

THE FLOOD AND THE FOSSILS

By George Mulfnger, Jr.

About the Author

George Mulfnger was a science faculty member at Bob Jones University from 1965 until his death in 1987. He received his B.A. in chemistry, *summa cum laude*, and his M.S. in physics, both from Syracuse University. He pursued additional graduate studies in several of the physical sciences at Syracuse, Harvard, and the University of Georgia. He held membership in Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honor society and was on the board of directors of the Creation Research Society.

Mr. Mulfnger coauthored textbooks in physical science, earth science, chemistry, and physics and wrote numerous articles demonstrating the fallacies of evolution. He was listed in *Leaders in American Science*, *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, *Dictionary of International Biography*, *Men of Achievement*, and *Personalities of the South*.

Reprinted by the:
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We are told in the second epistle of Peter that there are two things concerning which people are willingly ignorant--the Creation and the Flood. It is far more appealing for the carnal mind to believe in an evolutionary process rather than a creative act, and in a limited or local flood rather than the world-wide cataclysm described in the Bible. Yet there are seven good reasons for rejecting the idea of a local flood:¹

First, the purpose of the Flood was to destroy all flesh from off the face of the earth, with the exception of that which was to be preserved in the ark (Genesis 6:13,17; 7:4,19-23).

Second, the depth of the Flood was such that the highest mountains were covered (Genesis 7:19-24; 8:5). Since water seeks its own level, it would be impossible to confine it to one locality.

Third, the duration of the Flood was, in all, somewhat over a year. However, local floods, being of a seasonal nature, do not fit this picture.

Fourth, there would have been no need for an ark. Noah and his family, having been warned of the impending flood, could simply have migrated to the north.

Fifth, the testimony of Yahshua indicates a universal destruction: "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and *destroyed them all*" (Luke 17:27).

Sixth, the statements in Second Peter are unmistakably inclusive: "And spared not the old *world*, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the unrighteous" (II Peter 2:5). "*The world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished*" (II Peter 3:6).

Seventh, the covenant that Yahweh made with Noah after the Flood included a promise that the event which had just taken place would not be repeated (Genesis 8:21, 9:11, 15). However, there have been many local floods since that time.

We have here, then, a description of a worldwide catastrophe. The world that then was, was obliterated and the topography of the entire globe was restructured. Mighty torrents of water raged across the land. The fountains of the great deep were broken up and the very foundations of the earth were shaken. Sediments from the ocean basins were dumped onto the continents. Great upheavals ruptured the

¹John C. Whitcomb, Jr. and Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Flood*, The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1961, pp. 1-23

earth's crust. The lush vegetation of the antediluvian world was scoured from the land, transported, and dumped in layers, which, as a result of heat and pressure, formed the coal and oil deposits that we find in the earth's crust today. This picture differs greatly from the old "peat bog theory" that most of us have been taught, but there are many fossils and buried artifacts that can only be explained by the Flood.

SKELETONS IN COAL

Human skeletons have been found in coal. In the mid-1800's a skull was found in a brown coal deposit in Germany.² More recently, two giant human molars were found in the Eagle Coal Mine at Bear Creek, Montana, in 1926.³ We are reminded of the statement in Genesis 6:4 that "there were giants in the earth in those days" (just prior to the Flood). In 1958 an entire human skeleton was found in an anthracite mine in Italy.⁴ These finds are impossible for the evolutionist to explain since, according to his theory, the coal was formed millions of years before people "evolved."

In 1891 a lady in Morrisonville, Illinois, accidentally dropped a shovelful of coal onto the floor while carrying it to her stove. A large chunk broke open, exposing an intricately structured gold chain, "neatly coiled and embedded."⁵ How many more such incidents have gone unreported can only be surmised. But the evidence clearly indicates that civilized man lived on the earth *before* the coal was formed. This agrees perfectly with Biblical chronology: In Genesis 4, metal working was already highly developed; Tubalcain was an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron. In Genesis 7 and 8 the deluge buried the antediluvian civilizations, encasing fossils and artifacts alike in what are now the sedimentary layers of the earth's crust.

Recently pollen grains of flowering plants have been found in the lowest

² *ibid* pp. 175, 176.

³ Reports of such findings are almost always excluded from the standard journals and textbooks. The two large human molars, found in November of 1926 in the No. 3 Eagle Coal Mine at Bear Creek, Montana, are discussed in Frank Edwards, *Stranger Than Science*, Bantam Books, New York, 1959, p. 77. It is significant that the alleged great antiquity of coal has been seriously called into question by recent radio-carbon studies. Several samples of coal from Spain date at only 4000-5000 radiocarbon years. Originally reported in *Radiocarbon*, Vol. 8, 1966, these results were included in Dr. Robert Whitlaw's, "Time, Life and History in the Light of 15,000 radiocarbon Dates," *Creation Research Society 1970 Annual*, pp. 56-71.

⁴ This was discussed in an article in the *New Scientist*, March 30, 1961, in which an unconvincing attempt was made to force this extraordinary find into an evolutionary framework.

⁵ Originally reported in the Morrisonville, Illinois *Times*, June 11, 1901. The 10-inch chain was found to be composed of eight-carat gold. As the piece of coal broke in two, the two ends of the chain remained attached, one to each fragment. There is therefore no possibility that the chain had been recently dropped into the coal. (See the July 15, 1970 issue of the *Bible Science Newsletter*, p. 2.) Also: Wedge-shaped metallic object found inside a piece of coal, *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland*, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 121; also, *L'Astronomie*, 1887, p. 114. Also: Iron pot embedded in a large lump of coal, *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, March, 1971, pp. 201, 202.

shale layers of the Grand Canyon.⁶ According to evolutionary dogma these layers, represent the very earliest stages of evolution. Yet we see here the most advanced plant life already in existence. The evidence is in complete agreement with Genesis; as soon as there were any plants on the earth at all, the very highest forms were immediately present.

One might wonder whether other substantial portions of flowering plants have been found in such layers where they do not "belong." They have indeed; fossil wood was discovered several hundred feet below the surface of the ground embedded in "Precambrian" rock in an iron mine in Canada.⁷ Although evolutionary theory would ascribe an age of a billion or more years to the rock, two consistent radiocarbon analyses indicated an age of only about 4000 years for the wood. For reasons such as these, we are convinced that the so-called "geological ages" are just so much science fiction.

In the Paluxy River bed at Glen Rose, Texas, human and dinosaur footprints are found side by side in "cretaceous" rock.⁸ Evolutionists maintain that the dinosaurs came millions of years before human beings; yet the evidence indicates that they coexisted at one time. A student recently wrote to the Smithsonian Institution and asked for their explanation of such finds.¹⁰ They suggested "erosion"--that somehow running water had carved the footprints into the rock. This is ironic indeed; erosion is the very force that is destroying the prints!

One of the most recent and most spectacular discoveries is that of a sandalshod human footprint in "Cambrian" rock at Antelope Springs, Utah.¹¹ The most "advanced" fossils in the rock are trilobites. Some five or six hundred million years supposedly separated trilobites and humans. Yet the stubborn fact of the matter inferred from this evidence is that the two lived on the earth contemporaneously.

Then, too, there are examples of human artifacts embedded in solid rock--chains, metal to bowls, nails, and wires¹², remnants from antediluvian civilizations that were judged for their wickedness. "Hast thou marked the old way

⁶ Clifford Burdick, "Microflora of the Grand Canyon." *Creation Research Society 1966 Annual*, pp. 38-50.

⁷ Melvin A. Cook, *Prehistory and Earth Models*, Max Parrish, London, 1966, pp. 332, 333.

⁸ Whitcomb and Morris, pp. 173-175.

¹⁰ Edwin Simmons, Toccoa, Georgia, personal correspondence.

¹¹ William J. Meister, Sr., "Discovery of Trilobite Fossils in Shod Footprint of Human in 'Trilobite Beds'--A Cambrian Formation, Antelope Springs, Utah," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 97-102 (Dec. 1968).

¹² Intricately carved and inlaid metal bowl, blasted out of solid puddingstone, *Scientific American*, Vol. 7, No. 38 (June 5, 1852), p. 298. Also: Gold thread in a rock, found in a quarry near Tweed, England, reported in the *London Times*, June 22, 1844, p. 8, col. 5.

which wicked men have trodden? Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood: which said unto Yahweh, `Depart from us'" (Job 22:15-17).

FOSSIL ANIMALS

Fossil graveyards have been found in many parts of the world. In these localities the carcasses of many different species were chaotically thrown together and covered with sediment that later hardened into rock. Very frequently there are mixtures of fossils of marine and land-dwelling forms. Sea shells have been forcibly crammed into the eye sockets of the skulls of land-dwelling animals,¹⁴ and a whale mummy has been found entombed with mammoth fossils in Siberia.¹⁵ These finds cannot be adequately explained by the evolutionist, so they are generally ignored.

In some cases fossils bear the marks of damage suffered from the violence of the Flood. One shark was compressed to a thickness of a quarter of an inch by the weight of the sediment that buried it.¹⁶ This fossil shark was found not under the ocean, but in a hill in Ohio. The bones that are excavated at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah give evidence that the giant reptiles were washed into place by vast torrents of water and covered with sediment that later solidified.¹⁷

Marine fossils have been unearthed at great altitudes. Sea shells of various types are found in horizontal strata in the Alps, inter-bedded with layers of sand.¹⁸ Even evolutionists are forced to admit that these areas were once under sea water. Polystrate (many-layer) fossils work such havoc with evolutionary dogma that they are systematically omitted from the geology textbooks. Usually these are vertically or diagonally oriented tree trunks that penetrate several successive strata of rock.¹⁹ If each of these layers had required millions of years to form, the tree would simply have decayed and there would be no fossil.

Many tribes and nations around the world have flood legends that have been handed down from one generation to the next. Practically all of these traditions agree in three major points: that there was destruction by water, that an ark was

¹⁴ Byron C. Nelson, *The Deluge Story in Stone*, Bethany Fellowship, Incorporated, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1968, p. 93.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, p. 126.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, pp. 42-44.

¹⁷ Harold W. Clark, *Fossils, Flood, and Fire*, Outdoor Pictures, Escondido, California, 1968, p. 129.

¹⁸ Nelson, *op. cit.*, p. 40.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, pp. 111, 112.

provided, and that human seed was saved alive.²¹

DARWIN'S "MISSING LINK"

It is significant that Charles Darwin never used fossil evidence to support his theory. He was well aware that such evidence worked against him. Journalists have misled people into thinking that there is one particular "missing link" which, if found, would prove the common origin of two different forms. As a matter of fact there are millions of "missing links." It had been hoped that in the hundred or so years since Darwin popularized his theory that many of these intermediate species would be found. They have not. Rather than a graduation between forms in the fossil record, we find clear-cut gaps. And these are the same gaps that exist between present-day forms.

The Biblical principle is that each living creature brings forth after its kind. As we examine the fossil record we are struck by the remarkable persistence of types down through the alleged geological ages. Fossils of plant leaves claimed to be 70 million years old--sycamore, birch, willow, poplar, grape, oak, hickory, walnut, palm, fern, and many others--are all identical with their present-day counterparts.²² Where is the supposed "evolutionary development" between the fossil form and the present? Starfish fossils dated at 750 million years ago on the evolutionists' fictitious timetable are indistinguishable from "modern" starfish.²³ Shouldn't they have changed into something else during all that time? In comparative anatomy class we were taught to pay our respects to the venerable *coelecanth*, "one of our fish ancestors that lived three or four hundred million years ago." Evolutionists claimed that they were able to detect from the fossils of these creatures that their front fins were turning into legs! How great was their embarrassment when in recent years a living *coelecanth* was found near Madagascar with its front fins no further evolved than those of the fossil counterpart.²⁴

EXTINCT SPECIES

There may be some who ask at this point why some fossils are so different from present-day forms. This is explained by the fact of extinction. The original creation undoubtedly contained a great profusion of types, but since that time species have died off. Why this happens is not fully understood. Man has

²¹ Nelson, *op. Cit.*, pp. 165-190.

²² Byron C. Nelson, *After Its Kind*, Bethany Fellowship, Incorporated, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1967, pp. 51-58.

²³ *Ibid* p. 59.

²⁴ *Ibid*, pp. 55, 56.

sometimes been blamed, but it is clear that in many cases man was in no way involved. For the evolutionist to prove his case, however, he must show a process by which new species come into being. Extinction does just the opposite; it removes species from the scene. Contrary to popular evolutionary claims, extinction, or threatened extinction, cannot force an improvement in any species. The genes are oblivious to the fact that it is happening and would be unable to frame a solution even if they were "aware" of the problem.

FOSSIL MAN

There is probably no area of science more filled with nonsense and unscientific guesswork than that branch which deals with fossil man. From a few fragments of bone, a generous supply of plaster of paris, and a vivid imagination, whole races of men are fabricated and colorful myths are constructed concerning their primitive beastlike mode of life.

The Cro-Magnon Man presents an interesting problem for the evolutionist. The evidence indicates, if anything, that we have degenerated! The average brain capacity of the Cro-Magnon skull is *greater* than the average for "modern man." The Cro-Magnon paintings indicate a remarkably advanced culture. They were skilled in the use of various chemical compounds for paint pigments. These were combined with a vehicle and applied with brushes.²⁵ The artistic value of their work appears to be superior to much of our modern art.

The Neanderthal Man has been the victim of gross misrepresentation. Here again the average brain capacity is greater than that of "modern man." In the case of the first specimen that was found, the individual had suffered from chronic osteo-arthritis, a bone disease that causes stooped shoulders and a generally bent-over posture. From that time forward the art historians have pictured him as an ugly, bent-legged shambling caveman, almost apelike as to walking stance. However, when normal specimens were subsequently found it was realized that he walked just as erect as we do.²⁶ This was known as early as 1935; yet our public school children today are still being deceived by the dishonest drawings in their textbooks.

In 1907, an enormous lower jaw was found 80 feet underground near Heidelberg, Germany. The jaw was well preserved; all of the teeth were in place. The dentition was immediately recognized as human, but no other bones or artifacts have been found at the site, so evolutionists have little upon which to base

²⁵ G. E. Philbrook, Department of Chemistry, University of Georgia, class notes from course entitled *Development of Chemical Concepts*, Summer 1967.

²⁶ Arthur C. Custance, *The Fallacy of Anthropological Reconstructions* (Doorway Paper #33, available from Doorway Paper, Box 291, Brockville, Ontario, Canada), 1966, pp. 5-12.

their speculations. It has been estimated that this individual must have been as tall as Goliath. The Bible speaks repeatedly of giants who lived in earlier times (see, for example, Deuteronomy 2). There is a distinct possibility that Heidelberg Man was antediluvian (pre-Flood), the 80 feet of overlying material representing sediment from the deluge.

The Piltdown Man hoax marked one of the low points in the history of science. A practical joker filed down the teeth of a chimpanzee jawbone to pass for human, treated it chemically to give it the appearance of great age, and planted it in a gravel bed where it was subsequently "discovered" by a team of anthropologists.²⁷ Many of the greatest experts in the field accepted it as a legitimate fossil. In fact they were fooled for 41 years! If the most eminent physical anthropologists in the world are so easily deceived, how far can we trust their pronouncements?

The Nebraska Man is another good example of the distortion of truth that can be wrought by the will to believe in evolution.²⁸ ²⁹The Nebraska find was used in the Scopes Trial in an effort to confound William Jennings Bryan. Bryan stated very wisely that the evidence was too scanty. What was the evidence? A single tooth! On the basis of *one tooth*, a whole new race of fossil man was created and dated at 1 million years ago. The name chosen for this find was *Hesperopithecus haroldcookii*, in honor of its discoverer, Harold Cook. Further study revealed, however, that the tooth was not human after all, but had belonged to an extinct pig! In the meanwhile, though, the 13th edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* had carried it as a legitimate human fossil with "all the honors." In the 14th edition it became necessary to explain it away. Rather than admit that it had been a wild pig's tooth, the author simply stated that it had belonged to a "being of a different order."

The well-known Java Man find consisted only of a small piece from the top of the skull, a fragment of a left thigh bone, and two teeth.³⁰ These were found in sand in a river bed in central Java, over a span of about a year, and scattered over a range of 50 to 70 feet. There is therefore no guarantee that the bones all belonged to the same creature. Dr. Dubois, the discoverer, took them to Europe where they were examined by 24 of the most eminent scientists of the day. These leaders of the scientific world were unable to reach any agreement as to the identity of the bones. Ten of them felt they had come from an ape, seven thought they were human, and the other seven were convinced that they were from some kind of "missing link."³¹

²⁷ John W. Klotz, *Genes, Genesis, and Evolution*, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, 1955, pp. 365-369.

²⁸ Custance, *op. cit.*, p. 5.

²⁹ W. A. Criswell, *Did Man Just Happen?*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, pp. 81-83

³⁰ Nelson, *After Its Kind*, pp. 126-130.

³¹ Criswell, *op. cit.*, p. 84.

Dr. Dubois, who had originally sided with the latter group, eventually reversed his position and concluded that the creature was gibbon. There is still no agreement even today. A second Java Man later turned up in the literature, based only on what was thought to be a part of a skull. However, this ultimately turned out to be the knee cap of an extinct elephant.³²

In 1959, the famous Zinjanthropus was found at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, East Africa. Since that time three different artists' conceptions have made the rounds of the various periodicals--one drawn like a man, one like a gorilla, and one like a chimpanzee.³³ Originally hailed as one of our remote ancestors, the Zinjanthropus by 1965 was considered by its discoverer, Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, to be most like a gorilla. He concluded that it was at least "95% ape" and no connection whatever with "modern man." We would be willing to go the other 5% and say that it was 100% ape.

In the same location but at a lower level Dr. Leakey's team unearthed *Homo habilis*, which has come to be recognized as one of the oldest fossil men. It is indeed remarkable that it is virtually identical with modern man in every respect.³⁴ Where, then, is the alleged "evolutionary development" that supposedly took place between its time and our own?

Other impressive names such as *Australopithecus* and *Paranthropus* have appeared in the news. These are nothing but extinct apes, having a brain capacity comparable to that of the modern gorilla.³⁵

In 1969 we learned that Dr. Leakey had named a fossil man in honor of himself--*Homo leakeyi*! Other anthropologists around the world grew exceedingly disenchanted with all this hocus pocus. Writing in the March 21, 1969, issue of *Science*, Dr. C. L. Brace of the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropology called this an unfortunate blunder. He wrote, "To this already disputed area Leakey now adds yet a new taxon, *Homo leakeyi*, without citation, justification, or

³² *Ibid*, pp. 85, 86.

³³ Arthur C. Custance, "Fossil Man in the Light of the Record in Genesis," *Creation Research Society 1968 Annual*, p. 7.

³⁴ Clark, *op. cit.*, p. 221.

³⁵ Robert J. Foster, *General Geology*, Charles E. Merrill Publishing Company, Columbus, Ohio, 1969, pp. 570, 571.

discernible reason. This appears to be just one more example of unwarranted name giving indulged in by students of the hominid fossil record in the absence of definitive study, adequate information, or objective criteria."³⁶

THE BELIEVERS POSITION

In view of all this guesswork it is totally reprehensible that evolution is taught as a fact in our public schools. Our educators have departed from the truth and have been turned unto fables (II Timothy 4:4). The great truths of the Old Testament that Yahweh has revealed to us have been stricken from the curricula and replaced with doctrines of demons (I Timothy 4:1).

What is the true Believer's position in these questions of science and the Bible? Obviously, whatever the Master Yahshua Messiah taught should constitute the Believer's position. He in fact taught that the Flood was real and universal (Luke 17:27), that the Creation of man was by the direct act of Yahweh (Mark 10:6), and that the writings of Moses are authoritative and trustworthy. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe My words?" (John 5:46, 47).

³⁶ C. L. Brace, "Fossil Hominid Taxonomy," *Science*, Vol. 163, No. 3873, p. 1360 (March 21, 1969).