

# THE GENESIS FLOOD

from  
 **FAITH MAKES SENSE**

The most complicated issue about the Genesis Flood might just be understanding the flood itself. What does the Bible say about the flooding of the earth? Is it even possible? How can we best interpret the biblical text with current scientific understanding? Here is a brief introduction to the Genesis Flood.

## THE PAST AND PRESENT

What we think about a question will have a direct affect on how we answer it. It is helpful before we begin, to review assumptions that are often made before evidence is evaluated. One of the major assumptions made in the scientific endeavor is about the relationship between the past and the present. The phrase “the present is the key to the past” sums up the majority view within the scientific community called, uniformitarianism. This is the belief that the way our world operates today is mostly the way it has always operated. Rain falls, wind blows, and little changes happen over long periods of time. The opposite view is catastrophism which holds that the past has been shaped by large unusual disasters.

### UNIFORMITARIANISM

Uniformitarianism is the assumption that the past has always operated the way the present does. Natural processes we observe today would have remained unchanged in the past.

### CATASTROPHISM

Catastrophism is the assumption that there have been big, sudden disasters in the earth’s past. These events affected or altered the natural processes we observe today.

## THE FLOOD DESCRIPTION

The standard view of biblical inerrancy states that Scripture is truthful in what it says. This holds for all matters, not merely spiritual ones. This means Christians should look to the Bible’s description of the flood to test and see how it aligns with observations of our planet. While the Bible is not a scientific text, it does make claims which can be investigated scientifically. Here are three clear claims about the Genesis Flood from Scripture.

### THE FOUNTAINS

Genesis 7:11 references the fountains or springs “of the deep”. The term ‘deep’ here most likely refers to the oceans or large bodies of water. This implies whatever caused the flood came from springs or fountains beneath the ocean floor.

### THE WINDOWS

Genesis 7:11 references the floodgates or windows “of heaven” being opened. This is a direct reference to heavy rain. It is possible, in light of Genesis 2:5, that it had never rained before this moment, or it had never rained at the volume it did here.

### THE WATERS

Genesis 7:17 tells us the waters “increased” until the whole earth was flooded. The waters remained for 150 days before beginning to recede. (Genesis 7:24) This means the whole earth was covered in water for almost five months!

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## PLATE TECTONICS

One model that has been put forth by creation scientists to explain the geophysical workings of the flood is called the Catastrophic Plate Tectonics (CPT) model. While the name may sound intimidating, the workings of the model are both simple and line up with both the natural evidence and the Bible's description of the Genesis Flood. Three key aspects of the CPT model are the ocean floor, powerful ocean geysers, and new land deposits.

### OCEAN FLOOR

The CPT model predicts that the tectonic plates beneath of ocean floor cracked and one plate subducted, or was forced under the other into the mantle and towards the earth's core.. This violent break would draw up hot magma from the earth's mantle directly into the cold sea water of the ocean floor.

### OCEAN GEYSERS

The CPT model predicts that hot magma from the earth's mantle would superheat and vaporize large amounts of sea water resulting in massive oceanic geysers that would erupt with more force than a volcano. The water vapor would stream up from the ocean and possibly pierce the atmosphere itself.

### NEW LAND

The subduction of the ocean floor would also create giant tidal waves and surges that would deposit large amounts of sediment and ocean life onto the existing land. This would not only leave fossil evidence, but also make the resulting land masses taller than they were originally.

## PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The Catastrophic Tectonic Model offers a good amount of explanatory power and scope. But, is there any evidence to support the claims? Yes, there is. Here are three pieces of evidence that support the CPT's model of how the Genesis Flood could be explained.

### MARINE FOSSILS

Fossils of marine life have been discovered on all the continents of planet earth, including Antarctica. This is not only evidence of a worldwide flood, but also of an original super-continent in which all land was connected.

### CAMBRIAN EXPLOSION

The Cambrian Explosion is a single layer in the fossil record in which almost all life forms are found. This is clear evidence a catastrophic event in the past happened in which animals died and became fossils on a worldwide scale.

### OCEAN CRUST

Creation scientists predicted in the 1970's that oceanic plate subduction could have caused the flood. Modern scientists have observed evidence that part of an old ocean floor has been subducted under the current newer ocean floor.

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