

The Great Flood

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‘And every living thing which was on the face of the earth was destroyed, from man to cattle, and to the creeping things, and the fowls of the heavens. And they were destroyed from the earth, and only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark’ (Genesis 7:23).

God created a perfect world in six normal-length days (Genesis 1–2), but Adam disobeyed God’s command not to eat the forbidden fruit and brought corruption and death into the world (Romans 5:12). Adam’s sin passed to his children, his children’s children and so on.

As time went by, people began to invent new machines, explore new places and try new ideas. Because their hearts were wicked, though, they did things that displeased their Creator. They didn’t listen to their ancestor Adam when he would have told them what had happened in the Garden of Eden, and how they needed to obey and worship only the Lord.

This grieved God so much that He determined to destroy everything with the breath of life in it. Only one righteous man, Noah, found favour in His eyes. God told Noah that He would send a great flood to judge the entire globe by covering it with water.

God provided a way for Noah, his wife, his three sons, their wives, the land animals and birds (the fish and other sea creatures could survive in the water) to survive this catastrophe by building a huge Ark.

Noah and his family worked on the Ark for many years, probably warning those around them about God’s judgment that was coming. Nobody but his family believed. When they finished building, God brought two of every animal (including dinosaurs!) and seven of some, to the Ark.

There was plenty of room in this huge vessel for tens of thousands of animals ... even dinosaurs (the average dinosaur was only the size of a sheep, and Noah didn’t have to take fully grown adults of the large dinosaurs). Noah actually only needed about 16,000 animals on the Ark to represent all the distinct kinds of land-dwelling animals.

After all were on board, the ‘fountains of the great deep’ broke up and the ‘windows of heaven’ opened. These provided the water that would cover every spot on the whole earth.

We’ve all seen the damage a local flood can do—ripping up trees, depositing layers of mud, destroying everything in its path. Now imagine the damage done by a flood covering the entire planet!

Nothing would be the same after the waters had left and the earth had begun to dry. Everything must have looked very strange to Noah and his family as they came off the Ark!

After leaving the Ark, Noah built an altar to the Lord, sacrificing one of each of the clean animals. God promised never to flood the entire earth again. The sign of this promise is the rainbow we see today.

Did you know: water covers 70% of the earth's surface? Yet many deny the earth was completely covered in water at one time.

If the present earth's topography was levelled, there would be currently enough water to cover the earth to a depth of 2.7 km. At the end of the Flood, mountains were raised (explaining why there are marine fossils on the top of Mount Everest) and ocean basins lowered—allowing the water to run off and form the present oceans.

Discussion

If you were God, which decision would you have made?...

- a) to allow the world to destroy itself through fighting, killing, greed and foolishness (Noah would have been destroyed as well).
- b) to destroy those who lived sinful lives, but to save those who obeyed God, and therefore making a new start.

What did God promise after the flood? (Genesis 8:21-22)

God knew that people found it difficult to obey God's commandments, so He decided on a plan. He decided that when the time was right, He would send His Son to bring people back to God.

When people decide to love Jesus and ask for His forgiveness, they are no longer separated from God. (Galatians 4:4)

Those who have Jesus as Lord of their life do not have to be judged for the wrong things they do. They are forgiven.