Noah's Flood in Hebrew

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Satanic Strategies

- If you were Putin, and wanted to take over Ukraine, how would you go about it?
  - Weaken their military + economy
  - Weaken their government
  - Convince them they want to join Russia
- If you were Satan, and wanted to take over the world, how would you defeat the kingdom of God?
  - Weaken their evangelism / worship
  - Weaken their Scripture
  - Convince them they really need to modernize
- And this is precisely the story of the 20th Century!
Some History

- **1500-1700 AD: Reformation & Wars of Religion**
  - Philip II and Charles V create an unholy alliance with the church. Church gets support of state—money, military—but cannot criticize the government. (cf. science & universities today)
  - Luther tries to reform Church, ends up forming a State
  - Church reacts to Luther by doubling down—Counter Reformation. Affirms the institution is everything, personal holiness is optional. Papal authority via church councils.

- Protestant faith separates from RCC—bases its structure, its faith, its practice on *sola Scriptura*. 
So to overthrow this Protestant “kingdom of God”, Satan will have to undermine Scripture. But how?

- Undermine its Authority:
- Undermine its Veracity:
- Undermine its Comprehension:

There are many other ways to group these aspects—for example, claiming a false Origin— e.g., A Mesopotamian Temple Dedication Ritual—hits all 3.

- German Liberalism ~ 1850, attacked the Origins, then Veracity
- Rational skepticism attacked Authority & Veracity

So how could a Christian respond?
The Dangers of being Defensive

- Napoleon allowed Wellington to pick the high ground at Waterloo. Lee allowed the Meade to pick the high ground at Gettysburg. And in WWI the French allowed the Germans to pick the battleground at Verdun.

- Surprisingly, 20\textsuperscript{th} Century Christians have let Screwtape pick the battleground, and it shows.

- I want to talk about how to gain the high ground in this battle. It means we have to abandon a couple of really bad positions because they're now indefensible. But I hope you will see the advantages of taking the high ground.

- We aren't retreating, we're advancing to the rear!
How did we end up in this swamp?

- German liberalism attacked the Veracity of Scripture.
- Christians responded the Bible was “infallible”.
- Libs said “Look! the Bible was poorly copied.”
- Xns responded “inerrant in the original manuscripts”.
- Libs said Bible was interpreted wrongly—allegorical.
- Xns responded “literal interp. trumps allegorical”.
- Libs said literal interpretation was scientifically false.
- Xns responded “infallible & all Truth is God's Truth”.
- Libs said, “What about Genesis 1 to 11?”
Okay, help me out. How did the Libs pick the ground?

What should we do?
During the Reformation, the RCC said Xns should not read the Bible because they might misunderstand it and hurt themselves. Only the Church could read and interpret it, and only in the Latin Vulgate (the version they could read!)

Protestants said the Holy Spirit would protect us from false interpretation, and they would rather trust the HS.

Of course even then, few could read Greek and Hebrew. So like the Latin Vulgate, Protestants have relied on translations—Luther's German, KJV. And like the RCC, eventually the Protestants had to institute “acceptable interpretations”, such as the rule “literal trumps allegorical”.

Then Xn defenses are the same as the RCC!
Scripture is NOT the same as our Bible

- You don't believe me?
- Then why does each denomination and sect have its own translation?
- Whose translation is right? Septuagint, Vulgate, Douay-Rheims, KJV, NASB, ESV, NIV, TNIV, The Message?
- We have simply pushed all the doctrines that make our denomination infallible back down into the translation!
  - Jehovah's Witnesses on John 1:1 article “the”
  - Textus Receptus (KJV) on 1 John 5:7 “three are one”
  - RSV on Isaiah 7:11 -- “young woman shall conceive”
  - ESV of Titus 1:7 “episcopus” as “overseer”
So what translation can be trusted?

- None.
- I'm sorry, but someone had to tell you. When we stand before the judgment seat of God, we can't blame Rob Bell for not warning us about Hell.
- Nor can we blame the Libs who said “Science can translate your Bible for you!”
- Nor can we blame the YECs who said “ICR can translate your Bible for you!”
- You mean I have to learn Hebrew or risk brimstone?!?
- No, it is God who saves us. But He did speak Hebrew. So think of this lecture as Rosetta Stone for Heaven.
The way out of the swamp

- We don't trust the Libs and Science to know either Hebrew or the Truth, so we can't compromise with them. They might be right about Big Bang but wrong about Adam + Eve, so we have to make up our own mind w/ HS help.

- In the same way, we don't trust YEC and ICR to know either Hebrew or the Truth, so we can't compromise with them either. They may be right about Flood but wrong about 24 hours, we need to make up our mind w/ HS help.

- Whom can we trust? The Word of God and the Holy Spirit. And in Genesis, God spoke in Hebrew. Chapter 1-11 are too much to cover in one evening, so let's focus on The Flood.

- Always remember, we are not retreating from God's Word!
The YEC Flood

- Before Geology became a science in the 1800's, it was widely believed that the world began just before history began—say, 3 generations before the Greek gods, who lived ~3000 BC. Entirely compatible with 6000 year-old earth & Genesis.
- When geology claimed millions of years are needed to make the Grand Canyon, Xns either added “a gap” between creation and history, or said “day = age”.
- In 1900, a Seventh-day Adventist book salesman had a brainstorm. If the Flood was global, it could explain geology!
- In 1961 a hydrologist at VPI introduced the Adventist idea to Baptists with “The Genesis Flood”. And the rest is history.
- What was almost 19th c. science, isn't remotely 21st c. science!
The Battle of the Somme

- The irony is that a global Flood was seen as a way to reconcile Genesis & Science, but today it is seen as a way to separate Xns from Libs! If you aren't willing to sacrifice genetics, geochronology, geology, planetology, cosmology and physics at the altar of YEC, then you must be a Liberal.

- But Scripture says nothing about mile high layers of mud, nothing about giraffes on the ark, nothing about plate tectonics or the speed-of-light, variable or otherwise.

- Just like the Libs w/ Darwin, we are being told to believe authority, to believe an interpretation of an interpretation or else we have abandoned “the literal meaning of Scripture.”

- My goal tonight, is to get us closer to Scripture than we've ever been before. And hopefully, like me, you will be addicted.
The Holy Spirit's Tools

- We know what are the Devil's tools – idle hands. But what are the HS tools?
- The same tools that gave us the 66 books of the Bible. Well, why do we have only 66 books in the Bible?
- Jesus said, “the rain falls on the just and the unjust.” so the HS grants insight even to secular scholars.
- But we accept no tool without examination. Today, many scholars suppress the truth in unrighteousness, mangling their tools. Caveat emptor.

Xiphos (gnomesword, e-sword), Blueletterbible.org, Westminster Leningrad Codex (WLC), Emdros 3.3.
Was the Flood Local or Global?

- Genesis 6 (ESV)

When man began to multiply on the face of the land... So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land....Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.
When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them,

the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.

Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in [fn] man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.”

The Nephilim [fn] were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English (KJV)</th>
<th>Strong's</th>
<th>Root Form (Hebrew)</th>
<th>Parsing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>And it repented</td>
<td>ה5162</td>
<td>nacham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the LORD</td>
<td>ה3068</td>
<td>Yehovah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that he had made</td>
<td>ה6213</td>
<td>asah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man</td>
<td>ה120</td>
<td>adam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on the earth,</td>
<td>ה776</td>
<td>erets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and it grieved</td>
<td>ה6087</td>
<td>atsab</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>him at</td>
<td>ה413</td>
<td>el</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>his heart.</td>
<td>ה3820</td>
<td>leb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The word

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transliteration</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'erets</td>
<td>eh'-rets (Key)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part of Speech | Root Word (Etymology) |
--- | --- |
feminine noun | From an unused root probably meaning to be firm |

Dictionary Aids

**TWOT Reference:** 167

Outline of Biblical Usage

1. land, earth
   A. earth
      i. whole earth (as opposed to a part)
      ii. earth (as opposed to heaven)
The dictionary (BDB also available)
The location

Gen 6:4  There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

Gen 6:5  And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen 6:6  And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Gen 6:11  The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Gen 6:12  And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Gen 6:13  And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Gen 6:17  And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.
So what does *eretz* mean?

- ESV uses “land” for *adamah*, and “earth” for *'eretz* in this passage. KJV uses “earth” for both words in Gen 6. But both words can mean either! (What did I tell you about translations?)

- *Adamah* KJV: 225 Total, 55% land; 23% earth, 19% ground, 1 country, 3 husbandry* = 77% non-global.

- *'Eretz* KJV: 2504 Total, 62% land, 28% earth, 6% country, 4% ground, 4 world, = 72% non-global

- So 3/4 of the time it has a “local” meaning. And if we exclude Gen 6-9, (yup, took a while) then close to 100% of the time it has a local meaning.

- Conclusion: the only time this word is global is here!
So, is it a global or a local Flood?

- We can't tell from this word.
- The translators in just about every translation feel that the meaning of the text demands a global word. And Gesenius' or BDB or HALOT is doing exactly the same thing the translators are doing.
- It seems as if only a global flood can logically achieve the objectives of God.
- So if it has a local meaning, then we need to reconsider God's objective, and lots of other nearby words are going to have to change too. That's a lot of work to change the dictionary!
- But the science strongly suggests it was local, so reluctantly, we're going to have to do the hard work of looking at how translators have consistently chosen the wrong word.
If Flood is local, why put birds in the Ark?

- Answer: Because they couldn't fly.
- Gen 7:33 ESV “and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth.”

- From Blueletterbible, we search on the verse.
  - KJV translates “bird of the heavens” because the Hebrew for “bird” is singular, but the Hebrew for “heavens” is dual (= two of a kind). ESV is “smoothing” the English.
  - Sometimes the word is plural. But we are looking for a word pair, so we do a search on two Strong's numbers—which doesn't care if it is singular or plural.
And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

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<tr>
<td>Of fowls</td>
<td>H5775</td>
<td>וֹעָה owph</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>also of the air</td>
<td>H8064</td>
<td>שָׁמַayıַים shamayim</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
KJV Strong's H5775 matches the Hebrew `owph.
KJV Strong's H8064 matches the Hebrew shamayim.

"H5775" AND "H8064"
occurs in 39 verses in the KJV.

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl H5775 that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. H8064

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl H5775 of the air, H8064 and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
The singular and plural are different. Table of all singular “bird of heavens”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Verse</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gn 1:20</td>
<td>b. that flies over face of heavens</td>
<td>All kinds of bird? Including carrion b?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gn 1:26</td>
<td>Let them have dominion over b. of h., cattle, ...</td>
<td>Man given dom. (!) over domestic life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gn 1:28</td>
<td>Have dominion over b. of h., cattle, ...</td>
<td>Man commanded dom. over domestic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gn 1:30</td>
<td>...and all b. of h...(I give) for food.</td>
<td>Domestic fowl for food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gn 2:19</td>
<td>.God formed...every b. of h., and brought to A</td>
<td>God formed domestic animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gn 2:20</td>
<td>Adam gave names to all cattle, to b. of h.,</td>
<td>Adam named domestic animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gn 7:23</td>
<td>Destroy life on ground: man, cattle, b. of h.,</td>
<td>Destruction of land-animals—domestic fowl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gn 9:2</td>
<td>Dread of you upon beast of field, b. of h.,</td>
<td>Dread falls on domestic animals b/c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ec10:20</td>
<td>Curse not the king...for a b. of h. shall carry..</td>
<td>Domestic fowl carries secret to king</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je 9:10</td>
<td>..lowing of cattle, both beasts of field, b. of h.</td>
<td>Farmyard animals destroyed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plurals are always carrion birds. Singulatrs are always domesticated birds. Substitute “goose” for “bird of heavens” and see if it doesn't work better.
Ark animals are farmyard too!

- Cattle – (e.g., cows) domesticated, Bird of heavens – (e.g. geese) domesticated, clean+unclean. Creeping things – (sheep, goats) non-cattle domesticated farmyard, edible (clean+unclean) Clean = sacrificial  
  [blueletterbible evidence left as an exercise for reader]
- 7:2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth.
- 7:8 Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah,
- 7:14 they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature.
- 8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark.
- 8:17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.
- 9:2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea.
But a local flood isn't a big miracle! Didn't God say “never again”? 

- It was 3000 kilometers long, and still is flooded! The oceans dropped by 30 feet. European climate completely transformed.
- Since the beginning of history, there has never been a flood like it.
- Details next month.
How could a local Flood destroy all men? Wouldn't some survive?

- The purpose of the Ark was to save the domesticated life that God put in the Garden—including Noah!
- The purpose of the Flood was to purge the “unholy” breeding of people and animals that polluted the genome.
- So all of Adam's race were killed in this mega-Flood excepting Noah, because the sin was genetic, and so all the “bad genes” needed to be removed.
- All these men were located in the only hospitable spot for them—in Eden. Therefore a local Flood was successful.
- The Gen 1:26 humans, did not have Adam's genetic sin. Gen 10-11 explains how they intermixed with Noah's sons. Details next month.
Wasn't the Flood 250 years before Abraham?

- It was 6000 years before Abraham, and the text tells us why they didn't include every generation.
- The toledot of Shem, describes this genealogy, and it also describes the Sumerian king list.
- Details in the forthcoming book.
Conclusions

- Genesis 6:1-4 is about human breeding and the cause for the Flood—bad genes had to be eliminated.
- If only domesticated farm animals and birds were put on the Ark, then it had better not be a global flood!
- If God feels that strongly about saving the farm, what does that say about Adam, about the Trees, about Sin? I think it points to a genetic component we've been overlooking.
- The local Flood was catastrophic enough to purge all of the bad genes in Adam's line, but it left the Gen 1:26 people. This is why myth is an independent account of the Flood. Details in the book.
Teaser for April's RTB meeting

- Eden was created from 12,000BC when the Gates were shut, to 10,000 BC when it became liveable.
- The 4 Rivers of Eden can all be identified, with the help of NASA experiments.
- The Flood occurred 8400 BC when the Gates of Gilbraltar opened up.
- Norse mythology records many specific details about both the Flood and the geography of Eden.
- Modern genetics supports not just Eden, but the Tower of Babel story.