



Scientific Proofs of the Prehistoric Noahic Flood: Issues in Environmental Theology and Philosophy of Religion

Charles Ogundu Nnaji

Department of Christian Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Abuja.

Email: economos34@yahoo.com.

08022785999, 07065239638

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Abstract

This study focuses on presenting documented scientific proofs or discoveries pointing to the credibility of the Biblical prehistoric worldwide “Matar - Mabbul Sohephi”, (i.e) massive months of rainfall and consequent worldwide flood. The study’s methodology involves consulting relevant classist, scientific, environmental, geographic and geological texts with in-depth scientific investigations of religious records to verify and establish such religious documents, just as Jesus Christ in his miracle mission days often urged those he healed to present themselves to Levitical medical doctors of those days for verifications. (Leviticus 13:18-23). Some scientific proofs or evidence presented in this study include the specie diversities and distribution, the Ballard discoveries in the black sea, the modern design of ships and other ocean liners based on the Noahic description and specification of the ark that was built from God’s command, the sign or symbol of rainbow as a sign of the pact or covenant between Noah, representing man and God and other scientific evidences. It was discovered that the Noahic ark actually occurred and God instructed the building of the ark and this flood actually brought a new regime of God’s authority over his creature.

Keywords: Scientific Proof, Prehistoric flood, Biblical flood and Noahic-flood.

Introduction:

There have been a lot of arguments and counter arguments about the prehistoric Noahic flood in the bible, this topic has been a serious topic of concern and debates among environmental theologians and religious philosophers in contemporary times. To both Environmental theologians and philosophers, this issue in contention has defied all necessary arguments to make all believe in the Noahic flood and its basis for such beliefs, but to no avail, it is therefore expedient to give scientific proof to the Noah’s prehistoric flood using evidence based proof to dispel these doubts about the occurrence or authenticity of that Noahic flood in the bible.

The biblical account of the Noah flood as recorded seems more to be a myth than reality, this is so because most persons see the bible as a book of history, which was written by divine inspiration. During the Noahic days, there was total disobedience to the words of God, almost every person was a sinner except for one person called Noah. He was a very righteous man and walked with God. Seeing that the earth was corrupt and filled with violence, God instructed Noah to build an ark in which he Noah, his sons, and their wives, together with male and female of all living creatures, would be saved from the waters. Noah after building the ark, entered it when he was six hundred (600) years, and on the 17th day of the 2nd month of that year (in

modern times, it will be the 17th of February) "the fountains of the Great Deep burst apart and the floodgates of heaven broke open" and rain fell for forty days and forty nights until the highest mountains were covered 15 cubits, and all life perished except Noah and those with him in the ark (Montgomery, 2012).

According to the Jewish legend, the kind of water that was poured to the earth for forty days is not the common type, but God instructed and directed each drop must pass through the hell of Gehenna before it fell to earth, and the 'hot rain' scalded the skin of the sinners. The punishment that overtook them was befitting their crime. As their sensual desires had made them hot, and inflamed them to immoral excesses, so they were chastised by means of heated water (Nnaji, Agbogou and Odeh, 2015; Schmeling, 2018). Having been satisfied that the world of these sinners have come to an end, God then remembered Noah and the ark after a hundred and fifty days, then he ordered to the flood waters to subside until the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. It was on the 27th day of the 2nd month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the earth was dry. Then Noah built an altar and made a sacrifice, and God made a covenant (agreement) with Noah that man would be allowed to eat every living thing but not its blood, and that God would never again destroy all life by a flood. This agreement was symbolized by the rainbow (King James Version (KJV- Amplified), 2008; Goodnews and Collins, 2008; Nnaji, 2009).

According to Young and Stearley, (2010) the geological history of the planet Earth, noted that planet Earth's crust and environments clearly reveal evidences of prehistoric massive flooding of the entire Earth's surface structure. This is clearly shown by massive forest landmarks, ice caps, and underground water levels, though the existence of deserts in North Africa, the middle east, Texas and California areas of the United states of America, still require some explanations.

Objective of the Study

This study aims to highlight scientific, environmental, geographical and geological evidence that the Biblical worldwide flood from months of heavy rainfalls during the days of Biblical Noah, truly happened. The study focuses on scientific evidences which tend to corroborate some Biblical (and e.g, Epic of Gilgamesh and Ugaritic etc), records that, far in prehistoric times, there occurred a worldwide deluge or flood (see Brown and Smith, 2008) this which cannot be easily denied, (Gen 5:7-16) not even by the simplest of scientific antagonisms, when recent mesospheric huge water vapour condensations facts are brought to considerations.

Statement of Problem of the Study

The underlying reasons for this study consist in the fact that some scientists and unreligious people often reject scientifically unbiased literature proofs for this biblical records; thus, this

study is of the view that religious claims should not be waved aside on the slaughter abattoirs of atheism and irreligiosity, but accept the notion of the flood of the Noahic era based on further scientific evidence as enunciated by the finding of this study.

Method of Study

This study adopted the review of Classist documents on prehistoric events similar to those of our Modern-day Biblical anthropological findings, corroborated by scientific (environmental, geological and geographical) proofs which were consulted to further buttress this study's submissions.

The scientific proof of the Noahic flood

Robinson and Davidson (2007) highlighted the Noahic Ark built by Biblical Noah on God's command to save him (Noah) and his family from the impending worldwide deluge or flood-waters. King James Version (KJV) of Amplified Bible (1987) commentary on the ancient flood (water destruction) of the ancient world, cited Mernonite Jansen who in 1609 produced a vessel-like ship built according to the Biblical Noah's Ark' descriptions which was able to float on the flood water (Gen.7:17-18). That 1609 Jansen reproduction of Noah's Ark in the Netherlands, eventually from 1900 became the pattern or specimen for building huge ships capable of floating on the high seas and oceans (Robinson and Davidson, 2007; Brown and Smith, 2008). In other words, prototypes and specimens for building ocean Liner ships in this Modern era, obviously has its root from Genesis 6:5 to the end and Genesis 7:1-8, etc. This which also implies that, if there were no seas, oceans and flood waters in ancient times then there were no basis for building an ancient floating ship called "Ark" in Genesis 6:14-18 and 7:1-18 etc, (Robinson and Davidson, 2007; Brown and Smith, 2008).

Kanachikuzhy (2008) put it this way

"There exist narratives of the flood in almost every Religions and the biblical account shows some striking parallels to the Mesopotamian Literature".

Some of the Mesopotamian, near and far east parallels to the Biblical Noah's flood cited by Kanachikuzhy; (2013) such as legend and oral traditions often called -myths include:

- (a) The epic of Gilgamesh,
- (b) Satapath- Brahmana of India,
- (c) The Mahabharata also of India, when Manu the Father of mankind was informed of a future flood water, and he was told to build a big boat to save himself, the seven sages (saptarshah) and the seeds of every living species, (Ibid, 2008; Brown and Smith, 2008).

Interesting enough, is that if a life story called "Legend" exist in over ninety percent human customs, folklores, Religions and oral traditions, (ie prehistoric unwritten narratives)

including the Yoruba “Obatala” who met an over flooded earth similar to that of Eri and Nri of the Ibo etc (Nnaji, Agbogu and Odeh, 2015) does that not suggest that truly in ancient times, the earth must have been flooded by massive body of water (the source of the water not the issue) which also points to Genesis 1:1-end, that in the beginning that planet earth was submerged in deep massive water; (from where)? Similarly, Parker (2000) on human and animal evolutions from the sedimented history and paleontology picture of a water flooded human environments, from which the first unicellular and multi-cellular animal cells mutated to produce our current higher and lower animal lives now studied “in Anthropology (ie the scientific study of human evolution), including archaeology and paleontology which use dug up fossil remains to determine origins of history of human, animal and our physical of existence (Nault, 2000; Brown, Driver and Briggs 2007).

Senter, (2011) and Dulbecco (2000) stated that without water, origin and survival of biological life is not possible, particularly, that extensive forest and Iceberg environments (and mini deserts) point to planet earth’s ancient flooded environments, but that if there were more than one to three other worldwide floods (i.e. Gen. 1 and Gen 7 etc) these produces another area of research study. New and Philip (1958:1-4) imply that the extinctions of prehistoric Dinosaurs through a devastating environmental catastrophe (perhaps massive flood waters cannot be ruled out), Robert, (2008) also suggested that the Noahic-flood is not just a matter of legends, but a prehistoric event captured by many ancient near east oral traditions (1 Peter 3:20 compared to Gen 6:3-14 and 7:1-end etc Speak Volumes) Watch Tower (1985) cited a number of related geographical positions on the credibility of the Biblical Noah flood, concluding that beyond the debates, that what looked like that Noah’s Ark has been found at Mount Ararat (Gen 8:4) perhaps in modern day Armenia (Brown and Smith,2008; Arnold, 2009).

Geographically, it is possible for heavy rain waters, pouring for five months was heavy enough to cover up the highest mountains, and that geographically, it is also possible for it to take such high flood waters one calendar year to dry up considerably, without more rainfalls, but with some appreciable atmospheric evaporation. McCain (2005) and Baden, (2012) tried to offer geographical and geological explanations on sources of the flood waters of Gen 7:1-end, as having probably come from sub-oceanic (or sub earth’s crust) up-heavals which caused the seas and oceans to pour its water on the earth’s continental land surfaces. These also were supported by an invisible antediluvian suspended water vapor canopy (sea Gen 1:7; 6-8) which got dislodged from the upper atmosphere and fell as heavy rain water for almost 1000 hours totaling 40 days and 40 nights (Gen 7:12; 11-13) flooding planet earth for one hundred and fifty days (Gen 7:24) Moody (1975) also highlighted Block (1968) on geology of the ancient world and Andre Parrot (1955) on the flood and Noah’s Ark; Then McCain, (2005) narrative on the Biblical flood and the Ice epoch by Fliert (1969) on fundamentalism and the fundamentals of geology

etc, all noted that Gen 1:6-8 (particularly Gen1:7) point to a region in the upper atmosphere called the “Mesosphere” with massively heavy water vapor which could have been melted in antediluvian history, and poured down, heavily, on planet earth prehistoric times, flooding earth, and transmitted as oral traditions for over two million years before man developed the art of writing and alphabets. Bandstra, (2009) on lives and nature on planet earth’s, environment and geography, they stated that this mesosphere situated between man’s nearest upper atmosphere, (above the stratosphere), and below the thermosphere is that point where temperature decreases and vapor condenses.

Robinson and Davidson (2007) state that a blanket of stupendously massive water vapour can occur in that region in the absence of heat; Though, such heavy water vapor above the atmosphere (but below gravity) called “mesosphere”, could collapse on planet earth as massive flood-water. This can happen, when due to one reason or the other, the mesosphere heavy water vapour-condensation collapses. Blenkinsopp, (2011) are on the view that this mesosphere (perhaps an ocean above our atmosphere) in ancient times, could have emanated from God’s creation of planet earth,(Gen 1:7) until the ozone region ocean collapsed on earths and its inhabitants; It fell then as heavy rain torrents for six weeks, worsened by upheavals of massive water from planet earth underground crust (Gen 8:2). See Maier (1988) and Bromiley (1985) cited in Cline, (2007) on theological interpretations of Noah’s flood.

The flood geology

Cohn, (1999) in his study found that there exist profound impacts on human attitude and perception towards the narratives of the biblical flood as a result of the development of scientific geology. The biblical chronology of the flood geology and creation in human history existed just more than a few thousands of years ago, the concept of deep geological time undermined the idea of the historical Noahic ark itself. It is however observed that most scientific communities regard this flood geology perspective as a pseudoscience due to the fact that it contradicts a variety of facts in geology, stratigraphy, geophysics, physics, paleontology, biology, anthropology, and archeology. Finkel, (2014) found that modern geology, its sub-disciplines and other scientific disciplines utilize the scientific method to analyze the geology of the earth. Scientific analysis refutes the key tenets of flood geology, which, as an idea, is in contradiction to scientific consensus. Modern geology relies on a number of established principles, one of the most important of which is Charles Lyell's principle of uniformitarianism. In relation to geological forces, uniformitarianism holds that the shaping of the Earth has occurred by means of mostly slow-acting forces that can be seen in operation today. In general, there is a lack of any evidence for any of the above effects proposed by flood geologists, and scientists do not take their claims of fossil-layering seriously, (Cotter, 2003; Finkel, 2014).

Species distribution

Cotter, (2003) observed that by the 17th century believers in the Genesis account faced the issue of reconciling the exploration of the New World and increased awareness of the global distribution of species with the older scenario whereby all life had sprung from a single point of origin on the slopes of Mount Ararat. The obvious answer involved mankind spreading over the continents following the destruction of the Tower of Babel and taking animals along, yet some of the results seemed peculiar. In 1646 Sir Thomas Browne wondered why the natives of North America had taken rattlesnakes with them, but not horses: "How America abounded with Beasts of prey and noxious Animals, yet contained not in that necessary Creature, a Horse, is very strange, because of its strength, usefulness to man and its capacity to help man cultivate his farm and carry burden for man (Amanpour, 2012; Keiser, 2013).

Granted that the after the Noahic flood, the ark was taken to Mount Ararat and deposited there on dryland, all the animals including Noah's family were deposited here, how come there are diverse species of other biodiversity across other part of the world, not just at Ararat? This goes to show that after the flood and the drying up of the land, some species migrated from Ararat to other portion of the earth planet and regenerated there. The forest of West Africa, Nigeria and other part of West Africa, the North American forest, the Himalayas, etc. All these are part of the aftermath of the Noahic flood, (Cotter, 2003; Amanpour, 2012).

The ship wreck discovery in the black sea by Ballard and his team

Leeming, (2010) posited that "If you witness a terrible natural disaster, yes, you want a scientific explanation why this has happened," said Karen Armstrong, author of "A History of God." "But you also need to something that will help you to assuage your grief and anguish and rage. And it is here that myth helps us through that." Four hundred feet below the surface, they unearthed an ancient shoreline, proof to Ballard that a catastrophic event did happen in the Black Sea. By carbon dating shells found along the shoreline, Ballard said he believes they have established a timeline for that catastrophic event, which he estimates happened around 5,000 BC. Some experts believe this was around the time when Noah's flood could have occurred. Back in the Black Sea, Ballard said he is aware that not everyone agrees with his conclusions about the time and size of the flood, but he's confident he's on the path to finding something from the biblical period. They found structures that looked like they were man-made structures (Leeming, 2010; Amanpour, 2012).

That's where they focused their attention right now, "That is a perfectly preserved ancient shipwreck in all its wood, looks like a lumber yard. But if you look closely, you will see the femur bone and actually a molar. The shipwreck was in surprisingly good condition, preserved because the Black Sea has almost no oxygen in it, which slows down the process of decay, but it

does not date back as far as the story of Noah. The oldest shipwreck in that area was discovered around 500 BC classical period (Levenson, 2004).

Human history and the Noahic flood

Noe and Furay, (2013) went further to state that the Noahic flood theory goes on to suggest that the story of this traumatic event, seared into the collective memory of the survivors, was passed down from generation to generation and eventually inspired the biblical account of Noah. Noah is described in the Bible as a family man, a father of three, who is about to celebrate his 600th birthday. "In the early chapters of Genesis, people live 800 years, 700 years, 900 years," said Visotzky (McCain, 2005). "Those are mythic numbers, those are way too big. We don't quite know what to do with that. So sometimes those large numbers, I think, also serve to reinforce the mystery of the text." Some of the details of the Noah story seem mythical, so many biblical scholars believe the story of Noah and the Ark was inspired by the legendary flood stories of nearby Mesopotamia, in particular "The Epic of Gilgamesh" (Amanpour, 2012).

King, (2008) further suggested that these ancient narratives were already being passed down from one generation to the next, centuries before Noah appeared in the Bible. "The earlier Mesopotamian stories are very similar where the gods are sending a flood to wipe out humans," said biblical archaeologist Eric Cline. "There's one man they choose to survive. He builds a boat and brings on animals and lands on a mountain and lives happily ever after? I would argue that it's the same story." Catastrophic events of this kind are not unique to the Bible. Some contemporary examples include the 2004 tsunami that wiped out villages on the coasts of 11 countries surrounding the Indian Ocean. There was also Hurricane Katrina, described as the worst hurricane in United States history. Scholars aren't sure if the biblical flood was larger or smaller than these modern day disasters, but they do think the experiences of people in ancient times were similar to our own (King, 2008; Amanpour, 2012).

Scientific debates on the Noahic flood

The British theologian Thomas Burnet made this case in his best-selling treatise, *Sacred Theory of the Earth*. He calculated, for instance, that all the water on Earth—even with an additional forty days and nights of rain—could not account for the Great Flood. As such, Burnet argued, there must be another scientific explanation for the great Deluge and the story, as told in scripture, could not be taken literally. This was bold stuff, since Burnet was saying that parts of the Bible were not necessarily divine revelation. Some rejected Burnet's writing by arguing that, even though God had created the natural laws of the universe, he periodically suspended them when it suited his purposes. This was, after all, the very definition of a miracle (Simpson, 2005).

But Newton and his circle of thinkers didn't care much for that explanation. In their view, the physical laws of the universe were divine. Gravity, for instance, depended upon "the constant and efficacious, and, if you will, the supernatural and miraculous Influence of Almighty God,"

Whiston wrote. In other words, the delicate dance of gravity that kept the planets in motion was an everyday miracle. The miracles that got all the attention were incidents that occurred very rarely yet could still be explained within the confines of science (Simpson, 2005).

Further debates shows that in Whiston's book *New Theory of the Earth*, Whiston emphasized that the Bible was never meant to be an allegory or a scientific text. Instead, it was an historical account, "a true representation of the formation of our single Earth out of a confused Chaos, and of the successive and visible changes each day, till it became the habitation of Mankind. As such, Whiston argued, it was incumbent upon modern thinkers to find the scientific explanation for the literal descriptions of miraculous events in the Bible. "For if those things contained in Scripture are true, and really derived from the Author of Nature, we shall find them, in proper cases, confirmed by the System of the World. "The knowledge of causes is deduced from their effects. Whiston, relying on the principles of gravity published by Newton, believed that he had found the answer for the Biblical Flood in a comet (Dynes, 2003).

According to the Book of Genesis: "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. Whiston argued that a comet passing close to Earth could explain these phenomena. The gravitational pull of the comet, he said, fractured the planet's crust. And the vaporous tail of the comet saturated the upper atmosphere with excess water, which lead to a cataclysmic rainfall. The weight of the rainfall combined with tidal forces caused water beneath the surface of Earth to flow forth and wreak havoc. Although this comet served God's purpose, Whiston made it clear that this was not a case of the Almighty flinging it at Earth, like Zeus hurling a lightning bolt. Rather, God had created the comet in antiquity, setting it on a path destined by physics to perform its task (Rudwick, 2009).

Outside the major scientific proofs given above, there are still these indications that there are scientific proofs supporting the occurrence of the Noahic flood in the bible times, some of which include but not limited to:

1. The Mesosphere Ozone region condensed water vapour.

Harris, Archer and Wattle, (1980) described the Hebrew Old Testament "Mabbul (i.e ancient worldwide flood, Genesis 7-8 etc) found in Ugaritic, Akkadian and Hebrew flood stories, are not just myths but geographically and environmentally visible worldwide. The Mesospheric postulation suggests and empirically confirmed an upper layer atmospheric water linked to Genesis 1:7, this which Robinson and Davison 2007) stated that geographical research have shown that a layer on our atmosphere called the "Mesosphere", above the stratosphere and below the thermosphere, has the capacity to hold on to condensed or vapour water as temperature decreases and as one goes higher towards the upper atmospheric ozone. Thus, that Genesis 1:7

has it that at creation God lifted a body or mass of water above the atmosphere, could be the source of heavy down pour of water on prehistoric earth (Genesis 7 and 8:1-7) etc. The Mesosphere water vapour down pour could have been as a result of unusually heated atmosphere.

2. The 1609 Netherlands Jansen Floating Vessel

Jansen (1609) in Holland, produced a prototype vessel (or small ship) using the pattern of the Biblical Noah's Ark (Genesis 6:14-22) the small vessel successfully floated, thus forming the pattern of building modern ocean liners (ships). The point been that by 1900 modern ships were built according to the Noah's Ark; Thus, the question is this, if that flood did not happen, how come an ancient man successfully built a ship suited to float on flood waters. Thus, what did Noah build such an Ark or ship for if there were no flood waters then (Rudwick, 2009).

3. Conglomerate washed bed-rocks

Conglomerate washed rocks beds simply means that all over the world there exist water dumps with thick layers of debris of animal and plant lives bunched together in sediment forms in huge craters, forming things like refuse dumps, which could not have been transferred to those crater dumps but by heavy fast moving flood waters e.g include, rock dumps in the Grand canyon of Arizona, and San Diego, also at Nova Scotia in Canada.

4. **Diverse fossil and plants mixtures** of different extinct forms of life which the Dinosaurs, sharks, Pines, bottom dwelling water fish and plants etc are unusually bunched together e.g include the Santana formation of Brazil; also the messelh site in Germany, the petrified forests of Yellowstone thick forests, in Africa, south of the Sahara which contain trees and animal forms from very different environments, (New and Philip, 1953; Fossil Remains, NET, 2018)

5. Extinct plants and Dinosaur Animal Graveyards

Fossil studies (NET, 2017) present the agate fossil beds of the National Museum Monument in Utah, Colorado, U.S.A, and Alberta of Canada including Cincinnati and Ohio, there are believed to be sitting on top of great masses of extinct plant and sea animals unusually mangled together as refuse dumps from different geographical areas, and which could not have been pile-loaded together, but by fast moving flood waters.

Research Observations

- a. The study observes, that in Prehistoric times, men with lesser intellect, were able to build what we call "Ships or Boats today, but called "Ark" by the Bible (Gen 6,7,8) to such a precise form which modern ships are modeled upon
- b. One question that follows "A" above still remains that even if that prehistoric worldwide flood remains questionable, how come such an "Ark" or ship was built, and for what, supposing there was no flood then.

- c. Geologist Wallace Prat in 1978, noted that even the basic geological divisions of planet earth correspond to Gen 1:1-end , let alone a – worldwide Biblical flood (Gen 6:7 and 8) which exist in peoples varying pre-historic cultures and oral traditions often called, myths or legends, which scientific, geographical, environmental and geological studies continue to find very hard to ignore or wave aside (Watch Tower; 1985)

Research Conclusions

Finding from this study strongly suggest that there are abundant scientific evidence giving credence to the occurrence of the Noahic biblical flood which lasted 40 days and forty nights. From the study, it is found to be based on the evidences on the dimension, description, design and specification which God commanded Noah to build the ark, that modern day ships and other ocean liners are designed and built nowadays. The study further found that if there was no flood in the Noahic days, why did God command Noah to build the ark in the first place?

Based on these evidence submitted so far, there was the occurrence of the Noahic flood which God used to renew his authority over human kind, with a firm promise or covenant with mankind, with Noah as his witness symbolized by the rainbow, never to destroy man or any other creature on the earth again.

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