

Which of these four diagrams best fits the biblical and Scientific data? Which view of Creation and of the Flood is best able to explain the biblical and Scientific data in their integrity?

With respect to the biblical data, the question whether God created all living things in one or many geographic centers appears to be open. Of course, it is possible to assert that God created all of the animals in one location -- the Garden of Eden -- and that Adam therefore named the more than one million species of animals living today. On the other hand, it is possible to believe that God created various assemblages of animals in various ecological niches, according to the environment needed for each grouping: the specific type of terrain (or body of water), the altitude (or depth), the climate, and the food supply. In this latter case, Adam named only the animals which were in his immediate vicinity.

The question whether the Flood was global or limited to a substantial portion of the Middle East (not whether it was local) is a matter of dispute among biblical scholars. Of course, if the announced purpose of the Flood is given proper emphasis, this helps somewhat. In Genesis 6:3, 5-7, 11-13 we find this purpose:

"And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years. . . .

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. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. . . .

The earth also was corrupt before God; and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. 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."

The purpose of the Flood was to destroy man in view of man's great wickedness, corruption, and violence in the earth. If the Flood is viewed as having been anthropologically universal, destroying all mankind (except for Noah and his family) and all terrestrial and celestial animals living in association with mankind (except for those Noah took aboard the ark), then it is not necessary to view it as having been geographically universal. However. In order to be anthropologically universal, it must have covered an area large enough to include all extant human beings, wherever they may have migrated during the time since Eden.

With respect to the scientific data, the question whether God created all living things in one or many geographical centers appears to be answered by the data of biogeography, which support the view that God created living things in many geographical centers at various times. The question whether the Flood was global or limited to a substantial portion of the Middle East is not answerable by means of the