

a couple or a family, escape in a calabash, a canoe, or a raft, or climb mountains or trees. Biblical overtones are very recognizable in some cases. . . .

"To cite further examples of flood traditions would become tedious, if it has not done so already. Enough instances have been given, I hope, to demonstrate that when viewed from their geologic context, many flood traditions have originated on the spot.

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". . . there is not one deluge legend, but rather a collection of traditions which are so diverse that they can be explained neither by one general catastrophe alone, nor by the dissemination of one local tradition alone. . . One of the oldest of the remembered flood disasters occurred a long, long time ago in Mesopotamia, and it made such an impression on the dwellers in the city of Ur that the tale was handed down from generation to generation and carried with the Patriarchs when they migrated toward the Mediterranean. The legend born of that long-ago flood might never have wandered very much farther from its source were it not for the fact that it became a part of the Scriptures, and thus in later ages was zealously carried to every corner of the world by Christian missionaries, often to become merged with pre-existing traditions indigenous to their localities. Flood traditions are nearly universal, partly because of the efforts of these missionaries, but mainly because floods in the plural are the most nearly universal of all geologic catastrophes.

-- Dorothy B. Vitallano, *Legends of the Earth: Their Geologic Origins* (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1973), pp. 142-178.

When the data of the present-day geographical distribution of animals are compared with the data of geographical distribution in the past, it becomes apparent that some animals currently live in only one part of the world and have never lived anywhere else, that some animals have at sometime in the past migrated to their present habitat, and that some animals are and have been fairly ubiquitous throughout their history. The fossils of many animals are found in only one location in the world; there is no evidence of even a partial migration of these animals to a staging area somewhere in the Middle East so as to be preserved in the ark with a subsequent migration back to the land of their origin. In addition, the data of oceanic islands, with their populations of unique animals, would strongly argue for the populating of these habitats, not from one location and at one time, but from various locations and at various times.

All of these scientific data, from the fields of biogeography, archeology, geology, paleontology, and anthropology would appear to lean heavily in the direction of a Flood which was limited to a portion of the earth. When we combine the biblical and the scientific data, we arrive at a Flood which was anthropologically universal but geographically limited in extent.

Combining the conception of a Creation of living things in many geographical centers at various times, with the conception of a Flood which was geographically limited, we arrive at a view which allows for most of the facts of geographical distribution. Some of