**Importance of the Worldwide Flood**

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[1] The Importance of the Worldwide Flood

[2] The ideas in this presentation are taken from two chapters by John T. Baldwin in the book Creation, Catastrophe, & Calvary—Revelation 14:7, An Angel’s Worldview and The Geologic Column and Calvary: The Rainbow Connection

[3] In the forward of the book Creation, Catastrophe, & Calvary, Harold Coffin describes how Scripture has often been reinterpreted to agree with science—so much so that few religious entities even believe in a recent creation and a worldwide flood any more.

[4] Baldwin describes how Christianity continues to stagger as a consequence of the publication of these three older but formative books.

[5] He suggests that together these three books have unsettled the faith in the literal interpretation of the Genesis account.

[6] Attempts to reconcile science and religion through reinterpretation of Scripture have resulted in ideas like progressive creation and theistic evolution.

[7] We have already looked briefly at some of the implications of these compromises. In addition to the theological implications of abandoning the flood story…

[8] There are some features of the geologic record that seem best explained by a global flood.

[9] The term “geologic column” refers to the rock layers all around the world / that scientists have described using a chart like this.

[10] The geologic column is composed of many layers stacked on top of each other. / The conventional explanation suggests that the layers were deposited in increments over many millions of years / through a combination of normal geologic processes and numerous catastrophes. / Over the years, various layers may have been exposed for millions of years before the next layer was deposited on top.

[11] The geologic column contains millions of fossils, the vast majority of which are found in the layers from the Cambrian on up. These fossils appear in a predictable order.

[12] The Paleozoic layers contain various marine fossils, including trilobites and the Dunkleosteus.

[13] The Mesozoic layers contain some marine creatures too, along with an assortment of amphibians, reptiles, dinosaurs, and other interesting creatures.

[14] Along with some of the same creatures found in lower layers, the Cenozoic layers also contain many land mammals.

[15] Fossils of Homo sapiens have only been found at the very top.

[16] The geologic column is real, and the order in the fossil record is real. / If we reject the evolutionary interpretation of the geologic record, we need another explanation for the existence of these rock layers and the fossils they contain.

[17] But, by themselves, the biblical accounts of creation and the fall do not provide an explanation for the existence of the geologic column and the fossils.

[18] The Bible describes a global catastrophe that destroyed the pre-flood world. For those who believe in a recent, six-day creation, certain features of the geologic column seem best explained by this worldwide flood. / Believing in creation and the flood go hand in hand.

[19] Let’s return now to the implications of compromise

[20] Two of them are especially relevant to the topic of this presentation.

[21] It goes without saying that the geologic column is a record of death. / At the upper part of the Mesozoic, dinosaurs and many other types of fossils abruptly disappear and are not found in the layers above them. This is interpreted as a mass extinction. / The largest abrupt disappearance is found at the upper part of the Paleozoic layers, where as many as 96% of species disappear from the fossil record.

[22] Depending upon how we interpret the evidence, it can either support or demolish the gospel. Here’s how…

[23] Any explanation for the geologic column besides the worldwide flood / results in the conclusion that all this death happened before the arrival of humans on the scene.

[24] The Bible teaches that sin preceded death. / As a result of sin, the atoning death of Jesus Christ was necessary for our salvation.

[25] But if sin did not precede death, then death cannot be sin’s penalty. Without a cause-effect relationship between sin and death, / of what value was the death of Jesus?

[26] The flood is a crucially important historical event because it confirms the truth of the biblical claim that the wages of sin is death

[27] In light of the biblical teaching that Jesus’ death was the wage of sin, / our forgiveness seems to depend in part upon the historicity and universality of the flood.

[28] This is why Flood geology remains so important to conservative interpreters of scripture

[29] The combination of creation and the worldwide flood is also important to our understanding of the kind of God we worship.

[30] The momentous historical events of a 6-day creation and a global flood…directly affirm God’s goodness by denying that He is responsible for producing life-forms through an evolutionary process.

[31] They also reveal that He is a God of both justice and grace.

[32] John Baldwin points out that the flood was not a capricious act on God’s part. / The biblical account pictures God striving to bring everyone to repentance before the flood, / and suffering deep anguish over the breakdown of human relationships. /Through the preaching of Noah for 120 years, God warns humanity of coming destruction and provides a way of escape. / A high point of the narrative is the statement that “God remembered Noah.” / And even during the storm itself God provides abundant divine grace, showing that His loving character continues in full strength even during the darkest movements of earthly tragedy.

[33] After the flood, God gave the rainbow as a promise that he would never again destroy all flesh with a flood.

[34] Baldwin ends his chapter with a section he calls the rainbow connection. In it he concludes that “The relevant message of the rainbow…today is that major portions of the geologic column…came into being rapidly by means of the divinely initiated, unimaginably violent, planet-wide flood described in Genesis 6-9.”

[35] The evidence in the geologic column testifies to the need for Christ’s atoning sacrifice.

[36] Baldwin describes this rainbow arching over the Grand Canyon as “truth in the sky,” / pointing us to the continuing sin-forgiving power of the blood of Jesus.

[37] More specific information about current geological research that is consistent with the global flood is available in chapter 6 of Creation, Catastrophe, & Calvary.

[38] A series of short video presentations about the geologic column is also available at southern.edu/originsresources.