

## Pangea and the Flood

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Anyone who has taken time to examine a globe in detail has probably noticed that the continents look like they could fit together. In fact, the idea that the continents once joined together in a single land mass is standard teaching in most middle-school and high-school textbooks. This massive land conglomeration is known to most as Pangea (also spelled Pangaea). Evolutionary-based science books suggest that many millions of years ago, Pangea existed as the main land feature on the globe. Due to rather slow processes, known as continental drift, the continents lazily drifted apart over millions of years. In *Focus on Earth Science*, published by Merrill, the following typical explanation is given for a facet of the plate tectonic theory:

The average rate of spreading at the East Pacific rise is 4 cm/year. The Maximum distance from the ridge to any trench is 10 000 km. If the spreading rate is constant, then no existing Pacific Ocean rock should be older than 250 million years (Hesser and Leach, 1989, p. 449).

Several problems exist with the typical evolutionary explanation. There is some legitimate evidence, however, that the continents did, at one time, fit together. Many rock types and formations abruptly end on the coast of one continent and just as abruptly begin on the coast of another continent. In fact, well-known creationists have used the idea of Pangea in their explanatory models of certain geologic phenomena (see Baumgardner, 1994). At present, even though the idea is far from proven, there seems to be no scientific evidence that overwhelmingly suggests that Pangea could not have been an option. Nor is there any biblical evidence that would rule out the possibility. Certain biblical passages even hint that such might have been the case. Genesis 1:9-10 states: "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. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas." It is not an unreasonable possibility to suggest that if the water was in one place, then the exposed land mass was as well.

The fundamental problem with most evolutionary explanations of Pangea's separation comes in their application of uniformitarian principles. Since we see the continents drifting only a few centimeters a year at present, then, according to uniformitarian thinkers, that must be the rate at which they have drifted for millions of years. This explanation fails to account for geologically catastrophic events on a massive scale. In truth, while the continents may have been connected in the past, they did not drift lazily apart over hundreds of millions of years.

In the April 23, 1999 issue of *Science*, Paul R. Renne and his team of researchers put forth the idea that a huge flow of magma and volcanic activity began the process that "drove the land mass [Pangea—KB] apart to create the Atlantic Ocean, at the same time dispersing evidence of the eruption widely on the margins of four continents" (Sanders, 1999). In the opening paragraph of their article, Renne and his colleagues discuss "the Central Atlantic Magmatic Province (CAMP), which is associated with the disruption of Pangea and the opening of the central Atlantic Ocean" (Marzoli, Renne, et al., 1999, p. 616). Their thesis was that, due to new "high-precision geochronological analysis" components of CAMP can be related "to a single brief magmatic episode...with an estimated original extent of volcanism over an area at least  $4.5 \times 10^6 \text{ Km}^2$ " (Marzoli, Renne, et al., p. 616). In layman's terms, the split of Pangea began to take place in one huge, cataclysmic volcanic eruption.

While Renne and his colleagues most likely would not endorse the biblical Flood model, their findings fit perfectly with the idea that the geological activity during the Flood could have greatly accelerated the rate at which the continents spread. In the Genesis account of the Flood, "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up" (7:11). This statement has long been recognized as evidence of heavy volcanic and magmatic activity during the Flood. The force and magnitude of the global Flood, coupled with the ensuing volcanic and geologically cataclysmic activity, would supply adequate causes for accelerated rates of continental drift.

Was there ever a single land mass known as Pangea? It is possible. But if there was, the uniformitarian model of continental drift provides an inadequate explanation for its separation. The catastrophic events surrounding the global Flood supply a much more feasible model for the separation of Pangea.

### REFERENCES

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**Q** Are you aware of the movie that is scheduled for release next summer called *The Beast*? I heard it was filmed in an effort to convince people that Jesus never lived. Is that true?

**A** According to the movie's Web site ([www.thebeastmovie.com](http://www.thebeastmovie.com)), *The Beast* is scheduled to be released in theaters worldwide on June 6, 2006 (or 6/6/06—which I can assure you is no accident). And, yes, it does appear that the movie's main focus will be to persuade audiences of the alleged "fact" that "Jesus Christ never existed." It is a story about a young person named Danielle whose father mysteriously disappears after stumbling across "a cover-up of Christianity's best-kept secret: That Jesus Christ never existed." Brian Flemming, the movie's director, supposedly dives "into factual territory" that is "well-explored by scholars but largely hidden from the view of the public" (<http://www.thebeastmovie.com/about/index.html>). Although *The Beast* is listed as "fictional," based upon the movie's Web site, the director's aim will be to persuade his audiences that Jesus is equally fictional.

While I have not seen the movie (and certainly do not encourage Christians who are simply seeking to be entertained to view and support such an anti-Christian film, which

will simply poke more fun at "fundamentalist Christians"), I can only imagine how the many sources that do testify to Jesus' historicity will be critiqued. The historically reliable (not to mention inspired) New Testament documents likely will be dismissed out of hand. Even though every one of the New Testament writers testified to the reality of Christ, they must be rejected as liars or lunatics. Similarly, statements about Jesus from such reputable first and early second-century historians as Josephus, Tacitus, and Seutonius will also have to be somehow discounted (if even mentioned at all).

Who knows if this movie will even make it into theaters next summer? (My prayer is that it will not.) But, if it does, Christians need not be alarmed about some new piece of propaganda that supposedly proves Jesus never lived. When all of the facts are gathered, the honest individual will come to the same conclusion that the French humanist Ernest Renan came to more than 100 years ago: "[A]ll history is incomprehensible without him [Jesus—EL]" ([http://www.lexilogos.com/document/renan/life\\_jesus.htm](http://www.lexilogos.com/document/renan/life_jesus.htm)).

By the way, Apologetics Press is scheduled to release a new book on the historicity and deity of Christ in the spring of 2006—some time **before** the release of *The Beast*.

**Eric Lyons**

## IN THE NEWS

Americans have been swapping things ever since Native Americans began trading items with the Pilgrims who landed on Plymouth Rock nearly 400 years ago. Americans customarily have swapped everything from phone numbers to cars. Recently, however, a new kind of swapping took place at the University of Texas in San Antonio. The student organization known as Atheist Agenda ran a "Smut for Smut" campaign in which religious materials, notably Bibles, were exchanged for pornography. UTSA students were asked to exchange the very book that condemns fornication, adultery, and the lust of the flesh, for pornography labeled from 0 to 5 (*Playboy* magazine, which was labeled as zero, to "hard core" porn).

In an interview this past month with Tucker Carlson of MSNBC, the president of Atheist Agenda, Thomas Jackson, stated:

Well, first of all, you know, pornography gets a lot of negative press, and it's smut. A lot of it really is. And we wanted to make the comparison between that and the smut that is religious scripture or a lot of it, you know.... [W]hat we're doing is trading something that's **very, very bad** for something that's only moderately bad (2005, emp. added).

Admittedly, Bibles were not the only kind of religious text swapped, but apparently most

books that the student-led atheist organization received were Bibles.

When asked why the group was sponsoring the "Smut for Smut" program, Jackson said: "All right. Well, we have Bronze Aged tribal nonsense, these things written by people in tents ages ago, and we're using this to renounce science standards in our classrooms in America. We're using it to kind of influence our political agenda" (2005). He later added: "Religious texts actually contradict each other. If you read the Bible, it contradicts itself on nearly every page" (2005).

Aside from the fact that the Bible writers were extremely accurate (and inspired!) in their writings (see Thompson, 2001), and never contradicted each other, the situation at UTSA is just one more sad indication of the blasphemous, anti-Christian sentiment that has infiltrated many college campuses. Parents, beware when you send off your 18-year-olds to get an "education."

**Eric Lyons**

## REFERENCES

- Jackson, Thomas (2005), "The Situation," *MSNBC*, Interview with Tucker Carlson, December 6.  
Thompson, Bert (2001), *In Defense of the Bible's Inspiration* (Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press), second edition.

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