

APOLOGETICS 25 – DEFENDING CREATION – PART 17

DEFENDING THE BIBLICAL MODEL PART 4

INTRODUCTION

Apologetics - ἀπολογία apologia

The definition of Christian Apologetics is “the information that enables a believer to provide a defense for why a doctrine is believed.”

1 Peter 3:15 – But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

We have attempted to defend the creation account from Genesis 1-2 not only from a scriptural standpoint but also from a scientific standpoint. We addressed evolution theory head-on and demonstrated that it is a faulty pseudo-science that is not only impossible but also that the evidence in nature affirms the biblical creation account.

After addressing evolution, we have begun a series on defending the biblical model.

Now, we continue our defense of the biblical model by looking at our defense of the flood account from Genesis 6-8.

THE BIBLICAL MODEL – CATASTROPHE / THE WORLDWIDE FLOOD OF NOAH

2 Peter 3:5-6 - For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time (the world that was) was destroyed, being flooded with water.

Genesis 6:11-13, 17-19, 7:6-12, 17-24, 8:13-16

- This is not a local flood but a global flood.
- The waters fell for 40 days but continued to rise afterward.
- The flood waters began to recede after seven months.
- The earth was dry after 11 months.
- Noah and all on the ark left after one year and ten days.

Can we demonstrate that the flood was global and not local?

1. Fossils of sea creatures found high above sea level
 - a. California
 - b. Spain
 - c. Everest
2. Rapid burial of plants and animals (fossil graveyard)
 - a. Pictures
 - b. Needs –
 - i. Rapid burial
 - ii. Rapid water

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- iii. Extreme pressure
- 3. Rapidly deposited sediment layers spread across vast areas
 - a. Transcontinental rock layers
 - i. Chalk beds
 - ii. Sediment layers
 - iii. Coal beds – The Pennsylvanian Coal Beds can be followed from Texas to the Caspian Sea.
 - b. No erosion between strata - sloped beds of sandstone
 - c. Poly-strata fossils
- 4. Sediment transported long distances – Sand from around the world is found in various locations around the world.
- 5. Bent rock – images
 - a. A solid piece of rock does not bend.
 - b. Bent rock indicates soft, warm, and rapid layering.

How could Noah put all the animals on the ark?

The question entails two parts:

How many animals did Noah have on the ark?

What is the capacity of the ark?

When thinking about kind, we tend to think of kinds in terms of breeds. How many kinds of cats can we think of? But we must remember that the Bible was written long before modern science's division of animal classification.

Typically, life is divided by classification according to modern science and follows a basic chart (image).

Life-Domain-Kingdom-Phylum-Class-Order-Family-Genus-Species

Usually, when skeptics question size and capacity, they normally refer to 8.7 million (estimated) species of animals on the earth. This includes the 36 species of dog and 36 species of cat.

The question is how do we classify kinds in the Bible in accordance with the current classification system? If we step back to Genus, we have 8,000 land-dwelling air-breathing kinds. If we step back to Family, then we have just 1,000 kinds. It is estimated that the ark could hold approximately 16,000 animals, considering the average size of all animals.

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How can water cover all the mountains?

Mountains were not always the height they are now and are probably a result of the flood. There is no way of knowing what the height of the tall hills would have been previous to the flood, but we do have Scripture that indicates that the mountains and valleys were formed during the flood (Psalm 104:5-9).

If we look at a geological map of the Earth, we can see that all the mountain ranges follow the coastline and appear to be crumple zones from the land masses “running into” another mass (tectonic plates?).

Looking at the map, we also notice that a land mass is simply the visible portion. The earth looks like a water ball with land floating on top, but rather we have land with water filling in the gaps. What we cannot see is that there is still water underneath these plates.

What about the Ice Age?

Studies have shown that under our current climate parameters, the ice age could not have occurred. The extreme cold temperatures at the poles extending to major portions of the continent cannot occur without a catastrophic event.

The only time the Ice Age could have happened in the biblical timeline is immediately after the flood, 4,400 years ago. During the Ice Age and after the flood, the Earth settled into a relatively stable environment, and the Earth’s land mass looked very different.

1. Lowering the oceans during the “Ice Age.” This is an absolute necessity if the Earth’s water was frozen in sheets and built up on land mass.
2. Animals and people were able to easily migrate to further regions.
3. Ice begins to melt raising the oceans
4. Flooding coastal regions
 - a. Coastal cities are now underwater
 - b. Other places cut off by water – civilizations were free to develop their own culture and ecosystem.