

Chapter 4

Should the Bible Be the Basis for a Flood Model?

The question is how is a sophisticated Flood model to be developed? There are several models available, which all need significant work.¹ Determining the location of the Flood/post-Flood boundary is foundational to further building these models.

Should we rely on the rock units already named and placed in the geological column by secular geologists? Perhaps, we can use the Precambrian as pre-Flood deposits, the Paleozoic as early Flood deposits, the Mesozoic as middle Flood deposits, and the Cenozoic as late Flood deposits. After all, why reinvent the wheel? Accepting the geological column would make model building easy, if we compress the timescale down to about 6,000 years of biblical earth history. Some Flood geologists have done this.

I see a great danger in attaching the geological column to the Flood. This is because the geological column is based on ideas from the Enlightenment, ideas that reject the Bible and attempt to use solely man's reason to understand origins, and uniformitarianism.

This does not mean that we automatically reject all interpretations of the data accumulated by secular scientists. We should definitely accept observations, but we need to be discerning even then, because observations can be tainted by expectations so the data may only be a biased sample. It is very human to see only what we want to see. It is reasonable, for example, to accept surface features similar to glaciated areas are caused by ice. The important point is that we need to be extremely careful and test everything (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

The Better Way

I am convinced there is a much better way to build a Flood model, one that avoids all possible data contamination, and philosophical and theological issues. Most of us accept the Flood produced the majority of the rocks and fossils. We also agree those rocks that were not deposited in the Flood can be either pre-Flood or post-Flood. In other words the rocks and fossils are a result of biblical earth history. *I suggest we use event slots in biblical earth history as criteria for placing the rocks and fossils.* I am convinced it is best for the committed biblical christian to begin with the Bible.

The Flood was Global

When we use the Bible as the starting point of earth history and in particular, the Flood, we need to have a good understanding of the Flood itself. There is no doubt Genesis chapters 6-9 teaches it was global. Genesis is written as historical narrative. It is meant to be taken as straightforward history. This is supported by the words of Jesus himself who believed in a literal Flood, a literal Ark, and a literal Noah, and the Flood “took *all* people away” (Matthew 24:37-39).

Some advocates of the local flood hypothesis may object that “all” does not mean the entire earth but only the region, that which can be seen from a mountain top. For instance, Genesis describes the famine during Joseph's time. The people from “all the earth” came to Egypt to buy grain. So they very likely were speaking of a regional event. However, those who maintain that

¹ www.IJNP.org.

all does not necessarily mean all of the Earth, but can sometimes apply to a large region, need to consider that there are thirty “alls” in Genesis 6 to 9. Furthermore in Matthew 24:37-39 Jesus compared His second coming, which will be a global event, to the Flood:

Look! He is returning with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the tribes on the earth will mourn because of him. This will certainly come to pass! Amen (Revelation 1:7 New English Translation).

Jesus is not going to compare his *global* second coming to a local flood!

Furthermore, Genesis 1-11 blends naturally into Genesis 12-50, commonly considered as literal, not allegorical, history of the development of the Jewish nation. Furthermore, the Flood lasted 371 days—far too long for a mere local flood. And, why gather two of each kind of animal for a local flood? It makes no sense, unless the Flood was global.

There is even more evidence: a local flood would have swept the Ark *downstream* onto a flood plain or a lake, or even the sea. The Bible describes the Ark’s landing site as the “mountains of Ararat.” After Noah was grounded, the first land that was exposed was the *tops* of the surrounding mountains. This could only happen in a global Flood. God promised never to send another Genesis Flood. He sealed His promise with a rainbow. The promise God made to Noah would make no sense if the flood were local. There have been tens of thousands of local floods since that time. Lastly, why would God tell the animals and people to *repopulate* the earth if there were animals and people in the rest of the world? Table 4.1 summarizes the Scriptural evidence that the Genesis Flood was global.

1) The language of Genesis 6-9 (universal terms and written in historical narrative)
2) Blends into Genesis 12-50, which is commonly accepted as real history
3) Local floods do not last 371 days
4) If local why gather animals to the Ark; they could flee to higher land
5) Ark ended up in the mountains, not swept downstream
6) Tops of mountains seen after the water receded for about 75 days
7) Rainbow covenant would make no sense if the Flood were local
8) People and animals told to <i>repopulate</i> the earth

Table 4.1. List of Scriptural evidences for a global Genesis Flood.

The Genesis Flood Would Act Like a Flash Flood

The Genesis Flood would very likely have characteristics similar to a local flood or flash flood (Figure 4.1a, b). A flash flood is triggered by an event. It can begin with heavy rain that overflows the banks of a river or it could be caused by an earthquake that breaks a dam. A flood can be a result of a storm surge from a hurricane that sweeps far inland on a low coastal area, like the 15 foot (4.6 m) surge that swept Bangladesh from a hurricane in 1971. Or it could be caused by a broken levee as with New Orleans in Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Another mechanism is a tsunami caused by an undersea earthquake.

In a flash flood, the water rises rapidly, and then slows, finally it peaks at a maximum depth. Finally, it recedes. At first, the water drops slowly and flows over nearly all of the flooded area (Figure 4.1a). As the water level continues to drop, rocks, bars, and other high areas become exposed (Figure 4.1b). The flood water is then forced to flow around these obstacles. More and more of the bottom becomes exposed as the flood level continues to fall; the flow gradually becomes more and more channelized until it ends.



Figure 4.1a Flooding of a creek due to heavy monsoonal rain in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia (Wikipedia). Note that the whole creek is flooded with no bars or rocks exposed.

Walker's Biblical Geological Model

A global flood would act similarly. It would have a Flooding Stage in which the water rises to a maximum. Then a Retreating Stage as the water drains off the continents. Each of the two stages will have several phases, similar to a flash flood. Dr. Tas Walker used this analogy in developing a sequence for the events of the Flood (Figure 4.2).² He did not consider any geological hypothesis in developing this sequence, but used the Bible as his starting point. Walker also used defining criteria in determining his stages and phases (see in-depth section at the end of this chapter). Carl Froede developed a similar model. He included a period for the Ice Age after the Flood,³ which Walker did not, since Walker thought the Ice Age was only a regional, and not a global, event that took place right after the Flood. I would prefer an Ice Age period in the immediate post-Flood as in Froede's model, since the ice did cover 30% of the land, and the global climate was much different than it is today because of the Ice Age.⁴

² Walker, T., 1994. A biblical geological model; in: Walsh, R.E. (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Creationism*, technical symposium sessions, Creation Science Fellowship, Pittsburgh, PA, pp. 581–592.

³ Froede Jr., C.R., 1995. A proposal for a creationist geological timescale, *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 32:90–94.

⁴ Oard, M.J., 2004. *Frozen in Time: Woolly Mammoths, the Ice Age, and the Biblical Key to Their Secrets*, Master Books, Green Forest, AR.



Figure 4.1b. A flash flood after a thunderstorm in the Gobi Desert, Mongolia. Notice that the flood is channelized with rocks and a bar sticking up above the water, forcing the water to flow around (Wikipedia).

The *Flooding Stage* in Walker's model is divided up into three phases: (1) the mechanism and the rapid rise, (2) the slower rise, and (3) and the peak of the Flood. Scripture indicates that the peak occurred about Day 150.⁵ During the *Retreating Stage* the water receded from the future continents. Similar to a flash flood, the water of the Retreating Stage would first move across the earth in wide currents. Little land would show above the water at this time. The currents may be 1,000 miles (1,600 km) wide and 2 mile (3.2 km) deep. Viewing it as a cut-away, the currents would look to flow in a wide, thin sheet. As a result, the first phase of the Retreating Stage is called the *Sheet Flow Phase*. Walker calls it the Abative Phase.

And similar to a flash flood, as the water level drops, more and more of the high ground is exposed, splitting the sheet flow into channelized flow in which the Floodwater is forced to flow around exposed mountains and plateaus exposed. The *Channelized Flow Phase* is the last phase of the Flood. Walker calls it the Dispersive Phase. There should be a continuum in any one area of sheet flow that changes to channelized flow which becomes narrower with time, until rivers are flowing in the carved valleys after the Flood.

According to the Bible, the Retreating Stage lasted from around Day 150 to Day 371, a total of 221 days. The Sheet Flow Phase may have lasted from Day 150 to Day 270 and the

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, pp. 163–166.

Channelized Flow Phase from Day 271 to Day 371. Of course, the durations of the phases will depend on water depth, present-day elevation, tectonics, and other variables, and hence will be different for different regions of the earth.

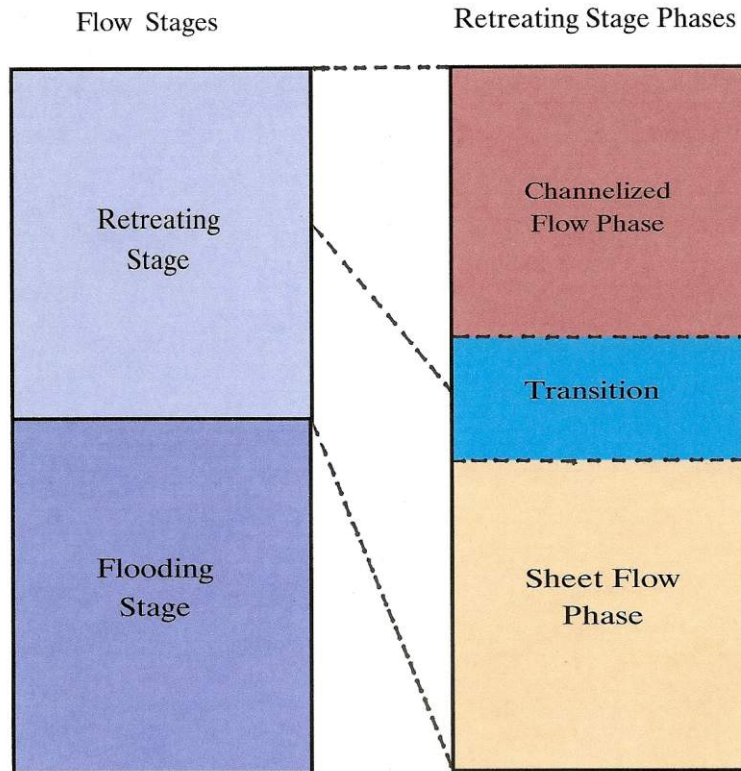


Figure 4.2. Walker two stages of the Flood (left) with the two phases of the Retreating Stage (right) (drawn by Mrs. Melanie Richard).

Walker's stages are identical to those of Whitcomb and Morris (1961) in their classification of 21 weeks of prevailing (flooding) and 31 weeks of assuaging (retreating).⁶ So, Walker's model can be considered a reinforcement of the traditional Flood model of Whitcomb and Morris. Walker not only devised a classification of the Flood based on the Bible, but he also developed defining criteria for his stages and phases (see below).

Walker's Defining Criteria (in-depth)

The stages and phases of Walker's Flood model can replace the geological column as an explanation of sedimentary layers, shown in Figure 4.3. It is possible that the Ark did not float until Day 40.^{7,8} The Genesis Flood very likely peaked at about Day 150. Walker suggests that

⁶ Whitcomb, Jr., J.C. and Morris, H.M., 1961. *The Genesis Flood*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI.

⁷ Barrick, W.D. and Sigler, R., 2003. Hebrew and geologic analyses of the chronology and parallelism of the Flood: implications for interpretation for the geologic record: in: Ivey, Jr., R.L. (Ed.), *The Fifth International Conference on Creationism*, technical symposium sessions, Creation Science Fellowship, Pittsburgh, PA, pp. 397–408.

the extent of the deposits, including their depth, can indicate how the stratum fits in biblical earth history. Continental scale sedimentation would be deposited early in the Flood decreasing as the Flood progressed. Tectonics would be more severe early in the Flood due to the catastrophic mechanism of the Flood. The strong tectonics during the Sheet Flow Phase would shake the earth as the continents and mountain ranges of the world rose and the valleys and ocean basins sank (Psalm 104:6-9). So, the massive size of the sedimentary layers fits well with Walker's Flood classification.

Defining criteria for the Flooding Stage, other than sedimentation, are coal, vegetation buried during the Flood and the tracks of land animals. The tracks would either be made early in the Flood or after the Flood but not during the Retreating Stage. The same can be said for dinosaur eggs and scavenged dinosaur bone beds. If any of these can be shown to be Flood deposits, the deposits would have formed early in the Flood since all air-breathing land animals died as the Floodwater covered all the land—by about Day 150.^{9,10}

In the Flood Model, raindrop imprints would be preserved on exposed sediments until late in the Flooding Stage when most of the land was covered with water. They would not be left from the Retreating Stage because of the intense erosion that took place at that time. Post-Flood raindrops likely would not be covered up quickly enough to be preserved.

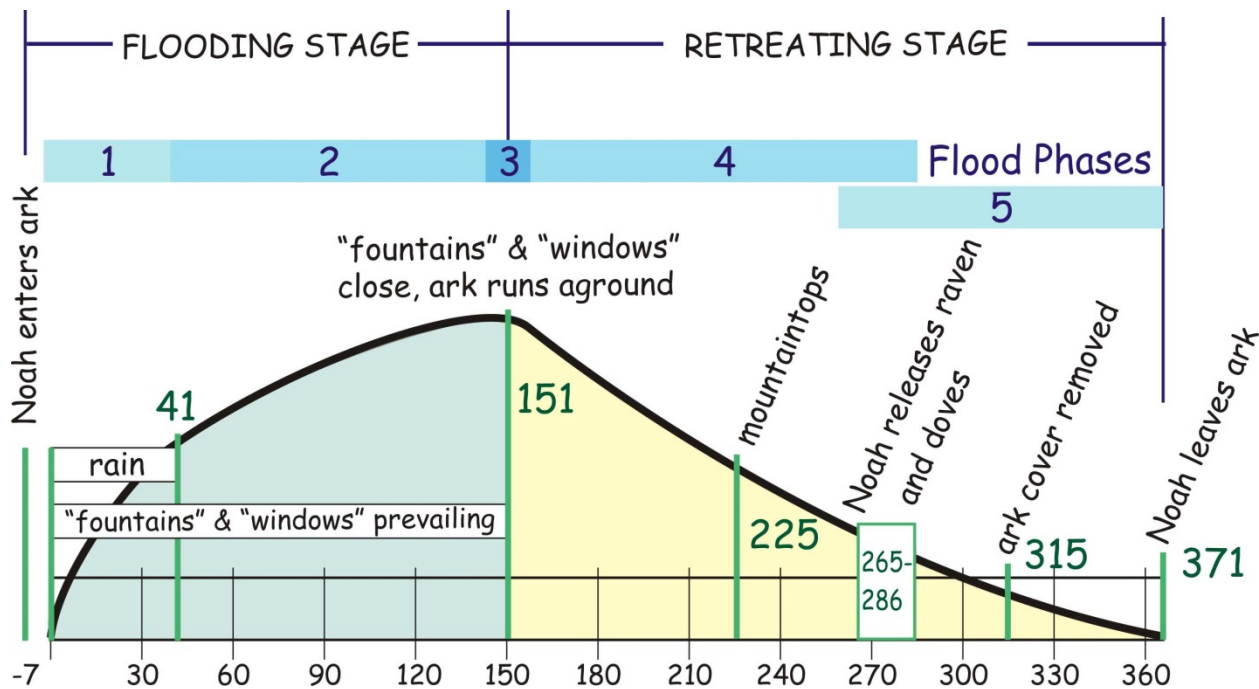


Figure 4.3. Graph of relative sea level for the two stages and five phases in Walker's model (drawn by Dr. John Reed).

⁸ Barrick, W.D., 2008. Noah's Flood and its geological implications; in: Mortenson, T. and Ury, T.H. (Eds.), *Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and the Age of the Earth*, Master Books, Green Forest, AR, pp. 251–281.

⁹ Oard, M.J., 2002. Newly discovered dinosaur megatracksites support Flood model, *Journal of Creation* 16(3):5–7.

¹⁰ Oard, M.J., 2006. It's plain to see: flat land surfaces are strong evidence for the Genesis Flood, *Creation* 28(2):34–37.