



# GENESIS

## *God's Grief & The Flood*



### SESSION 23

#### *Opening Discussion*

❶ Many elements in the Bible's account of Noah's flood sound mythical:

- Noah is 600 years old when the flood comes.
- Noah builds a huge, ocean-going craft without power tools.
- There's room for a pair of every kind of animal on earth.
- There is enough water to cover the entire planet, topping the highest mountain by 20 feet.
- Somehow the extra water all disappears.

✝ Which of these assertions are the most difficult for people to accept? Why?

✝ What effect might doubts about creation, Noah's flood, or other Old Testament events have on a person's trust in the accuracy and authority of the Bible?

#### *Read Genesis 7:1-16*

#### Some Scientific Perspective

❷ Many scoffers ridicule the biblical account because they do not accept the idea that there is enough water on the earth to accomplish a global flood of this magnitude. Where did all this water come from?



❸ How does the flood of Genesis help explain the fossil record as we know it today?

### **PSALM 104:1-9**

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. He lays the beams of His chambers on the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He rides on the wings of the wind. He makes His messengers winds, His ministers a flaming fire. He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; at the sound of Your thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place that You appointed for them. You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not *again* cover the earth.

- 4 How does the word “again” in the last line of the psalm above show us this is a reference to the flood? What are some other implications?

### *Read Genesis 7:17-24*

#### Some Theological Perspective

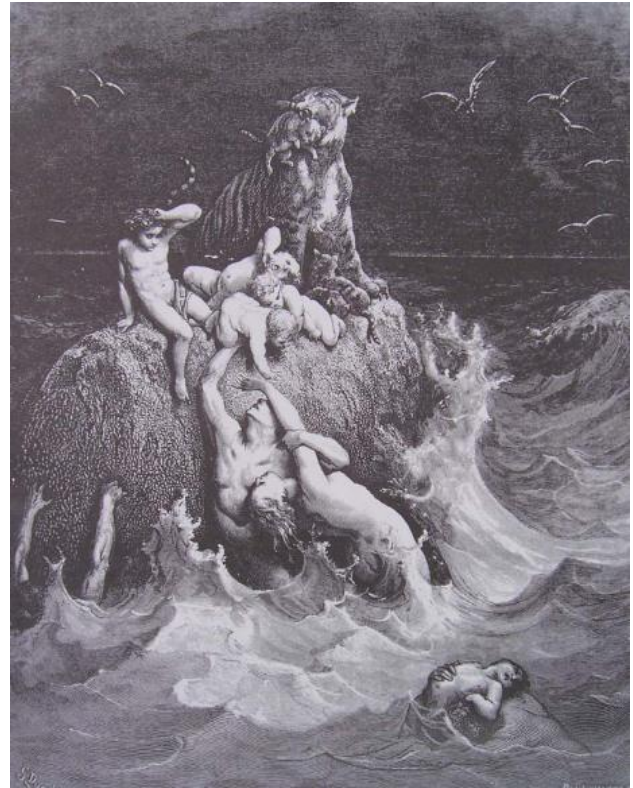
- 5 From these verses, give evidences of God’s judgment.
- 6 From these verses, give evidence of God’s grace and care.

#### Some Application

### **MATTHEW 24:36-44**

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- 7 What applications can we make for ourselves as we study the flood considering God’s promise to send another worldwide judgment on the earth?
- 8 When the fountains of the great deep burst forth, stubborn, sinful humans learned a lesson far too late—finite creatures cannot snub their mighty Creator forever. It’s hard to imagine the fear and terror that gripped the unbelievers as they experienced the raw power of the waters that wiped them off the face of the earth. Each occupant of the ark undoubtedly felt that same vulnerability as their ship was lifted high above the earth and tossed upon the waves. Year by year natural disasters remind us we too are finite creatures living in a damaged creation.



In the flood we stand face to face with God's terrifying wrath. We picture thousands, perhaps millions of terrified men, women and children seeking higher ground, only to be swept away in the raging waters. That doesn't seem consistent with the God of love and grace who sent His only Son to save the world. Many people have the same difficulty when they are confronted with the Bible's teachings about hell. We are asked, "How can you call God loving if He punishes people in the flames of hell forever without any relief, without any chance of escape?"

✝ What are some reasons people reject the idea of hell?

✝ How would you answer someone who said the God of the Bible is unjust, cruel, vindictive and perhaps even genocidal?

Our culture's emphasis on tolerance may have something to do with this accusation. We are bombarded by the idea that each person should be free to live as he or she chooses. And we try to extend that obligation to God.

✝ Why does our culture consider tolerance so important?

✝ How strongly do you react when someone questions or challenges your lifestyle or beliefs?

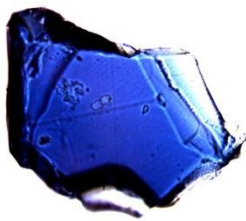


# NEW SCIENTIST

[DAILY NEWS](#)

7 June 2017

**There's as much water in Earth's mantle as in all the oceans**



## Thirsty crystals

By **Andy Coghlan**

The deep Earth holds about the same amount of water as our oceans. That's the conclusion from experiments on rocks typical of those in the mantle transition zone, a global buffer layer 410 to 660 kilometres beneath us that separates the upper from the lower mantle.

"If our estimation is correct, it means there's a large amount of water in the deep Earth," says [Hongzhan Fei](#) at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. "The total amount of water in the deep Earth is nearly the same as the mass of all the world's ocean water."

The results add to mounting evidence that there is much more water than expected beneath us, mostly locked up within the crystals of minerals as ions rather than liquid water.

At least one team has previously [discovered water-rich rock fragments](#) in volcanic debris originating from the mantle. Another group has conducted experiments suggesting that the water at these depths [was formed here on Earth](#) rather than being delivered to the primordial planet by comets and asteroids.

"The vast amount of water locked inside rocks of this deep region of the mantle will certainly force us to think harder about how it ever got there, or perhaps how it could have always been there since solidification of the mantle," says [Steven Jacobsen](#) of Northwestern University in Illinois, who wasn't connected with the new research. "It's a key question about the evolution of the Earth, which extends to extrasolar planets as well."