



Flood Traditions Around The World

There is an abundance of flood traditions from all over the world that seem consistent with the Genesis account. The detailed nature of the widely spread statements has common elements to the Bible. In fact, even people who live far from the sea or in mountainous areas have flood traditions which are similar to the Genesis account. For example, the Pawnee tribe in Nebraska has the following tradition: the creator Ti-ra-wa destroyed the first people, who were giants, by water because of his indignation about their corruption and after that he created a man and a woman like present people, who became the Pawnees' ancestors. In addition, the Miao tribe, who resides in southwest China, had a tradition which is like the Genesis account even before they met Christian missionaries. According to their tradition, when god destroyed the whole world by the flood because of wickedness of man, Nuah the righteous man and his wife Matriarch, their three sons, Lo Han, Lo Shen, and Jah-hu survived by building a very broad ship and embarked on it with pairs of animals. Furthermore, their genealogy records as follows: "The Patriarch Jahphu got the center of nations. The son he begot was the Patriarch Go-men."

A study was done on over 200 flood traditions all over the world and the following is a summary of similarities to the Genesis account:

1. Is there a favored family? 88%
2. Were they forewarned? 66%
3. Is the flood due to wickedness of man? 66%
4. Is catastrophe only a flood? 95%
5. Was the flood global? 95%
6. Is the survival due to a boat? 70%
7. Were animals also saved? 67%
8. Did animals play any part? 73%
9. Did survivors land on a mountain? 57%
10. Was the geography local? 82%
11. Were birds sent out? 35%
12. Was the rainbow mentioned? 7%
13. Did survivors offer a sacrifice? 13%
14. Were specifically eight persons saved? 9%

Many people often claim that the Gilgamesh epic, an ancient near-eastern flood tradition, was embellished from a severe river flood, i.e., a local flood (National Geographic holds to this). This might work if there were similar flood legends only around the ancient near east. But there are thousands of such flood legends all around the world – see chart below for some examples. Even the Australian Aborigines have legends of a massive flood, as do people living in the deep jungles near the Amazon River in South America. Dr. Alexandra Aikhenvald, a world expert on the languages of the Amazon region said:

