

What a Catastrophe

Kyle Butt, M.A.

On September 20, 2005, PBS stations around the country aired a program titled “Mystery of the Megaflood,” in which they explored plausible causes for the geological features found in the region 200 miles east of Seattle known as the scablands. In an informative article about the show, the scablands are described as “a vast region of weird terrain, including gorges hundreds of feet deep, enormous pits, huge boulders scattered as if dropped by giants, undulating hills that look like huge ripples, strange layers of silt and ash, and a ‘waterfall’ five times wider than Niagara—but without any water” (“NOVA: Mystery...,” 2005). The puzzling thing about this area is that there is no river running through it that could have caused these features to have formed over millions of years, nor is there any indication that a glacier moved over the landscape.

In the 1920s, a geologist named J. Harlan Bretz suggested that neither a slow-eroding river nor glacial activity caused the massive geological features. “His fieldwork convinced him that the Scablands were not the result of slow geological weathering but of an enormous catastrophe that had taken place almost overnight when a titanic flood engulfed the region” (“NOVA: Mystery...”). His ideas were largely rejected, because they did not jive with the then-prevailing notion known as uniformitarianism—that the present is the key to the past and geologic features are the result of long periods of uniform transformation. Yet, recent research suggests that Bretz’ catastrophic conclusion fits the facts much more sufficiently.

Modern-day geologist Vic Baker has done extensive work on the scabland project. In an interview with NOVA, Baker states that he believes a huge ice dam that held the waters of Lake Missoula burst and caused a megaflood that devastated the landscape. In fact, Baker says that he believes this type of flood happened several times in this area. When Baker was asked about floods in other areas, he mentioned large areas of flooding in Canada, Asia, the Altai and Sayan Mountains in Siberian Russia, as well as areas in China and Mongolia. He stated that the flooding in these regions was “comparable in magnitude, though perhaps not in volume, to the Missoula floods” (“Fantastic Floods,” 2005).

Looking, then, at the NOVA program, we have evidence that the scablands were formed by massive flooding, not by slow-working uniformitarian processes. We also have evidence that other areas around the world, from the Rocky Mountains to Russia and China, were

similarly affected by megaflooding that was “comparable in magnitude.”

Of course, anyone familiar with the biblical account of Noah’s Flood would certainly be led to wonder about the possibility that all these various “floods” might not have been localized, but were due to one worldwide, massive inundation. Is it not interesting that geological features and landscapes that uniformitarian geologists once insisted must be the product of millions of years of tranquil, uniform processes are being reevaluated and assigned catastrophic causes? When statements like Baker’s, about massive flooding around the globe, are coupled with the fact that over 200 legends have surfaced in hundreds of cultures throughout the world that tell of a huge, catastrophic flood (see Lyons and Butt, 2003), the plausibility of a world-wide flood comes sharply into focus.

Near the end of the discussion of the scablands, NOVA asked Baker if there were still many unsolved mysteries in the formation of geological landscapes. Baker commented: “Some people think science is the collection of facts and truths and everything about the world. Absolutely not. Science is about raising questions about the things we don’t know and being very sophisticated about pursuing those problems” (“Fantastic Floods”). Unfortunately, one of the most important questions that the geological sciences should raise often is ignored because of its religious implications. Is there geologic evidence of a global flood? In truth, the answer to this question is a resounding “Yes!” The apostle Peter focused on this issue some two thousand years ago when he wrote: “For this they **willfully forget**: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, **by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water**” (2 Peter 3:5-6, emp. added). With more and more geological evidences piling up pointing to a global flood, it is becoming increasingly obvious that those who refuse to recognize it as a fact are **willfully** ignoring that evidence.

REFERENCES

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Q What's the big deal about dinosaurs? Why do you write about them occasionally?

A The reason that some creationists (including those of us at Apologetics Press) feel compelled to write about these extinct reptiles is largely because **dinosaurs are the poster children for the theory of evolution.** Much could be said about how evolutionary minded movie makers and advertisers have used dinosaurs to capture the world's attention, but one example regarding their status as the foremost icon of evolution should suffice. In the widely used middle school science textbook titled *Evolution—Change Over Time* (published by Prentice Hall), attempts are made to establish evolution as a fact by using a variety of alleged proofs. One piece of “evidence,” however, that appears on nearly **one out of every three pages** centers on dinosaurs. Out of the approximate 100 pages in this textbook, at least 32 of them contain information and/or pictures of these extinct reptiles. In several sections of the book (in which the main thrust is not even about dinosaurs), students are asked to participate in reading or writing activities that focus on

dinosaurs. Truly, the authors and editors of this textbook (which has been used throughout the United States since the mid-1990s) have attempted to indoctrinate young minds with the “truths” of evolution using dinosaurs.

Inarguably, dinosaurs represent the most prominent sugar stick that evolutionists use to capture the attention of both the young and the old. As Christian apologists, we believe it is our responsibility to provide well-researched, logical, biblical, and scientifically accurate materials that counteract and refute the extremely weak “dinosaur glorified” evolutionary arguments. Obviously, if nearly one-third of the pages in a student's evolutionary science textbook contains information about dinosaurs, young people are going to have questions about these creatures in light of what the Bible teaches. Did these reptiles evolve millions of years ago, or did God create them? Are humans separated from the time of the dinosaurs by 60 million years, or did God create both humans and dinosaurs (which by definition are land animals) on day six of Creation? If evolutionists are the only ones answering these kinds of questions, what do you think your children and others throughout the world are going to believe about God, the Bible, and Creation?

Eric Lyons

IN THE NEWS

It has often been said that children spell love T-I-M-E. Now, a recent report reveals that a growing number of want-to-be moms in the UK spell it IVF. According to Charlotte Edwardes and Andrew Alderson, “Women are increasingly seeking inappropriate IVF treatment because they do not have the time or inclination for a sex life...” (2005). One medical doctor and “fertility expert” who was interviewed indicated that since 2000 he had seen a 20 percent increase in the number of women seeking “inappropriate or premature” *in vitro* fertilization treatments. Why? Because more and more potential mommies and daddies are overly absorbed in their work and too busy for a sexual relationship. Another medical doctor consulted about this growing trend stated, “About 10 per cent of people I see don't have time to have sex. It's usually when you have two professionals who are based in the city and are very busy.” And, since some IVF experts allege that women have “a one in three chance of success or better in one cycle if the woman is under 35, whereas natural conception has no better than a one in four chance for a woman of the same age” (Edwardes and Alderson, 2005), more women feel justified in their decision to visit an IVF clinic.

Unbelievable! Even though IVF treatments eventually lead to the death of countless living human embryos (see Thompson, 1999, pp. 34-44), more and more women (even “healthy” women able to conceive naturally) are choosing to use IVF clinics to get pregnant. Thus, multiplied thousands of human embryos are being needlessly destroyed.

Furthermore, women are choosing this method of conception because they “don't have time to have sexual relations?!” A woman who does not have time for a sexual relationship with her husband certainly **does not have time for children.** When will she have time to feed them, change their diapers, read and play games with them, or sit and talk to them about serious matters as they get older? “Children are a heritage from the Lord” (Psalm 127: 3). It is high time we stop treating them like animals.

REFERENCES

- Edwardes, Charlotte and Andrew Alderson (2005), “Women Bypass Sex in Favour of Instant Pregnancies,” *News.telegraph*, September 9, [Online], URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/09/25/nivf25.xml>.
Thompson, Bert (1999), *The Christian and Medical Ethics* (Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press).

Eric Lyons

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