

How Big Was Noah's Flood?

Extent	Description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Comments
Global	Covers everything, all the way over the tops of all mountain ranges in world	Fits easily with a literal interpretation of the story in Genesis, such as 7:19 (mountains "covered") & 8:5 ("tops of mountains" become visible)	Too much water required – 630 million cubic miles weighing 3 quintillion tons; atmospheric pressure would be 840 current pressure; no sun would reach the earth making life impossible; other issues include altitude of ark, ability of doves to fly at 17k	The most extreme example of Flood interpretation; most often accepted by creation science; creates huge scientific hoops needed jump through to justify interpretation
Known World	Entire world as known by ancient writers – whole Middle East and other areas, but not other continents like Australia	Middle interpretation that fits with the "all" of the text; sees the text through eyes of writers; can fit with interpretation of Hebrew geography	Assumes people not spread beyond region; what did carnivores eat once they left ark?	Takes text seriously but does not answer all of the theological or scientific questions
Regional	A specific part of the Fertile Crescent, Black Sea, or other area	Can fit with geological record (Mediterranean flood, Black Sea flood); the "all" of the text can be read in this limited way	How does a specific event become universalized? Possible impacts on view of Scripture	Hedges bets on the text to deal with scientific evidence
Local	A few villages along a river system	Such activity (flooding) can be seen throughout the geological history of the region so easy to see how relates to the text	Not really universal in nature or something that would fit description of text (40 days of rain); takes text as symbolic	Most extreme minimalistic reading of Bible story; taking the text details as symbolic not really satisfying to us evangelicals