

Chapter 19

Postulated Tremendous Horizontal Plate Movements

According to advocates of a K/T Flood/post-Flood boundary, not only were there tremendous differential vertical movements during the Cenozoic, but if we assume plate tectonics there were also huge horizontal plate movements *after* the Flood. The problem is worse for the lower boundary models, but both are forced to postulate a thousand miles or more of plate movement after the Flood.

Cenozoic Plate Movement

Assuming plate tectonics and catastrophic plate tectonics, how much plate movement took place in the Cenozoic? I am sure the amount varies from researcher to researcher but likely not by much. The amount of movement is usually calculated by marine magnetic anomalies, which are really less than 1% changes in magnetic intensity. Advocates of plate tectonics simply translate the intensity variations into different magnetic directions.¹ In areas of below average magnetic intensity, it is assumed the magnetic field was reversed, and vice versa with above average intensity. However, changes in magnetic intensity can be due to other causes, like changes in magnetic susceptibility or the potential to become magnetic of the rocks, which opens up other possibilities for the explanation of marine magnetic anomalies other than plate tectonics.²

If we do assume plate tectonics and shrink the standard timetable, the supercontinent Pangaea did not start breaking apart until the mid-Mesozoic. About half of this would have been during the Cenozoic,³ as shown by the Paleocene and young dates on Figure 19.1. This Cenozoic movement according to the K/T Boundary Model would take place after the Flood. So, the South Atlantic Ocean opened up 1,500 miles (2,400 km), the South Pacific 1,625 miles (2,600 km), and the North Pacific 3,125 miles (5,000 km) after the Flood during the Cenozoic.⁴ If we assume the K/T Boundary Model, most of the spreading from Pangaea was after the Flood.

This conundrum has forced some advocates of catastrophic plate tectonics to postulate an “earlier” supercontinent, Rodinia, that broke up at the beginning of the Flood.⁵ This places the advocates of Catastrophic Plate Tectonics in the very difficult position of proposing that this earlier supercontinents broke up and then came back together before the grand finale of the breakup of the supercontinent Pangaea. How is it possible that continents come back together in the catastrophic plate tectonics model?

¹ Fowler, C.M.R., 1990. *The Solid Earth: An Introduction to Global Geophysics*, Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, p. 43.

² Oard, M.J., 2000. Literature criticisms of plate tectonics; in: Reed, J.K. (Ed.), *Plate Tectonics: A Different View*, Creation Research Society, Chino Valley, AZ, pp. 25–64.

³ Kennett, J., 1982. *Marine Geology*, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, p. 126.

⁴ Kennett, Ref. 3, p. 121.

⁵ Snelling, A.A., 2009. *Earth's Catastrophic Past: Geology, Creation & the Flood*, Institute for Creation Research, Dallas, TX.

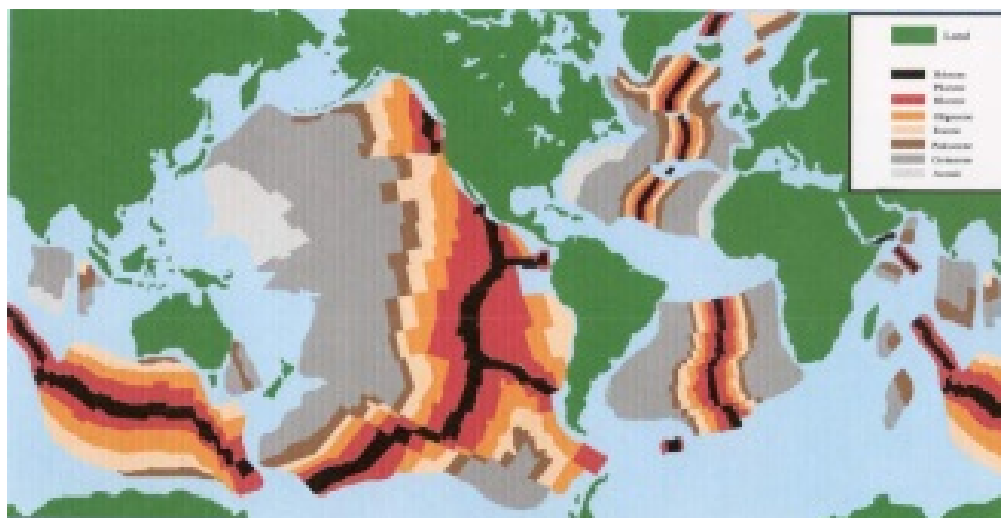


Figure 19.1. Dates of plate movements in millions of years based on ocean magnetic anomaly patterns (from Kennett, 1982, p. 126). The Cenozoic starts with the brown color.

India Collided with Asia in the Cenozoic

According to the K/T Boundary Model, rapid global horizontal plate movement after the Flood, caused India to crash into Asia and raise up all the mountains of the region (Figure 19.2). According to some versions of plate tectonics, India first made contact with south-central Asia about 50 million years ago, 15 million years after the K/T,⁶ although Figure 19.2 makes it appear as though it was much later. Regardless, the rapid movement northward and collision with Asia occurred during the Cenozoic. This was a time when Tibet, the Himalaya Mountains, and other mountains of south-central Asia were raised. This fits with the great Cenozoic vertical tectonics worldwide, especially during the late Cenozoic.⁷ So, this collision between India and Asia would take place *after* the Flood according to advocates of the K/T Boundary Model, assuming they believe that India crashed into Asia.

Implication for Post-Flood Catastrophic Plate Tectonics

Every time the earth shifts several feet, seismic waves cause intense earthquakes that kill people. With so much horizontal movement of plates, the crashing of India into the Himalayas, the movement of strike-slip faults, and tremendous differential vertical tectonics, the seismic violence would be beyond imagining. The vertical and horizontal movement would have caused extremely intense earthquakes, all over the world. This leaves us skeptical whether man or beast could survive, let alone spread and thrive after the Flood from the “mountains of Ararat” as God directed according to the Bible.

It would be more logical for those who believe in CPT to put the Flood/post-Flood boundary in the very late Cenozoic, which is actually what Dr. John Baumgardner, the originator of CPT,

⁶ Hetzel, R., Dunki, I., Haider, V., Strobl, M., von Eynatten, H., Ding, L., and Frei, D., 2011. Penplain formation in southern Tibet predates the India-Asia collision and plateau uplift. *Geology* 39(1):983–986.

⁷ Ollier C. and C. Pain, 2000. *The Origin of Mountains*, Routledge, London, U. K.

does.⁸ In that way, CPT would not be after the Flood but during the Flood. This is, of course, assuming there was vast plate movement of plates.⁹

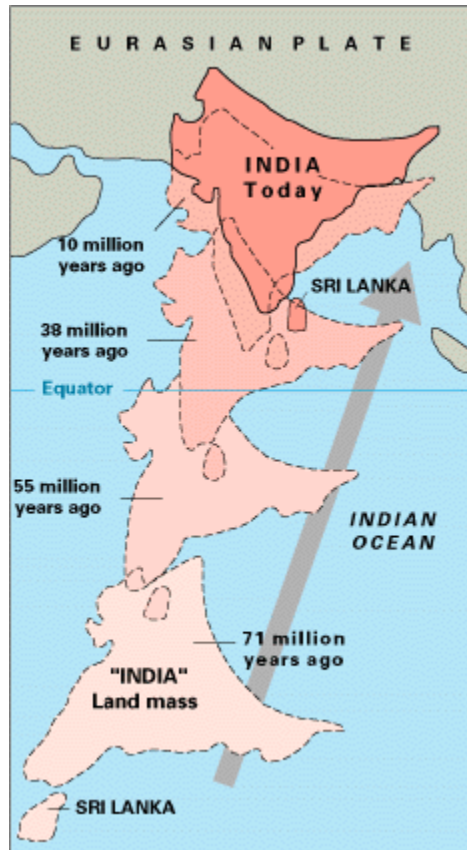


Figure 19.2. The crashing to India into Asia during the Cenozoic (Wikipedia).

⁸ Baumgardner, J., 2012. Do radioisotope methods yield trustworthy relative ages for the earth's rocks? *Journal of Creation* 26(3):68–75.

⁹ Reed, J.K. (Ed.), 2000. *Plate Tectonics: A Different View*, Creation Research Society, Chino Valley, AZ