

Chapter 2

Why is the Issue Significant?

It may seem to some Christians that the location of the Flood/post-Flood boundary and the extent of post-Flood catastrophism are trivial pursuits. They may think we should focus on more important aspects of the Flood, like finding evidence for the Flood and working on a Flood mechanism. These are important, but if we get the top boundary of the Flood wrong, any theory for the mechanism for the Flood will be distorted. Even worse, it will distort the events and the timing of the late Flood and the post-Flood periods, and will probably cause the events of the early Flood to also be incorrect. So, finding the correct Flood/post-Flood boundary is an essential first step toward developing a sophisticated Flood model.

A Sophisticated Flood Model Would Show We Have Answers

Uniformitarian scientists are proud they have developed the geological column. Fossils determine each era and supposedly change over time, thereby demonstrating evolution. It seems at first glance to be a neat explanation of earth history. They go on to assert there is little or no evidence for the Flood. Listen to the challenge of anti-creationist geologist Arthur Strahler in his challenging book on earth science:

Mainstream science has no obligation whatsoever to attempt to refute Flood geology—a hypothesis vaguely and confusingly worded, lacking in completeness of statement, and nearly devoid of evidence.¹

Strahler at least admits that we have a little evidence; that we are only “nearly devoid” of evidence for Flood geology. It is interesting that Christian geologist Davis Young, quoted in Chapter 1, grants us no evidence at all!

Secular scientists have had trillions of dollars and billions of man hours to develop their evolution/uniformitarian model over the past 250 years. The Flood model has been recently revived because of a renewed appreciation for Scripture. To critique the secular model of earth history we need to consider its assumptions and consider whether the data supports it or does a better job of supporting the creation account in Scripture. We need to be able to explain the challenges in geology and paleontology and fit them into a developed Flood model. This model should be one that provides a reasonable explanation for as many observations and deductions about the past as possible. It also should have the ability to predict future findings. A comprehensive model could effectively challenge evolutionary/uniformitarian scientists and the Christians that accepted uniformitarianism and a local flood. Locating the Flood/post-Flood boundary is an essential step toward developing this Flood model.

We Can Better Understand the Immediate Post-Flood World

A second reason for determining the end of the Flood is so we can better understand the forces that affected man and animals the first few hundred years after the Flood while spreading around the Earth. If we knew the location of the Flood/post-Flood boundary we would be able to answer these questions definitively and we would have a better idea of what early post-Flood

¹ Strahler, A.N., 1987. *Science and Earth History: The Evolution/Creation Controversy*, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, NY, p. 199.

man and the animals endured as they recolonized the world. Did they have to contend with normal catastrophes on a somewhat more advanced scale as during the Ice Age or were there tremendous catastrophes on a regional, continental, or even global scale which would have imperiled both humans and the animals?

If the Flood boundary is placed in the very late Cenozoic, the catastrophes would be more local and maybe a little stronger than today. But, if the boundary were near the Cretaceous/Tertiary (K/T) or below, we must question whether mankind and animals could have survived regional, continental, and global catastrophes. (It is important to note the geological column is foundational to the acceptance of the K/T boundary model (see Chapter 3)).

Disasters of this magnitude should be at least hinted at in the oral or written history of at least some cultures. Early archeology also should show some indication of multiple disasters, but except for a global flood, they are lacking in major natural disaster. Major post-Flood catastrophes are not in the Bible, either. After Genesis 10 on the Table of Nations, Genesis 10:32 states: “These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations, and from these the nations spread over the earth after the flood” (New English Translation). It says that people repopulated the Earth after the Flood, not after a lot of monstrous post-Flood catastrophes.

We Can Know Which Animals Diversified from the Ararat Region

Third, if we knew the location of the boundary, we would have a reasonable model for animal diversification after the Flood. The Flood is called a “genetic bottleneck” because much of the pre-Flood variety within each kind became extinct during the Flood. Only two of each unclean animal kind and seven of each clean kind left the Ark to repopulate the earth. If the boundary is in the late Cenozoic, we need to account for a modest amount of animal diversification.

But if the boundary is at the K/T, we need to account for the thousands of extinct animals found in the fossil record in the upper rocks, namely those in the Cenozoic, as dispersing from the mountains of Ararat? (Keep in mind the Genesis kind is a broader biological category than the accepted classification of species. The average kind may be at either the genus or family level.)

There is a large creationist endeavor attempting to discover the boundaries of the Genesis kinds called bariminology.² If the Flood/post-Flood boundary is placed late in the Cenozoic that would leave a modest number of the animals that survived the Flood to spread and diversify after the Flood bottleneck. Then post-Flood variety would only be slight compared to their pre-Flood variety.³

However, if we need to explain all the fossil variety found in Cenozoic sedimentary rocks as post-Flood diversification, it brings up the question of whether there was enough time within the first few hundred years after the Flood? In addition, bariminology is left to determine how this many animals spread around the earth and became extinct during the Cenozoic. The problems mushroom for those who believe the Flood/post-Flood boundary is below the K/T. Figure 2.1 contrasts the amount of diversification of one representative Genesis kind from the Ice Age to present day compared to the variety seen in the Cenozoic.

² Wood, T.C. and Murray, M.J., 2003. *Understanding the Pattern of Life: Origins and Organization of the Species*, Boardman and Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN.

³ Holt, R.D., 1996. Evidence for a Late Cainozoic Flood/post-Flood boundary. *Journal of Creation* 10(1), p. 162.

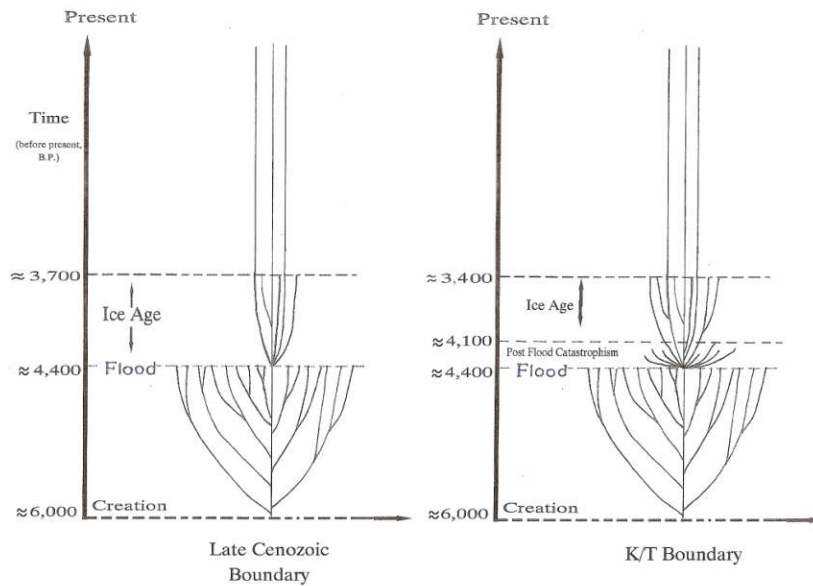


Figure 2.1. The bush of life for one created kind (baramin) for the late Cenozoic and K/T Boundary Models. Note the much greater diversification and extinction that occurs during a 300-year period of post-Flood catastrophism in the K/T Boundary Model (drawn by Mrs. Melanie Richard).

A fourth reason for establishing the boundary for the Flood is the K/T boundary's tremendous post-Flood catastrophism delays the Ice Age for a few hundred years after the Flood. This is supposed to allow Cenozoic mammals to diversify, spread around the earth, and then mostly go extinct during a very warm Cenozoic climate. The question is can the Ice Age be delayed for several hundred years? Or would the Ice Age start right after the Flood in favorable locations, such as the interior of north central North America and the mountains of Scandinavia, Greenland, British Columbia, Alaska, Siberia, and Antarctica? Figure 2.2 illustrates what would happen if a few hundred years of post-Flood catastrophism is inserted before the Ice Age.

We Will Not Waste Time

Fifth, without a well-established Flood/post-Flood boundary, many creationists who are working on a Flood model will waste valuable time. I was at a conference in 2011 in which a few of the talks assumed the Flood/post-Flood boundary was near at the K/T. If the boundary is not at that location, their research conclusions would be almost worthless. It behooves us to put considerable effort into learning the location of the boundary and the extent of post-Flood catastrophism.

We will Teach Accurate Ideas about the Flood

Sixth, if creationists have the wrong boundary, they are bound to teach other Christians wrong ideas about the Flood and its aftermath. A certain boundary could become established in people's minds and when refuted, as a better understanding is developed, it could result in confusion, factions etc. The goal is to derive a sophisticated Flood model in the quickest time possible. We cannot afford to become sidetracked by assuming false ideas. We must analyze and

determine what a reasonable amount of post-Flood catastrophism is, so we can teach accurate ideas about the Flood, as encouraged by 1 Thessalonians 5:21.

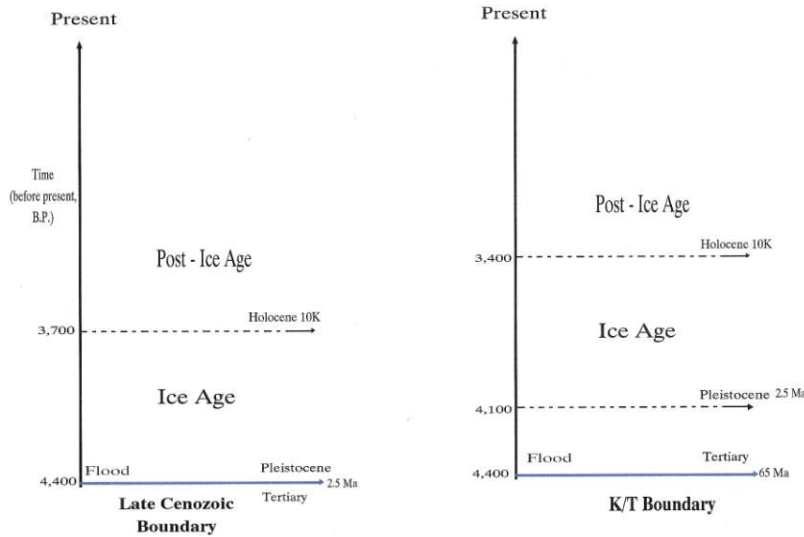


Figure 2.2. The difference in creationist's timescales if a 300-year period of post-Flood catastrophism occurred after the Flood, corresponding to the Tertiary, is inserted before the Ice Age and after the Flood (drawn by Mrs. Melanie Richard).

Timing of Events Will Be Nailed Down

Seventh, the placement of the boundary not only affects the timing of events after the Flood and late in the Flood, but also the timing of everything within the Flood as a whole.⁴ For instance, if we believe the upper Flood boundary is at the K/T then we would postulate very little mountain building at the end of the Flood. A second example is Mesozoic sedimentation would be placed late in the Flood. Billions of dinosaur tracks and millions of eggs in the Mesozoic would contradict that belief, since tracks are evidence of live dinosaurs that had to have been dead by at least Day 150 in the Flood.⁵

Table 2.1 summarizes the list of reasons why creationists should expend much effort in determining the location of the Flood/post-Flood boundary and in answering the related question about the quantity of post-Flood catastrophism. The list is not exhaustive.

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| 1) To answer challenges to evidence for a global Flood |
| 2) To understand forces affecting man's dispersion around the globe soon after the Flood |
| 3) To understand how much diversification occurred after the animals left the Ark |
| 4) To know whether the Ice Age began immediately or was delayed a few hundred years |
| 5) To not waste time in developing a sophisticated Flood model |
| 6) To teach true ideas about biblical earth history |
| 7) To understand the events of the Flood |

Table 2.1. List of some of the reasons why the location of the Flood/post-Flood boundary and the extent of post-Flood catastrophism are important.

⁴ Holt, R.D., 1996. Evidence for a late Cainozoic Flood/post-Flood boundary, *Journal of Creation* 10(2):161.

⁵ Oard, M.J., 2011. *Dinosaur Challenges and Mysteries: How the Genesis Flood Makes Sense of Dinosaur Evidence Including Tracks, Nests, Eggs, and Scavenged Bones*, Creation Book Publishers, Powder Springs, GA.

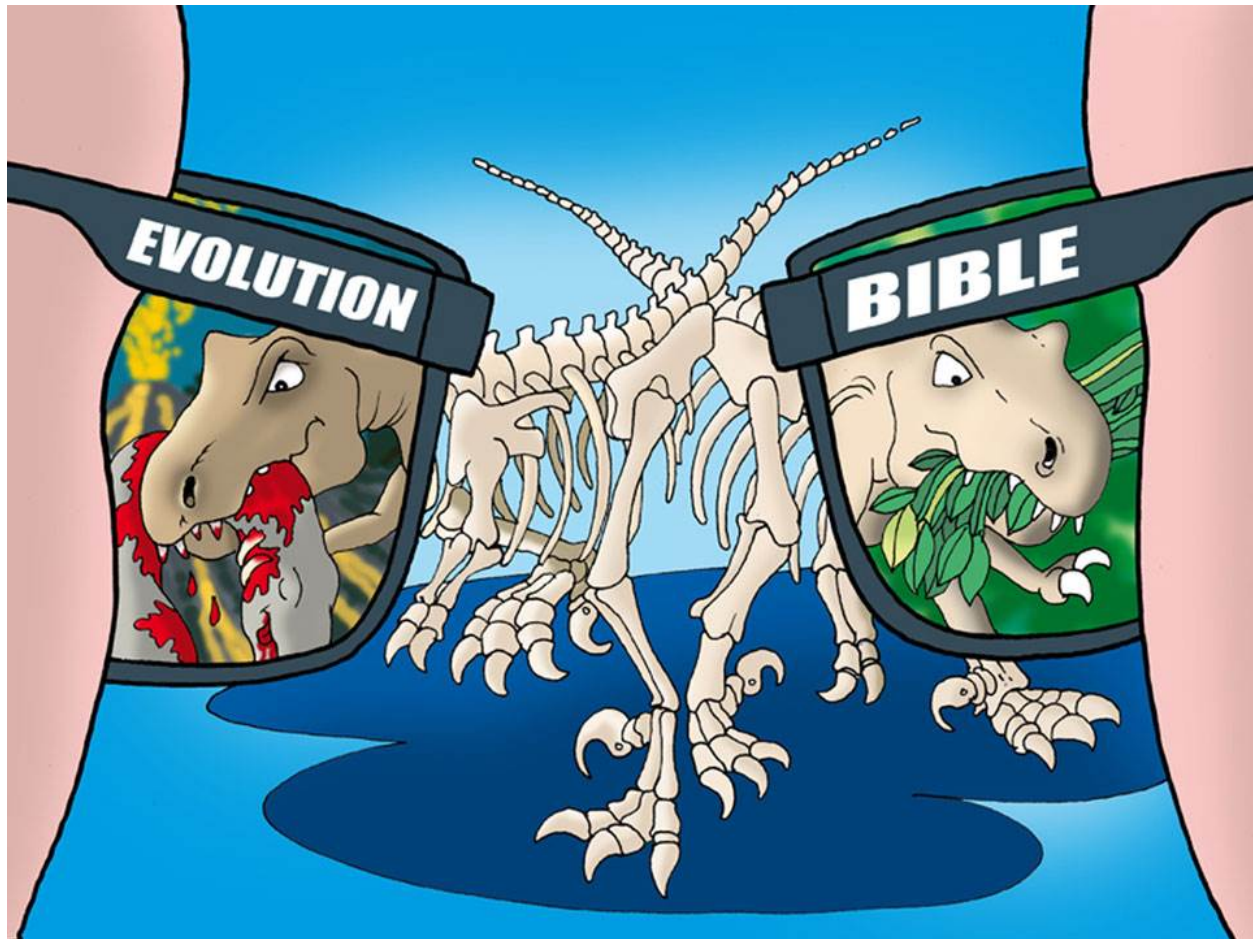


Figure 2.3. Two views on whether all dinosaurs ate plants at one time (courtesy of Creation Ministries International). The evolutionary worldview, left, sees everything over millions of years and evolution and believes that some dinosaurs ate meat. The biblical worldview, right, realizes that all animals, including dinosaurs created on Day 6, ate plants before man sinned according to Genesis 1:30.

It is Still a Worldview Issue

Even after we figure out the location of the Flood/post-Flood boundary and develop a sophisticated Flood model, we should not expect committed evolutionary/uniformitarian scientists, to stand up and listen. Their minds are made up, despite the equivocal nature of the evidence for the long-held assumption of uniformitarianism, and despite the many challenges presented by creationists, including the solid research proving radiometric dating cannot be accurate.^{6,7,8,9} The issue is really a worldview issue, one that depends upon an individual's presuppositions (Figure 2.3).

⁶ DeYoung, D., 2005. *Thousands...Not Billions: Challenging an Icon of Evolution Questioning the Age of the Earth*, Master Books, Green Forest, AR.

⁷ Snelling, A.A., 2009. Radiometric dating: challenging an icon of evolutionary geology; in: Oard, M.J. and Reed, J.K. (Eds.), *Rock Solid Answers: The biblical Truth Behind 14 Geological Questions*, Master Books and Creation Research Society Books, Green Forest, AR, and Chino Valley, AZ, pp. 185–206.

⁸ Vardiman, L., Snelling, A.A., and Chaffin E.F. (Eds.), 2000. *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth: A Young-Earth Creationist Research Initiative*, Institute for Creation Research and Creation Research Society, Dallas, TX, and Chino Valley, AZ.

But, I hope to appeal to the open minded and to Christians that are confused by the secular scientists on the issue of origins, especially in the area of the earth sciences. I am convinced many people would be impressed with a sophisticated Flood model and become more open to the gospel as a result. In other words, those who are willing would recognize we have a credible model explaining the formation of rocks and fossils—one that supports Scripture.

⁹ Vardiman, L., Snelling, A.A., and Chaffin E.F. (Eds.), 2005. *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth: Results of A Young-Earth Creationist Research Initiative*, Institute for Creation Research and Creation Research Society, Dallas, TX, and Chino Valley, AZ.