



3

Was the Flood Global?

Key Themes

- God's Word is always our starting point.
- God is omnipotent.

Key Passages

- Genesis 7:17–20, 7:24, 9:15–17

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify several points that confirm the global Flood—both from God's Word and from the earth's geology.
- Identify the sign of the covenant that God made with mankind after the Flood.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will decipher a "Backward Message" relating to the lesson and class.



Studying God's Word

page 5

We confirm a global Flood by the universal language in the Bible, the need for an Ark, the rainbow covenant, and the fossils and sedimentary layers left behind after the Flood.



Activity 1: Fossilization

page 9

Students will watch a DVD clip that explains how the conditions needed for fossilization were present during the Flood.



Activity 2: God Keeps His Promises

page 11

While they practice their memory verse, students will make a mosaic rainbow to remind them of God's covenant promise never to flood the earth again.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Backward Message worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Backward Message worksheet for each student



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Local Flood image from the Resource DVD-ROM for use in the lesson.
- Print and cut out the Ark image from the Resource DVD-ROM for use in the lesson.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Tape
- Local flood image
- Ark image



FOSSILIZATION

- View the Fossilization video clip (2:17) from the Resource DVD-ROM before showing it in class.

- Fossilization video clip on the Resource DVD-ROM
- DVD player and TV or computer



GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

- Cut or tear rainbow-colored construction paper into squares. Place them in a bowl.
- Prepare poster board

- Poster board
- Glue sticks
- Rainbow-colored construction paper pieces



Memory Verse

2 Peter 2:5 [God] did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare your heart to teach God's precious Word this week, read Genesis 7:17–24, 9:11–17.

We know that the Flood of Noah's day was global. However, this is a fact that is being denied frequently by secularists and some Christians. A clear look at Scripture and a steadfast commitment to biblical authority shows us the truth.

A simple reading of Genesis 7:19–20 will put an end to the discussion. "And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered." This does not mean that the Flood was merely 15 cubits deep—verse 20 explains that the Flood "prevailed" over the tops of the highest mountains to a depth of 15 cubits. (A cubit was a standard means of measurement at the time, which was determined by measuring from the elbow to the tip of the finger—generally resulting in 18 to 20 inches. Fifteen cubits may have been about 22 feet.) These facts about the Flood cannot be reconciled with the idea of a local flood. You cannot have a mountain-covering local flood that lasts over a year.

Then Genesis 7:21 reiterates the total destruction of this Flood on all the earth. "And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man."

We learn in Genesis 9:11–17 that the rainbow was the sign that God used to promise He would never again flood the entire world: "the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh" (Genesis 9:15). If the Flood were not a global event, God would have repeatedly broken that promise whenever a local flood happened on earth after His promise to Noah.

As students and teachers of the Word of God we need to learn to use Scripture to interpret and confirm Scripture. In that light, let's take a look at a couple of New Testament passages that talk of this global Flood in definitive ways.

In warning of God's judgment on wickedness we see in 2 Peter 2:5 a reference to a global Flood that came upon the earth and spared only Noah and his family— "[God] did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly."

Jesus Christ Himself confirmed that He believed the Flood killed every person not on the Ark. He referred to this catastrophic Flood as He prepared His disciples for the coming of the Son of Man: "And as it was in the

days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man. 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" (Luke 17:26–27). This reference to Noah is repeated in Matthew 24:37–39.

In summary, the following are reasons to be confident that the Bible is clear—the Flood of Noah's day was global.

- Confirmation of Scripture with Scripture—Jesus Christ and others in the New Testament referring to the Flood.
- The language used in Genesis 7:17–24 describes the Flood as global. For example, "all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered," "all flesh died that moved on the earth," "the waters prevailed on the earth," etc.
- The depth and duration of the Flood—15 cubits above the mountains; 371 days total.
- The rainbow covenant.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Because of the wide belief in evolutionary history, many people deny that Noah's Flood was a global catastrophe. They rely on the secular interpretation of geologic formations on the earth as truth. They look to man's ideas first to interpret rock layers, rather than looking to God's Word as the ultimate authority. It is true that the geological processes we see today are slow. But this in no way infers that this is the way it has *always* been.

Again, a clear reading of Genesis, as mentioned above, gives us an understanding of how catastrophic this Flood was. The depth of the water, the destruction recorded in Scripture, and the duration of the Flood are a few of the scriptural evidences given to us by God.

But what would we expect to see on the earth if this Flood were real? Wouldn't we expect to find billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth? Yes! And that *is* what we find. Take a look below at some evidences that confirm the reality of a global Flood.

1. Fossils of sea creatures atop high mountains. The global Flood covered the "high hills" Genesis says. At the end of the Flood, the rapidly moving continental plates rammed into each other, causing the formation of mountains. The floodwaters did not rise to cover present-day Mt. Everest, for example.

Rather, Mt. Everest was formed after the layers were deposited.

2. The sheer existence of the fossil record including fossil “graveyards”—exhibiting the rapid burial of plants and animals. These animals had to have been buried quickly or they would have rotted away, leaving no evidence to confirm this massive Flood.
3. Rock layers that have been discovered to stretch across continents—some with similar features that can be traced for thousands of miles. These layers indicate a rapid deposition that can be explained by the water devastation described in Genesis.
4. Rock layers that are “folded” or bent with no evidence of fracturing or breaking. These folds could only have been formed if these layers were laid down rapidly over one another while still wet and pliable—before solidifying into rock—discounting the idea that this would have taken millions of years.

Another important fact to remember when defending the reality of a global Flood is that the Bible seems to indicate that the landmasses of the earth were once all connected. In Genesis 1:9 we read, “Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so.”

You may have heard of *plate tectonics*. This term refers to the moving of the earth’s plates—or landmasses. These movements are still observed today though they are very slow. This observation has led secular scientists to suggest that the earth is billions of years old. However, many creationists believe that the breaking apart of the earth’s surface into the continents we know today is best understood in terms of the Flood of Noah’s day—a theory called *catastrophic plate tectonics*. This rapid movement of the plates would have been triggered when “all the fountains of the great deep were broken up” (Genesis 7:11).

More than all the physical evidence we can provide, Jesus Christ, our Creator, spoke of the Flood as real, literal history, and the words recorded in Genesis by God Himself cannot be disputed. Every word of His is true, and we are not to add to His words lest we be found liars (Proverbs 30:5–6).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

God’s Word is the history book of the universe from beginning to end, and this global Flood is a major part of that history.

The only way we could know for sure whether this event really occurred and whether it were global or local is if there were an eyewitness record of what happened. And there is! The God of history moved men

by His Spirit to write His Word. In God’s Word, we are told that Noah’s Flood was a real event. The Flood lasted for 371 days and covered all the high hills under the whole heaven (Genesis 7:19).

But there is other information available to us. Did you know that stories about a worldwide Flood are found in historic records all over the world? There have been more than 200 of these stories documented, in practically all nations, from ancient Babylon onward. And they all have common threads weaving throughout them—mimicking the Flood of Noah. This cannot be discounted as “coincidence.” For if there never were a global Flood, where would these stories have come from?

Another historical verification lies in the writings of a well-known and respected first-century Jewish historian named Josephus. This man served as a governor of Galilee, fought against Rome in the first century, and was eventually captured. He was imprisoned in Rome and was ordered to write a history of the Jewish nation. In *The Revised Works of Josephus*, he writes, “When God gave the signal, and it began to rain, the water poured down forty entire days, till it became fifteen cubits higher than the earth; which was the reason why there was no greater number preserved, since they had no place to flee to.”

This statement from the famous historian confirms God’s Word, but also gives evidence that the Jewish population in the first century believed the Flood to be global and a real event.

To find out more on this topic, go to the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord, as I prepare for this lesson, please guide me in wisdom and understanding so I will be equipped to clearly present your truth. The world is so determined to lie to our children and discount your Word. These children need to know that all of your Word is true and that the catastrophic Flood was global—just as your Word says. I pray, Lord, that these children will grow up to be mighty warriors for you, equipped to defend your Word against the secular lies. Help me to impress on these children that the Bible is our starting point when it comes to answering questions from the world. Move in their hearts to give them a love for your Word, confidence in the truth of it, and joy in discovering you through it.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- Distribute the Backward Message worksheets for students to decipher.

To make it more exciting and engaging for the class, you may want to have your students compete by setting up teams—with girls against boys, blondes against brunettes, etc. Time them to see who can figure the message out first.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme posters from previous weeks, quickly review the lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you review the Lesson Theme posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Before we start our lesson today, I want you to consider putting on your biblical glasses to search the Scriptures as if you're trying to solve this mystery: was the Flood of Noah a local flood or was it global? Global means it covered the entire earth. Some people believe it was local. And some people believe it was global.

How should we figure out if the Flood was local or global? *Allow answers.*

We need to wear our biblical glasses. We need to go straight to the Bible and look for the answer when we hear conflicting views. It's always the place to start. And today we are going to start there!

Turn to Genesis 7 in your Bibles. We will be reading verses 17–20 and verse 24. I'd like someone to read it now. And then we'll examine the passage verse by verse, so we don't miss a single detail. *Assign a reader or readers.*

Genesis 7:17–20, 7:24

EXAMINE THE WORD

Let's start our problem solving by answering some questions.

► You will be illustrating the Flood on the board as you ask the following questions and have the students answer them.

Observe the Text

? **What is happening in Genesis 7:17? Just tell me what the verse says.** *The Flood was on the earth and the waters were lifting up the Ark. While the student is answering, draw this simple scene on the board: a straight line for the ground with some low hills.*

This is a description of the Flood. The water was increasing. More and more water was covering the earth. *Add water to your picture above the ground level. Do not cover the hills.*

? **What is happening to the Ark in verse 18?** *The Ark is beginning to float. Tape the Ark image on top of the water you have already drawn on the board.*

? **Verse 19 says the water prevailed on the earth. What does prevailed mean? Who has an idea?** *Allow for answers.*

It means it was everywhere. It was increasing. It was beginning to cover everything!

So let me draw what I think this verse is saying. The waters are prevailing and the Ark is beginning to move. *Remove your Ark image and draw a higher level of water on the board. Don't let the water cover the highest hills yet.*

Verse 18 says the flooding was higher and the Ark continued to float to and fro on its surface.

? **What happened in Genesis 7:19 that hadn't happened yet? Take a look.** *The waters covered the high hills of the earth!*

? **Now what should happen to my drawing? How high should the water be this time?** *Above the high hills. Draw the water level up over the hills. Place the Ark on top of the water.*

? **The water sure is high. How high is it? The answer is in Genesis 7:20.** *Fifteen cubits high. And the mountains were covered.*

This verse says the water prevailed 15 cubits. That means 20–25 feet over the highest mountain of that time. And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days—that's about five months.

So, if the water was over the highest mountains by 20–25 feet, could the Flood be local? Let me show you a picture to help you imagine that. *Show Local flood image.*

That's a funny picture. Of course it couldn't be local. If the water was above the highest hills, it had to have covered the earth everywhere.

Discover the Truth

So, according to the Bible, was the Flood global or local? *Point to the drawing on the board. Global.*

According to the Bible, this was a global Flood that would have killed everyone and everything that breathed air, outside of the Ark. Now let's

talk about some logical and scientific things that confirm what we just read in the Bible.

- ? The first question I want to have you consider is this: What if the Flood was just a local one? Why would Noah need to build an Ark? *Pause, allowing the question to sink in. Allow for answers.*
- ? If you were to get a flood warning tomorrow, and you knew for sure that your house was going to be under water, and that if you stayed there you would die, what would you do? *Allow for discussion. Leave! Go somewhere else.*
- ? So what about Noah? If there was going to be a local flood, what would he have done? *He would have packed his family and gone to higher ground—to safety.*

Same thing with the animals. If God was only sending a local flood, they would have run to safety as the water rose. There would have been no need for an Ark. The local flood theory just doesn't hold water. It's not logical.

Now let's consider some scientific confirmations.

- ? Did you know that there are billions of fossils that can be found all over the earth? *Yes/no.*
- ? What are fossils? *Dead things that have been turned into rock. It could be a plant or animal or an imprint from a plant or animal.*

Scientists have discovered what they call fossil graveyards. They are areas in the earth where thousands of fossils can be found in one place. These fossil graveyards and ALL fossils are a scientific confirmation that the Flood was global. You see, the Flood created just the right conditions to form fossils—rapid burial. Without rapid burial, dead things just rot away. But a massive worldwide Flood would allow for animals and plants to be buried rapidly and then result in billions of dead things called fossils, just like we have today!

- ? Did you know there are fossils of sea creatures found on the highest mountains? *Yes/no.*
- ? So how would fossils of sea creatures get on top of mountains? *Allow answers. Refer to your board drawing and see if the students can come up with the correct answers.*

Since the water of the Flood covered the whole earth, even the highest hills, it would make sense that the sea creatures in the oceans would have been distributed over the entire earth. But did you know that at the end of the Flood, the rapidly moving continental plates rammed into each other? They began to move when the fountains of the deep burst forth. The moving plates then crashed into each other in places. Can you imagine the force and pressure that happened when two continental plates crashed together? The force caused the edges of these huge land masses to buckle upward into tall mountain ranges. Before the Flood, the highest mountains that exist today, like Mt. Everest, didn't exist. There were lower mountains—probably what we call hills today. The really tall mountains were formed

➤ Practice this illustration before class. It demonstrates plate tectonics and sea fossils on top of the mountains in an easy-to-understand way using your hands.

after the fossil layers were already deposited by the Flood. That's why marine fossils are found on even the highest mountain peaks.

I want you to understand what I just said better. Try this. Put your hands out in front of you, fingers facing front. Now, turn your hands in, so that your fingers are facing each other, tips touching, flat. Now slightly interlace your fingers together. Your hands represent the land before the Flood. The land was nicely joined together as one continent. Then the Flood came. It's Day zero—the day the Lord shut the door of the Ark and the heavens opened, the rain poured down, and the fountains of the deep broke forth.

Now pull your hands apart so there is space between your fingers. They aren't touching. The water is bursting up through that underground space. Now your continent is cracked apart. Move your hands around a little because they are disturbed, shifting, and moving because of all the water. Your continental plates are covered with water from the Flood. Pretend that your finger nails are some sea creatures that are getting trapped under all the sediment. The pressure of the mud and muck on top of them is tremendous. They're beginning to turn into fossils now.

Now, bring your hands together suddenly, so that your fingers touch. Bend your wrists and raise those fingers. It should look like you have praying hands. That's how the huge mountain ranges formed around the world. The continental plates crashed together and they bent upward, so steep high mountains formed all along the places where the land came together. And look at where your fingernails are. They're at the top of that mountain. That's how the marine fossils got all the way up on the highest mountain peaks. You can put your hands down now.

Most scientists think that when God first created the the earth, there was only one giant continent. As a result of the catastrophic Flood of Noah's day, that continent broke apart into many pieces and drifted apart rather quickly. Many of the mountain ranges in Europe, Asia, North America, and South America were formed when one plate hit another plate and the edges heaved upward.

Have you heard that fossils were formed over a period of millions of years? Well, that's not what God's Word says. In fact, most fossils were formed during Noah's Flood, around 4,300 years ago, as sand and mud came and covered the animals, killing them quickly. Fossils are not millions of years old. The Bible tells us that the earth isn't that old. We know when Noah's Flood occurred, and it makes sense that the fossils we find were formed during that Flood. *Refer to the Seven Cs Timeline.*

The global Flood of Noah's day is a display of God's great power. God is all-powerful. He is able to control everything on the earth, weather,

continents, and animals too. When we talk about God’s amazing power, we say He is omnipotent. Our God is all-powerful.

OMNIPOTENT
(Refer to Attributes poster)

? What’s the attribute of God that means He is all-powerful? *Omnipotent. Refer to the Attributes of God poster.*

Who says the Bible is boring? It’s not! If you ever hear someone say that Noah’s Flood did not cover or could not have covered the entire earth, you can tell them that God’s Word clearly says it did. In fact, at its deepest, the water was 20 feet above the highest hills.

A local flood isn’t logical. Noah would not have needed to build the Ark to escape a local flood. Noah and the animals could have saved themselves by just moving to safety. The Bible says that the Flood was so huge it lasted five months! A local flood wouldn’t do that. *Refer to your board illustration as you discuss.*

Science also confirms the Flood with the fossil record. Billions of fossils were formed during Noah’s Flood. Ocean fossils even ended up on top of mountains. The conditions were perfect for killing and burying large numbers of animals, really fast, in layers of mud. When you hear on TV, read in books, or see in movies that fossils are millions of years old—remember that it just isn’t true! Most fossils we see today were formed during Noah’s Flood.



Fossilization

MATERIALS

- Fossilization video clip (2:17) from the Resource DVD-ROM
- DVD player and TV or computer

INSTRUCTIONS

This video is a little gross at the beginning. It’s about fossils, so you’re going to see some dead animals. Pay close attention. This video clip isn’t very long, but it is packed with a lot of information. *Play video clip.*

- ? How did the video say that fossils form? *Rapid burial.*
- ? What are some reasons that fossils aren’t forming today? *The dead bodies of animals get eaten by scavengers or bacteria. They disintegrate before they can turn into fossils.*

? So why are there billions and billions of fossils all over the world? *They were formed during the Flood when conditions were perfect. They were killed and buried quickly so they wouldn’t rot.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Based on what we know to be true from Genesis, there is no way the Flood was a small, local flood. The Bible tells us that the Flood was worldwide. If there was a Flood that covered the entire world, we would expect to find billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth. And that is exactly what we do find. Fossils are strong evidence confirming the global Flood of Noah.



READ THE WORD

Genesis 9:15–17

We have one more place to look that tells us that Noah's Flood was global.

Go to Genesis 9:15–17 in your Bible. You may already be familiar with this passage. But you may not know the significance of it. *Choose a volunteer to read.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What do you think a covenant is, based on that passage? *A promise between two people.*
- ? Who is making the covenant or promise here? *Genesis 9:15. God is making a promise to the people on the earth.*
- ? What is He promising? *Still in Genesis 9:15. He is promising never again to destroy all the people on the earth with a Flood.*
- ? And what is the sign that He will keep His promise? *Genesis 9:16. A rainbow.*
- ? Whenever we see a rainbow in the sky, what are we supposed to remember? *That God will never destroy the earth again with a Flood.*

Discover the Truth

This is an amazing covenant, or promise. God tells Noah that He will never again flood the earth as He did in Noah's day.

- ? Why does this covenant show us that Noah's Flood was definitely global? *Allow answers. Should include that God would not need to make a promise not to flood the earth if the earth hadn't been flooded.*
- ? Have there ever been any local floods since the time of Noah? *Yes.*
We see a lot of local floods every year on the news, sometimes even in our own backyards! Do you see, God promised not to send another Flood like the one of Noah's day. If he was referring to a local flood, then He has not kept His promise!
- ? Is it possible for God to break a promise? To lie? *No!*
Do you get what I mean? God said, "I will never flood the earth again like I just did, Noah. And here's a rainbow as a sign of my promise." If Noah's Flood was a local flood, God would be a liar—a promise breaker, because local floods happen all the time. But if Noah's Flood was a global Flood—well, then what?

? Has there ever been another global Flood? *No.*

No! So that would make God a promise keeper. And that's exactly what He is. We know that God always keeps His promises—He cannot lie!

The Flood of Noah's day was a real catastrophe. The only global Flood that the earth will ever see. And that's a promise!



God Keeps His Promises

MATERIALS

- Large poster board or newsprint with a rainbow drawn on it
- Glue sticks
- Small rainbow-colored construction paper pieces in a bowl (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet)

INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare the poster board ahead of time by drawing a rainbow. Glue a piece of construction paper that is the proper color in each of the pre-drawn areas for the students to use as a guide. The colors of the rainbow from the top are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Tear colored paper into pieces, and put the pieces in a large bowl.

We're going to have some fun with our memory verse today. What I want you to do is line up in front of this poster board. You are going to come up in pairs. Each pair will try to say the memory verse together without looking at the Memory Verse poster. But while you're in line, you may be looking at it and practicing.

If you do great, take 15 pieces each of construction paper out of the bowl. If you

miss just a few, you may take 10 pieces each. If you do just ok, you may take five pieces each.

After you have both said the verse the best you can, start gluing the pieces onto the poster board. Put each color in the proper spot, according to the guide pieces that are already on the poster board. While you're doing that, the next pair may come up and try. If you all do very well with your memory verse this week, we'll have a beautiful rainbow by the end of this activity.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God made a covenant—a promise—that He would never flood the earth again. Every rainbow we see should remind us of the global Flood of Noah's day and the promise that God will never flood the whole earth again. Noah's Flood was global. We can be sure of that.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

This has been another amazing lesson!

Noah's Flood was like no other flood in history. It was global—the mountains were covered with water; the Ark was huge; there are fossils found all over the earth including sea fossils on the tops of mountains!

And don't forget God's promise never to flood the earth in the same way again. He was not referring to a local flood. If He was referring to a local flood, then he would be a liar—a promise breaker, because local floods happen all the time. We know that is not true of our holy God. The Flood was global. It was God's judgment on the sin and wickedness of men.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Don't let people intimidate you by their "wisdom." God's Word has the answers we need. When people question us about what we believe, we must turn to the Bible. The Bible should always be our starting point. We should always be ready to put on our biblical glasses to answer difficult questions.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

Remember this when you watch TV. There are a lot of shows that disregard God's Word when it comes to the Flood of Noah's day. And don't believe everything you read either. You may see information about Noah and the Flood in books, newspapers, and magazines. Before you start believing everything you read, be sure it makes sense based on what we just read from God's Word.



MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 2:5 [God] did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for His Word, His promises, His truth, and His power.
- Pray that the students will learn to see the truth in God's Word and be confident in all it says.