

## **The Seven Wonders of the Bible - Part 2**

### **Archeological Consistency - Sermon Notes**

**Introduction:** What you see on your screen are the three documents, Declaration of Independence, Constitution and the Bill of Rights, known collectively as the Charters of Freedom, have secured the rights of the American people for more than two and a quarter centuries and are considered instrumental to the founding and philosophy of the United States.

After Declaring Independence - On July 19, 1776, the Continental Congress ordered the Declaration of Independence to be engrossed—or written out in a large legible hand. Timothy Matlack, a clerk in the Pennsylvania State House, was the scribe charged with this task. Matlack wrote it on a parchment, (parchments were made of animal skin, especially the skin of a calf) he selected the best skin that was available at that time.

### **7 Archaeological Discoveries from Antiquity**

**1. Noah's Flood - Genesis 7:17** Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.

Luke 19:26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

**Washington Post, September 13, 2000:** Artifacts Found In the Black Sea May Be Evidence Of Biblical Flood

**ABC News, December 5, 2012:** Evidence Noah's Biblical Flood Happened, Says Robert Ballard. Dr. Robert Ballard, is an acclaimed underwater archaeologist, who is known for finding the impossible.

In 1985, using a robotic submersible equipped with remote-controlled cameras, Ballard and his crew hunted down the world's most famous shipwreck, the Titanic.

**Dr. Ballard** and his team are probing the depths of the Black Sea off the coast of Turkey in search of traces of an ancient civilization hidden underwater since the time of Noah. "We went in there to look for the flood. Not just a slow moving one advancing the rise of sea level, but a really big flood that then stayed...The land that went under and stayed under."

Four hundred feet below the surface, they unearthed an ancient shoreline, and man-made structures, showing them proof that a catastrophic event did happen in that region. By carbon dating these shells found along the shoreline, Ballard said he believes they have established a timeline at around 5,000 BC. Experts believe this was around the time when Noah's flood occurred.

**The New York Times, August 4, 2016 - Scientific Evidence of Flood May Give Credence to Legend of China's First Dynasty.** Scientists have found evidence of a catastrophic flood in China some 4,000 years ago.

The Miao tribe who resides in southwest China had a tradition which is like the Genesis account even before they met Christian missionaries. According to their tradition, "when god destroyed the whole world by the flood because of wickedness of

man, Noah the righteous man and his wife Matriarch, their three sons, Lo Han, Lo Shen, and Jah-hu survived by building a very broad ship and embarked on it with pairs of animals.”

**There are over 200 flood traditions all over the world: Alaska to Australia, from Siberia to Southern India.**

- Is there a favored family? 88%
- Were they forewarned? 66%
- Is the flood due to wickedness of man? 66%
- Is catastrophe only a flood? 95%
- Was the flood global? 95%
- Is the survival due to a boat? 70%
- Were animals also saved? 67%
- Did animals play any part? 73%
- Did survivors land on a mountain? 57%
- Was the geography local? 82%
- Were birds sent out? 35%
- Was the rainbow mentioned? 7%
- Did survivors offer a sacrifice? 13%
- Were specifically eight persons saved? 9%<sup>22</sup>

Thus, 95% of these traditions have common elements with Genesis and they say that the flood was global.

**Grand Canyon** - Stephen O. Moshier, Gregg Davidson, Joel Duff and Tim Helble on June 29, 2016, **Five of the top evidences offered for a global flood that are supposedly revealed in the Grand Canyon.**

**1. Layers made in rapid succession** - Entire series of sedimentary layers nearly a mile deep are found at Grand Canyon that folded together without fracturing. This is possible only if a flood laid down all these layers in rapid succession and then the layers were folded quickly, while still soft and pliable, not over millions of year.

**2. Sea animals far above sea level** - How did sea creatures get inside rock layers thousands of feet (8000 ft) above sea level? These marine fossils, found on every continent are a silent testimony to the oceans waters that once flooded over all the continents in a worldwide cataclysm, carrying sea creatures.

**3. Sand carried across the continent** - Geologists have traces some of the sand and limestone at Grand Canyon to rocky sources many hundreds of miles away (as far away as the Appalachian Mountains). No river could strip away sand and carry it across an entire continent, only a worldwide flood.

**4. Layers over entire continents** - Many of the rocks layers a Grand Canyon can be traced over vast regions of North America, Europe, the Middle East. Only a worldwide flood could reasonably carry sediments from one end of the continent to the other.

**5. No slow and gradual erosion** - Unlike today's land surface, which is constantly being eroded by water and wind, rock layers are amazingly flat and show little evidence of erosion. The only explanation is a worldwide catastrophe that stripped away vast surface areas and then deposited new layers so rapidly the they had little time for erosion.

**2. Sodom and Gomorrah** - Genesis 19:24 Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

**Luke 19:28** Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

**Smithsonian Magazine, September 22, 2021, Ancient City's Destruction by Exploding Space Rock May Have Inspired Biblical Story of Sodom.** Around 1650 B.C.E., the Bronze Age city of Tall el-Hammam was wiped out by a blast 1,000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb used at Hiroshima.

Over the years, archaeologists examining the structures' ruins have found evidence of a sudden high-temperature, destructive event—for instance, pottery pieces that were melted on the outside but untouched inside. [“Air temperatures rapidly rose above 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit. Clothing and wood immediately burst into flames. Swords, spears, mud-bricks and pottery began to melt. Almost immediately, the entire city was on fire.”](#)

The archaeologists also discovered high concentrations of salt in the “destruction layer” of the site, possibly from the blast’s impact on the Dead Sea or its shores. The explosion could have distributed the salt across a wide area.

**3. Rosetta Stone** - Until the 19th century, little was known about the ancient past except for what the Bible had to say about it. For example, no one could read the hieroglyphic writings of Egypt, to decipher their record of history.

But then in 1798 Napoleon led a military expedition into Egypt. Along with his soldiers, he took dozens of artists, linguists, and scientists to explore that intriguing land. Everywhere they saw ancient relics containing unreadable messages.

One of Napoleon's soldiers discovered what became known as the Rosetta Stone, a black stone almost 4 feet (112 cm) long and two and a half feet (76 cm) wide. This stone slab, now housed in the British Museum, played an important role in unlocking the secrets of Egyptian writings! It contained an ancient decree written in Greek, demotic Egyptian, and hieroglyphics.

In 1818 an English physicist by the name of Thomas Young first deciphered the name of Ptolemy in the hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone. Four years later, a brilliant young French scholar, Jean Francois Champollion, realized that the hieroglyphs recorded the sound of the Egyptian language. This was a crucial step in understanding ancient Egyptian writing and culture.

Now the large collection of inscriptions was opened for study and comparison! These hieroglyphs confirmed some of the stories of the Bible and help us understand some of the finer details of the Biblical record.

**4. Babylonian Chronicle: This Babylonian Chronicle records Nebuchadnezzar's defeat of Jerusalem:**

This clay tablet, called the Babylonian Chronicle for the years 605–594 BCE, records events from the twenty-first and final year of the Babylonian king Nabopolassar’s reign and the first twelve years of king Nebuchadnezzar’s reign. The text describes king Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion of Jerusalem, including his capture and exile of king Jehoiachin. The text reads:

“In the seventh year, the month of Kislev, the king of Babylon mustered his army and marched to Hatti-land. He encamped against the city of Judah and on the second day of Adar he took the city and captured the king. He appointed a king of his own choice there, received its heavy tribute and sent (them) to Babylon.”

Nebuchadnezzar invaded because king Jehoiachim had rebelled against him, refusing to send tribute (2 Kings 24:1). Jehoiachim, however, died shortly before or during the siege. He was replaced by his son Jehoiachin who, at the tender age of 18, found himself on the receiving end of Babylonian wrath.

**Clay Tablets** - Scholars estimate Nebuchadnezzar used as many as 15 million bricks rebuilding the walls, the temples and the palaces of Babylon. Many of these bricks were stamped with an inscription stating Nebuchadnezzar was caring for the temples of the supreme god Marduk (Esagila) and his son Nabu (Ezida). They read:

“Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who cares for Esagila and Ezida, eldest son of Nabopolassar, king of Babylon.”

**5. Cyrus Cylinder:** Isaiah 45:1 “This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to **subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut.**

The Cyrus Cylinder is a declaration written in Akkadian cuneiform script on a clay cylinder which is now housed in the British Museum in London.

**The Cyrus Cylinder reads:** "Marduk . . looked through all the countries, searching for a righteous ruler. . . . He pronounced the name of Cyrus king of Anshan, declared him to be the ruler of all the world. ... He made him set out on the road to Babylon, going at his side like a real friend. His widespread troops their number, like that of the water of a river, could not be established strolled along, their weapons packed away. **With out any battle, he made him (Cyrus) enter his town, Babylon, sparing Babylon any calamity.**"

**Isaiah 44:28** "That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid."

Having taken the city, Cyrus made it his policy to allow the captives to return to their homelands and rebuild their temples. The decree of Cyrus permitting the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their city and Temple is given in 2 Chronicles 36:23 and in Ezra 1:2-4.

**The words are confirmed on the Cyrus Cylinder:** "I returned to these sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been in ruins for a long time, the images which used to live in them, and I established for them permanent sanctuaries. I also gathered all their former inhabitants and returned to them their habitations."



After the 1917 Balfour Declaration, which announced the British government's support for the Zionist cause, Jewish households across Europe displayed images of Cyrus the Great alongside pictures of King George V.

**6. The Pilate Stone** - Pontius Pilate ruled as the Roman Prefect of Judea from 26-36 AD. Numerous ancient texts provide information about him, including the New Testament gospels, Philo's *On the Embassy to Gaius*, Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews* and *The Jewish Wars*, as well as *The Annals*, by Tacitus.

The Roman historian, Tacitus, records how ["Christus...suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus."](#)

Archaeological evidence for Pontius Pilate was discovered in 1961, when an inscribed stone was unearthed in excavations near the theater at Caesarea Maritima. Three of the original four lines of text are still readable and can be reconstructed to read, ["Tiberium...Pontius Pilate...Prefect of Judea..."](#)

**7. Dead Sea Scrolls** - Until 1947, the earliest manuscripts we had of the Old Testament were copies from around AD 900. In 1947, a shepherd boy stumbled upon a cave in a rugged, arid area on the western side of the Dead Sea. What he discovered was soon proclaimed the greatest archaeological find of the twentieth century. Over the next few years, other, similar remote caves in the area were found.

What did these caves contain? Over 800 fragmentary documents, mainly consisting of Hebrew writings on leather (with a few on parchment), including fragments of 190 biblical scrolls. Most of these are small, containing no more than one-tenth of a book; however, a complete Isaiah scroll written in 125 BC had been found. Almost every OT

book is present, and there are also other writings valued by the community that dwelt in those caves.

But did it agree with the later copies, or had there been serious changes or copy errors made through the centuries?

Perhaps the greatest contribution of this find is to our understanding of the transmission of the biblical text. It is encouraging to note that the differences are minimal between the OT texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls and various editions of the Hebrew texts produced a thousand years later and used today.

Dr. Millar Burrows, a Yale professor and biblical archaeologist, reported that “In one chapter of 166 words there is only one word (three letters) in question after a thousand years of transmission and this word does not significantly change the meaning of the message!”

III: French humanist, Voltaire, who lived between 1694 and 1778, boastfully proclaimed, quote, "Fifty years from now the world will hear no more of the Bible." Yet in the year of his boast, the British Museum purchased a manuscript of the Greek New Testament from the Russian government for \$500,000 while a first edition of Voltaire's book was selling for 8 cents a copy. And 50 years after the death of Voltaire, listen to this, Bibles were being printed by the Geneva Bible Society in the very house where Voltaire had lived and on his very own printing presses. Don't you think God has a sense of humor?

## **Additional Resources**

### **A Comparison from Secular Historical Records**

by Nozomi Osanai on August 3, 2005

<https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/flood-legends/a-comparison-from-secular-historical-records/>

### **The Flood Traditions Around the World**

*The existence of the flood traditions all over the world seems to be consistent with the Genesis account.*

The existence of the flood traditions all over the world seems to be consistent with the Genesis account. Hill argues that “Flood legends from around the world exist simply because flooding has occurred in most parts of the Earth at one time or another.”<sup>17</sup> However, the detailed nature of the widely spread statements has common elements to the Bible. In fact, even people who live far from the sea or in mountainous areas have flood traditions which are similar to the Genesis account. For instance, the Pawnee tribe in Nebraska has the following tradition: the creator Ti-ra-wa destroyed the first people, who were giants, by water because of his indignation about their corruption and after that he created a man and a woman like present people, who became the Pawnees’ ancestors.<sup>18</sup> In addition, the Miao tribe who resides in southwest China had a tradition which is like the Genesis account even before they met Christian missionaries.<sup>19</sup> According to their tradition, when god destroyed the whole world by the flood because of wickedness of man, Noah the righteous man and his wife Matriarch, their three sons, Lo Han, Lo Shen, and Jah-hu survived by building a very broad ship and embarked on it with pairs of animals. Furthermore, their genealogy records as follows: “The Patriarch Jahphu got the center of nations. The son he begot

was the Patriarch Go-men.”<sup>21</sup> The following is the analysis of over 200 flood traditions all over the world:

- Is there a favored family? 88%
- Were they forewarned? 66%
- Is the flood due to wickedness of man? 66%
- Is catastrophe only a flood? 95%
- Was the flood global? 95%
- Is the survival due to a boat? 70%
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Thus, 95% of these traditions have common elements with Genesis and they say that the flood was global. Although it is impossible to study all of the flood traditions around the world here, it seems to be significant to mention some of them to verify the fact that they have common elements with the Genesis Flood account. According to the tradition of Yenisey-Ostyak in north central Siberia, flood waters rose for seven days. Some people and animals were saved by climbing on floating logs and rafters. A strong north wind blew for seven days and scattered the people, which is why there are now different peoples speaking different languages.

The summary of the tradition of Eskimo in Orowingnarak, Alaska is: "A great inundation, together with an earthquake, swept the land so rapidly that only a few people escaped in their skin canoes to tops of the highest mountains." The tradition of Southwest Tanzania is as follows: according to the announcement by god, the two men embarked on a ship with every kind of animal and survived the flood which covered the mountains.<sup>25</sup> In Papua New Guinea, the Biami people, the last cannibal tribe, also had traditions of creation and flood similar to Genesis. The flood story is as follows:

Once a great flood came which covered the whole earth and wiped out everyone on earth except for the ancestors of the Biami people. Those ancestors climbed up into the Gobia Tree the bark of which they make into sting for their sting bags. They took up into tree their planting materials for crops, all their animals, their dogs and their pigs and everything else necessary for life. As the flood waters rose up on the face of the earth the people climbed further up the tree. They were safe in the branches of this tree because the tree grew up above the waters as waters rose up.

When the waters went down from the surface of the whole earth, the people were able to climb down the tree. The ground was very muddy, but eventually they planted their crops and their animals began to reproduce. They moved away from the tree and began to repopulate the earth. Those who had climbed down out of the tree were the ancestors of the Samos, the Kubos, the Gobasis, and the Etoro.<sup>28</sup>

According to the Greek tradition, Deucalion, a godly man, boarded into a huge ark with his wife and children and all animals when the flood covered the whole earth and killed all the other people. The following is the tradition of Tehuelche who live in Patagonia, South America:

At a remote time in the past, the earth was inhabited also by people other than those created by sun-god. They were very bad and fought among themselves all the time. When sun-god saw this he decided to annihilate these people and to create another population in their stead. To destroy the bad people, the sun-god sent torrential and continuous rain, the springs opened, and the ocean overflowed. In the deluge all mankind and all animals were swept away ... the sun-god sent [out] the dove, which returned with blades of grass in its beak, providing thereby that it had found dry land. Then the sun-god decided to create new people. First he made a man, then a woman, and finally a dog to keep them company.

Thus, it seems reasonable to think that the Genesis account is consistent with the secular historical records and the existence of the flood traditions around the world.

# EVIDENCES FOR A GLOBAL FLOOD

# GRAND CANYON

## #1: Layers made in rapid succession

We find an entire series of sedimentary layers—nearly a mile deep at Grand Canyon—that together folded without fracturing. This is possible only if a flood laid down all these layers in rapid succession and then the layers were folded quickly, while still soft and pliable, not over millions of years.

**Example** | Grand Canyon's layers can be seen in a large step-like fold, called the East Kaibab Monocline. Some folds are right angles (90°).

## #2: Sea animals far above sea level

How did sea creatures get inside rock layers thousands of feet above sea level? These marine fossils, found on every continent, are a silent testimony to the ocean waters that once flooded over all the continents in a worldwide cataclysm, carrying sea creatures with them.

**Example** | Sponges, trilobites, and other sea animals are exposed in Grand Canyon's walls, over 8,000 feet above sea level.

## #3: Sand carried across the continent

Geologists have traced some of the sand and limestone at Grand Canyon to rocky sources many hundreds of miles away (as far away as the Appalachian Mountains). No river could strip away sand and carry it across an entire continent—only a worldwide flood.

**Example** | Sand grains in the Coconino Sandstone have been traced to the mountains farther north in Utah and Wyoming, around 600 miles (1000 km) away.

## #4: Layers over entire continents

Many of the rock layers at Grand Canyon can be traced over vast regions of North America and into Europe and the Middle East. Only a worldwide flood could reasonably carry sediments from one end of a continent to the other.

**Example** | The Redwall Limestone is part of a continuous layer that crosses the United States into Kentucky and continues farther east into England.

## #5: No slow and gradual erosion

Unlike today's land surface, which is constantly being eroded by water and wind, rock layers are amazingly flat and show little evidence of erosion. The only explanation is a worldwide catastrophe that stripped away vast surface areas and then deposited new layers so rapidly that they had little time for erosion.

**Example** | The near-flat, knife-edge surface under the Tapeats Sandstone, known as the Great Unconformity, suggests massive erosion across the continent, followed quickly by a new layer.



