

## BIBLICAL FLOOD: A SCIENTIFIC GLIMPSE

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**Abstract:** *The flood is an important part of Biblical belief. It is also one of the most popular incidents occurred in the in the book of Genesis. Ever since the human evolution, scientists have been trying to trace back the creation of the Universe and also about the Biblical Flood. This paper focuses on the scientific understanding of the Biblical Flood occurrence.*

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The flood is an important part of Biblical belief. It is also one of the most popular incidents occurred in the in the book of Genesis. Ever since the human evolution, scientists have been trying to trace back the creation of the Universe and also about the Biblical Flood. This paper focuses on the scientific understanding of the Biblical Flood occurrence.

Many experts view this incident merely as a religious belief and such an occurrence has never happened as the traces of it is still under dispute where as many other experts and archeologists nevertheless analyzing and researching evidences to prove it to be true as they believe that Biblical flood is a historical fact.

The incident is narrated in the Bible, which could be found in the Old Testament, book of Genesis, during the period of a noble man named Noah. There were times when polygamy prevailed more and men being lecherous, indulged in many sinful activities, which brought wrath in the eyes of the Lord. He decided to wipe away the whole Earth and bring it back to the same, glorious state as it was before His Creation.

Then the Lord ordered Noah to build an ark of gopher wood. He also gave Noah the measurements and dimensions of the ark. When the ark was done, He asked Noah to fetch a pair of every animal, birds of various kinds, mammoth, and giant creatures and drop them into the ark, to gather food and all the requirements to be needed for a long stay in the ark. Noah just obeyed His words and did the same.

After that the Lord commanded Noah and his family also to get in to the ark and shut the gargantuan gate behind. For the next forty days and forty nights there was an incessant downpour which wiped away all the moving creatures on the surface of the earth. The unceasing rain took all the lives.

Around two hundred years ago, in the 18th century, plentiful disputes have been put forth by some prominent scholars of that day. The controversies were due to the discovery of fossils in most parts of the European countries. Some were found in the high altitudes and others were found even below the sea level and coal mines. They were put under various tests and predicted that those fossils included the debris of various animals, birds, sea animals, mammoths, giant livings, even non-native vegetation and various kinds of different species. When the scientists tried to find their origin and classification, because of their different shapes, sizes, forms and materials, they were not able to classify them.

George Cuvier, a French naturalist and zoologist, reacted to the issue declaring that long time in the past an enormous, colossal watery catastrophe must have consumed the whole area and possibly the Biblical Flood. But some writers, naturalists and archeologists who were with modern outlook and most essentially the non-Genesis believers such as Voltaire, a French writer, greatly offended the very idea and they considered even mentioning the traces of Biblical Flood for the fossils

discovered was obnoxious. Voltaire considered that it mostly hinted at the God and religion and the Biblical Flood was merely an anathema.

Titus Flavius Josephus, a famous historian of first century, believed that there would not be any other feasibility than the Biblical flood. William Whiston has quoted Josephus' words in his work *Flavius Josephus; Antiquities of the Jews* as:

When God gave the signal, and it began to rain, the water poured down forty entire days, till it became fifteen cubits higher than the earth; which was the reason why there were no greater number preserved, since they had no place to flee to. When the rain seized, the water did just begin to abate... (85)

There arose atypical reflections on the natural processes and evolution. The disputes were never settled. Then the doctrine of uniformitarianism was born, which was a scientific principle that declared that the natural processes those were regulated in the past were the same way it is being regulated at the present. But this doctrine was recorded by atheistic point of view as many of the deciding authorities themselves were atheists and non-Genesis believers. In various forms the perspective created an anti-spiritual civilization and life style.

The atheists were totally against the Biblical Flood and their major claim was that rain water could never make the ark float through the flowing water. As it was mentioned in the Bible, it was a heavy downpour and it would only push the ark downwards.

Yet there are evidences in abundance to prove their view point wrong. The evidences of watery global cataclysm could not easily be refuted. The earth has seven continents. Each continent has different culture, tradition, manner of living and beliefs. But when the historical and mythological side of each continent was being analyzed, each had a tradition of flood.

The African culture has an oral flood tradition. American countries have a lot of flood myths such as Great Serpent and the Great Flood, Nanabozho and the Muskrat, Mesoamerican flood myths, Asia has Sumerian creation myth, Gilgamesh flood myth and European countries have many ancient Greek flood myths and much more.

An American folklore of flood tradition, the Great Serpent and the Great Flood, speaks of a compassionate and altruistic Anishinaabe tribe's hero, Nanabozho, who is said to be gathered enormous trees and made a tremendous pontoon, through which he saved his people from a great flood caused by furious serpents. The Mesoamerican myth has various justifications to reason out the existence of such flood myths. The most convincible reasons were the world badly needed a renewal, human beings disregarded the super power: gods, and failed to do their duty to them and human beings were involved in infringements such as cannibalism. Though various reasons were put forth in proving such folklores as mere stories, the Mesoamerican flood myth is still believed to be one among umpteen devastations of the macrocosm.

The Sumer tribe, who had occupied their constant stay in Western part of Asian continent, has a creation myth which also has a manuscript of it. As per the manuscript, the creators have determined to shatter the whole creation by sending a flood. Before executing it, Enki, the Sumerian deity of refreshing aqua, insight, knowledge, perception, subtlety, productivity and creativity, appeared to Ziusudra, Shuruppak's monarch, and instructed him to construct a huge lifeboat. The ruler also obeyed and did as he had been instructed. When he was done, a abhorrent and dreadful tempest erupted unceasingly for seven days and seven nights. When the storm finally stopped raging, only Ziusudra's boat was found on the Gulf of Persia.

The Islam religion, which is a divided tribe of early Israel, has almost similar beliefs of Christianity. In Islam, Noah is known as NuhIbnLumikibnMutushalkh, who is regarded as one of the most important and remarkable prognosticators. He was

assigned to sermonize about god, to instruct mankind to forswear worshipping idols, venerate and glorify only the true god and lead an innocent and blameless life. But the mankind never considered his preaches. God grew more furious and commanded Mutushalkh to erect an ark. Through the ark, Mutushalkh was armored and the whole earth was wiped away by the flood sent by god.

The Indian mythology also has a belief of flood destruction. Lord Vishnu had ten incarnations and one among them was an avatar of fish, named Matsya. He admonished Manu, a good soul on the earth, regarding the approaching cataclysmic flood. He also commanded Manu to gather every cereal and kernel of the earth in a raft. A version of this story has also informed that all the beasts and fowls were also sent into the raft. In the glut of water, the whole earth got washed away only the raft and those were in it withstood. The same myth is seen in Andaman tradition too. The creator Puluga found that the mankind lived on their own accordance and forgot totally about following the commandments given to them by gods. Furious, without any further admonition and signal, he punished the people by sending disastrous flood. Only two men and two women withstood the flood.

The Greek conviction and folklore has three flood myths of destruction. The Oguges flood, the Deucalion flood and the Dardanus flood. Their stories conform that especially two ages of man were destroyed only by flood. The Silver Age was ended by Oguges flood and the Bronze Age by Deucalion flood. Though the traditions of different continents are considered to be superstitious, plenty of evidences had been found in the solar system itself.

The earth scientists and geologists have been renouncing the concept of flood destruction until evidences were found that the great Missoula flood, a disastrous one as mentioned in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible, had recklessly corroded many scores of square mile plain lands near rivers of Washington around 150 centuries ago. In the nineteenth century, when the mankind and earth began to undergo a lot of changes scientifically as well as spiritually, the scientists and geologists totally considered the flood destruction merely as an antiquated and out dated myth.

The futile land and terra firma without soil region around Washington is known as the scablands or channeled scablands. These land masses are normally a horizontal, plain land with very hard mafic igneous rocks. These are said to be the remains of calamitous flood within the southern and eastern parts of the United States of America. These lands are predicted to be taken the present state by countless detrimental floods occurred thousands and thousands of years ago.

An American classic field geologist J Harlen Bertz had dedicated his entire life on researching especially about the scablands and Missoula flood, and supported the argument which stated the massive flood annihilation, produced solid proofs of colossal floods in the eastern part of Washington, in the year 1920. This made a few of the geologists, who were renouncing the idea of flood destruction before the disclosure of the channeled scablands, to get convinced. Still many geologists very harshly criticized this concept.

When Bertz analyzed the structure of the scablands they were not similar everywhere. Granite rocks were found on magma escarpments, in a dreary, barren territory, deprived of soil, a parched water fall flew, craters were found several feet above the river level and immense sand blocks were found in valleys, which gave hidden details of deep, gushing water.

The antique flood deposition of huge delta land was found near the regions of Poland, Willamette Valley and Oregon. Through his research, Bertz drew a conclusion that the flood should have gushed from the Lake of Missoula, which is in western Montana. In 1940, Joseph Pardee, an American geologist, found reasons for the

humongous surge and tide marks on Lake Missoula's banks. They were developed by fast discharge of flood.

The discovery of Missoula flood encouraged other geologists of various places like Alaska, Europe, Asia, and the American Midwest to find identical landforms. Though there were no proofs that the catastrophe was world wide as indicated in the book of Genesis, flood has destructed the whole world.

The Professor of Earth and Space Sciences at Seattle University of Washington, David R. Montgomery, went on an expedition in the year 2002 along with his team on YarlungTsangpo river at Tibet, China, which is also the upper stream of the River Brahmaputra, was formerly carved of rocks, is at present the deepest valley of the world. They found antediluvian shorelines and remnants of 1200 years old timber in lake debris. As a result of their expedition, the team found the glacial sediments of the sides of valley affirming gigantic ice tongues would have collapsed a peak of around 25,000 feet. With all the proofs they gathered over there, the team brought out a conclusion that a great flood as mentioned in the Bible had gushed into the rocks and made those current gorges.

The canyons of Colorado River are not uniform in colour, structure, formation and size. Though they were not created by water gushes, the shape of it was formed by catastrophic floods around four hundred and thousand years ago.

Most frequently, as it is directly comprehended from the bible, the flood was created purely by excessive rain. Contemporary liberalistic knowledge and findings have ratiocinated that not at any time, rain has the capacity to induce such a flood of global magnitude by its own nature. But it also had been taken into consideration that the evidences of floods of continental dimensions occur both in the traditions of men and fossils.

The ideas and connotations accommodated in the book of Genesis chapters 6 to 9 are highly informative. Donald Wesley Patten, a geographer and writer declared that the Bible says rain was associated with the flood but rain was not the only cause of the flood. Genesis states that through the fountains of the abyss and the floodgates the great flood was created. Abyss is deep pits. Thus it referred to oceans. It was not only rain that caused flood but the oceans which were already present on the earth.

The other dispute non-Genesis believers put forth was the gathering of all sorts of animals and living creatures which had different nativities under a same roof. Every animal and bird has the ability by nature to sense any sort of natural calamity beforehand. This has been proven in many occasions including 2004 Tsunami in Indian Ocean. The animals and birds entered into the ark a week before the flood. If this suspicion is accurate, then, the flood was tidal in perspective, which was due to the reaction of planetary reactions and gravitational affray.

A theory proposed by Columbia university scientists states that the Black Sea was once a fresh water body until it was flooded by an enormous wall of water. They mentioned that the force of water was two hundred times that of the Niagara, sweeping away everything on its way.

Four hundred feet below the surface of the Black Sea, Robert Ballard, one of the world's best-known underwater archeologists, along with his crew, exhumed an ancient seacoast. By carbon dating the shells found in the shore, Ballard traced back its period to be around 5000 BC. Some experts claim that this would be the time of Noah's flood.

One of the major evidences for the Biblical flood is the ark of Noah, and its grounded location. The Bible says that when it rained continuously for forty days, water level grew high and it bore up the ark and lifted it above the earth. On the seventh month, when the rain stopped, it rested upon the mountains of Ararat.

As quoted in the Bible:

The flood continued upon the earth for forty days. As the waters increased, they

lifted the ark, so that it rose above the earth. The swelling waters increased greatly, but the ark floated on the surface of the waters. Higher and higher above the earth rose the waters, until all the highest mountains everywhere were submerged, the crest rising fifteen cubits higher than the submerged mountains... that, in the seventh month, on the seventieth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat (14)

The remains of Noah's ark could be found on Mount Ararat in Western Turkey, Agri Dag. It has been reported in news that a team of archeologists have found the remnants of the ark on the same mountain range. Nearly seven big wooden alcoves those were engrossed around 13,000 feet above the sea level, near the peak of Mount Ararat. The archeologists, highly confident, declared that the debris was from the flood.

In 2014, scientists have discovered and translated a clay tablet which contained information about the boat that carried animals two-by-two just as it has been indicated in the book of Genesis. Even archeologists have said to be found solidified animal dung and fur from the leftovers of the Noah's ark.

There are a lot of historians and archeologists who are still thriving to find evidences of the existence of the Biblical Flood and the Ark of Noah. Today, scientific advancements and modern technology have paved ways in multitude to dig up and detangle all the mysteries of the past. With the evidences proven and yet to be proved, there was a great flood in the past that obliterated the whole earth. The more advanced man grows, the less he tends to believe the traces of history. The beliefs of history always gives way to think, contemplate, to accrue gallantry in refurbishing the present era in its unsatisfactory intensification of chaos and turbulence, which would even dwindle the prevailing facts and bring in way for peaceful livelihood on earth.

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