

Noah's Ark and the Great Flood – Could it be True?

**Interpreting Noah's Ark and the Great Flood
as real history**

Jason D. Browning

December 2009



*Speak to the
Earth, and
it shall
teach thee*
Job 12:8

ANSWERS IN CREATION

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Old Earth Creation Science Noah's Flood

By [Greg Neyman](#)

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The global Flood of Noah is one of the centerpiece arguments for young earth creation science theology. Because of this, I have been asked what I believe the Flood of Noah was like.

To answer this question, let us first look at what the Flood is not...it is not the event that has been described by young earth creationism. There is no possible way the Flood could [produce the rock record we see](#), nor could the flood produce all the [coal layers](#), oil reserves, or [chalk layers](#) that we see in the rocks. If you want to explore these topics first, click on them to examine them in closer detail.

Was the Flood Global?

This is probably the biggest question I get asked. This will be a short answer to such a big question, but...no.

[Print-Friendly PDF](#)

To learn more about old earth creationism, see [Old Earth Belief](#), or check out the article [Can You Be A Christian and Believe in an Old Earth?](#)

Feel free to check out more of this website. Our goal is to provide rebuttals to the bad science behind young earth creationism, and honor God by properly presenting His creation.

2 Peter 3:3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. **By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.**

Noah's Flood on Mars?

'A flood of biblical proportions—enough to fill the Mediterranean Sea—gushed down from the highlands of Mars a billion or so years ago, the latest pictures from the Pathfinder confirmed Monday.'

Cincinnati Enquirer,
Ancient gullies suggest 'key ingredient for life,'
Robert S. Boyd, July 8, 1997.



**MILLIONS
OF
YEARS**



**PAIN
DEATH
KILLING
DISEASE
THORNS
STRUGGLE
SUFFERING
EXTINCTION**

**FOSSIL
RECORD**

©AiG 2001

Overview

- ▶ **The Book of Genesis describes how God destroyed the face of the earth through a year-long global flood, because of the “great wickedness” of the people**
- ▶ **Noah and his family survived, along with representative animals, on a large boat (the ark)**
- ▶ **Many regard this account as a myth, or as an exaggeration of an actual local flood event**
- ▶ **Could Noah’s ark have occurred as described?**
 - ▶ **John Woodmorappe has performed a scientific study of the animal handling requirements of the ark and other issues and concludes that all potential problems have reasonable possible non-miraculous solutions**

Timelines of History



6-15,000 years ago ~5,000 ~4,500 2,000 Today



7-20 billion years ago 4.6B ~3.5B 100,000

The Genesis Flood

Described in Genesis chapters 6-9

- ▶ **6:5** The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become
- ▶ **6:6** The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth
- ▶ **6:8** But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
- ▶ **6:14** So make yourself an ark of cypress wood
- ▶ **6:17** I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.
- ▶ **6:19** You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.
- ▶ **6:21** You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.

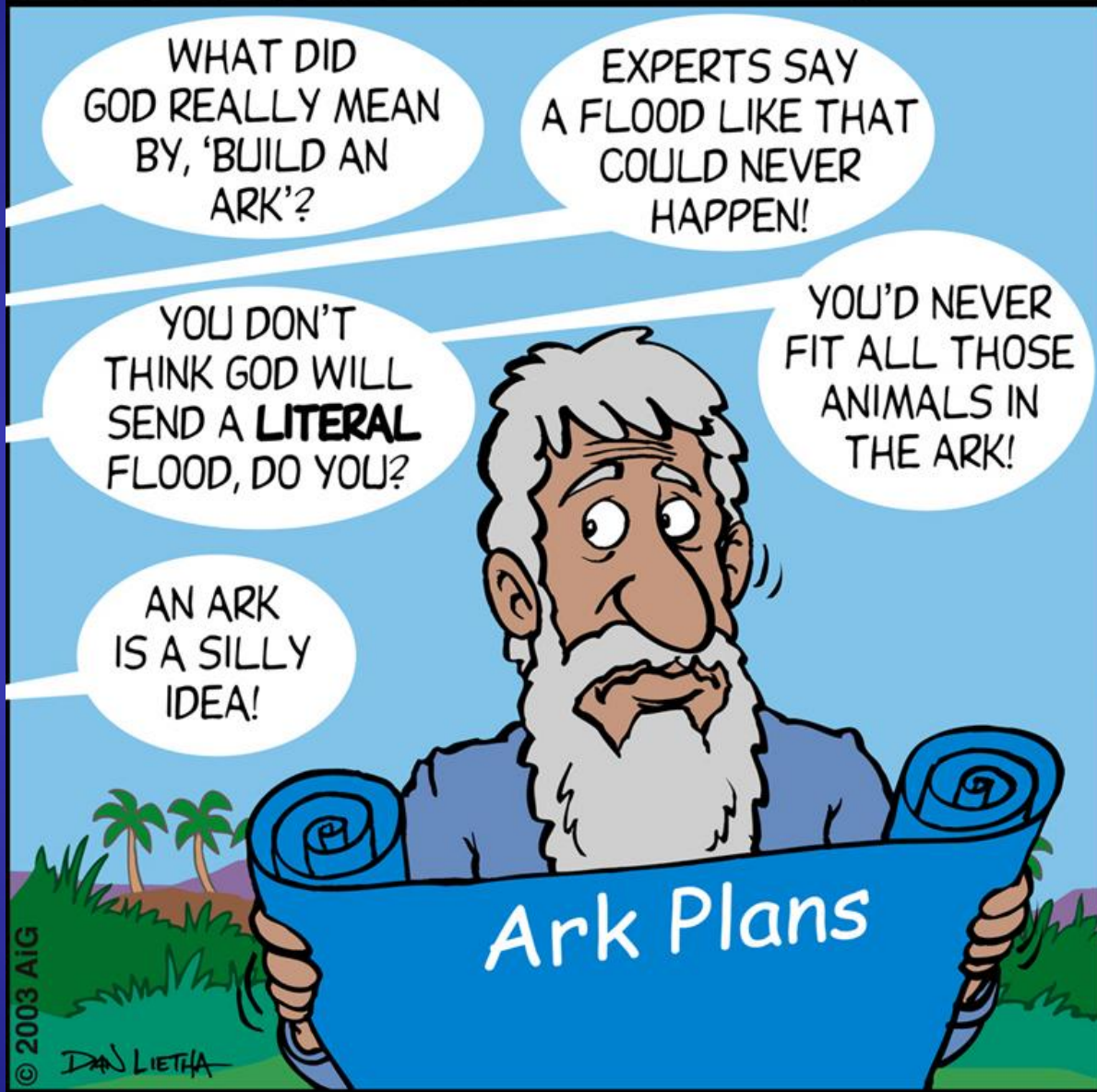


- Noah had up to 100 years to plan and build
- He was probably well off (blessed by God)
- He could have hired help



AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



As it was in the days of Noah ...

Ark Specifications

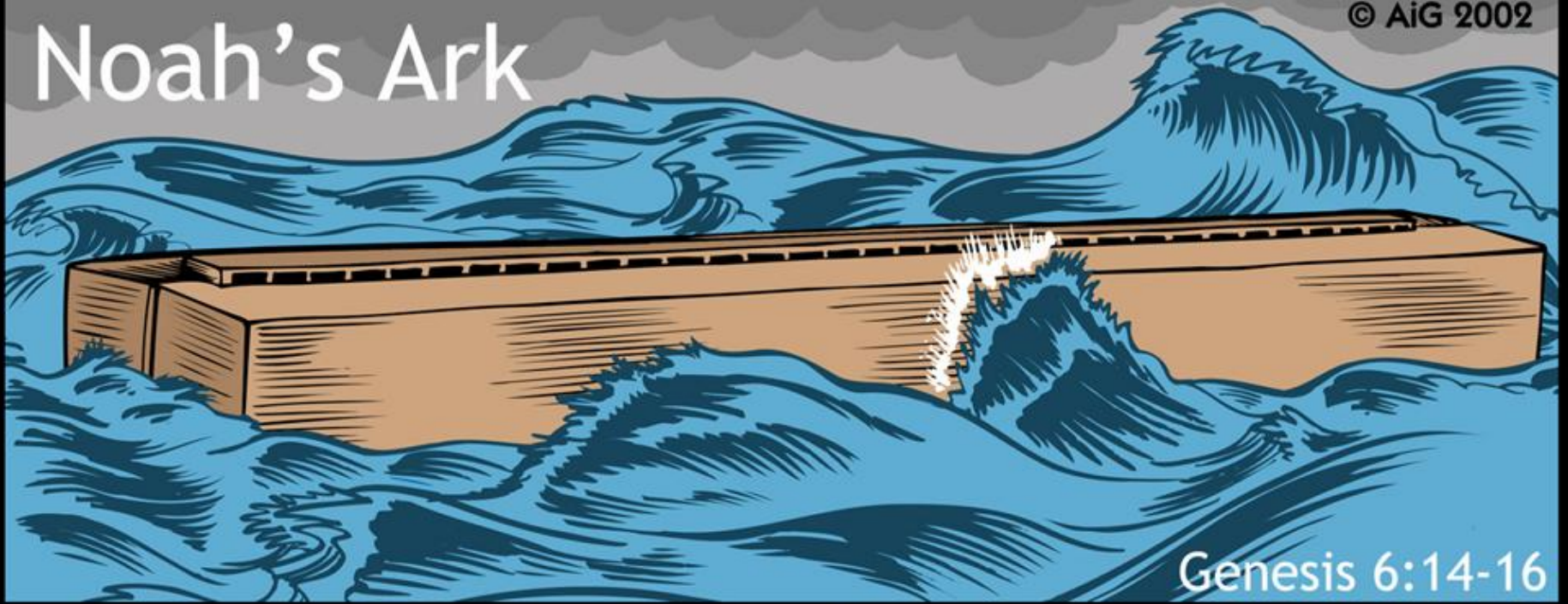
Genesis 6:14-16:

- ▶ 437 feet long, 73 feet wide, 44 feet high
- ▶ Three decks
- ▶ A door in the side
- ▶ Ark “window” was continuous slot under the roof eaves, 18 inches high
- ▶ Made out of “gopher” wood (teak or other hardened wood)
- ▶ Sealed with “pitch” inside and out

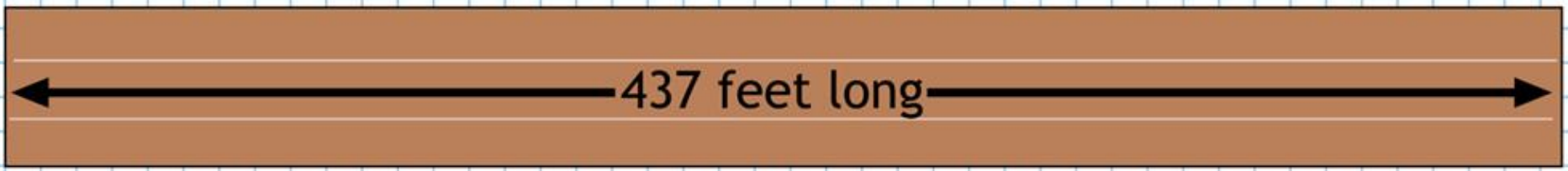


Noah's Ark

© AiG 2002



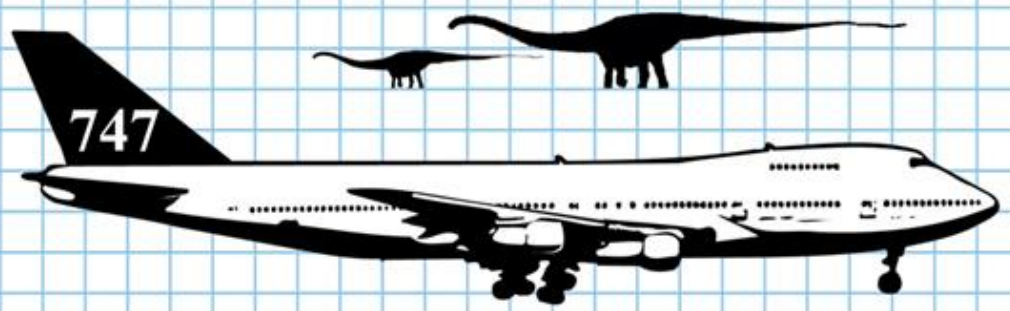
Genesis 6:14-16

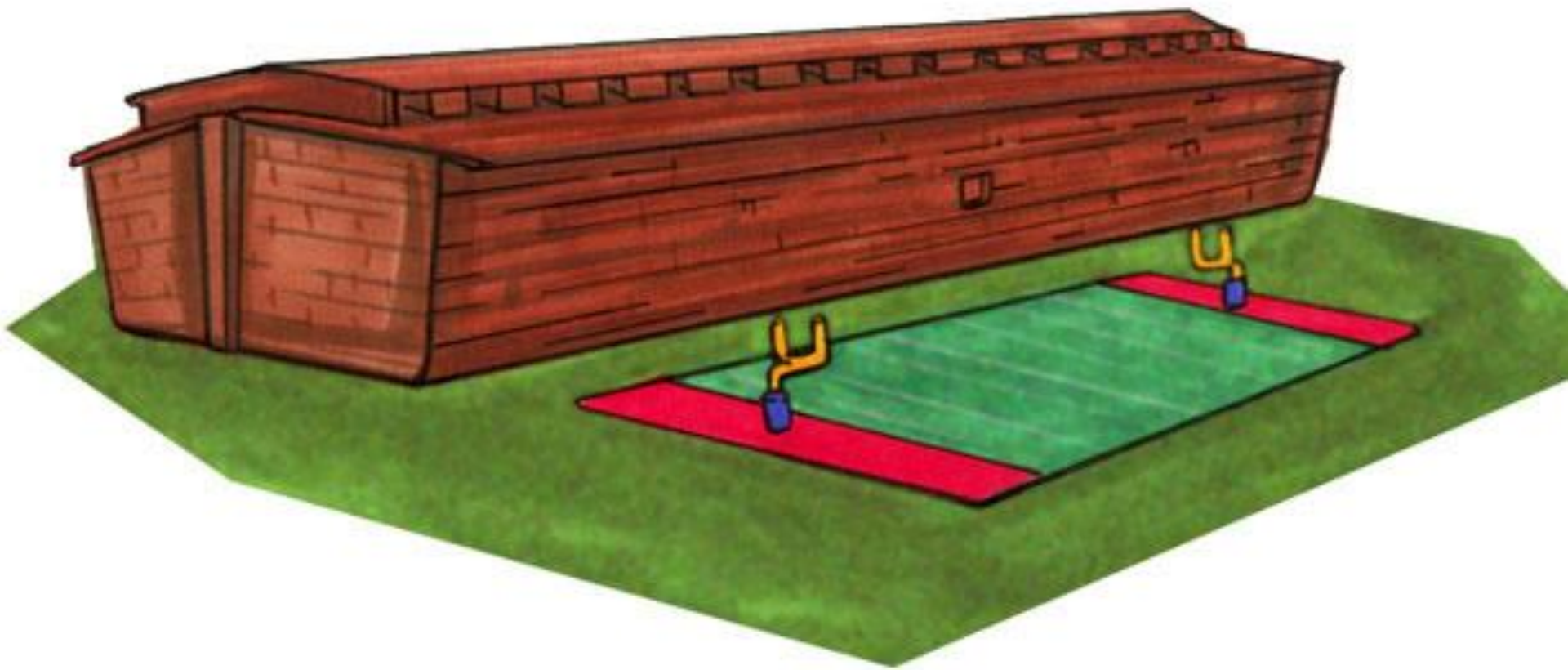


73 ft wide



44 ft high





The Flood Events

- ▲ Feb 10: Noah, his family, animals enter the ark
- ▲ Feb 17: “All the springs of the great deep burst forth” and rain falls for 40 days and nights
- ▲ Water floods the earth for 150 days
- ▲ Jul 17: Ark comes to rest on the mountains of Ararat
- ▲ Waters recede steadily
- ▲ Oct 1: Tops of mountains become visible
- ▲ Nov 9: Noah sends raven - returns; 7 more days dove brings olive leaf; 7 more days dove doesn't return (Nov 23)
- ▲ Jan 1: Water had dried up from the earth
- ▲ Feb 27: The earth was completely dry and ark unloads

- **The ark was big enough for many more people**
- **Everyone was probably invited to enter**







October



February

Mt. Ararat



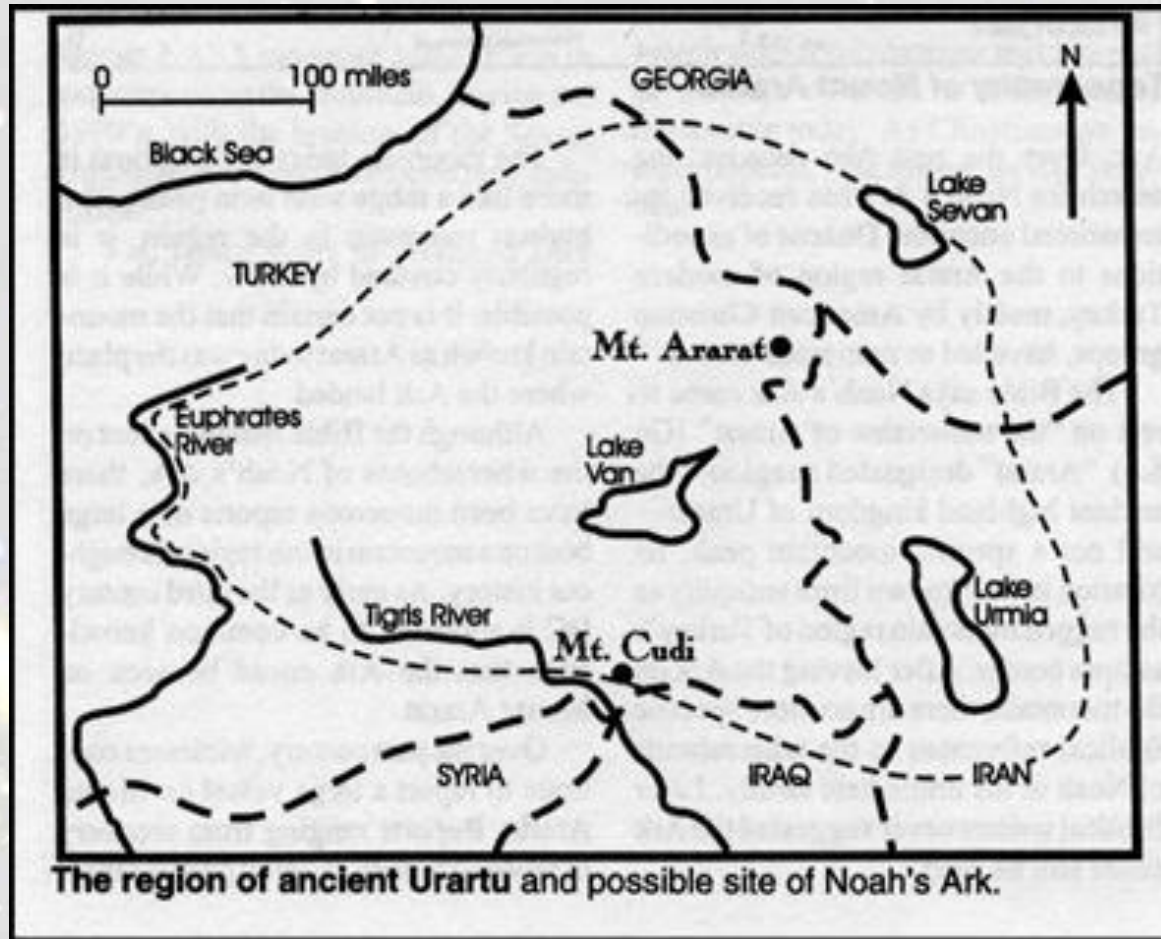
Mt. Ararat is in Turkey, near Iran, Armenia, and Iraq



Has Noah's Ark Been Found?

- ▶ **Historians wrote about Noah's Ark surviving throughout history – Berossus, Josephus, etc.**
- ▶ **There are about 60 “alleged eyewitnesses” from 1856 to 1989 who claim to have seen a boat-like structure sticking out of the ice and moraine on Mount Ararat**
- ▶ **The theory, based on the purported eyewitnesses, is that after an “extreme” melt back of the ice cap, Noah's Ark is revealed with a portion sticking out of the ice**

Genesis States that Noah's Ark Landed on the "Mountains of Ararat"



Material from arcimaging.org

Durupinar Formation – NOT Noah's Ark



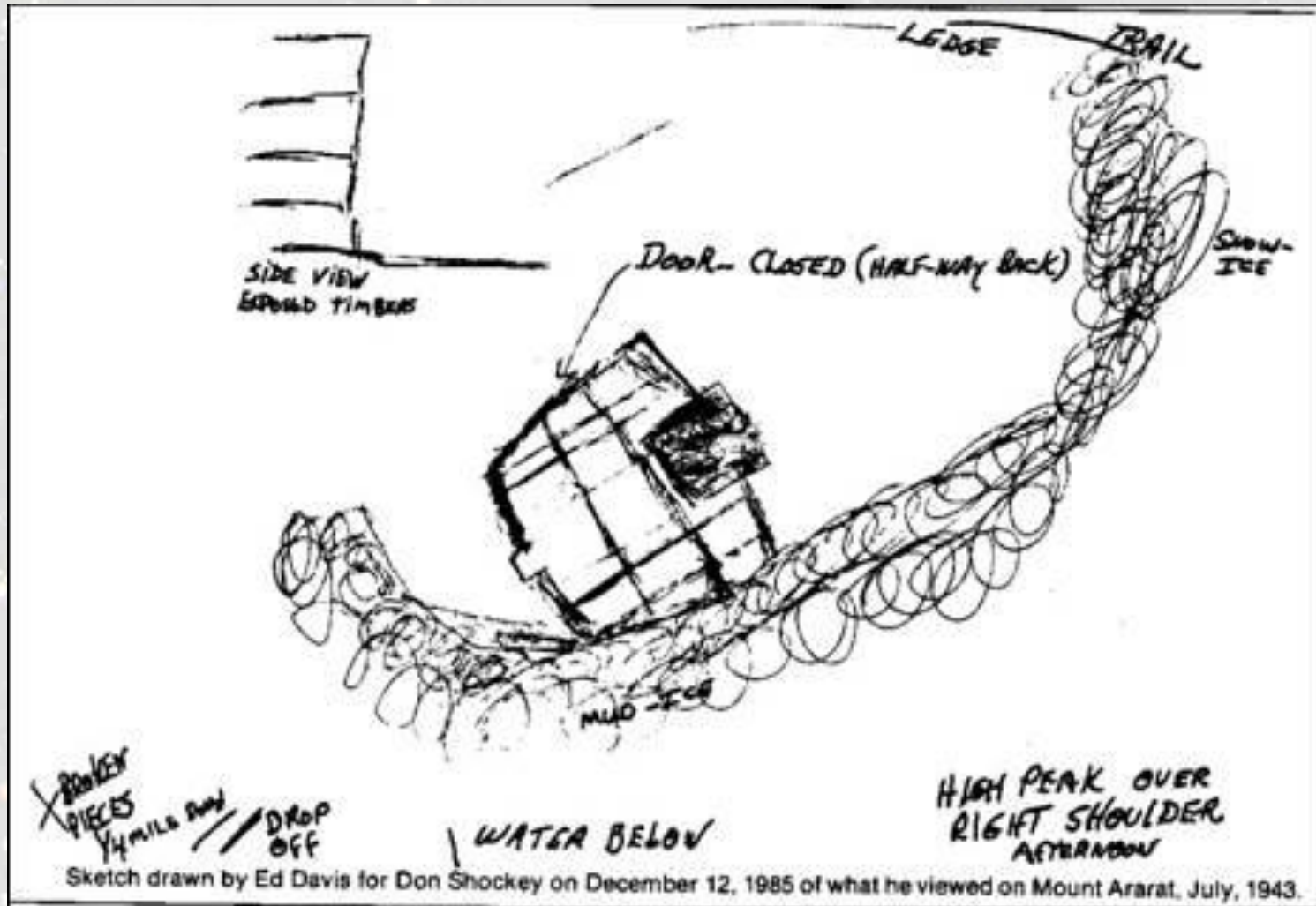
1900-1906 - George Hagopian



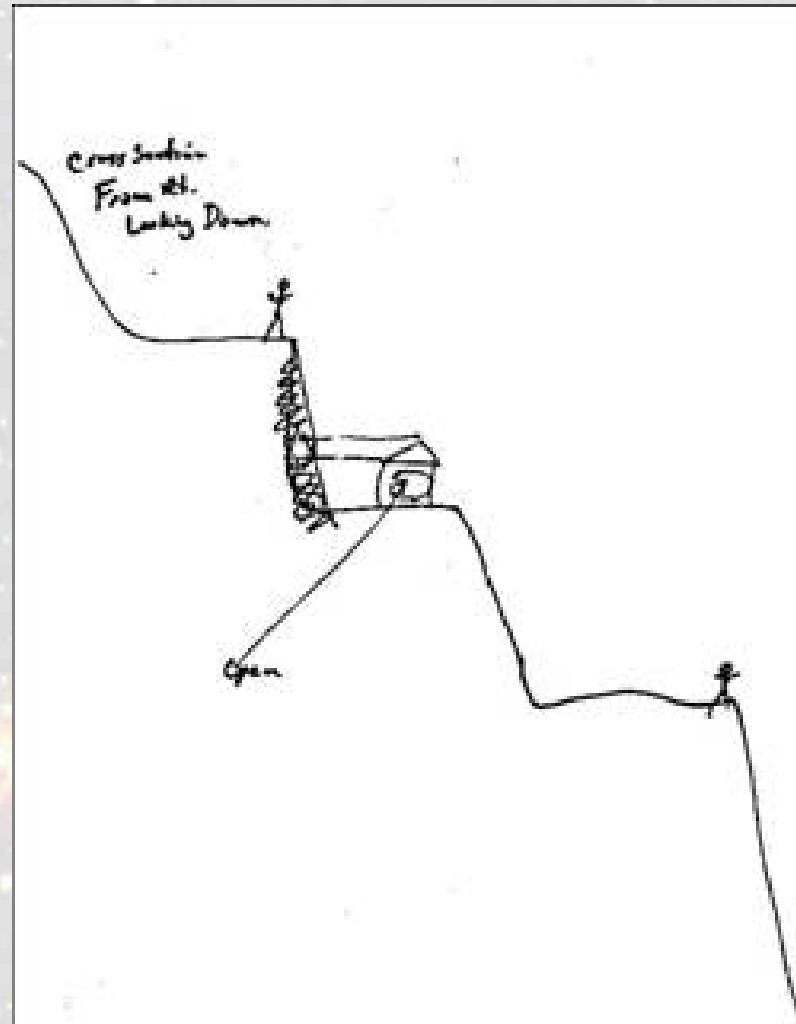
1916 - Russian Expedition



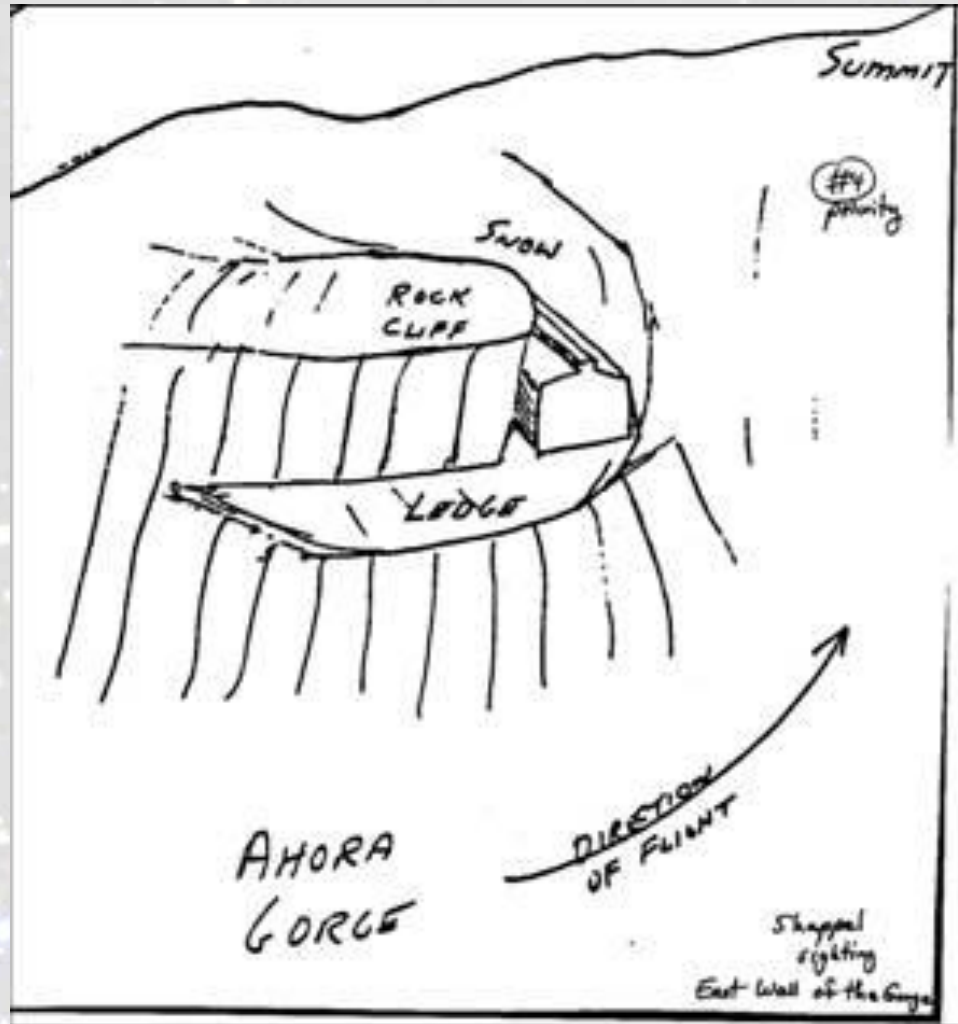
1943 - Ed Davis Drawing



1973 - Ed Behling Drawing



1974 - Al Shappell Drawing



1989 - George Stephen Analysis



Why Not a Local Flood?

- ▶ **Genesis 7:22 says “Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.”**
- ▶ **Flood waters covered the tops of the mountains**
- ▶ **Noah could have simply moved somewhere else**
- ▶ **No need to save animals**
- ▶ **God’s promise (Genesis 9:11b) “Never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth”**
 - ▶ **If this was a local flood, the promise has been broken many times!**



A local flood that covers the tops of the mountains!

CREATIONWISE



LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW! IT'S A PROMISE FROM GOD THAT HE'LL NEVER*AGAIN FLOOD THE ENTIRE EARTH AS HE DID IN NOAH'S DAY!

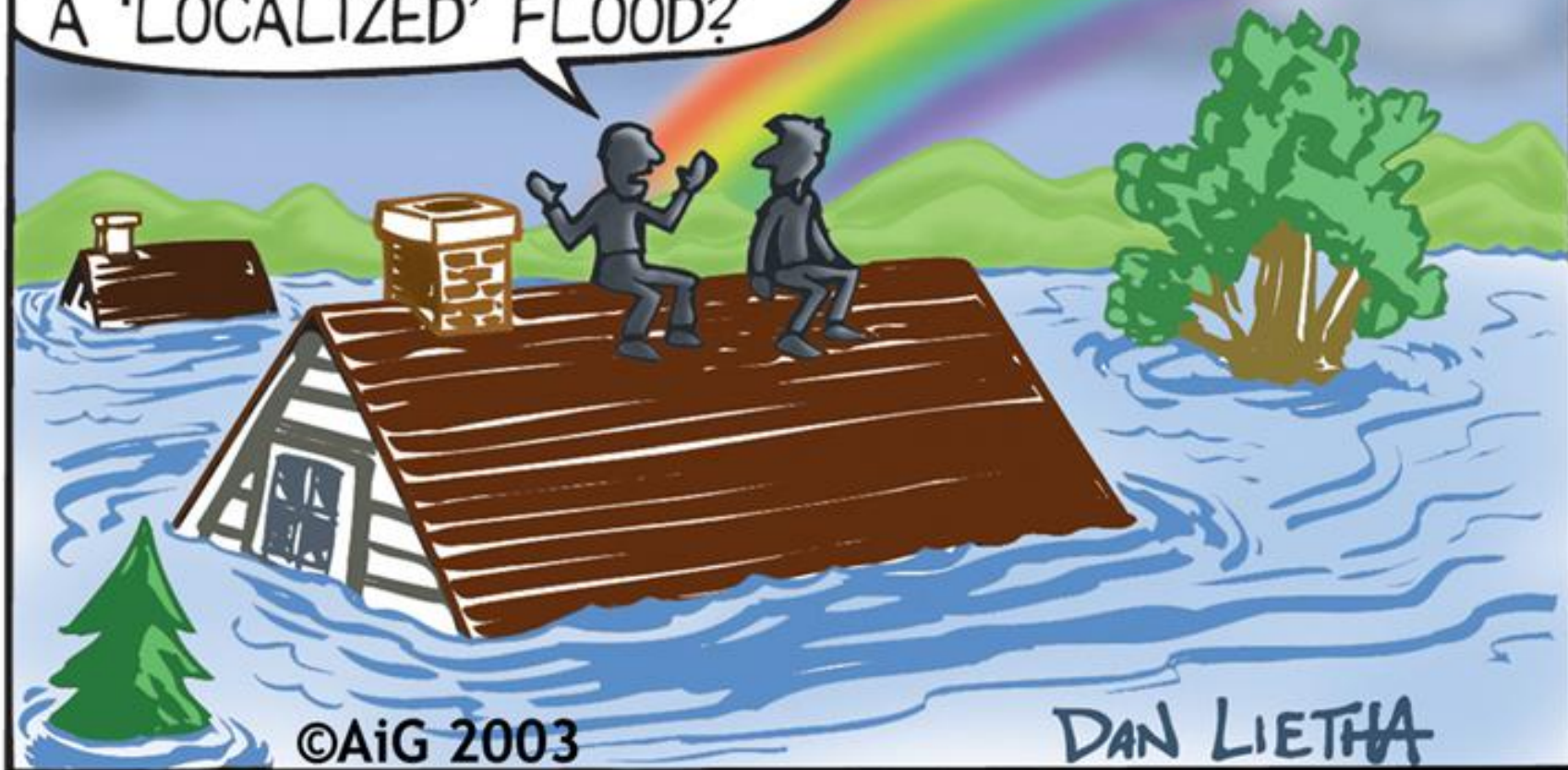
MY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE PROFESSOR SAID THAT NOAH'S FLOOD DIDN'T COVER THE ENTIRE EARTH.

*GENESIS 9:8-17

HE TOLD YOU IT WAS JUST A 'LOCALIZED' FLOOD?

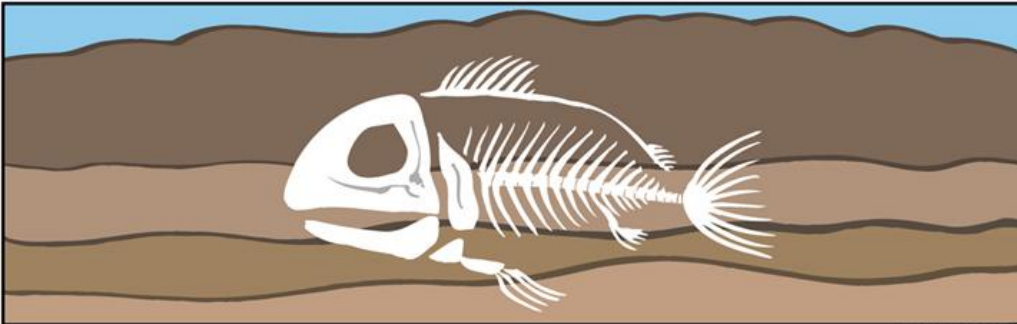
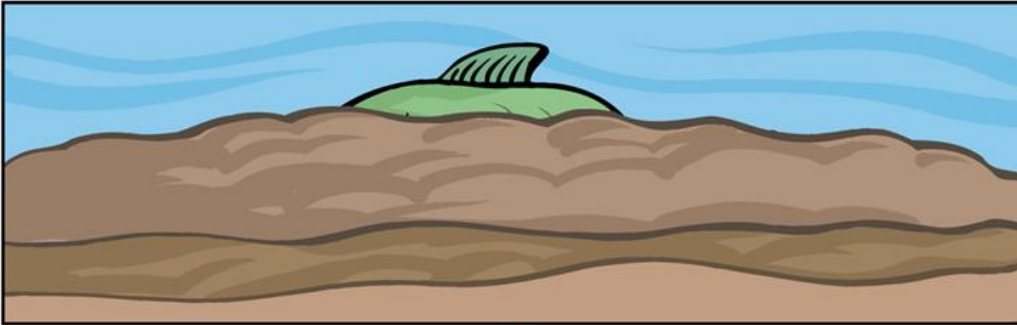
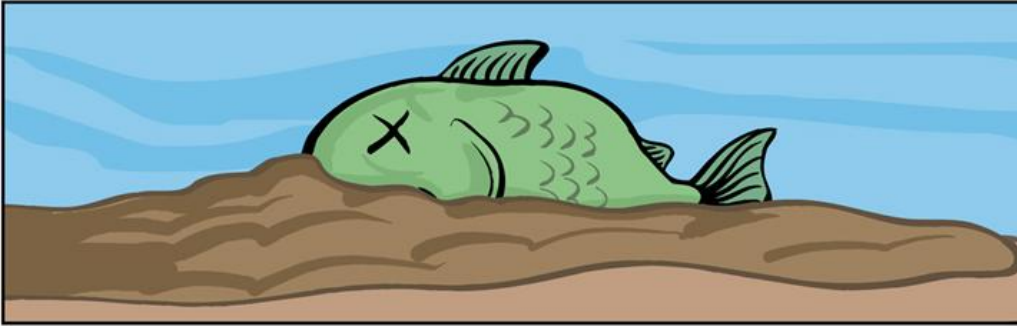
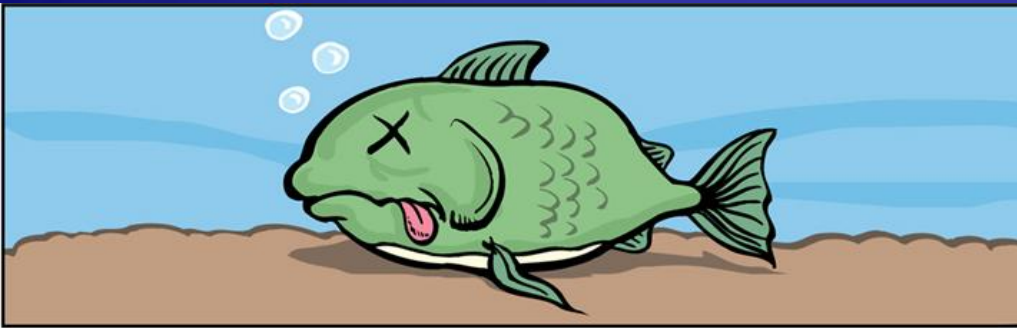
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!

SO HE BELIEVES
THAT GOD PROMISED
TO NEVER AGAIN SEND
A 'LOCALIZED' FLOOD?



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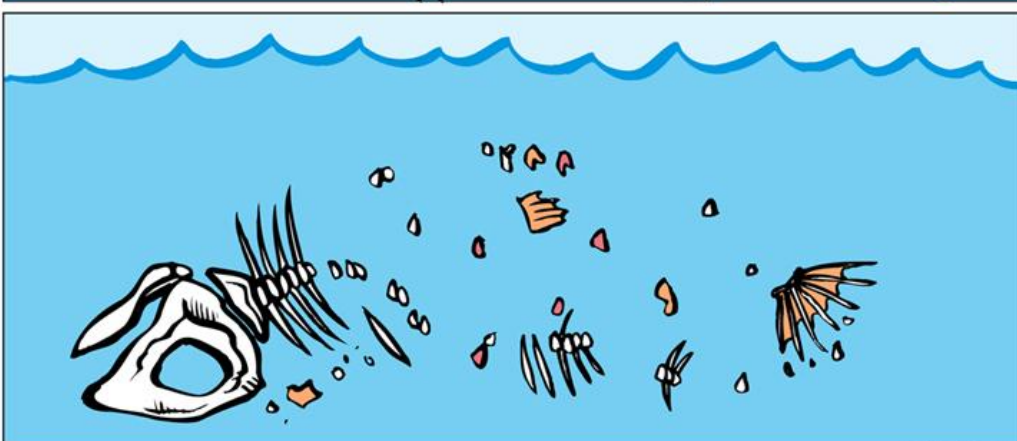
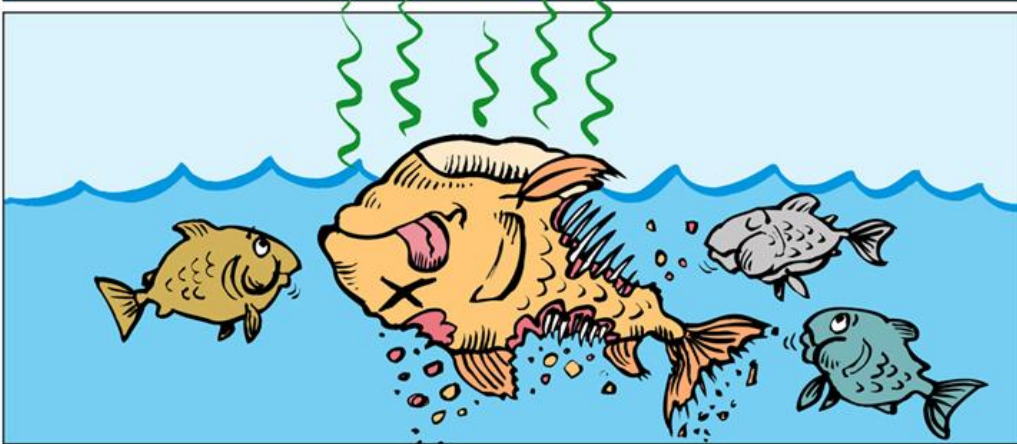
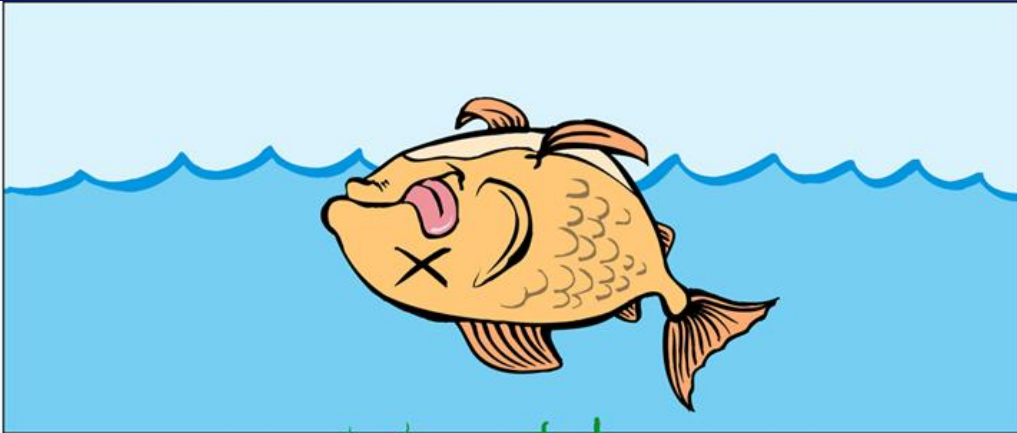
DAN LIETHA



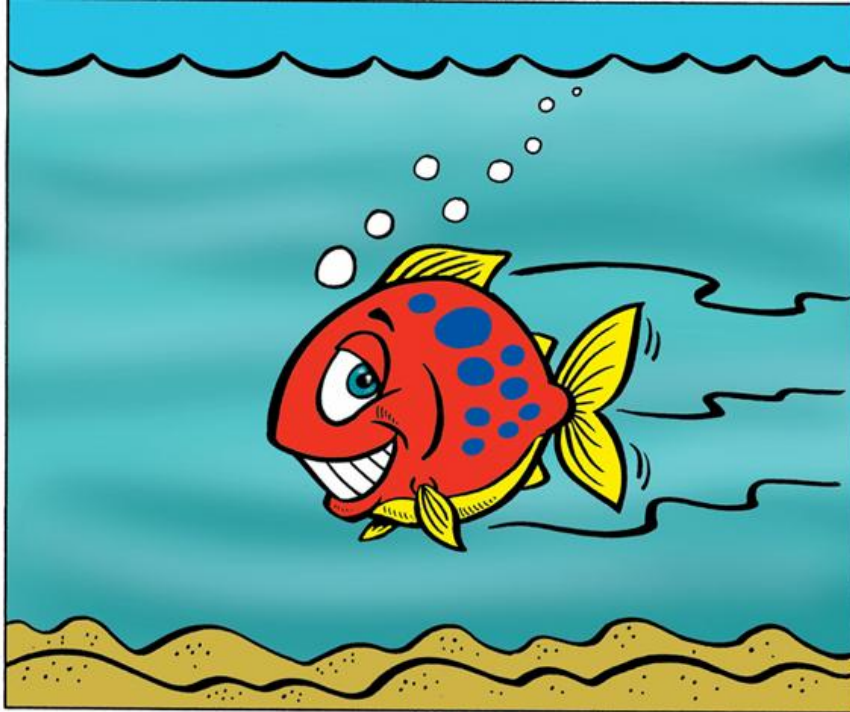
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Common belief about fish fossil formation – dead fish sinks to bottom and is gradually covered by sediment

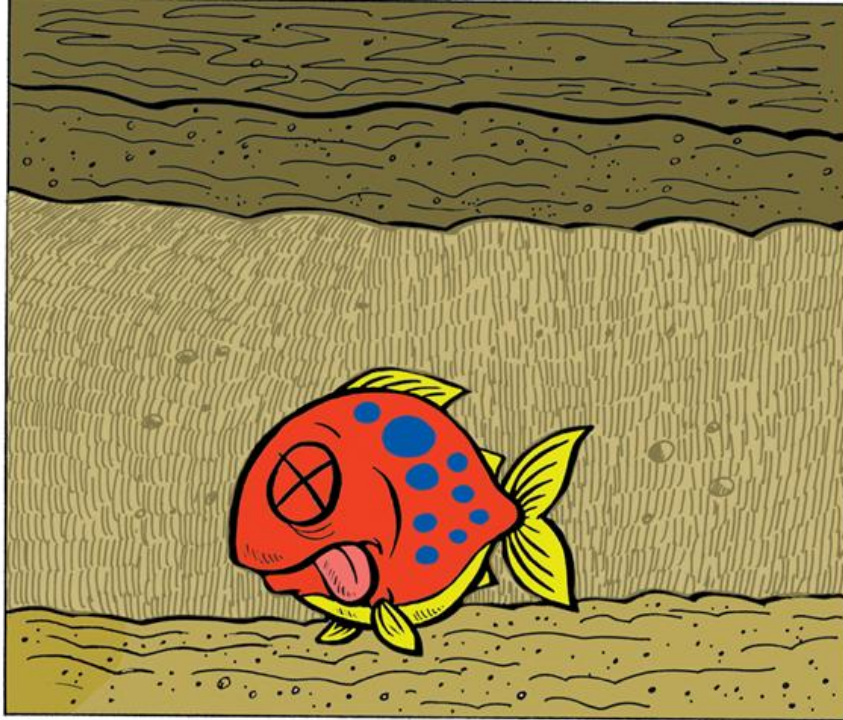
The observed fact today – dead fish float and remains are quickly scavenged



Fossil formation
requires quick burial
through a catastrophic
event!



Mud hardens to form the intact fossil





FLOOD

c. 2500 BC

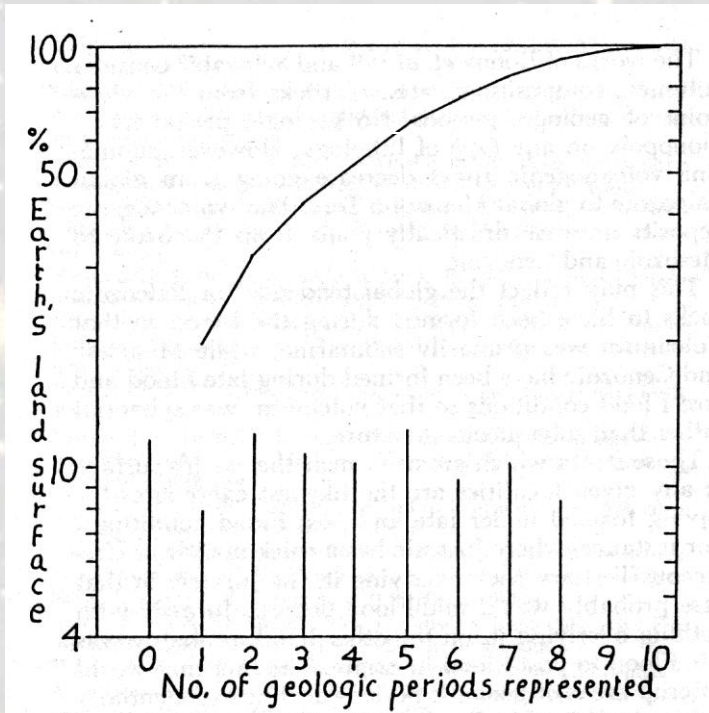


GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESION OF LIFE
CENOZOIC recent life	QUATERNARY 0-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene	
	TERTIARY 62 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene	
MESOZOIC middle life	CRETACEOUS 72 Million Years Modern seed bearing plants. Dinosaurs		
	JURASSIC 46 Million Years First birds		
	TRIASSIC 49 Million Years Cycads, first dinosaurs		
PALEOZOIC ancient life	PERMIAN 50 Million Years First reptiles		
	Carboniferous PENNSYLVANIAN 30 Million Years First insects		
	MISSISSIPPIAN 35 Million Years Many crinoids		
	DEVONIAN 60 Million Years First seed plants, cartilage fish		
	SILURIAN 20 Million Years Earliest land animals		
	ORDOVICIAN 75 Million Years Early bony fish		
	CAMBRIAN 100 Million Years Invertebrate animals, Brachiopods, Trilobites		
	PRECAMBRIAN Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-pollen?)		

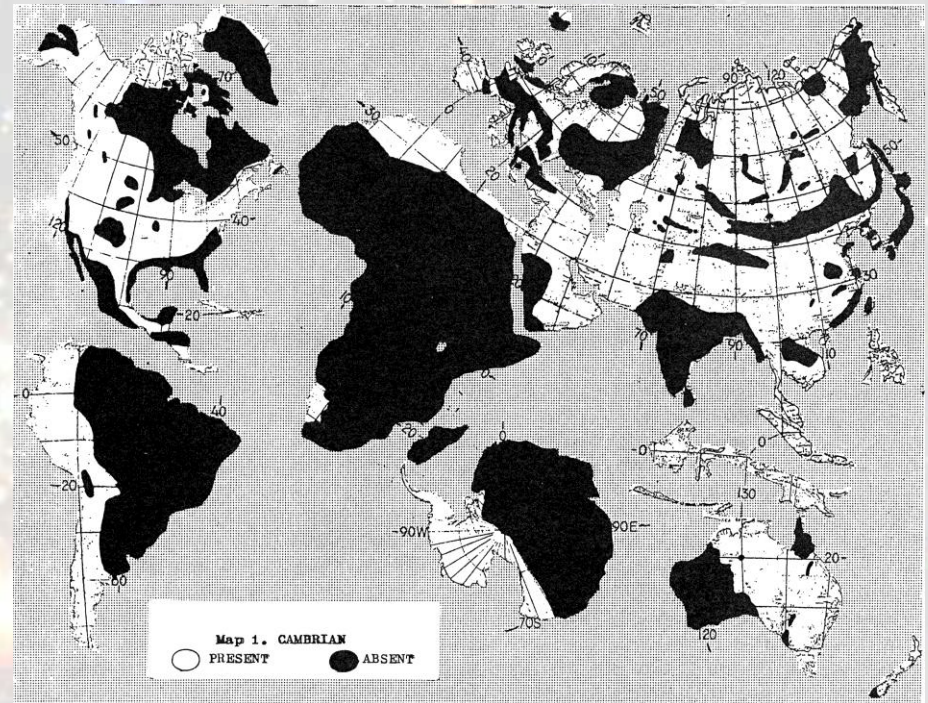
The Geologic Column is an Idealization!

- ▶ Only 1% of the earth's surface has all 10 geological periods represented
- ▶ 66% has 5 or fewer represented
- ▶ Fossil succession is a reality only to a limited extent



Cambrian period

From Woodmorappe,
"Studies in Flood Geology," p. 48



Index Fossil Circular Reasoning

“The fossil evidence that life has evolved from simple to complex forms over the geological ages depends on the geological ages of the specific rocks in which these [index] fossils are found. The rocks, however, are assigned geologic ages based on the fossil assemblages which they contain. The fossils, in turn, are arranged on the basis of their assumed evolutionary relationships. Thus the main evidence for evolution is based on the assumption of evolution.”

Henry Morris, Ph.D., icr.org/article/94/

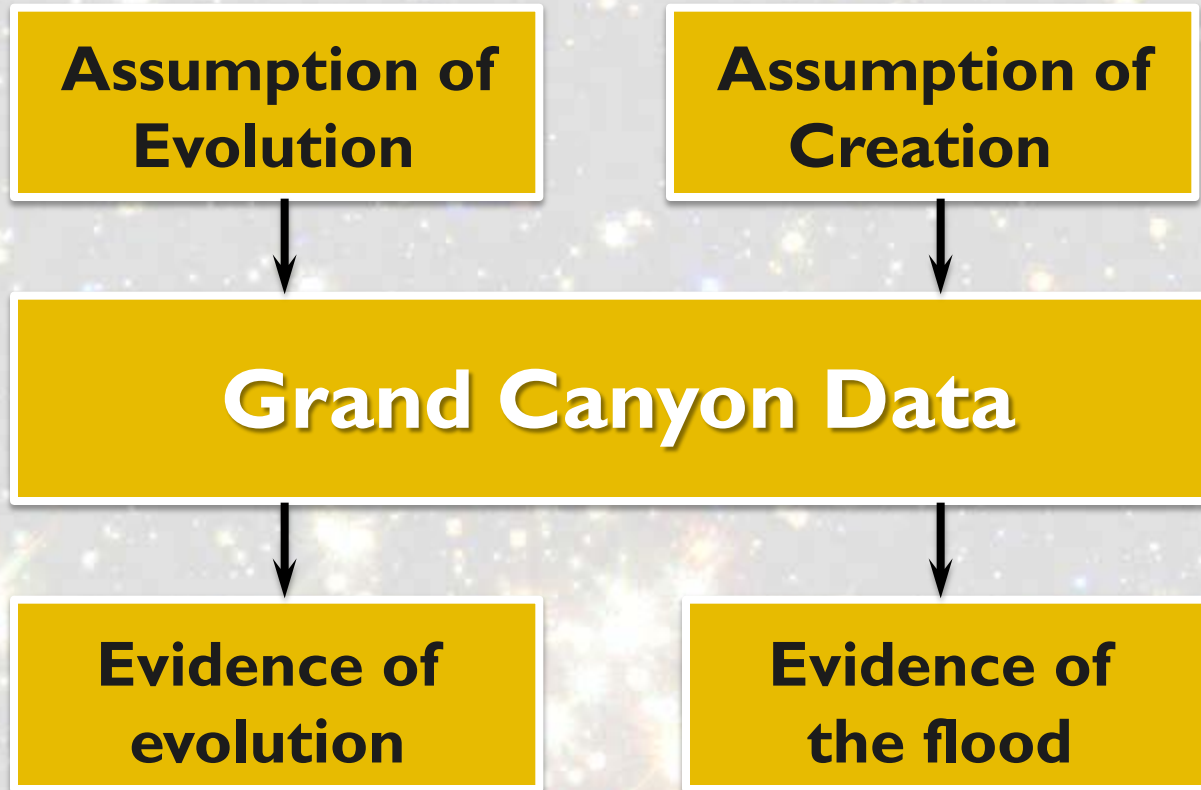
Rocks date fossils but fossils date rocks based on assumed evolutionary progression of the fossils!

Grand Canyon – Evidence for Evolution or the Flood?



**Caused by a little flow of water over a very long time,
or a lot of water over a very short time?**

Interpretation of Grand Canyon Data



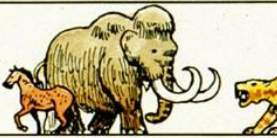












Interpretation is influenced by assumptions and biases

Competing Views of the Geologic Column

Evolution

Evolution of animals of increasing higher orders

Pre-flood, flood boundary

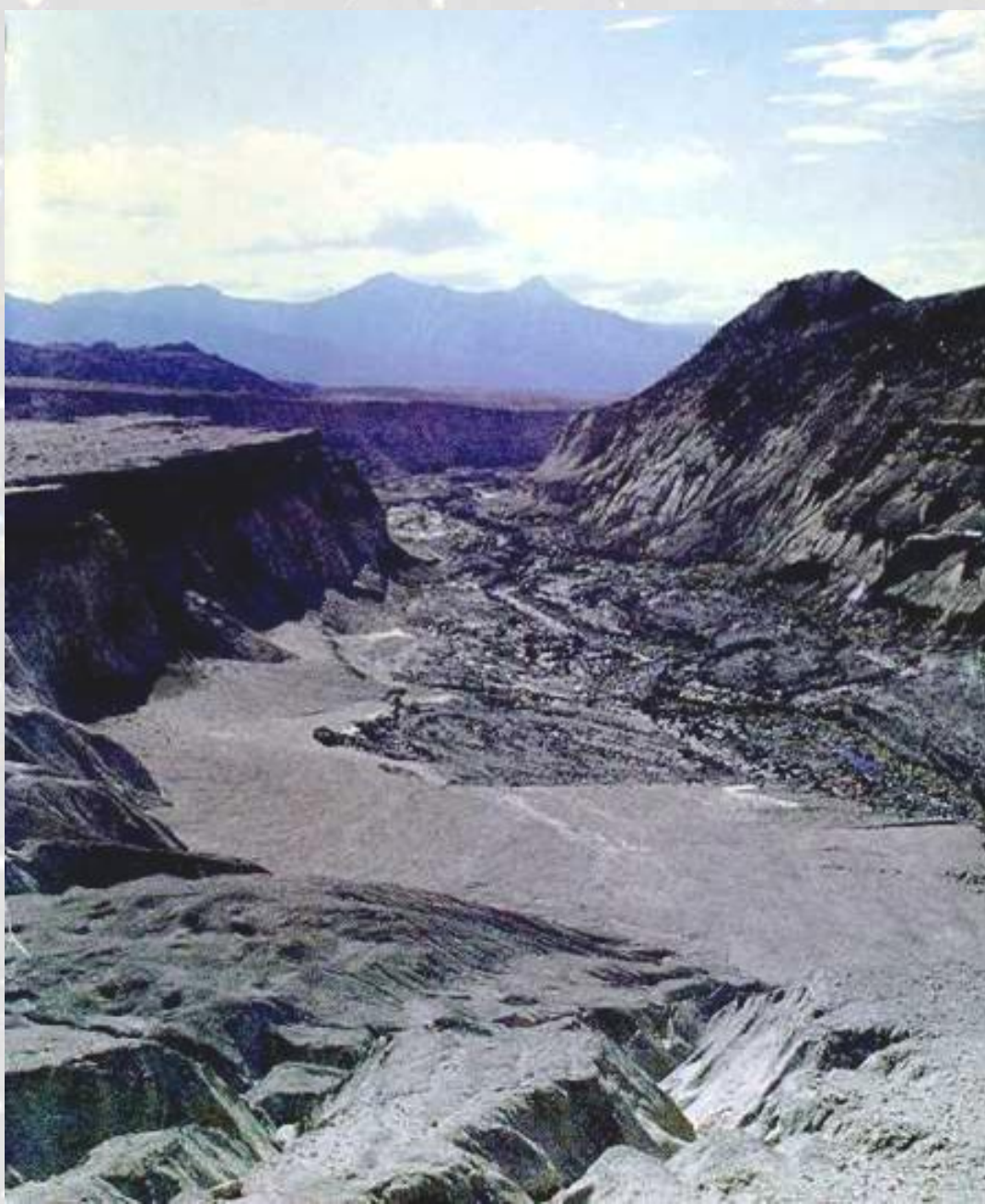
GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE		
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PRECAMBRIAN Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-pollen?)		

Flood

More mobile, smarter animals

Habitat zones
 • Various Land
 • Near-ocean
 • Ocean

Simpler shaped



**“Mini Grand Canyon”
formed by 1980 Mt. St.
Helens eruption**

Formed in days/hours

**Even shows layering of
sediments!**

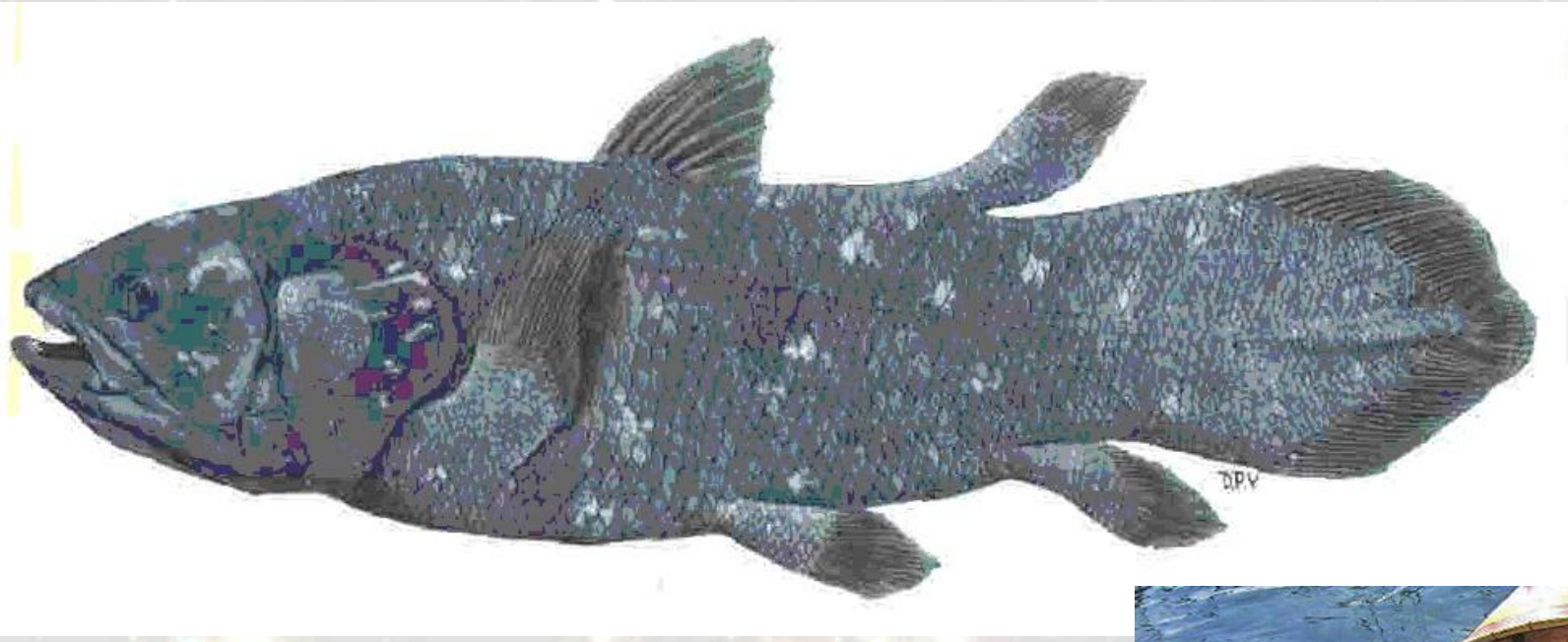
Other Evidences of the Non-Reality of the Evolutionary Geologic Column

- ▶ **Misplaced fossils (found in wrong age period)**
- ▶ **Different age fossils found together**
- ▶ **Missing age periods at a locality**
- ▶ **Rock units in wrong order at a locality**
- ▶ **Polystrate fossils**
- ▶ **Lack of soil layers between rock units**
- ▶ **Lack of erosion features between rock units**
- ▶ **Limited extent of unconformities (deposition breaks)**
 - ▶ **Indicates that time breaks are local and brief**
- ▶ **“Living fossils”**

Polystrate Tree: A single tree embedded in multiple age rock strata



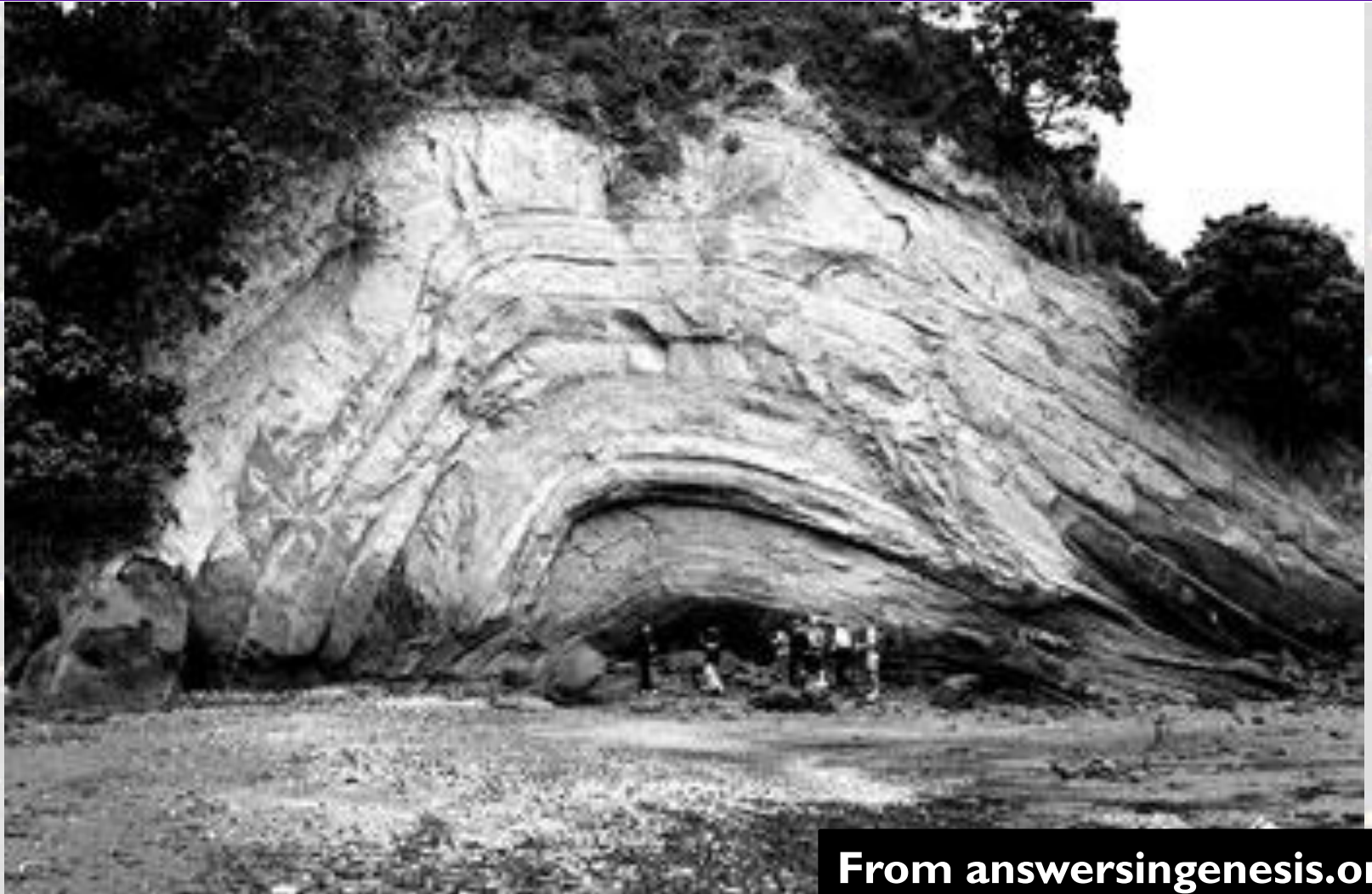
Living Fossil: Coelacanth Fish



**Supposedly extinct since the
Cretaceous Period until found still
living in New Zealand**



Soft Bending of Rock Strata

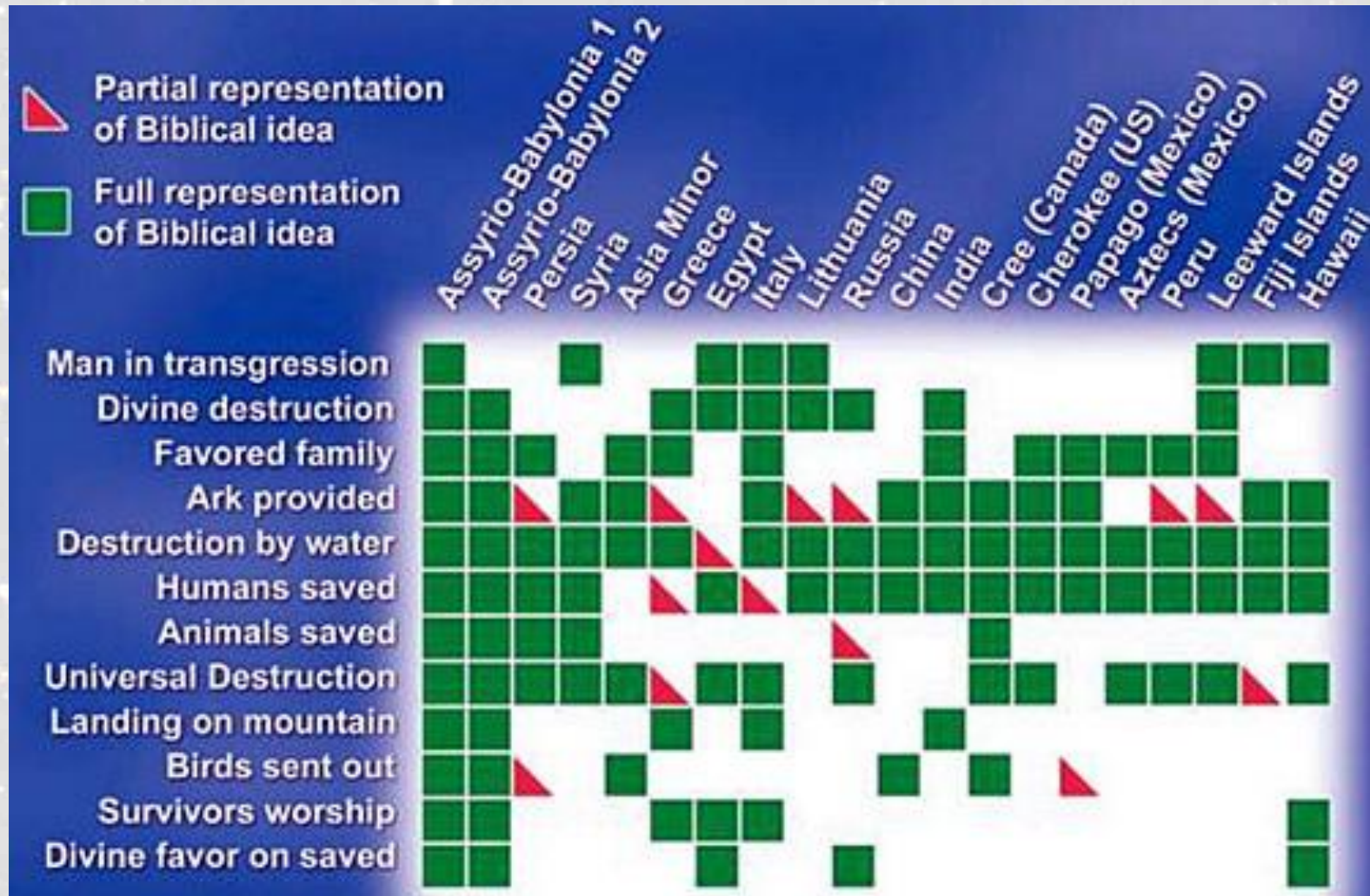


From answersingenesis.org

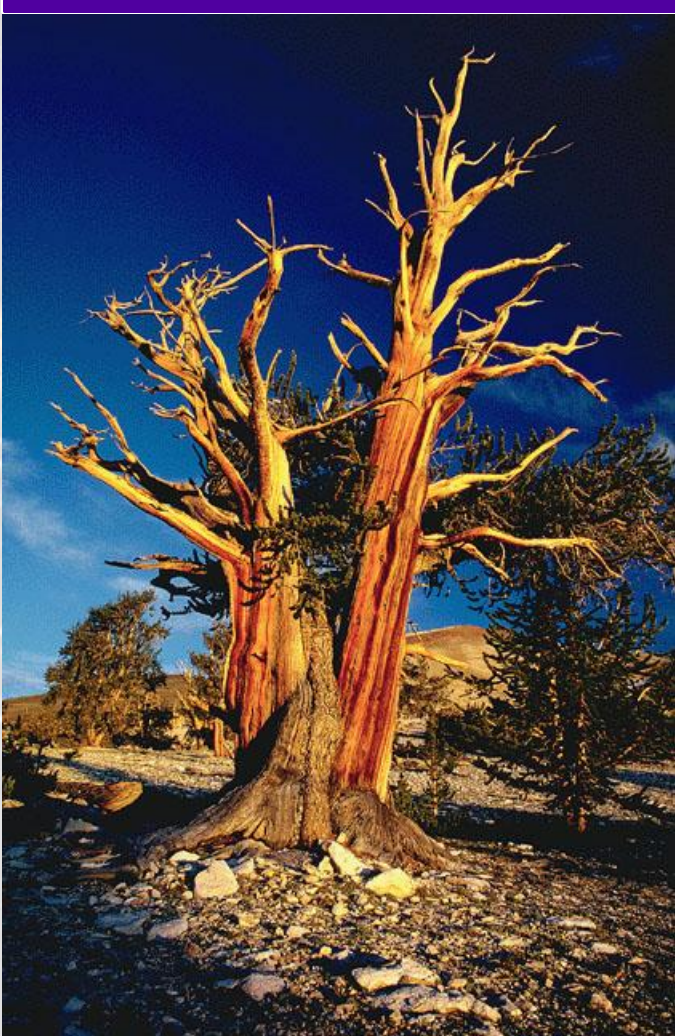
Fossil 'graveyards' around the world, where the bones of many animals were washed together, buried, and fossilized, are evidence for a watery cataclysm like Noah's flood.



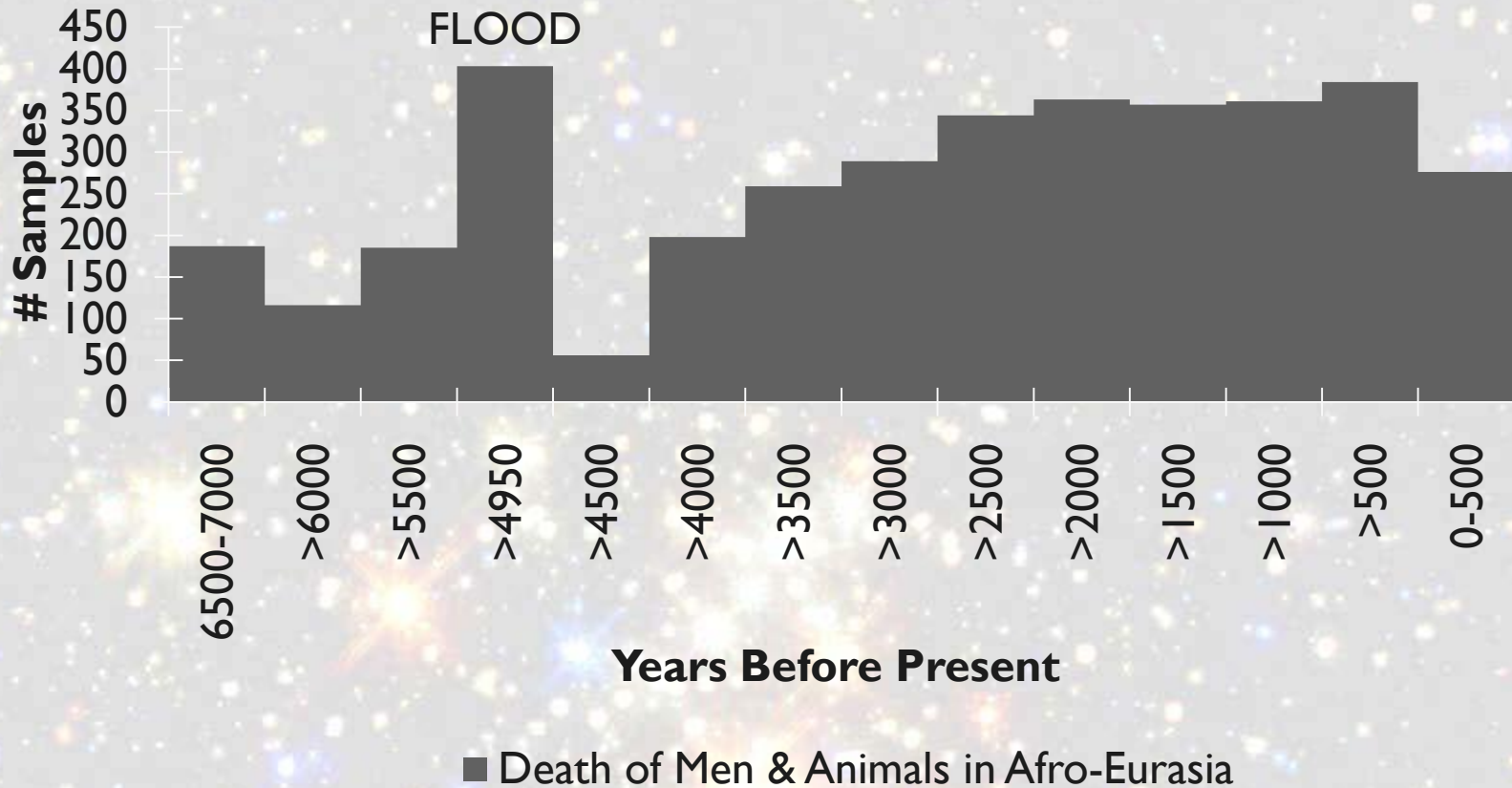
Worldwide Flood Traditions



Bristlecone Pine Tree



C-14 Dating Study Results



Who Was on the Ark?

- ▶ Land mammals
- ▶ Land reptiles
- ▶ Terrestrial birds
- ▶ Dinosaurs
- ▶ Amphibians
- ▶ Some animals now extinct
- ▶ Eight people
- ▶ Representative animals from each genus, *not species*
- ▶ The genus is the smallest division of plants and animals that can be recognized without scientific study
- ▶ Up to 16,000 animals (maybe as few as 2,000)
- ▶ Large-sized were juveniles
- ▶ Median size = a small rat
- ▶ Only 11% larger than a sheep

Animal Space, Food, Water Needs

- ▶ **Ark situation equivalent to intensive livestock confinement (not a zoo)**
 - ▶ **Temporary captivity, need only to survive in reasonable health**
- ▶ **Animal housing: 46.8% of ark floor space**
 - ▶ **2.5 sq. meters for juvenile of largest animals**
- ▶ **Food: 6-12% of interior ark volume**
 - ▶ **Compressed hay, dried fruit, meat, fish**
- ▶ **Water: 9.4% of ark volume**
 - ▶ **Or could have collected rainwater**



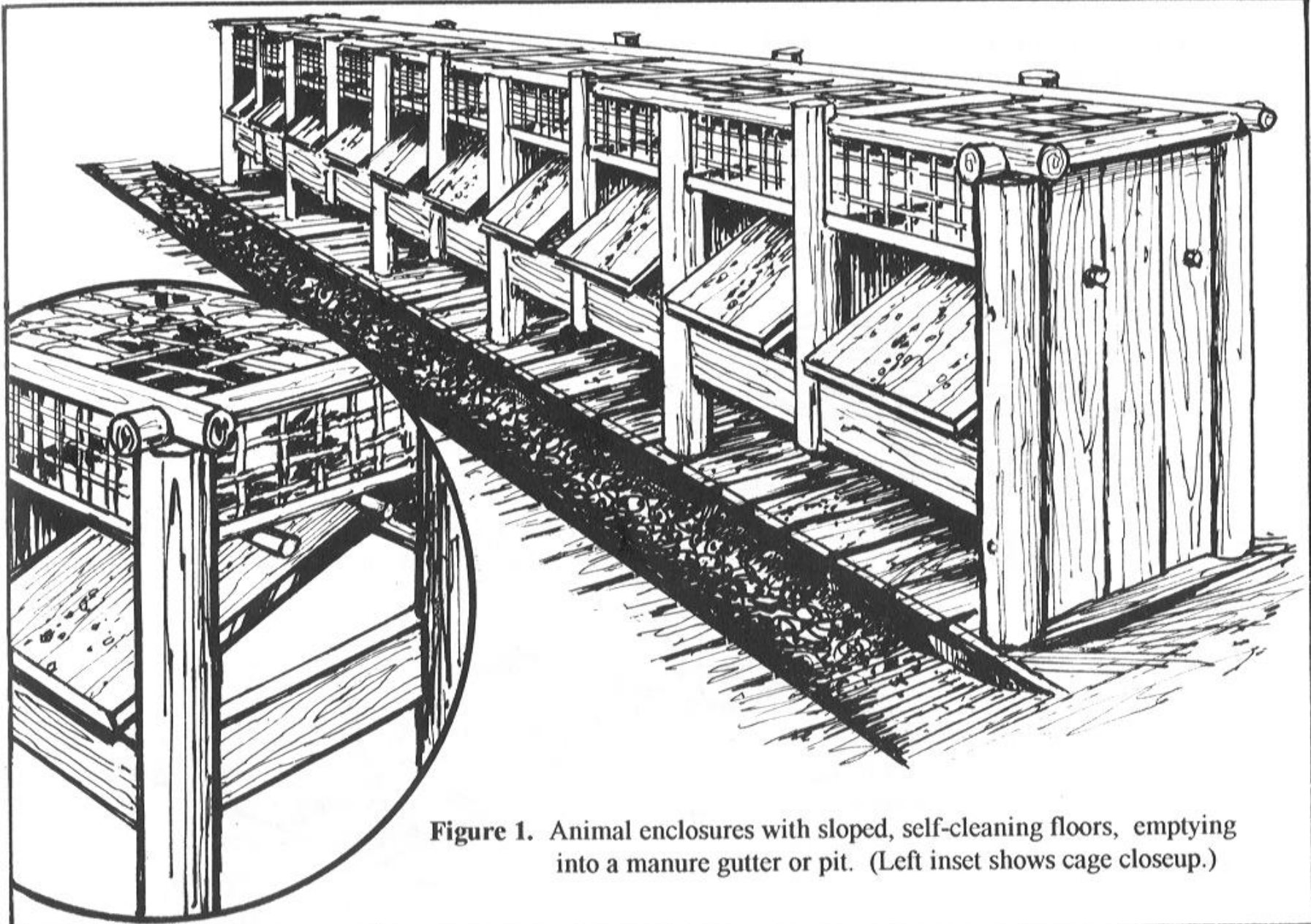


Figure 1. Animal enclosures with sloped, self-cleaning floors, emptying into a manure gutter or pit. (Left inset shows cage closeup.)

Ark Inventory by Mass

Category	Tons
Empty Ark	4,000
Biomass at start	111
Biomass at end	411
Food at start	2,500
Water at start	4,070
Total needed	11,000
Cargo capacity	17,000
Spare mass	6,000

Factors Lessening Difficulties of Gathering Animals

- ▶ **Antediluvian world was much different**
 - ▶ **(Possibly) Just one continent (Pangea)**
 - ▶ **Warm climate throughout (probably not due to “vapor canopy”)**
 - ▶ **Animals were more evenly distributed**
- ▶ **Animals did not fear humans (Gen 9:2)**
- ▶ **Animals were originally vegetarians (Gen 1:30)**
- ▶ **Migration instinct may have been introduced at this time (Gen 6:20)**
- ▶ **Hibernation instinct may have been introduced at this time**

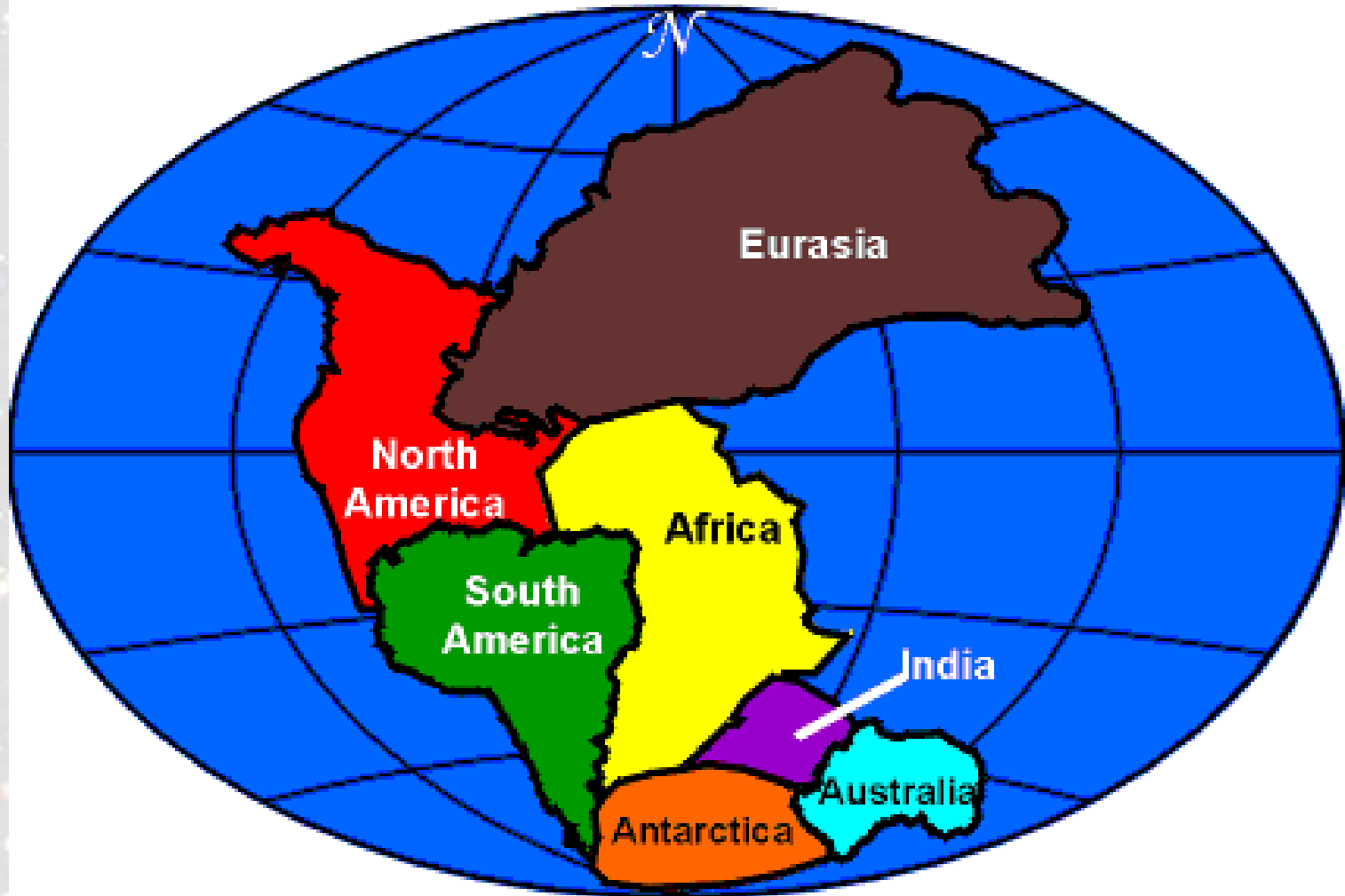
Other Alleged Ark Difficulties

- ▶ **Building a large wooden vessel**
- ▶ **Care of the animals by eight people**
- ▶ **Animals that eat fresh or live food, or have special diets**
- ▶ **Animals that have differing climate needs**
- ▶ **Heat buildup in the ark**
- ▶ **Illumination in the ark**
- ▶ **Violent flood waters, large waves (tsunamis)**

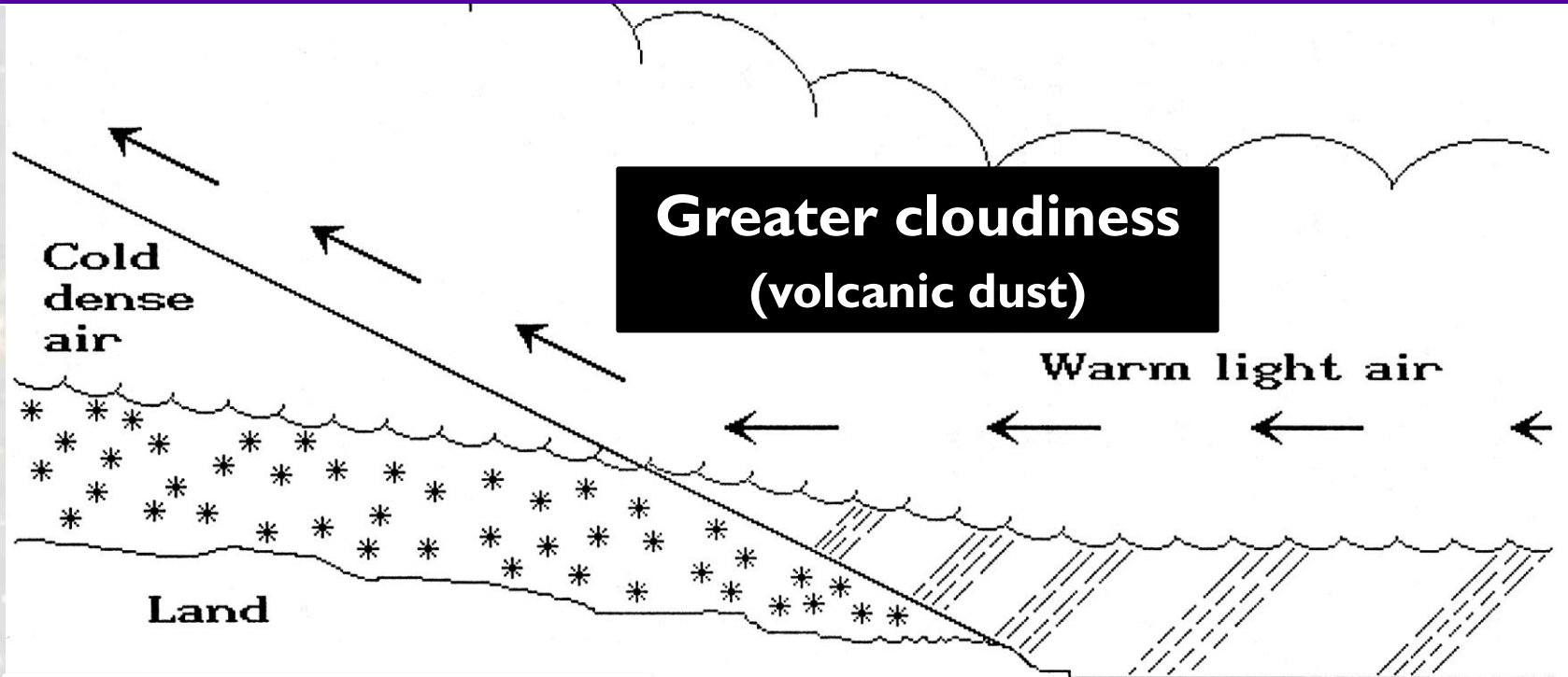
After the Flood

- ▶ **(Possible) Breakup of the unified landmass during the flood (catastrophic plate tectonics) (Gen 7:11)**
- ▶ **Mountain ranges formed as plates collide**
- ▶ **Introduction of varying climates and seasons (Gen 8:22)**
- ▶ **People and animals given permission to eat meat (Gen 9:3)**
- ▶ **Introduction of hydrological cycle - possibly no rain prior to the flood (as there were no rainbows, Gen 9:12-14)**
- ▶ **An ice age caused by excess heat in the oceans and barren landmasses**
- ▶ **Drastic climate changes lead to extinction of the dinosaurs and many other animals**

Catastrophic Plate Tectonics – One Pre-Flood Continent (Pangea)



Ice Age – A Natural Result of the Flood



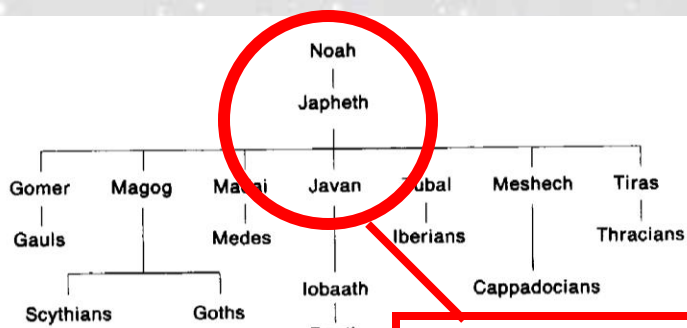
Cooler land
(stripped of vegetation)
(snow-cover cooling)

Much warmer ocean
(fountains of the deep)
(plate movement friction)

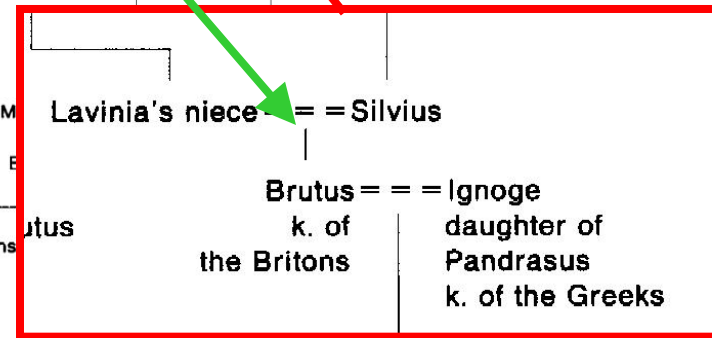
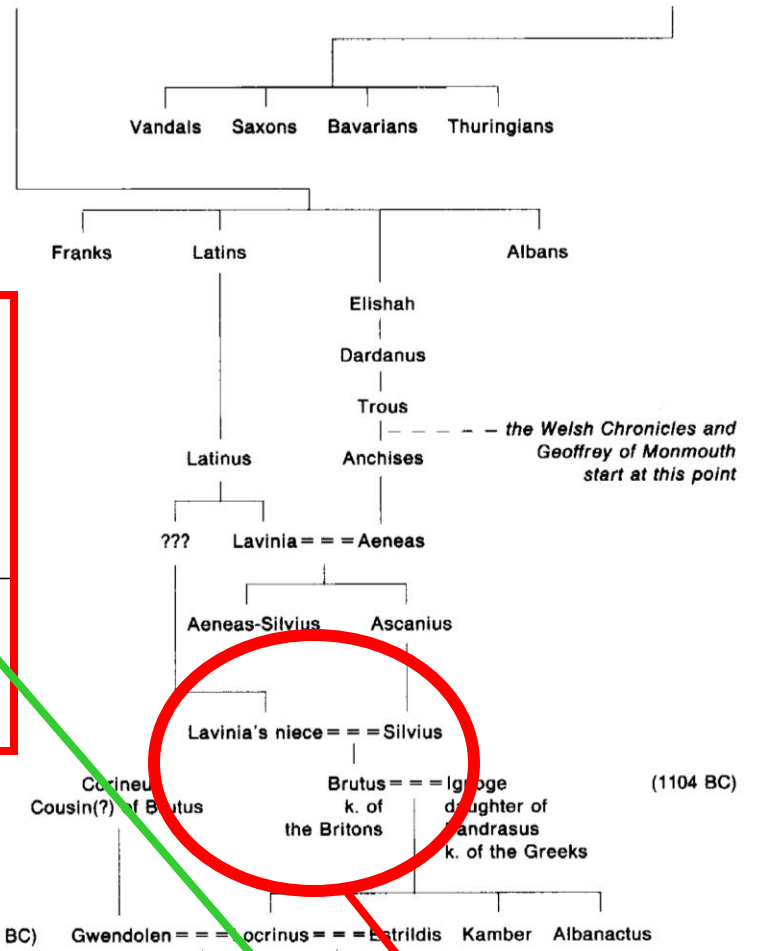
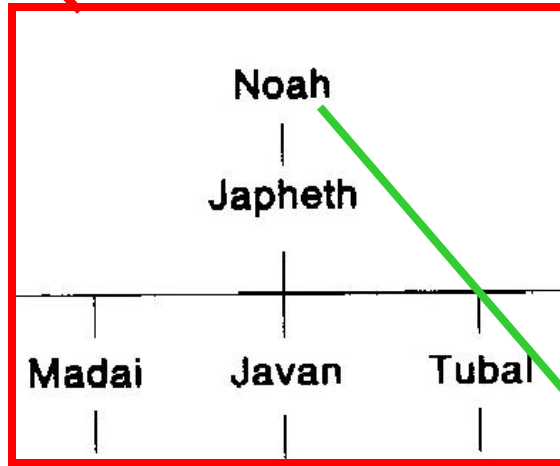
From Oard, "An Ice Age Caused by the Genesis Flood"

Historical Records back to the Flood

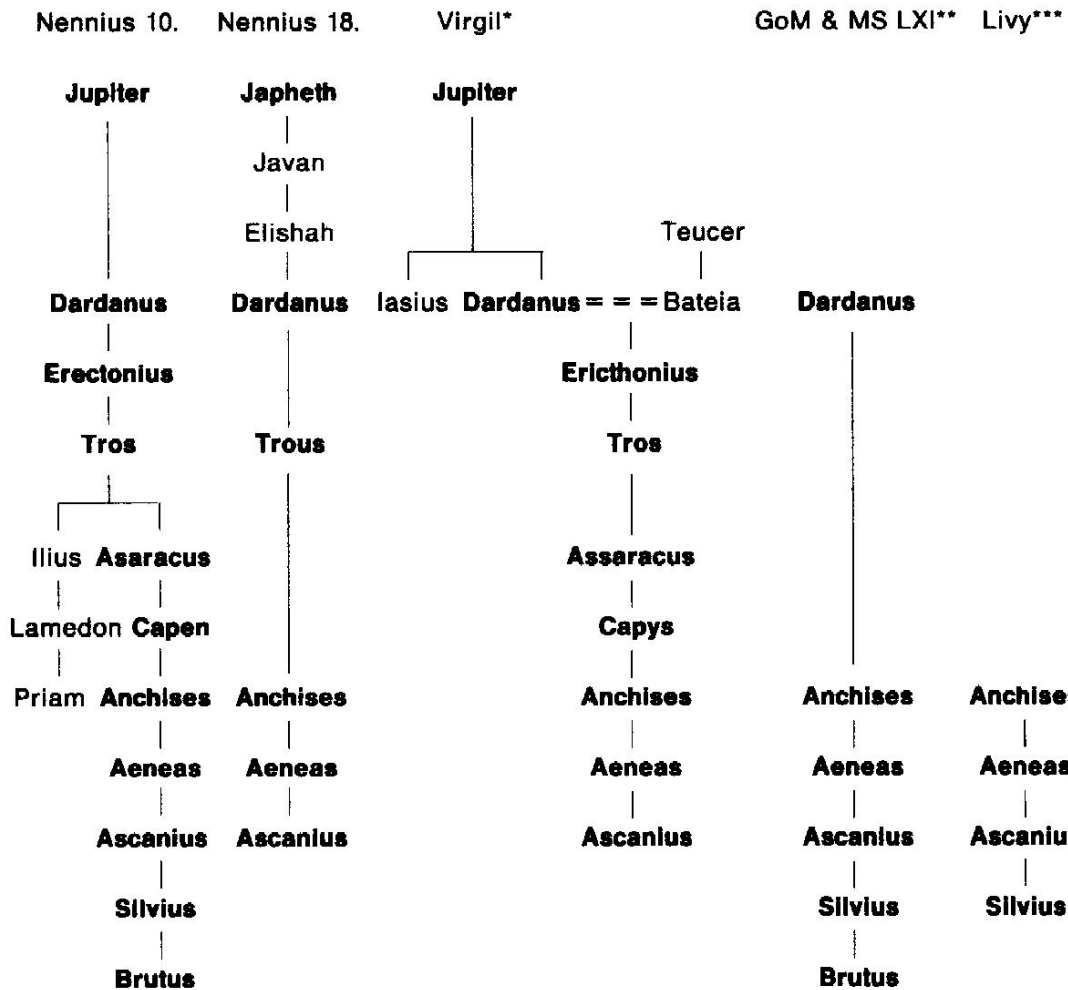
- ▶ **Source: “After the Flood” by Bill Cooper**
 - ▶ **Available at <http://www.Idolphin.org/cooper>**
- ▶ **Shows that the early post-flood history of Europe can be traced back to Noah through historical documents**
 - ▶ **Recorded history that has been conveniently ignored!**
- ▶ **Shows the accuracy of Genesis chapters 10 (The Table of Nations) and 11 (genealogy from Shem to Abram)**
 - ▶ **The Table of Nations gives the genealogies of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah’s sons**
 - ▶ **“From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.”
Genesis 10:32b**
- ▶ **For all the descendents of Shem, Ham or Japheth listed in the Table of Nations, every one of their names is found in the records of the early surrounding nations of the Middle East!**



From Chapter 7, "The Genealogy of the early British Kings"



From Japheth to Brutus



* From *The Aeneid* (see bibliography).
 ** Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* (see bibliography) and **Jesus College MS LXI**, the so-called *Tysilio Chronicle*.
 *** From *The Early History of Rome* (see bibliography).

Genealogies from five diverse and ancient sources demonstrate the historicity of the patriarchs listed

From Japheth (son of Noah) to Brutus (first king of the Britons) ca 1104-1081 BC

Note: flood is dated at 2348 BC according to Ussher



Johan Huibers Ark
Netherlands
One-fifth size





Full-size ark to open summer 2011
<http://www.arkvannoach.com>





Full-size ark to open spring 2014
<http://www.arkencounter.com>

Conclusions

- ▶ The flood is necessary to explain the geologic column
- ▶ There is historical and physical evidence that a global flood has occurred about 4,500 years ago
 - ▶ World-wide flood traditions
 - ▶ Early European written history back to Noah
 - ▶ Population build-up statistics
 - ▶ Sedimentary rock formations covering continent size regions
 - ▶ Great fossil beds
 - ▶ Interior mountains made of ocean bottom rocks
- ▶ It is feasible that a barge/ark could have been built to carry about 16,000 animals + food + water
 - ▶ Only needed representatives of each genus, not species
 - ▶ Median animal size = small rat
- ▶ Eight people could care for the animals
 - ▶ Some animals in hibernation state
 - ▶ Labor-saving housing systems
- ▶ God was involved of course, but continuous miracles were not necessary
- ▶ The history of the Bible can be trusted!