

WOW - Discovering Genesis Together

Session 5 - Flood or Fiction?

Key Points

- Both secular and creation scientists agree that there has been major, catastrophic flooding in Earth's past.
- Stories of a 'great flood' are found in ancient texts and folklore around the world.
- Uniformitarianism says: Processes like erosion and deposition that we observe today operated in the same way in the remote geological past.
- Catastrophism says: Geographical features of our planet are the consequences of a key catastrophic event—violent, destructive flood and its aftereffects.
- Secular scientists don't believe there was a worldwide flood or that natural processes ever change because this would undermine the basis for many of their theories.
- Both secular and creation scientists generally agree that the continents were once part of a large supercontinent. At some point, this huge continent broke apart into the continents that are located where we find them today.
- In 2 Peter 3, the Bible tells us why we should take the Flood history seriously.

Talk about it

1. Do Christians believe - "the present is the key to the past"?
2. Describe the different views on the Flood held by secular and creation scientists.
3. What is the significance of the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption?
4. What does 2 Peter 3:3-6 teach us about uniformitarianism? What does Genesis 8:21-22 teach us about post-flood uniformitarianism?

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Evolution vs Creation Perspectives

1. Uniformitarianism or catastrophism?

Evolution says

- a. A single layer of the geological strata represents millions of years of geological activity.
- b. There's been gradual, slow, and constant changes to the landscape over millions of years.
- c. Uniformitarianism applied to biology gets you the theory of evolution. Noah's Flood never happened.

Creation says

- a. Between what we see now and what we would have seen then, there's been a world-altering catastrophe that caused geological formations like Grand Canyon.
- b. Forces from a single, watery, catastrophic event altered Earth's geology and climate in a very short time.
- c. Catastrophism lines up with the historical facts recorded in the Bible. Noah's Flood happened.

2. The continents were once part of a large supercontinent that broke apart into the continents we find today.

Evolution says

- a. The separation of the continents was slow and gradual, with movement at the rate of centimetres per year.

Creation says

- a. The catastrophic plate tectonics model is characterized by rapid floodwaters draining into today's oceans and "runaway subduction" of crustal plates deep beneath Earth's surface that contributed to swiftly separating continents. For a time during the Flood, plates moved at the rate of meters per second.

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