of the Ark, he could see the dry ground. The water was gone, but it still wasn't a safe place to walk; so Noah waited almost another two months until the twenty-seventh day of the second month. Perhaps this allowed time for all

of that mud to be sun-baked.

It seems plausible that it was probably during this same time period, while the Flood waters were slowly draining into the lower basins of the Earth which had been especially prepared by the Lord, that the world's great valleys, mesas, canyons, and other surface structures were also carved out while the mud was still soft. Their current-day features certainly seem characteristic of a worldwide Flood; especially if seen from a high altitude. In my mind, the neatly-carved layers found in such locales as the Grand Canyon, and the flat tabletop appearance of mesas, clearly attest to a slow, settling of the waters following a Global Flood. To actually believe that such an awe-inspiring wonder as the Grand Canyon was created over thousands or millions of years by the Colorado River, seems quite ludicrous to me. For me personally, it requires more faith to believe in that theory, than it does to believe in the Genesis account. Many of you reading this article have undoubtedly gone to the beach and played in the sand. If you pour a bucket of water onto the sand, it will quickly carve out miniature-sized gullies and channels. Why then, is it so difficult for some people to imagine this happening on a global scale as well?

Thick layers of mud were not the only by-product of the Great Flood. That ooze was filled with the remains of pre-diluvial humanity, as well as the former plant life and animal life. It seems quite likely then, that it was during this period that all of the fossilized layers were created; and to this day, we are witnesses to God's mass burial of His former creation, in layer after layer of earthen, sun-baked tombs, hardened by both time and pressure.

While my previous interpretation of Genesis 8:13-14 seems to make sense, I suspect that there may possibly be a somewhat different explanation for what we are being told there. However, you won't be able to see it, simply by reading the verses in English. Allow me to explain. While the word "died" is used twice in those verses, in actuality, a different Hebrew word is used in each verse. The first occurrence of "died" comes from the Hebrew word "charab". Pronounced khaw-rab, it means to lay waste, make desolate, or to be in ruins. It also means to dry up, but that is its second definition in the Hebrew lexicon. If we choose to accept the first definition, then the new picture we get is that when

Noah removed the covering of the Ark and looked out upon the world, he was surrounded by desolation and ruins everywhere. The Earth was not a very hospitable-looking place. So then we are informed again that about two months later, the Earth was dried; but this time, the Hebrew word that is used solely means to be dried up of water and moisture. It has nothing to do with being in a state of waste, ruin or desolation.

There is one other interesting point regarding this issue. In addition to the fact that it may have taken almost another two months for the Earth to really dry up, what else may have happened during this time? What occurred to me is that Noah had a boatload of animals, and all of those animals certainly needed something to eat. So is it possible that during those almost two extra months, new vegetation began to grow on the Earth? It's interesting to note that in the next five verses, God gives Noah the commandment to leave the Ark, as we see here:

"And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark."
Genesis 8:15-19, KJV

In short, God knew precisely when it would be safe for Noah, his family, and the animals to leave the Ark, in order to go about repopulating the Earth. In my view, this appears to be a more accurate interpretation of events, as described in the previous verses of Genesis. Let's move on now to another important point. In Genesis 8:4 we are told that the Ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat in the seventh month, as we see here:

"And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat."
Genesis 8:4, KJV

Please carefully notice the time frame when the ark rested.

We are told that this event occurred in the seventh month. Does this verse mean that the Ark literally sat upon the mountains of Ararat at that time, that is, in the seventh month? Does it even mean that the Ark rested upon solid, dry ground?

To answer my own questions, well, not necessarily. From a closer reading of the surrounding verses, we can gather that the true meaning of the word "rested" here might be that the Ark simply ceased movement; it became still in the water. Up until that time, it was undoubtedly being buffeted by huge waves. But once the rains and mighty waves had stopped after the first forty days, Noah felt confident enough to send out first a raven, and then the first dove to see if it was safe yet. But, of course, we know that it wasn't. The main point I wish to emphasize to you is that after the first forty days, when we are told that the Ark settled upon the mountains of Ararat, there was still NO dry land to be found by the dove. Thus, it returned to the Ark. This important fact seems to support the understanding that the Ark resting means that it simply stopped moving; it became calm in the waters which still covered the mountains of Ararat. Perhaps it was even lodged in a kind of cove formed by some of the submerged peaks, but it was not yet sitting upon dry, solid ground. In fact, in the original Hebrew, the word translated here as "rest" is "nuwach", pronounced noo' akh, which means to rest, settle down and remain, to repose, to have rest, to be quiet. Following are the verses where these particular events are covered in Genesis:

"And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen. And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew

that the waters were abated from off the earth. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more."

Genesis 8:5-12, KJV

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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NOAH'S ARK AND THE GENESIS FLOOD : PART 2

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God's Word Never Contradicts Itself, Ark Anchors On Ararat, Mountain Tops Are Revealed As The Global Water Level Recedes, Formation Of Mount Everest, Continental Drift, Mount Everest And Volcano Theories Are Flawed, Limestone And Marine Fossils On The Summits, Where Did All The Flood Water Go, What If The Polar Ice Caps Melt Again? Climate Change And Kyoto Protocol, 1950 NATO Ark Images, Ron Wyatt And The Durupinaral Dig Site, Bill Fry And Anchor Stone International Archeological Work, The Genesis Apocryphon, Book Of Jubilees And The Sefer Noah, Armenia, Mount Lubar, Elbruz And Mount Elbrus, Conclusions

If there is one that I have always taught, it is that God's Word never contradicts itself. One verse will be further explained by another verse, or another set of verses, either in the same chapter, the same book, or in another book. If there is ever any seeming contradiction, it is more than likely in our own understanding of what is being said.

Well, if the Ark didn't literally sit upon the solid ground in the seventh month, when did it occur? The previous verses

make it clear that the tops of the mountains were not seen until the tenth month. That is where we find our answer. It seems then that once the waters had been calmed, God caused the Ark to remain in a more or less stationary position over the mountains of Ararat, while the waters continued to recede for a few months; that is, some seventy to seventy-five days to be precise. It was only then that the Ark actually became physically anchored on the mountains of Ararat. However, even then, it still required about another seventy-five days for the waters to completely recede to the level where the Lord wanted them to be.

Genesis 8:5 clearly tells us that the tops of the mountains were first seen on the first day of the tenth month. You will recall that I mentioned to you earlier that the words "tops" and "mountains" are both plural. Nowhere does Genesis state that only the top of one mountain, or that only the mountains of Ararat were exposed at that time. To reiterate my point, common sense dictates that if the water level receded more or less evenly all around the world, as it more than likely did due to the force of gravity, then depending on the elevation of the mountains which existed at that time, some would appear simultaneously, and some would appear before others, or after others, all around the world.

What about Mount Everest? Did its summit likewise appear as the flood waters receded from the face of the Earth? My view is that it probably did not. In order to understand why I am stating this, we need to ask ourselves a question, and that is this: At what exact point in Biblical and geological time was Mount Everest formed? Was it created when the Lord first raised the dry land from the global ocean in Genesis chapter one? Or did it result from the Earth being broken open during the time of the Flood approximately one thousand, six hundred and fifty years after Creation Week? Is it even possible that Mount Everest did not make its appearance until some point after the time of Peleg? I suspect that the final possibility may be the correct one, and that it is possible that Mount Everest did not form until many centuries after the Genesis Flood, and many centuries after the people were divided by language at Babel.

As you may already realize, according to scientific opinion, Mount Everest, like the rest of the Himalayan mountain range, is believed to have risen from the floor of the ancient Tethys

Sea, when the Eurasian continental plate, fueled by what is known as continental drift, collided with what we refer to as the Indian subcontinental plate. This collision of these two great land masses resulted in a severe buckling of the Earth's crust, which led to the formation of the Himalayas. The fact that a portion of Mount Everest is comprised of limestone and dolomite, as well as the fact that fossils of ancient marine animals, such as trilobites, have been found at its summit, also appear to confirm this theory.

This ties in directly with our earlier discussion regarding the supercontinent known as Pangaea, and its division into two smaller land masses known as Laurasia and Gondwanaland. The latter two eventually resulted in seven land masses, and the Indian subcontinent fits right into this scheme. We need to realize that continental drift is an extremely slow, and basically unobservable geological process. In other words, we can't look out our window and see entire continents drifting, or bumping into each other. If we could, we would be in very serious trouble, and I wouldn't even be sitting here writing this article!

So my primary point is this: If the supercontinent, Pangaea, was broken up into smaller sections during the Genesis Flood, or even centuries later after the days of Peleg; and if the process of continental drift took hundreds of years or longer before the Indian subcontinent violently collided with the Eurasian continent to form the Himalayan mountain range, then Mount Everest could not possibly have existed at the time of the Genesis Flood. This clearly demonstrates that Noah's Ark could not have anchored itself to the summit of Everest; and therefore, the aforementioned user's claim is utterly false, and in fact quite ludicrous. The second user's claim about the volcano, which, according to him, did not exist at the time of the Flood, is also a moot point; because nowhere in the Book of Genesis does it state that the Ark landed on the highest peak; that is, on said volcano. As we've already seen, Genesis clearly uses the plural form, and informs us that the Ark landed on the "mountains of Ararat", indicating that more than one mountain top was exposed as the flood waters began to recede.

On the other hand, even if Mount Everest was formed when God first brought forth the dry land from the global ocean in the first chapter of Genesis, it is still a moot point, because

again, the Bible clearly states that the Ark settled on the "mountains of Ararat", and not on the Himalayan mountains. As a side note, it may interest you to know that the elevation of Mount Everest continues to rise a few millimeters every year due to the geological forces which were set in motion by God Himself so many millennia ago.

Some people have wondered how it is that limestone layers containing the fossilized remains of marine life, have been found in some of the highest mountain ranges of the world, far away from any sea or ocean. The answer becomes rather easy and clear, once one accepts the Genesis account of a Global Flood. In similar fashion, it is the Global Flood, clearly described in the opening chapters of the Holy Bible, which convincingly explains the presence of complete frozen specimens in the frigid lands of Siberia and elsewhere. Only a flood of global proportions, followed by a sudden drop in temperature, can explain how mastodons and the like could have been so carefully and quickly preserved in the ice, before they had a chance to completely decay and return to their most basic elements. In His Divine Wisdom, is God trying to send doubting humanity a message?

Earlier, we read how God sent a wind to pass over the Earth. We know that God somehow used this wind to cause the flood waters to recede. But have you personally ever given it much thought? We already answered the question "Where did all of that rain come from?", but have you ever considered where it all went afterwards? Obviously, a large portion of the water was used to fill the post-diluvial rivers, streams, lakes, seas and oceans. A certain percentage was also absorbed by the Earth, and now forms subterranean rivers and seas. But do these various places account for all of the rain which fell during those forty days and forty nights? I honestly cannot say. However, another rather interesting, and I dare say, challenging thought, has occurred to me as well. Is it possible that when the Lord sent that wind, that it actually blew the flood waters away from the equatorial regions of the Earth, and towards the poles, where it quickly froze? It is a scientific fact that the Earth's polar ice caps are miles thick. That is a lot of frozen water. So the question arises, "Where did it all come from?".

A closely-related question is this: "Where would all of that water go if it were to melt again? As you may know, one of

the current concerns of a growing number of world scientists, is that Climate Change is already causing polar ice shelves, as well as some glaciers, to thaw. I was reading recently where it was said that the permafrost in Alaska, and possibly in Siberia as well, has already begun to melt. These men of science fear that if Climate Change continues -- and they are certain that it will at an ever-increasing rate -- in the coming decades, we will witness a certain degree of coastal flooding, and some low-lying islands will more than likely disappear as well. Not only that, but an increase in coastal flooding will obviously lead to serious coastal erosion.

It is for this very reason that the international agreement known as the Kyoto Protocol, sought to reduce the amount of air pollutants being generated by industrialized nations. It is believed that by reducing heat-generating pollutants in the Earth's atmosphere, Climate Change can also be brought under better control, which will directly affect the health of the Poles, glaciers, coastal areas, etc. Sadly, while the Kyoto Protocol was embraced by a growing number of countries, under the leadership of George W. Bush and the Republican Party, the United States of America staunchly fought against this international agreement for years.

In fact, even under the Clinton administration, the protocol was never ratified by the U.S. Congress. Furthermore, when the Kyoto Protocol was replaced by the Paris Climate Accord in 2015, the Obama administration fought against that as well. While it is true that President Barack Obama did sign onto the agreement, he never submitted it to the Senate for ratification. The administration of Donald Trump has taken it a step further and pulled out of the Paris pact altogether. Ironically, it is a known fact that the U.S.A. is the source of at least twenty-five per cent of the world's total air pollution, even though it is only the home to a fraction of the Earth's total population.

But there is so much more to this amazing story of Noah's Ark and the Genesis Flood, and it has happened in recent times. Consider the fact that since the last century, various claims have been made regarding the alleged discovery of the remains of Noah's great wooden ship.

One claim involves the startling discovery that was made by a NATO aircraft during the 1950s, while it was taking aerial

photographs of eastern Turkey, also known as Armenian Turkey, in order to determine Soviet missile activity. To everyone's surprise, what may possibly be the remains of an ancient boat were found at an elevation of about 6,300 feet, in a mountain valley which is located some twenty miles from the summit of Mount Ararat. Locally, Mount Ararat is known as Agri Dagh. The actual dig site is known as Durupinaral, and is located approximately twenty miles from the Russian border. This amazing development was eventually reported in the September 5, 1960 edition of the American magazine "Life". In fact, I have in my possession a copy of a 1948 news article from the Associated Press which discusses the site, as well as a small image which was taken by the NATO aircraft during the 1950s. I also possess two copies of photographs which were included in the 1960 Life Magazine article, as well as an assortment of other recent images that are associated with this same discovery.

According to the information I have read, it is said that the amazing structure, the size and shape of which closely match the description of Noah's Ark, as related in the pages of the Bible, was found preserved in glacial ice, and could only be seen from the air at certain times of the year. However, due to warming temperatures since the 1950s, the "boat" has since become completely exposed to the elements. It has also been said that the existence of this alleged boat has been known to the local population for at least hundreds of years, and that in times past, they supposedly took beams from the Ark to use as firewood, or to use as building materials.

It is believed that as a result of volcanic eruptions in the ancient past, the structure was eventually carried by lava flows down the slopes of the Ararat mountain range, to its current location, where it became impaled on a limestone outcropping. In 1978, an earthquake struck eastern Turkey. One result of that temblor was that the earth which had entombed the boat-like structure fell away, revealing what appear to be the ribs of a great ship. But, the earthquake also exposed the fragile remains to the elements. Naturally, the result has been that a great deal of deterioration has occurred to the structure.

Since the 1970s, in conjunction with the Turkish government, a research team headed by now-deceased Biblical investigator, Ron Wyatt, has been conducting a battery of scientific tests

on the controversial remains, and these tests have yielded some very thought-provoking results. Rather than take a lot of time and space here to delve into those results, allow me to refer you instead to two websites which are dedicated to carrying on the work first begun by Ron Wyatt. Please note that the first site is headed by Mary Nell Wyatt, who is the widow of Ron Wyatt, while the second site is headed by one Jim Fry, who at one time worked for Mr. Wyatt. Please also be aware of the fact that unless the situation has changed in recent years, there are some serious problems and rivalries between said parties. I ask that you use a lot of spiritual discernment as you explore both of these sites:

Wyatt Archeological Research: <http://www.ronwyatt.com>

Anchor Stones International: <http://www.anchorstone.com>

Yet another claim places the remains of Noah's Ark at a site which is located within the borders of Iran. If we consider the fact that "Ararat" is actually the ancient Hebrew word for Armenia, which is an ancient country located in what is now the juncture of Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Iran, this final claim also appears to have some merit.

According to several apocryphal works, the place where Noah's Ark finally came to rest was known as Mount Lubar. I haven't been able to find this name mentioned anywhere in the pages of the Authorized King James Bible. However, it is found in a text known as the "Genesis Apocryphon", which includes part of Noah's personal diary, as we see here:

----- Begin Quote -----

and I began with - all my sons - to work the land and I planted a large vineyard at Mt. Lubar

and by the fourth year it produced wine for me;

And when the first festival came, on the first day of the first festival of the [seventh?] month . . . I opened

this vessel and I began to drink from it on the first day of the fifth year.

On this day I called my sons and grandsons and all our wives

and their daughters and we gathered together and we went [to the place of the altar?]

. . . and I blessed the Lord of Heaven, the Most High God, the Great Holy One who delivered us from destruction

. . . they drank and . . .

I poured on . . . and the wine

----- End Quote -----

In the text of the Book of Jubilees, we find this very same story mentioned, as well as the fact that the Ark came to rest in a place called Mount Lubar, as we see here:

----- Begin Quote -----

"And the water prevailed on the face of the earth five months -one hundred and fifty days. And the ark went and rested on the top of Lubar, one of the mountains of Ararat. And (on the new moon) in the fourth month the fountains of the great deep were closed and the flood-gates of heaven were restrained; and on the new moon of the seventh month all the mouths of the abysses of the earth were opened, and the water began to descend into the deep below. And on the new moon of the tenth month the tops of the mountains were seen, and on the new moon of the first month the earth became visible. And the waters disappeared from above the earth in the fifth week in the seventh year thereof, and on the seventeenth day in the second month the earth was dry. And on the twenty-seventh thereof he opened the ark, and sent forth from it beasts, and cattle, and birds, and every moving thing."

Book of Jubilees 5:27-32

"And in the seventh week in the first year thereof, in this jubilee, Noah planted vines on the mountain on which the ark had rested, named Lubar, one of the Ararat Mountains . . ."

Book of Jubilees 7:1a

----- End Quote -----

Another online version of this same story, also taken from

the Book of Jubilees, states as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

Noah planted a vine at the mountain (whose name was Lubar, one of the mountains of Ararat) on which the ark had come to rest

It produced fruit in the fourth year. He guarded its fruit and picked it that year during the seventh month. He made wine from it, put it in a container, and kept it until the fifth year - until the first day at the beginning of the first month.

He joyfully celebrated the day of this festival. He made a burnt offering for the Lord - one young bull, one ram, seven sheep each a year old, and one kid - to make atonement through it for himself and for his sons. First he prepared the kid. He put some of its blood on the meat (that was on) the altar which he had made. He offered all the fat on the altar where he made the burnt offering along with the bull, the ram, and the sheep . . . Afterwards he sprinkled wine in the fire that had been on the altar beforehand . . . and offered a pleasant fragrance that was pleasing before the Lord his God.

He was very happy,

and he and his sons happily drank some of this wine

----- End Quote -----

The Book of Jubilees also informs us that upon Noah's death, he was buried on Mount Lubar in the land of Ararat, as we see here:

----- Begin Quote -----

"And Noah wrote down all things in a book as we instructed him concerning every kind of medicine. Thus the evil spirits were precluded from (hurting) the sons of Noah. And he gave all that he had written to Shem, his eldest son; for he loved him exceedingly above all his sons. And Noah slept with his fathers, and was buried on Mount Lubar in the land of Ararat. Nine hundred and fifty years he completed in his

life, nineteen jubilees and two weeks and five years. And in his life on earth he excelled the children of men save Enoch because of the righteousness, wherein he was perfect. For Enoch's office was ordained for a testimony to the generations of the world, so that he should recount all the deeds of generation unto generation, till the day of judgment."

Book of Jubilees 10:13b-18a

----- End Quote -----

Finally, the Book of Jubilees explains that following the Flood, Noah's three sons -- Shem, Ham and Japheth -- built three cities on Mount Lubar, which they named after their wives. Following is a direct quote:

----- Begin Quote -----

"And he [Ham] built for himself a city and called its name after the name of his wife Ne'elatama'uk. And Japheth saw it, and became envious of his brother, and he too built for himself a city, and he called its name after the name of his wife 'Adataneses. And Shem dwelt with his father Noah, and he built a city close to his father on the mountain, and he too called its name after the name of his wife

Sedeqetelebab. And behold these three cities are near Mount Lubar; Sedeqetelebab fronting the mountain on its east; and Na'eltama'uk on the south; 'Adatan'eses towards the west..."

Book of Jubilees 7:14b-18a

----- End Quote -----

The online version of the Jewish Encyclopedia also states that the name Lubar is mentioned in the ancient Jewish text known as the "Sefer Noah". Following is a short excerpt from said encyclopedia:

----- Begin Quote -----

The mountain on which the ark rested, and on which Noah afterward settled, is called in the Book of Jubilees (v. 38) and "Sefer Noah" (l.c.) "Lubar," which Delitzsch supposes to be the Elbruz.

According to Jubilees (x. 21), Noah was buried on Mount

Lubar, where he had settled after the Flood.

----- End Quote -----

You will notice that nineteenth century German theologian Franz Delitzsch suggests that ancient Lubar may possibly be a reference to Elbruz. But where is Elbruz? Wikipedia offers two possible locations. The first is a mountain range located in northern Iran near the border with Armenia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. This closeness to Armenia seems to add weight to northern Iran being the possible location for the remains of the Ark. Another Wikipedia page discusses Mount Elbrus, which is a volcano located in the western Caucasus mountain range, in Russia, near the border of Georgia, in the northern Iranian plateau. Again we see that the same general area is called to our attention. In short, all three of these claims concerning the discovery of Noah's Ark center around the ancient nation of Ararat, today known as Armenia.

Having now provided you with an assortment of evidence, that is to say, Scriptural, historical and geological evidence, I trust that you, the reader, will be able to form an informed opinion concerning the Genesis Flood, the account of Noah's Ark, as well as the possible location of the remains of said structure. Whether you agree or disagree with my summation of the events is entirely up to you. My primary goal in writing this article is to present what I view as both a plausible and probable explanation of the events of the Genesis Flood, based upon a direct reading of the Scriptures, with the hope that it will inspire others to come to accept the veracity of God's Word.

If you have enjoyed reading this article, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Tumblr, etc, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, I encourage you to study the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this article, or which are related to this article, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server:

Is Science Better Than the Bible?

Keeping Things in Proper Perspective: ET, Where Are You?

Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis

Noah's Flood: The Urantia Book Exposed Again!

Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?

The Dinosaur Dilemma and Modern Science

The Earth is Under Seven Thousand Years Old!

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