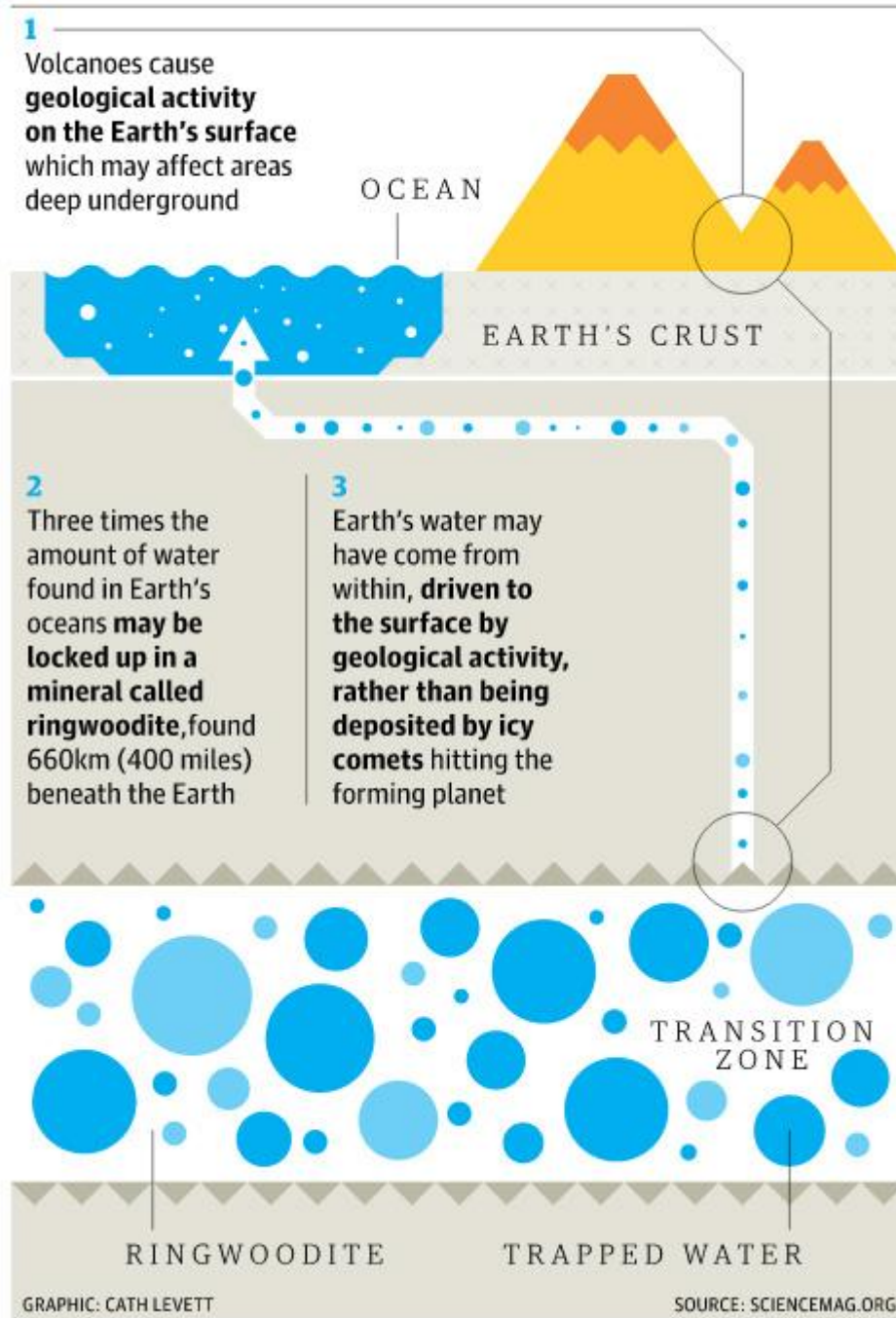


Fountains of the deep?

Dr Michael Jarvis

Scientists have recently uncovered some evidence suggesting that vast amounts of water or 'potential water' probably exist 660 km or more below earth's surface. However this water is locked into the structure of a type of rock known as Ringwoodite
<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn25723-massive-ocean-disco> .

Bubbling under The Ringwoodite reservoir



Water is trapped in Ringwoodite, in the form of hydroxide ions. It is in an OH form, not H²O as with normal water. The only way known to science that the Hydroxide (OH) locked 400

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km below the earth's surface, could reach the surface and gain the needed extra Hydrogen atom, is via volcanic eruptions. This process is relatively slow and certainly could not suddenly produce the vast amounts of water that would be needed to cover all of earth's land with water in a period of 40 days, as suggested by some Christians.

They have welcomed the probable discovery of water deep within the Earth as support for their interpretation of the Bible, regarding their belief in a world-wide flood in the time of Noah. The Bible account speaks of part of the flood waters coming from '*the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened*' (Genesis 7:11).

We certainly cannot be sure what is being referred to by 'great deep' since this can also simply refer to underground water. We know of many vast underground lakes close to the surface. We certainly do not take literally that 'floodgates' opened in the heavens. Are 'floodgates' actual gates? No of course not! In other words we need caution regarding terminology such as 'great deep'.



However, the much more important question to ask ourselves is: Was the flood in Noah's time covering the whole world?

The amount of water needed to cover all land can be calculated as about **three times more than all the present water in all the oceans!**

Furthermore, an obvious question then arises as to where all this water could go one year after Noah entered the Ark (according to the Bible).

To try and overcome this obvious problem, one theory proposed by some who believe in a world-wide flood, is that the waters did not recede but in fact that the land rose. For instance a webpage <http://christiananswers.net/q-aig/aig-floodwater.html> claims that '*The catastrophic plate tectonics model gives a mechanism for the deepening of the oceans and the rising of mountains at the end of the Flood*'.



This model suggests that mountains rose above the waters and continents were formed and split apart at the end of the flood.

I hope that readers of such articles and theories can think of the implications, in the light of known scientific facts.

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For instance, we know that even slight movements of the earth's crust cause enormous earthquakes and, if they occur under the sea they often lead to devastating tsunamis. If all the continents were re-formed and the land and mountains rose within less than one earth year this would have caused many waves kilometres high to have circled the earth. Certainly not a recipe for survival of the Ark and certainly not recorded in the Bible account.

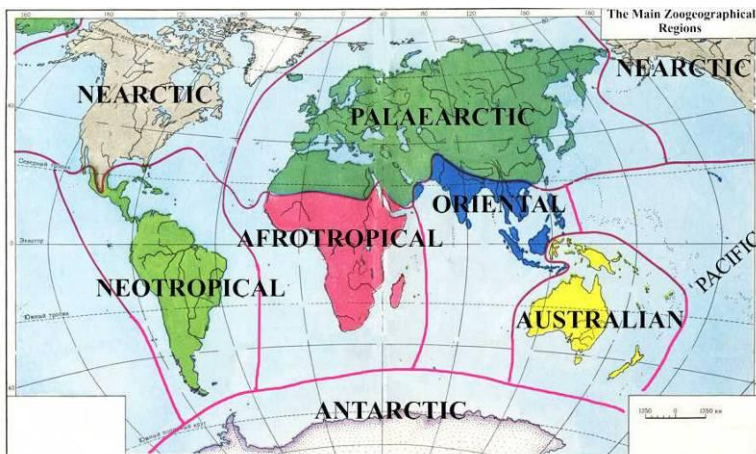
It is true that the Bible seems to speak of a time when there was only one continent, long before the time of Noah. We read, *And God said, "let the water under the sky be gathered to one place and let dry ground appear" And it was so. God called the dry ground "land" (singular) and the gathered water he called "seas". (Genesis 1:9-10).*

We all know that today dry land is separated into continents. We should ask ourselves: How did God direct dry land to split into continents? Science can clearly demonstrate that this happens through a process known as 'continental drift' or 'plate tectonics'. This is a very slow process and is still happening.

Bible believing scientists conclude that God has used slow processes, such as continental drift, to bring about his pre-calculated outcomes. To claim that the splitting of the continents could have happened in less than a year is pure fantasy. **In other words the major problem remains unsolved, namely where did the water recede to after the flood, if it was a world-wide flood?**

For those of us who believe that the flood was limited to one area of the earth, this problem is solved. In fact the Bible account even tells us part of the process. We read, *he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded* (Genesis 8:1). Furthermore, we can rule out the water going back into any hypothetical 'fountain of the deep' because the account specifically states, *Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water receded steadily from the earth.*

Other lines of logic rule out a sudden rising and splitting of the continents at the end of the flood. For instance, we can ask how Noah managed to get all of Australia's unique animals back there after the flood? Below we see the distinct zoo-geographical regions.



If we consider Australia as an example, this has unique marsupial mammals like kangaroos. In the rest of the world marsupials were largely wiped out by the later arrival of placental mammals. The Australian examples survived because the more efficient placental mammals only reached Australia with the first human migrants to that continent.

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Unfortunately Christians, who try to defend their own interpretation of scriptures as being the only legitimate interpretation, are in danger of ending up making proposals that most scientists and most of our scientific and technological generation simply find unacceptable.

It is this kind of speculation, often made by so-called 'Creation Science', that is preventing vast numbers of people from taking the Bible seriously. This is especially the case because these sorts of un-scientific claims are very widely circulated on the internet and within some churches.

It seems that many Christians are not aware of the fact that they can believe the Bible account of a great flood in a way that does not conflict with scientific discovery. I personally believe in the historical Noah and a great but localised flood that wiped out the first complex civilisation in the Middle East. Furthermore, this can be reconciled with legitimate alternative interpretations of the Bible account.

If you are motivated to seriously look at an alternative understanding of the Bible account of a great flood in Noah's time, then go to www.factandfaith.co.za and then to 'Free Downloads' and then to 'updates'. Click on the article no 8: '**Evidence AGAINST a world-wide flood**'.

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