

*I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **Genesis 9:13***

What Kind Of Flood?

Edwin Crozier

Store In My Heart

Haggai 1:3-4

Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"

Haggai prophesied to the first Jewish exiles to return from Babylon to Jerusalem. When they first returned they were urgent to rebuild the temple but over time they stopped working on the temple. They began to build for themselves rather than build for God. Haggai was sent by God to remind the people of their need to focus on God first even in rebuilding their land and nation.

This is an ever danger among God's people. Many times in the New Testament we are warned to be busy doing God's work. Our blessings are dependent upon working for Him.

I have heard Bible believers debate the flood. I use the term "Bible believers" loosely here, because some of these so-called believers can't seem to accept the Bible for what it says. **Genesis 6:17** says, "*will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die*" (ESV). That is plain. God said He would flood the earth and destroy all living things on it.

That, however, is not palatable to some. Perhaps they can't believe God would actually do it. Perhaps they can't believe such a feat is possible in the natural world. Perhaps they believe there is not enough "scientific" evidence for it. They want to make the Bible digestible for the masses, so they say, "It was a local flood around the Black Sea."

These believe they are performing a noble task. More people will accept the Bible if they think the flood was local instead of a cataclysmic world event. Thus, they think they are being evangelistic, performing God a service by clearing up this difficulty. On the surface, I appreciate that these are trying to help people believe the Bible. However, when I scratch beneath the surface, I wish they would stop their incessant and inane babbling.

They are not helping God's cause or the Bible. Instead, they are making the Bible out to be nothing but lies and contradictions. Who can believe the Bible if their assertions are correct?

Aside from not taking the Bible at its word, these "thinkers have produced a lie in the Bible. If **Genesis 6:17** was hyperbole to show how awful the sin was and how serious God's judgment was, then **Genesis 9:11ff** is the same exaggeration. God's point in **Genesis 9** is He will never again do what He did in Noah's day.

He set the rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His covenant. Every time we see a rainbow we can remember God's power in the destructive flood and His promise not to do it again. Further, we can



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remember He has promised to destroy the world with fire (**2Peter 3:8-13**). But not if these so-called believers are correct.

If they are correct, every time we see a rainbow, we are reminded God lies. If this was about local floods, God lied. I have one word here -- Katrina. People should cease trying to make the Bible more palatable to the masses. Either accept what it says and live by it or reject it. Don't say you accept it and then twist it to fit what you think you really can accept. In the end, you will only make God out to be a liar and yourself a fool.

God did destroy the earth by flood and He does plan to destroy the earth by fire. Let's not twist it to be more acceptable. Let's accept it and live it.

The Flood And Baptism

Frank J. Jamerson

For Our Information

Joyce Venable is in the hospital. She is still having problems with blood pressure.

Betty Ragsdale is back home and feeling better after a hospital stay due to chest pains and low potassium last week.

John Ragsdale is taking medication for cellulitis.

The Simpson family is in Star City this weekend.

Vickie McNeas is still having some issues with pain.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

Many of the teachings of the New Testament were prefigured in the Old Testament. The Old Testament story is the type and the New Testament lesson is the antitype, or that which is prefigured. One of these types is the flood. After discussing Noah's salvation from a world of wickedness by the flood, Peter said, *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ"* (**1Peter 3:21**). Baptism is the antitype of the flood. The Revised Standard Version of the Bible reads, *"Baptism which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."*

Many think that this passage says baptism is a figure of *"our salvation."* This passage does not so state and neither does any other Scripture teach this doctrine. It says that baptism *"corresponds to"* or is a *"like figure"* of Noah's salvation in the flood.

Notice three things in the passage. (1) Baptism is not a value because of washing dirt from the body. (2) It is an appeal to God for a good or clear conscience. Jesus said, *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned"* (**Mark 16:16**). One who believes and obeys the commands of Christ will have a good conscience. (3) Men teach that baptism does NOT now save, but Peter taught that baptism does **"NOW save."** Baptism is a burial in water (**Romans 6:3-5; Acts 8:36-38**), and is for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**). Following baptism, we must *"walk in newness of life"* (**Romans 6:4**).

(Study, Meditate, Apply, Pray, Repeat! DLH)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

