

Position Statement: Science, Bible, Noah's Flood, and Evolution

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Abstract

This article is written to be a position statement. Polls indicate that about 40% of the US population believe that the universe and Earth are 6,000 to 10,000 years old, which is known as young-Earth creationism. They also believe that Noah's Flood deposited Paleozoic and Mesozoic fossils about 4,400 years ago, and forming the Grand Canyon. This is known as Flood Geology. Modern 20th century science tells us that most of these religious biblical viewpoints are not true. Unfortunately, these religious ideas are being taught as pseudoscience by professors at seminaries and a few universities, particularly in the United States. Then, the pastors teach this pseudoscience to their audiences of Christians without a scientific background. It is incumbent on today's scientists to address this catastrophic tragedy by teaching credible science and expose the pseudoscience pedaled by seminaries. In the United States today, this issue is very analogous to the controversy of the heliocentric vs geocentric solar system from the days of Copernicus and Galileo. I know of no seminary

professor or pastor today who believes that the Earth is the center of our solar system.

Introduction

This article is written to be a position statement without reference citations. The issues are that 40% of the US population believes that the earth is less than 10,000 years old, and that professors at seminaries and some universities are teaching the Bible as if it were a science textbook, yet all the while, they agree that the Bible is not a science text. Galileo Galilei, who lived from 1564 to 1602, wanted to promote a heliocentric scientific model of the solar system, but this was in opposition to the biblical views of the Catholic church at that time, and the Pope would not allow him to publish this model.

In today's world, no editors of magazines promoting Christianity or Jewish theology will allow publication of any article that goes against the views of the professors at seminaries or universities, nor will editors of science magazines for public interest publish any article that discusses theology from a science viewpoint. As a result, more than 40 percent of the adult population in the U.S. believe (a) that the Earth is 6,000 to 10,000 years old, (b) that Noah's flood was global and deposited the sedimentary rocks in the Grand Canyon, along with sedimentary rocks worldwide containing Paleozoic and Mesozoic fossils, and (c) that plant and animal species were created nearly instantaneously during the Genesis Week, instead of by evolutionary processes.

Modern 20th century science informs us from abductive reasoning that none of these man-made claims is true, even

though they are attributed to the Bible. To use a theological term, I believe they are from poor exegesis, the process of understanding what the Bible means to us today. The sad result is that what is being taught at seminaries is pseudoscience. It is incumbent on scientists to make clear the difference between credible science, and the pseudoscience being taught at private seminaries and universities supported by various religious denominations.

This article includes 15 observations that describe solid, credible science. Does it matter? It sure does. Truth always matters if students are going to be educated properly. We as scientists in the 21st century need to speak out boldly, like Galileo did about the heliocentric solar system in his day. In the end, truth will win out!

Scientific observations

First, in Genesis 8:2 is this statement:

“...all the springs of the great deep burst forth.”

Such a view is impossible scientifically on the basis of how the Earth was formed. That is, the original Earth must have been molten from the energy produced during the collective bombardment of zillions of meteorite masses. That is, there are 190 impact craters known on Earth that have been preserved. Plate tectonics and subduction have erased the evidence of probable thousands of older impact craters. Furthermore, over 100,000 impact craters occur on the moon, and many hundreds are seen on Mercury and Mars. Therefore, it is clear that the accumulation of zillions of meteorites created the mass of the

Earth and that the energy of their collisions resulted in the total melting of proto-Earth so that heavy iron atoms sank to form its core.

On that basis, there would have been some water as steam in the Earth's early atmosphere but not the quantity that fills the oceans now. Eventually, the water that filled the ocean basins would have accumulated gradually through geologic time after a solid crust had formed on the Earth, and this water would have been brought to the Earth's surface during zillions of volcanic lava eruptions. It would have come from water that was invisibly dissolved in the Earth's mantle (like invisible carbon dioxide dissolved in a bottle of 7-Up), where 1 cc of water under great pressure in the emerging melt (magma) would expand to become 510 cc of steam (gas) as lava emerged explosively from the vent at the top of the volcano. Then, that water (steam) eventually cools, condenses, and falls as rain or snow to fill the ocean basins. Moreover, before this steam (gas) cooled and condensed into water (liquid) of less volume, it would have likely scalded Noah and his family to death and the ark would have been blasted off into outer space from the explosion of all that steam.

Second, in Genesis 7:11 the following statement is made.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.

Scientifically, suggesting that "floodgates of the heavens were opened" also is not possible. If that much water was in outer space in biblical times to produce a worldwide (global)

flood of water, the biblical people and Noah would be living under the pressure of all that water as if they were at the bottom of the ocean, 12,000 feet underwater. Right after the flood, when that pressure was removed from outer space, they would have had the “bends” with dissolved nitrogen coming out of their bloodstreams. The bends is what divers call decompression sickness. It is improper decompression after exposure to increased pressure. In diving, it is when small nitrogen bubbles become trapped inside the blood and body tissues due to a subsequent decrease in pressure.

Third, in Genesis 7:19 is the following statement.

And the water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered.

The Hebrew word “*eret*” in this verse needs to be translated as “land” rather than “mountains.” When it is properly translated as “land,” the highest land south of Baghdad in Mesopotamia under the heavens are a few isolated low hills whose tops are about 50 feet above sea level. There, Noah’s local flood likely rose more than 25 feet over the tops of these hills so that everywhere that Noah looked from the ark, all his world was underwater. To make scientific sense, the highest mountains, like Mt. Everest, could not have been underwater during Noah’s flood. Where would all of that water have gone following Noah’s flood if the highest mountains in the world were covered to that depth? Perhaps persons who are not trained in science might think that it would just evaporate back into the atmosphere, like some lakes are drying up now. But, of course,

that cannot happen because the atmosphere cannot absorb that much water.

Fourth, Genesis 7:20-23 goes on to say:

Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.”

When God inspired Moses to write about Noah’s flood, Moses may have remembered the incident that was reported in the ancient epic of Gilgamesh as a basis for giving a theological message to the biblical people of his time and culture. On that basis, Moses may have realized that when Gilgamesh was warned that a god plans to destroy all humanity and is told to build a ship to save himself, his family, friends, and cattle, Moses recognized that a huge flood would have also destroyed all the animals on the Earth at the same time as humanity was being destroyed. Because animal life existed in the world where he lived, he would have known that the animals needed to have been saved as well as himself, his family, friends, and cattle. Therefore, in his Flood story, he had Noah build an ark big enough to also house all the local animals. During ancient times perhaps as many as 1500 different animal species lived in that area and housing pairs (male and female) of this number of kinds (species) of animals on the large-sized ark could have

been possible without bringing all animals in the whole world to the ark as a global flood model would require.

In today's world we need to use wisdom and to recognize that Moses was inspired by God but was not trained in modern science. For example, large amounts of coal deposits occur in the world that would require the rapid covering of vast quantities of vegetation. The reason that coal was NOT deposited in the one year of Noah's flood is because fossils of *Lepidodendron* trees (**Fig. 1**) have been found that became as tall as 100 feet in successive 13 coal layers of Mississippian and Pennsylvanian ages (mid-Noah's flood time of one year) that overlie each other (**Fig. 2**).



Fig. 1. *Lepidodendron* trees.

Trees do not grow 100 feet high in one year let alone in each of 13 successive overlying layers, and these trees had to be growing at the time of the supposed Noah's global flood to be buried in coal layers of Mississippian and Pennsylvanian ages.

Geologic Time Scale		
Eras	Periods	millions of years ago
Cenozoic	Quaternary - Q	Holocene 0
		Pleistocene 0.01
	Neogene - N	Pliocene 2.6
		Miocene 5.3
	Paleogene - P_G	Oligocene 23
		Eocene 34
		Paleocene 56
		66
	Cretaceous - K	145
	Jurassic - J	201
Mesozoic	Triassic - T_R	252
Paleozoic	Permian - P	299
	Pennsylvanian* - P	323
	Mississippian* - M	359
	Devonian - D	419
	Silurian - S	444
	Ordovician - O	485
	Cambrian - C	541
Precambrian	pC	Proterozoic - P
		2,500
		Archean - A
		*Mississippian and Pennsylvanian were known first in the UK as 'Carboniferous'.
		4,600

Fig. 2. Geologic time scale.

Fifth, Moses included birds to be put on Noah's ark because the storm that would have produced the flood must have been at least a category 5 hurricane with winds in excess of 156 mph like that of hurricane Katrina that hit Texas and Louisiana. No birds could have survived such strong winds (**Fig. 3**).



Fig. 3. Category 5 Katrina hurricane.

Of course, Moses would not have known anything about a category 5 hurricane, but those young-Earth creationists who want to say that Noah's flood was so violent that it was worldwide and powerful enough to erode rocks to make sedimentary particles, suspend them, and transport them to as far as the Grand Canyon must believe that Noah's storm was at least as great as a category 5 hurricane and likely much more powerful. Of course, these same people just ignore the fact that

the ark could not have survived such a powerful storm, but they probably think that God made the ark strong enough to survive it without realizing how strong such a storm must have been.

Moreover, although no one made a count of dead birds following Katrina, plenty of people died in this hurricane, and, therefore, many birds were likely killed as well, having no place to hide. So, when young-Earth creationists ask why must Noah put birds on the ark if the flood was local, the extreme violence of the local storm explains why.

Sixth, for those who want to support a global flood, they also point out that marine fossils are found upon mountain tops around the world. Of course, this would be possible if Noah's flood were worldwide with an enormous volume of water, but further evidence presented in this editorial article shows that this flood cannot be worldwide. The high-level existence of fossils is possible because sedimentary rock layers containing marine fossils have been pushed by plate tectonics northward from the Indian Ocean basin to now where they are found at the top of Mt. Everest.

Seventh, the promoters of a global flood also point out that cultures in all parts of the world have some form of flood legend. That is true, but these floods are local and at different historic times and cannot, thereby, represent the single time of Noah's flood. For example, the Deucalion floods that drowned cities along the Mediterranean seacoast are dated about 1528 BC and the great flood of Gun-Yu in China is dated about 2300-2200 BC.

Theology does not have to contradict science

Eighth, the Bible is the inspired Word of God, but that inspiration needs to be understood as a way in which God and the Holy Spirit accommodated to the fact that early biblical people did not have microscopes or telescopes. This understanding differs from the time in which we have modern 20th century science with the advantage of microscopes and telescopes.

Nineth, Jesus mentions the existence of Noah's flood (Matthew 24:37-39), but he does not say that it was worldwide. Moreover, Jesus told His disciples after His resurrection that "He had many more things to tell them, but they could not bear them now" (John 16:12). His disciples would not have understood what protons, galaxies, and neutron stars were. Moreover, it is true that 2 Timothy 3:16 says: "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and training in righteousness." But this is "training in righteousness" and not "training in science."

Tenth, modern Christians and Jews need to realize that God has given us two books to read. One is Bible/theology (special revelation); the other is science/nature (general revelation). They are not in conflict. The Bible answers the questions of who and why. Science answers the questions of when, where, and how. Both are true because both come from God, and God is not a liar.

Eleventh, the Bible contains the history of the early biblical Hebrews and their changing views of what God was like. It

leaves out the histories of the Egyptians, Assyrians, Romans, Chinese, the American Indians, the New Zealand Māori's, etc. At the time of Noah's flood, the Egyptian people were having problems with drought. On that basis, Noah's flood was local and not global.

The Bible and the order of creation and evolution of life

Twelfth, Moses did not write Genesis 1 to describe how the universe, Earth, sun, moon, planets, animals and plants were formed but to give good theology. Nearby people in tribes thought these were gods to be feared and that they were bad, angry, and out to get them. For that reason, these tribes needed to build altars and make sacrifices to them. Moses gave them the kind of theology that they needed to hear. That is, there is only one God and these things are what God made and they are all GOOD!

On that basis, Moses had God do his creation without any concern with the fact that the order of things created in Genesis 1 were not in the same order that modern scientific studies indicate is the order in which heaven, Earth, and our sun were created. The Bible puts Earth being formed first (Genesis 1:1) before the sun on day 4 when modern science tells us via the Big Bang model that the Earth and our sun were created nearly simultaneously and that our sun is a second-generation star and not a first-generation star as Genesis 1 implies.

In terms of plant and animal life, the following **Table 1** shows the conflict between the modern views of the evolutionary order of plants and animals and the biblical order.

Table 1. Contrasting views of evolutionary order and biblical order of plant and animal life.

Evolutionary Order	Biblical Order
Life in ocean before land plants	Land plants before life in ocean
Simple plants before fruit trees	Fruit trees, the first plants
Land animals before flowering plants	Flowering plants before animals
Small animals first land life	Cattle before creeping things
Dinosaurs evolved into birds	Birds before land animals
Land reptiles evolved into plesiosaurs	Flying animals before land animals
Land reptiles evolved into pterosaurs	Marine animals before land animals
Land mammals evolved into bats	Flying animals before land animals
Land mammals evolved into whales	Whales before land animals
Death of the unfit produced man	Man was the cause of death

Thirteenth, many Christians do not believe that the evolution of life started with single cells in early Precambrian time in a branching tree, to evolve into multicellular life and then to marine life (trilobites, clams, snails, brachiopods, sponges, etc.), fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and finally mammals (culminating in humans). Instead, they want to believe that life evolved in a style of an orchard of different trees with “kinds of animals” where “kinds” are approximately equivalent to the taxonomic category of families of animals. For

example, the cat family would include lions, tigers, cheetahs, leopards, pumas, caracals, jaguarundis, servals, ocelots, and other species of cats that make the 30 to 40 known cat species in the world today, including domesticated cats. In this model, each family is the base of an orchard tree in a single line of evolutionary change and not in a branching tree of evolution.

But evolutionary science has no evidence that indicates that development of so much diversity can occur in a short a time of biblical history of 6,000 to 10,000 years, which is the age of the universe and Earth that some Christians want to believe. These changes take much more time. The geologic fossil record clearly shows that plant and animal life evolved in a definite evolutionary sequence and that the Creator used this method to produce life on Earth in an awesome way through billions of years of time.

The Bible is not a science textbook and concluding statement

Fourteenth, the Bible has 826 places in which the word “heart” is said to be the source of all thinking, emotions (good and evil), and knowledge. The brain is not mentioned once, and we know from modern science that the brain is where thinking, emotions, and knowledge occur. The biblical use of the word “heart” is an excellent example of good theology but bad science. That is, this clearly shows that the Bible was not written to be a science textbook.

Fifteenth, finally, the clincher that Noah’s flood cannot have been global is because no matter how powerful a hurricane was that produced this flood, the ocean waves generated by it

have circular motions with no significant lateral translation of the water molecules that can erode, move sedimentary particles, or suspend them for transport across great distances, say as far as the Grand Canyon (**Fig. 4**).^o

Waves –circular motion

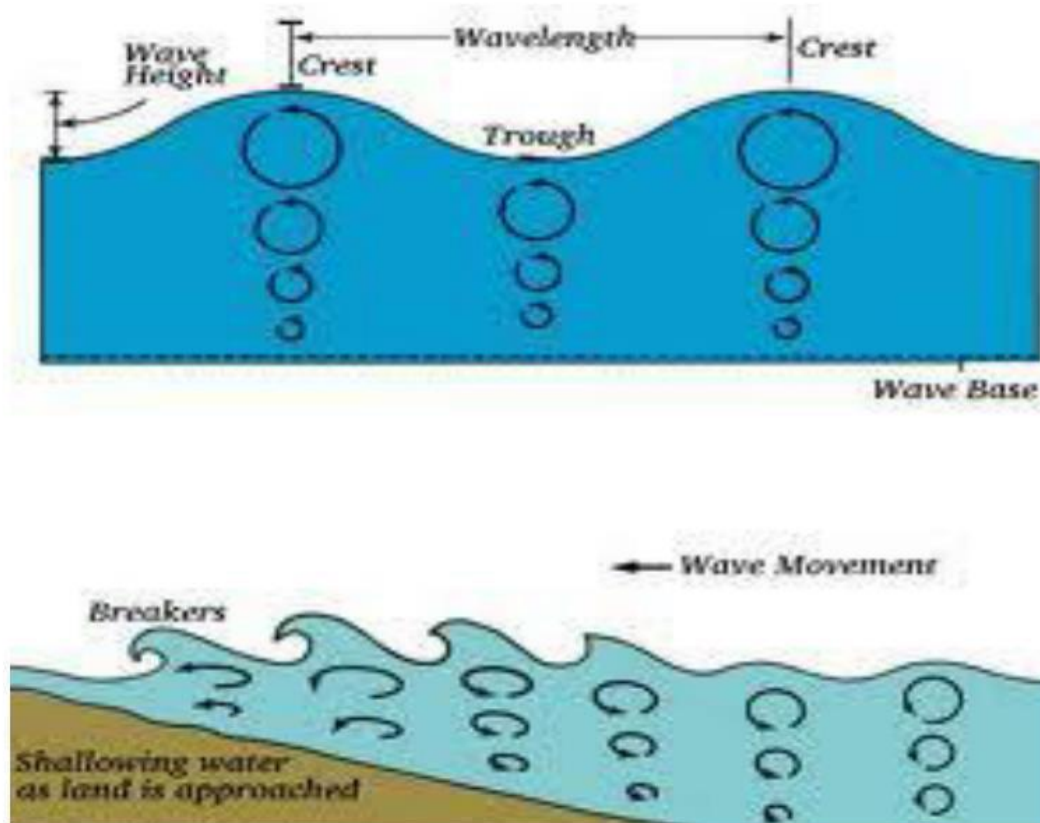


Fig. 4. Circular motion of waves in the ocean produced by hurricanes.

This figure clearly shows that those persons who want to promote the model that Noah's flood was global have NO scientific evidence that supports such a viewpoint. On that

basis, truth matters, and if such people want to convince people that their views are correct, they need to tell the truth.

Cited references to support these 15 observations are found in nearly 100 articles at this link: [OPPOSITION TO CREATIONISM \(csun.edu\)](#)

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