



The Flood

Historicity of the Flood

A serious student of the Bible would not be able to contest the existence of the flood. The flood and the account of Noah and the Ark were certainly real in the life of Jesus. He states in Matthew 24:38, "For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark." (NIV). He again refers to Noah and his day of judgment in Luke 17:26 - 27. Both the writer of Hebrews, Chapter 11:7, and Peter in both letters,

I Peter 3:20 and II Peter 2:5, refer specifically to the account in Genesis. Job and the Psalmist both authenticate the deluge of Genesis and the judgment of man in Job 22:16 and Psalm 104:5-9.

Universal or Limited of Nature

Whitcomb and Morris in their book *The Genesis Flood*, actually define three possibilities that are argued today by scholars. They are Universal, Limited, and Uniformitarianism, which they define as "A Study of Attempted Harmonizations." Was the flood local to Noah's area or did it cover the whole earth? Could it have been a combination of both? When you compare the arguments, both scripturally and geologically, much has been written that is yours to pursue. The Bible seems to indicate strongly that a universal deluge occurred. Genesis 7:19-20 says, "They (the waters) rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet." (NIV) Consider the nature of water, it always seeks the lowest level and as this account establishes, the water leveled at about twenty feet above the mountains, that is plural, so the highest mountain is included. For the water to stop receding it had to reach the same level everywhere. We suggest reading some of the fine accounts that are available today for a full understanding of the three concepts. The book noted above as well as the book *Genesis*, by Griffith Thomas D.D are both excellent.

The Holding Capacity of the Ark

Using Ernest Mayr's table of total animals on the earth at the time of Noah, the figure would be one million. However, many of these animals (reptiles, fish, amphibians, etc., could exist outside the ark during the flood. The actual count on the ark can be estimated to be closer to 35,000 individual vertebrate animals. Whitcomb and Morris, using stock cars as a guide tell us that two trains hauling 73 stock cars, each holding 240 animals the size of sheep, could easily carry 35,000. The Ark had a capacity of 522 of the same size stock cars, leaving more than enough room to carry animals and food for the trip. It is amazing the stretch that doubters take to dismiss this truth. They run the numbers up by multiplying rather than adding or adding where no adding is suggested. Certainly, if this has been a source of concern in your study, be sure to read the different accounts in the books that have been mentioned.